



Campbell • Los Gatos • Monte Sereno • Saratoga

## **Storm Sewer Service Charge Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **What does the Storm Sewer Service Charge pay for?**

The Storm Sewer Service Charge pays for the maintenance and operation of the West Valley Clean Water Program Authority's (Authority) storm sewer operation, maintenance and management program. The program includes, but are not limit to:

- Annual inspection and cleaning of catch basin trash capture devices.
- Annual inspection and cleaning of the storm sewer system.
- Fulfill storm water management tasks required under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- Industrial/commercial inspection program in partnership with the Santa Clara County Fire District's Hazardous Materials Unit.
- Development of clean water provisions in response to evolving regulations.
- Implementation of construction site control programs for stormwater protection, including inspection of newly constructed stormwater treatment facilities.
- Support to the countywide program for media and outreach campaigns.
- Implementation of the Long-Term Trash Load Reduction Plan and the Visual Trash Assessment protocols.
- Provide training to local staff on stormwater best management practices, resources and enforcement response protocols.
- Implementation of the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Enforcement Response Plan.

### **Why is the Authority collecting the charge and not my City/Town?**

The Authority entered into agreements with the cities of Campbell and Monte Sereno and the Town of Los Gatos for Stormwater Management Services and authorized the Authority to levy and collect a storm sewer service charge on behalf of each agency.

### **When was the Storm Sewer Service Charge created?**

The Storm Sewer Service Charge was enacted on June 10, 1992 under Ordinance No. 114 of the West Valley Sanitation District.

### **Why does the Storm Sewer Service Charge appear on my property tax bill?**

The California Health and Safety Code (Section 5473) allows storm sewer fees to be collected at the same time and the same manner as general property taxes if the agency adopts an ordinance or resolution directing the collection in this manner. Ordinance No. 114 of the District, adopted in June 10, 1992, states the charges shall be collected on the annual property tax roll.

**Is the Storm Sewer Service Charge based on the value of my property?**

The Storm Sewer Service Charge is not based on the value of your property. Charges based on the value of property are prohibited by the California State Constitution. The charges are based on the estimated stormwater runoff each parcel contributes to the storm sewer system.

**How is the Storm Sewer Service Charge calculated?**

Parcels are divided into land use categories which have the following rates per agency:

Land Use Category	Campbell	Los Gatos	Monte Sereno	
Single Family Residential	\$19.48	\$20.37	\$16.58	per parcel
Multi-Family Residential	\$4.02552	\$4.300314	\$4.300314	per 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area
Planned Development	\$4.02552	\$4.300314	\$4.300314	per 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area
Quai-Public Facilities	\$4.02552	\$4.300314	\$4.300314	per 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area
Office	\$5.36736	\$5.733753	\$5.733753	per 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area
Manufacturing	\$5.36736	\$5.733753	\$5.733753	per 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area
Commercial	\$6.03827	\$6.450472	\$6.450472	per 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area
Unimproved	\$0.00000	\$0.000000	\$0.000000	
Governmental	\$0.00000	\$0.000000	\$0.000000	

**When was the election that approved this tax?**

The Storm Sewer Service Charge is not a tax, as defined by the California State Constitution, and therefore, a voter-approved election was not required. The charge was enacted by ordinance adopted in 1992.

**Is the Storm Sewer Service Charge a tax?**

The Storm Sewer Service Charge is not tax, it is a property-related fee, as defined by the California State Constitution. Property-related fees are limited to a specific service, typically water, sewer, trash or storm sewer.

**Does the Storm Sewer Service Charge increase annually?**

The Storm Sewer Service Charge does not increase annually. The rates have been fixed since 1994.

**Can the District increase the Storm Sewer Service Charge?**

Yes, however, such an increase in the Storm Sewer Service Charge must be approved through a property owner protest balloting and public hearing process required by Article XIII D Section 6 of the California State Constitution (also known as Proposition 218).

**Are there any Low-Income or Senior Rebates?**

No, when the Storm Sewer Service Charges were established there were no provisions for Low-Income or Senior Rebates.