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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Jason Mitchell  
Director, OPW

**SUBJECT:** 2018 Sewer Service Charge Increase  
Based on Consumer Price Index

**DATE:** October 16, 2017

City Administrator

Date

Approval

/s/

10/30/17

### INFORMATION

The purpose of this informational Memorandum is to announce that Oakland's Sewer Service Charge will be increased by 2.7% effective January 1, 2018. This planned, annual increase was approved in 2010 by the City Council and is based on the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco Bay Area, compiled by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau Labor Services.

The current monthly rate for a single-family residence is \$37.57, and will be increased to \$38.58. The rates for all other users including multi-family residences, commercial, and industrial accounts will also be similarly increased. The City's Sewer Service Charge is collected by East Bay Municipal Utility District. An informational billing insert has been prepared and will be mailed to all residents with the first billing starting January 1, 2018.

This increase is needed to maintain operational service in capital improvements in the City's sewer collection system in order to meet regulatory requirements and to ensure that Oakland has a reliable sewer collection system for years to come. The improvements will also result in a cleaner and healthier environment.

Respectfully submitted,

-S-

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Jason Michell  
Director, Oakland Public Works

For questions please contact Jimmy Mach, Division Manager, at 238-3303.

## NEW CHARGES AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018

For single-family residences, the monthly Sewer Service Charge increases from \$37.57 to \$38.58 (from \$75.14 to \$77.16 every two months.)

For multi-family dwellings on shared meters, the monthly Sewer Service Charge is:

Duplexes: \$43.28 per month (or \$86.56 bi-monthly)  
Triplexes: \$64.92 per month (or \$129.84 bi-monthly)  
Fourplexes: \$86.56 per month (or \$ 173.12 bi-monthly)

For all other accounts, the charge is based on water consumption or metered sewage discharge as follows:

Apartment Bldgs. (5+ Units): \$2.64 per 100 cubic feet  
Industrial Accounts: \$2.39 per 100 cubic feet  
Commercial Accounts: \$2.64 per 100 cubic feet  
Restaurants/Hotels: \$2.72 per 100 cubic feet  
Hospitals: \$2.92 per 100 cubic feet  
Laundromats/Carwashes: \$3.08 per 100 cubic feet  
Metered Sewage Accounts: \$3.19 per 100 cubic feet

The minimum monthly charge for all accounts is \$38.58 (or \$77.16 bi-monthly).

By law, Sewer Service Charge funds can only be used for the construction, maintenance and operation of the sanitary sewer system.

### COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

The sewer rehabilitation program is part of a continuing effort to improve Oakland and its environment. The program will result in a cleaner, healthier environment that will enhance our quality of living. It also will ensure that Oakland has a reliable sewer system for years to come. This year, the City plans to rehabilitate approximately 13 miles of sewer main.

We thank you for sharing in these efforts. Oakland's future depends upon our commitment.

### INFORMATION AVAILABLE

For more information about the Sewer Service Charge, call (510) 615-5566.

Para mas informacion sobre la tarifa del *Servicio de Drenaje* favor de llamar al (510) 615-5566.

有關排污水月費，請電 (510) 615-5566.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING YOUR CITY OF OAKLAND SEWER SERVICE CHARGE

The City of Oakland manages an extensive sanitary sewer collection system, with over 929 miles of sewer main line, 28,000 sewer structures, and seven pump stations. To keep up with stricter state and federal regulation around sewer collection operation and maintenance, the City of Oakland enacted a modest rate increase, effective January 1, 2018. The new rates are based on the Bay Area Consumer Price Index (CPI). Our system operations and maintenance are 100 percent funded from the monthly bills you pay.

Nationwide, utilities are grappling with the problem of aging infrastructure. Additionally, recent new requirements by the Environmental Protection Agency and State & Regional Water Resources Control Boards require us to take even more steps to assure a well-functioning collection system. Oakland has worked hard to plan strategic system operations, maintenance and capital investment in our sewer collection system to keep it operating at peak efficiency.

The City charge is shown in the green stripe on the enclosed bill sent by EBMUD. The Oakland Sewer Service Charge is a City, not an EBMUD, charge. EBMUD collects the charge for the City. This consolidates billing efforts for efficiency and reduces costs to Oakland ratepayers. **Any questions regarding the rate change should be directed to the City of Oakland's Public Works Department at (510) 615-5566.**

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

As sanitary sewers age, they frequently overflow in wet weather because storm water gets into the old, leaky sewer pipes. This added flow causes overflows of sewage into City streets, creeks, Lake Merritt and the San Francisco Bay. Sewage overflows affect our homes and businesses, and are also in violation of federal Clean Water Act, and the US EPA, State and Regional Water Quality Control Board Regulation. The Sewer Service Charge pays for long-range maintenance and rehabilitation programs to eliminate overflows and meet regulatory requirements.



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