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June 26, 2023

Board of Directors
Triunfo Water & Sanitation District
Ventura County, California

PUBLIC HEARING: DISTRICT ORDINANCE NO. TWSD-250 - REVISIONS TO THE FEES AND CHARGES FOR SEWER SERVICE

Summary

At the May 22, 2023, Triunfo Water & Sanitation District (District) Board Meeting, in compliance with the provisions set forth in Government Code Section 25131, your Board conducted the first reading of Ordinance No. TWSD-250 (Adopted 6/26/23), prescribing fees and charges for sewer service. In addition to the programmed 15% sewer service fee increase as part of the approved rate plan, the proposed revisions also include a 4% increase for both the Joint Venture Area (JVA) and Bell Canyon (BC) Original Assessment Area connection fees based on the 2022-2023 Construction Cost Index (CCI).

Ordinance No. TWSD-250 further provides that the Board may waive the CPI adjustment, or approve a lesser increase if desired. Proposition 218 does not apply to this automatic annual adjustment. Staff recommends the Board review and discuss the proposed changes to TWSD Ordinance No. TWSD-250 and conduct a public hearing to approve and execute the Ordinance to adjust the sewer connection fees.

Please contact me by e-mail at marknorris@trunfowsd.com or by phone at 805-658-4621 if you have any questions.

Fiscal Impact

The additional revenue generated from the connection fee increase is not known at this time due to unknown planned connections. The cost to mail a postcard to the District's wastewater customers to notify them of the programmed 15% rate increase for FY24 is approximately \$3,000.

Recommendation

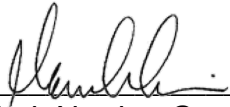
It is recommended the Board:

- A. Conduct a public hearing regarding proposed TWSD Ordinance No. TWSD-250 for prescribing fees and charges for sewer service:

- 1) Call to order and open the public hearing.
 - 2) Receive staff report and recommendations.
 - 3) Report of written communications.
 - 4) Public comment.
 - 5) Close public hearing.
 - 6) Discussion by Board of Directors
- b. Conduct the second reading, by title only, of Ordinance No. TWSD-250 (Adopted 6/26/23), Prescribing Fees and Charges for Sewer Service Owned and Operated by Triunfo Water & Sanitation District, and adopt Ordinance No. TWSD-250 which shall take effect on July 1, 2023; and
- c. Direct staff to send a courtesy postcard reminding all parcel owners of the programmed 15% rate increase and referring them to the TWSD website for further information; or
- d. Provide staff with alternative direction.

“ORDINANCE NO. TWSD-250 (Adopted 6/26/23) PRESCRIBING FEES AND CHARGES FOR SEWER SERVICE OWNED AND OPERATED BY TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT”

REVIEWED AND APPROVED



Mark Norris - General Manager

Attachments: 1) TWSD Ordinance No. TWSD-250 (Adopted 6/26/23)
2) Sample postcard

TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

**ORDINANCE NO. TWSD-250 (Adopted 6/26/23)
PRESCRIBING FEES AND CHARGES FOR SEWER SERVICE
OWNED AND OPERATED BY TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Triunfo Water & Sanitation District (“District”) is duly organized and established under the laws of the State of California, and as such is empowered to impose fees and charges relative to the District’s provision of services to its service area; and

WHEREAS, the District provides wastewater service to its customers within the District’s service area and charges these customers appropriate service fees designed to cover capital and operating and maintenance expenses associated with the provision of the services; and

WHEREAS, the District has estimated the costs of providing wastewater service to its customers based on financial information for the current year and the entire operating history of the enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance No. TWSD-250 (“Ordinance”) prescribes fees and charges pertaining to the provision of wastewater service to the District’s customers within the service area; and

WHEREAS, the District has complied with all applicable requirements set forth in Article XIII D of the California Constitution (enacted by Proposition 218, November 5, 1996 Statewide election); and

WHEREAS, a notice was published in the Ventura County Star, a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the District, providing a summary of this Ordinance and noticing a public hearing to consider adoption of this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, all persons present at said hearing and interested in the matter were heard and given the opportunity to be heard on the enactment of the proposed fees and charges prescribed in this Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, after considering the financial information, hearing a staff presentation, considering the testimony received at the public hearing and discussion of the issues, the District’s Board of Directors concludes that the proposed fees and charges prescribed in this Ordinance are necessary for the District’s provision of services and do not exceed the cost of those services; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this Ordinance is statutorily exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to the provisions of Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8) and California Code of regulations Section 15273(a).

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board hereby ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known as the TWSD Sewer Service Fee and Charge Ordinance.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

The following words as used in this Ordinance shall have the meanings set forth below unless otherwise apparent in the context in which they are used:

- a. "Apartment" means a suite or set of rooms outfitted with housekeeping facilities and intended for occupancy as a dwelling unit.
- b. "Board of Directors" or "Board" means the TWSD Board of Directors.
- c. "Commercial" means a site or building used for the exchange or buying and selling of material goods or services and shall also mean a hotel or motel.
- d. "District" or "TWSD" means the Triunfo Water & Sanitation District.
- e. "Equivalent Residential Unit" means a unit of measurement for the quantity and quality of sewage which is equivalent to domestic sewage originating in a single residential unit. One ERU is less than or equal to an average of 250 gallons per day per year of domestic sewage discharge. One ERU is also equal to 25 fixture units or less based on the number of fixture units as assigned to various plumbing fixtures in the Uniform Plumbing Code as published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO). Should a conflict arise between the flow and fixture unit definitions, the most restrictive definition shall apply.
- f. "Industrial" means any site, structure, building or works which is, or which is designed to be, used for the manufacture, processing, or distribution of materials, equipment, supplies, food or commodities of any description; or which is used or designed to be used as a sanitarium, hospital, penal institution, or charitable institution; together with all appurtenances thereto and the surrounding premises under the same ownership or control.
- g. "Institutional" means any educational institution supported by state or local taxes.
- h. "Mobile Dwelling Unit" means a dwelling unit intended to be moved from site to site on wheels that are part of the unit and having dimensions longer than forty (40) feet and wider than eight and one-half (8.5) feet.
- i. "Multiple Residential" means a sewer to serve more than one single family residence.
- j. "Sewer Connection Fee" means a fee to obtain permission to connect to the District sewer, to have flow capacity rights, and to use the trunk sewer, sewage treatment facilities and appurtenances, provided that the District's prevailing service charges have been paid.

SECTION 3. FEES AND CHARGES

The following fees and charges are hereby prescribed:

A. Monthly Service Charge

Category	Use	FY 2022 (per ERU per month)	FY 2023 (per ERU per month)	FY 2024 (per ERU per month)	FY 2025 (per ERU per month)
I	Single Residential, per each residential lot, or separate billing address, whichever is greater.	\$79.32	\$91.22	\$104.91	\$112.25
I	Multiple Residential, per each ERU or fraction thereof. ⁽¹⁾	\$79.32	\$91.22	\$104.91	\$112.25
I	Apartment, per each apartment unit where each apartment unit shall be charged 80 percent of one (1) ERU. ⁽¹⁾	\$63.44	\$72.96	\$83.90	\$89.78
I	Mobile Dwelling Unit, per each mobile dwelling unit where each mobile dwelling unit shall be charged 80 percent of one (1) ERU. ⁽¹⁾	\$63.44	\$72.96	\$83.90	\$89.78
I	Trailer, per each trailer where each trailer shall be charged 50 percent of one (1) ERU.	\$39.66	\$45.61	\$52.45	\$56.12
I	Commercial, hotels, and institutional, when computed per Method B (see following table) per ERU or fraction thereof.	\$79.32	\$91.22	\$104.91	\$112.25
II	Shopping centers, when computed per Method B (see following table), per ERU or fraction thereof.	\$140.86	\$161.99	\$186.29	\$199.33
III	Restaurants, markets and mortuaries, when computed per Method B (see following table), per ERU or fraction thereof.	\$182.48	\$209.85	\$241.33	\$258.22
IV	Special Cases, service charges shall be based on equivalent factors of flow, loading and cost of service (including an increment for costs of extraordinary service, if required) and implemented by a separate sewer use agreement between the user and District. Examples of Special Case service include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) Service not defined in one of the preceding categories which are unique or require extraordinary service; (2) Service outside District boundaries; (3) Service to areas requiring special maintenance; (4) Service to areas requiring pumping with a lift greater than 200 feet; or, (5) Service to dischargers of wastewater of unusual strengths; (6) Service to areas where the ERU method per following table results in an inequity.	Individual Case	Individual Case	Individual Case	Individual Case
V	Industrial Waste Charge Permits. Any industrial waste discharge permit may provide special discharge requirements and charges, as determined by the District including, but not limited to, charges for constituents of the sewage discharge, special metering arrangements, including irrigation usage by industrial dischargers, and charges for excess flows or peak seasonal discharges by industrial users.	Individual Case	Individual Case	Individual Case	Individual Case

(1) The number of ERUs for recreational and/or other miscellaneous facilities within a multiple residential complex shall be computed per Method A or Method B (see following table). No monthly service charge shall be charged for laundry room facilities within a multiple residential complex, open to use only by residents of the complex.

Method For Fee Computation

<p>Method A - Based on water meter size</p> <p>Each ¾ inch meter shall equal (1) ERU. Each 1 inch meter shall equal two (2) ERU. Each 1-¼ inch or 1-½ inch meter shall equal four (4) ERU Each 2 inch meter shall equal (7) ERU Each 3 inch meter shall equal (15) ERU Each 4 inch meter shall equal (30) ERU Each 6 inch meter shall equal (60) ERU</p>
<p>Method B - Based on number of plumbing fixtures</p> <p>Each twenty-five (25) plumbing fixture units as defined in the Uniform Plumbing Code shall be considered equal to one (1) ERU.</p>
<p>Method C – Based on flow and waste characteristics</p> <p>Where flow and waste characteristics are of an unusual nature, the sewer connection and service fee shall be determined on the basis of strength of the five (5) day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), suspended solids, quantity of flow, and other factors of the waste discharge that affect the sewer collection, treatment and disposal systems. Determination of the strength of waste shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of “Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater,” as published by the American Public Health Association, except where wastes of unusual character make other procedures necessary.</p>
<p>Method D – Based on estimated fixture units</p> <p>A developer may want to construct a shell of a building before determining the final fixture unit count. A developer may obtain a Will Serve letter based upon the District’s estimate of the buildings fixture units or estimated flow. Once the building has been completed and all fixture units installed, the District shall then recalculate the sewer connection and service fee. If the fixture unit count is greater than the original estimate, additional connection fees will be assessed accordingly. If the original estimate for sewer connection fees is greater than the actual As-Built fixture unit count, a refund of excess connection fees will be made to the developer.</p>
<p>Method E – Based on estimated flow</p> <p>Any commercial or industrial building which creates fifteen percent (15) or greater sewage discharge than the original sewer connection fee paid for may be subject to an increased sewer connection fee. For example, an office building may have paid connection fees for 10 ERUs when a Will Serve letter was first issued. At a rate of 250 gallons per day allowed per ERU, the building may be subject to an increased sewer connection fee if its wastewater discharge as determined either by direct metering of the discharge or if the water consumption records indicate that the building is discharging in excess of 10 ERU x 250 gpd x 365 days/year x 1.15 or 1.049 million gallons per year.</p>

B. Sewer Fees

Item	Fee
Application Fee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Projects that require only administrative review: \$0 2. All other projects: \$150
Project Completion Deposit	Projects that require a final audit or inspection: \$1,000
Sewer Plan Check Fee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan check fee: \$100/sheet 2. Plans resubmitted after change orders: \$100/sheet 3. Subdivision Final Map or Parcel Map Sewer Improvement Plan: \$100/sheet
Sewer Construction Inspection Fee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inspection Fee: \$125/hour (\$350 minimum) 2. Overtime Inspection Fee: \$200/hour 3. Closed Circuit Television Inspection: \$300/hour (\$1,000 minimum)
Sewer Connection Fee (per ERU)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Joint Venture Area: \$16,100 2. Bell Canyon Original Assessment Area: \$3,500
Bell Canyon Sewer Extension Fee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gravity Sewer Main: To Be Determined 2. Grinder Pump System: \$12,000
Sewer Availability Fee	\$300 (includes Application Fee)
Industrial Waste Permit Fee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Fee: \$1,000/year 2. Supplemental Fee for work beyond basic level of services: \$100/hour 3. Violations: \$300 (1st), \$500 (2nd), \$1000 (3rd or more) 4. Re-inspection/Compliance Fee: \$0 (1st), \$125/hour (\$350 min) [2nd or more]
FOG Permit Fee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Fee: \$600/year 2. Violations: \$0 (1st), \$300 (2nd), \$500 (3rd or more) 3. Non-Response Fee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st - \$300 after 30 days • 2nd - \$500 after 60 days, plus notification to VCEHD • 3rd - \$1000 after 75 days, plus possible disconnection 4. Re-inspection/Compliance Fee: \$0 (1st), \$125/hour (\$350 min) [2nd or more]

Commencing on July 1, 1990 and continuing thereafter on each July 1, the sewer connection fee set forth above shall be adjusted by an increment based on the March to March average percentage change in the Construction Cost Index for the Los Angeles area published in the McGraw-Hill construction weekly magazine titled "ENR," and rounded to the nearest twenty-five dollars (\$25). However, the Board may at its sole option determine, by resolution adopted prior thereto, that such adjustment shall not be effective for the next succeeding years, or may determine other amounts as appropriate based upon the capital expenditure needs of the District.

SECTION 4. FINDINGS

The TWSD Board of Directors finds the foregoing fees and charges are for the purpose of: (1) meeting operating expenses, including but not limited to the District's operations, maintenance and management contract; (2) purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment and materials; (3) meeting financial reserve needs and requirements; (4) obtaining funds for constructing and maintaining sewer facilities necessary to maintain service within existing service areas; (5) improvements and repairs; and (6) debt service and refunds.

The TWSD Board of Directors further finds that the foregoing fees and charges: (1) do not exceed the funds required to provide the service; (2) are not used for any purpose other than that for which they are imposed; (3) as imposed upon any parcel or person as an incident of property ownership, do not exceed the proportional cost of the service attributable to the parcel; and, (4) are imposed only for service that is actually used by, or immediately available to, the owner of the property in question.

SECTION 5. FEE REVIEW PERIOD

On or about January 1 of each year, the General Manager is hereby empowered and shall review the estimated cost of providing the services described and the impact of any pending or anticipated changes in the service level. The General Manager shall report these findings to the Board of Directors at a duly noticed public hearing and recommend any adjustment to the fees and charges or other action that may be required.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY

This Ordinance, except for those portions that are found to be invalid, would remain in full force and effect and continue to be valid. The Board of Directors hereby declares it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be held invalid.

SECTION 7. REPEAL OF PRIOR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES

Any prior ordinances or portions of ordinances previously adopted by the District Board of Directors that are in conflict with this Ordinance, are repealed as of the Effective Date of this Ordinance. This includes TWSD-250 (adopted 6/27/22).

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective July 1, 2023.

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PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 26th day of June 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

TRIUNFO WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

Jane Nye, Chair

ATTESTED:

Fidela Garcia, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John Mathews, General Counsel



**INFORMATION ON SEWER SERVICE RATE CHANGES
FOR 2023-2024**

On the upcoming County of Ventura Property Tax Bill, there will be a charge under Special Assessments labeled TRIUNFO SEWER SVC FEE. This assessment is your annual service charge for the District to provide wastewater services to your parcel. The fee this year reflects a programmed 15% increase from Fiscal Year 2023 as part of the approved 2020 Rate Study. This charge is to ensure that the District has sufficient funds to develop, construct, operate, maintain and manage its wastewater system on a continuing basis, in full compliance with Federal, State and local requirements.

www.triunfowsd.com/sewer-service