



Proposed Water and Sewer Rates for Fiscal Years Ending 2024-2026

Every day, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) generates clean energy, delivers high-quality water to 2.7 million Bay Area customers, and protects the environment and public health by treating wastewater and stormwater for San Francisco residents and businesses. Our work is almost exclusively funded by the rates that customers pay. Our systems work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are a not-for-profit public utility whose rates reflect the true cost of operating, maintaining, and upgrading our water and sewer systems. To continue delivering the services that San Franciscans depend on, the SFPUC is proposing water and sewer rate increases, effective July 1, 2023.

Your Dollars at Work

Water and sewer systems are critical to public health. The SFPUC is committed to providing customers with safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water and a combined sewer system that reduces flooding and protects the environment from pollution. These systems require ongoing maintenance and upgrades. Many parts of the SFPUC water system are nearly 100 years old, and the oldest parts of the sewer system date back to the Gold Rush. We need to continue to maintain and upgrade aging systems to prevent breaks, meet regulatory requirements, improve seismic safety, and adapt to storms as the climate changes. Your dollars pay for essential services and projects that protect public health.

Our Public Rate Setting Process

The SFPUC is committed to a transparent public rate setting process guided by the principles set forth in our [Ratepayer Assurance Policy](#). As required by the San Francisco Charter, an independent rate consultant has completed a cost-of-service study. The rate study findings provide the basis for our rate proposal, which goes through an extensive public approval process. That process includes the Rate Fairness Board, comprising SFPUC customers and other appointees. The Rate Fairness Board holds public meetings and provides recommendations to ensure affordability, stability, and fairness.

Interested customers and other parties can provide comments on the proposed rates at the Rate Fairness Board and Commission hearings. To learn more about our rates package, rate setting process, and upcoming meetings, visit sfpub.org/2023Rates.

Proposed Rates Schedule

The SFPUC is proposing to update the sewer rate structure and to update water and sewer rates effective July 1, 2023. The SFPUC's combined sewer system treats both wastewater and stormwater runoff. The new rate structure would split the sewer portion of bills into two parts: a wastewater component and a stormwater component. This new structure would not change the total amount of revenue collected by the SFPUC, but it would more scientifically and equitably allocate the existing costs of managing wastewater to ratepayers. This new structure would be gradually phased in over seven years.

The proposed new rate schedule represents an average monthly bill increase of \$12.69 each year for the average single-family residential household in San Francisco (about 8.3% per year).

The following sections describe these bill components for residential and non-residential customers. Our website has examples of an average single-family monthly bill, as well as a bill calculator where you can develop personalized bill estimates. Visit sfpub.org/2023Rates for the bill calculator and other useful information.

Bills contain two core elements: fixed charges that cover shared costs relevant to all customers and volumetric rates based on the amount of water used or wastewater produced.

Monthly Fixed Charges

Service charges are the same every month, regardless of water consumption.

Water service charges vary by meter size. Water service charges recover fixed costs, like customer service and billing, maintenance of water meters, and facilities used to provide water for fire protection that benefits all SFPUC customers.

Sewer service charges are the same for all sewer customers. Sewer service charges recover a portion of fixed costs associated with customer service and billing, which are the same for all SFPUC customers.

Stormwater service charges would be assessed on a three-tiered structure for residential customers, based on the total assessor's parcel size, with smaller parcels being charged a lower rate that gradually increases for larger parcels. Non-residential, mixed-use, and large residential parcels (over 6,000 square feet or with more than six dwelling units) would be charged based on their total permeable and impermeable surface area. Permeable surfaces, like planters and lawns, can absorb water except in large storms. Impermeable surfaces, like driveways and roofs, direct more water to — and impose more costs on — the sewer system. Stormwater charges recover the cost of stormwater-specific infrastructure and the stormwater portion of the combined system.

Fire sprinkler service charges are for properties with fire sprinklers or standpipes. These charges are calculated to recover costs for customer service, billing, and maintenance specific to private fire meters.

Volumetric Rates: Residential Customers

Residential water rates are billed based on metered water usage and have two tiers. For single-family properties, the first four units of water per month are billed the first-tier rate, and any additional units are billed the second-tier rate. For multi-family residential properties, the first three units of water per dwelling unit per month are billed the first-tier rate, while any additional units of water are billed the second-tier rate. The second tier is a higher unit rate to reflect the additional costs needed to reliably serve high-volume users 24/7.

Residential wastewater rates are billed based on the estimated volume of water that returns to the sewer system. The default volume for single-family residences is 90% of water usage; the default for multi-family residences is 95% of water usage. All discharge units of wastewater are billed at the same rate.

Your Rates Pay For:

- 24/7 Operations
- Routine Maintenance and Emergency Repairs
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Conveyance and Treatment
- Environmental Monitoring
- Watershed and Land Management
- Community Programs

Proposed Water Rates				
	Current	Proposed		
	FYE 2023	FYE 2024	FYE 2025	FYE 2026
Monthly Service Charge - Water (based on meter size)				
5/8 in.	\$15.17	\$16.64	\$17.48	\$18.36
3/4 in.	\$19.43	\$21.13	\$22.19	\$23.30
1 in.	\$27.95	\$30.11	\$31.62	\$33.21
1-1/2 in.	\$49.25	\$52.56	\$55.19	\$57.95
2 in.	\$74.81	\$79.51	\$83.49	\$87.67
3 in.	\$142.97	\$151.35	\$158.92	\$166.87
4 in.	\$219.65	\$232.18	\$243.79	\$255.98
6 in.	\$432.65	\$456.70	\$479.54	\$503.52
8 in.	\$688.25	\$726.13	\$762.44	\$800.57
10 in.	\$1,071.65	\$1,130.26	\$1,186.78	\$1,246.12
12 in.	\$1,838.45	\$1,938.54	\$2,035.47	\$2,137.25
16 in.	\$3,201.65	\$3,375.47	\$3,544.25	\$3,721.47

Volumetric Water Rates (1 unit of water = 1 Ccf = 748 gallons)				
	Current	Proposed		
	FYE 2023	FYE 2024	FYE 2025	FYE 2026
Single-Family Residential - Water per unit				
First 4 units per month (Tier 1)	\$9.60	\$10.33	\$10.85	\$11.40
All additional units (Tier 2)	\$10.71	\$11.47	\$12.05	\$12.66
Multi-Family Residential - Water per unit				
First 3 units per dwelling unit per month (Tier 1)	\$9.60	\$10.19	\$10.70	\$11.24
All additional units (Tier 2)	\$10.76	\$10.94	\$11.49	\$12.07
Non-Residential - Water per unit				
For all units of water	\$10.55	\$11.12	\$11.68	\$12.27
Untreated Water Service				
For all units of water	\$0.95	\$1.80	\$1.89	\$1.99

Proposed Wastewater Rates (1 unit of water = 1 Ccf = 748 gallons)				
	Current	Proposed		
	FYE 2023	FYE 2024	FYE 2025	FYE 2026
Monthly Service Charge Wastewater				
	\$5.21	\$4.85	\$5.28	\$5.76
Residential - Wastewater per unit discharged				
For all discharge units	\$15.97	\$16.91	\$17.80	\$18.72
Non-Residential - Wastewater per unit discharged				
Volume per discharge unit	\$9.46	\$9.74	\$10.09	\$10.43
Chemical Oxygen Demand per lb.	\$0.647	\$0.861	\$0.925	\$0.994
Total Suspended Solids per lb.	\$1.647	\$1.681	\$1.808	\$1.944
Oil and Grease per lb.	\$1.661	\$1.053	\$1.142	\$1.239

Proposed Stormwater Runoff Charge Rates				
Monthly per Assessor Parcel	Current	Proposed		
	FYE 2023	FYE 2024	FYE 2025	FYE 2026
Residential (6,000 sq. ft. and under/six dwelling units and under)				
Tier 1: 0-1,700 sq. ft.	N/A	\$2.31	\$5.04	\$8.24
Tier 2: 1,701-3,300 sq. ft.	N/A	\$3.60	\$7.84	\$12.82
Tier 3: 3,301-6,000 sq. ft.	N/A	\$5.41	\$11.79	\$19.27
Non-Residential (All other customers)				
\$/1000 sq. ft. Permeable	N/A	\$0.19	\$0.41	\$0.67
\$/1000 sq. ft. Impermeable	N/A	\$1.89	\$4.11	\$6.72

Proposed Fire Service Rates (Per Service)				
	Current	Proposed		
	FYE 2023	FYE 2024	FYE 2025	FYE 2026
Monthly Private Fire Service Charge				
1 in.	\$9.55	\$8.43	\$8.86	\$9.31
1-1/2 in.	\$12.45	\$8.91	\$9.36	\$9.83
2 in.	\$15.93	\$9.73	\$10.22	\$10.74
3 in.	\$25.21	\$12.70	\$13.34	\$14.01
4 in.	\$35.65	\$17.82	\$18.72	\$19.66
6 in.	\$64.65	\$36.19	\$38.00	\$39.90
8 in.	\$99.45	\$67.88	\$71.28	\$74.85
10 in.	\$151.65	\$115.55	\$121.33	\$127.40
12 in.	\$256.05	\$181.62	\$190.71	\$200.25

For further information, visit sfpub.org/2023Rates. Reference your most recent bill to obtain your meter size and water use (per month).

Revised Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Water and Sewer Rates

S.F. Public Utilities Commission Meeting
Revised Hearing Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
 San Francisco City Hall, Room 400
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

This is the second notice regarding these proposed water and sewer rates. The meeting date for the rate hearing has been rescheduled to May 23, 2023, at 1:30 pm. No other changes have been made to the proposed rates.

In accordance with Article XIII D, Section 6, of the California Constitution (also known as Proposition 218), you have the right to submit a written protest against the proposed water and sewer rates. The proposed rate increases will not take effect if the SFPUC receives written protests from a majority of the affected property owners and customers.

Written protests must be mailed to the SFPUC Commission Secretary at the address below or hand delivered to the Commission Secretary at the May 23, 2023 Commission public hearing in order to be counted.

Protests may not be delivered electronically or verbally. Any written protest must: (1) state that the identified property owner or customer is in opposition to the proposed rates increase; (2) provide the location of the identified parcel (by assessor's parcel number, street address, or customer account); and (3) include the name and signature of the person submitting the protest.

Although oral comments at the public hearing will not qualify as a formal protest unless accompanied by a written protest, the SFPUC welcomes input from the community during the public hearing on the proposed water and sewer rates. Only one protest may be registered per property.

Mail Protests to:
SFPUC Commission Secretary
 525 Golden Gate Avenue, 13th Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94102

Under California Government Code section 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for challenging any new, increased, or extended fee or charge. This statute of limitations applies to the water and sewer service rates and charges proposed in this notice. It also applies to future changes to water and sewer rates and charges.

We value your input.

If you have questions or would like more information, please visit sfpub.org/2023Rates or email ratesinfo@sfpuc.org.

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Periodically the SFPUC undertakes rate studies to ensure the rates customers are charged reflect the true cost of providing our services. Adjustments are then proposed to ensure all customers are treated fairly, uninterrupted services are provided, strict environmental regulations can be met, and the financial stability of our assets and systems are maintained long-term.

有關 2024-2026 財政年度新擬議供水和污水處理費的重要信息。您有 120 天的時間來寫疑難收據。如需更多信息，請上網：sfpub.org/2023Rates 或 (415) 554-3289。

公聽會通知

sfpub.org/2023Rates 或 (415) 554-3289。

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA
 E información importante sobre las tarifas de agua y alcantarillado propuestas para los años fiscales que terminan 2024-2026. Tiene 120 días para Desafiar los cambios de tarifas. Obtenga más información en: sfpub.org/2023Rates o (415) 554-3289.

You have 120 days to challenge rate changes. Get more info at: sfpub.org/2023Rates or (415) 554-3289.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING And Important Information Regarding Water and Sewer Rates Proposed for Fiscal Years Ending 2024-2026.

525 Golden Gate Avenue, 12th Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94102

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Ways to Save

The SFPUC offers a variety of rebates, programs, and incentives to help customers lower their bill. Learn more at sfpub.org/2023Rates or call (415) 551-3000.

Water Shortage Contingency Plan Stage	Target Water Usage Reduction	Drought Surcharge on Volumetric Water & Wastewater Rates
Stages 1 - 3	5%	Up to 5%
Stage 4	5-18%	Up to 18%
Stage 5 - 6	18-32%	Up to 32%

The SFPUC may set the percentage surcharge lower than shown on the table below to ensure that rates do not exceed the costs of providing water and wastewater services to customers.

to the volumetric rate per unit of wastewater discharge for residential and non-residential customers, as well as the rate per pound of pollutants for non-residential customers.

As an example, if the Commission declares a Stage 1 drought, asking customers to reduce water consumption by 5%, the SFPUC will analyze the forecasted reduced billed volumes and set a water and wastewater drought surcharge of up to 5%. For water, this 5% temporary surcharge would be applied to both tier rates for residential water customers and to the volumetric rate per unit for non-residential customers. For sewer, this surcharge would be applied

A drought surcharge is a temporary charge that is levied only when the SFPUC Commission puts the SFPUC Water Shortage Contingency Plan into effect, requesting that customers reduce water usage. When implemented, the drought surcharge increases the volumetric water and wastewater rates for all customer types up to the percentages shown in the table on the right. These percentages are calculated to recover costs based on reduced billed volumes.

Temporary Drought Surcharge

Non-residential wastewater rates vary based on the volume of pollutants present in the discharge of various customer types. As a result, the rates shown in the table have four parts: a volumetric charge based on 90% of the customer's billed water consumption and three strength charges based on the concentration of pollutants in a customer's wastewater discharge. The concentrations are based on the type of business operated at the service address. Visit our website at sfpub.org/2023Rates to look up the pounds of pollutants per unit of wastewater for your business type.

Volumetric Rates: Non-Residential Customers

Non-residential water rates are billed based on metered water usage. There are no tiers for non-residential customers.