

## NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

### **June 8, 2017 Public Hearing on Sewer Service Charge Increase**

The District will hold a public hearing on its budget and sewer rates on Thursday, June 8, 2017, at 4:30 PM at the District's office, 300 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael, CA 94903.

In 2015, a plan was approved that detailed sewer service charges through 2019-20. The 2017-2018 increase will be reviewed by the Board for approval at the public hearing.

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#### **Rate Change Explained**

On June 11, 2015, the District approved a five-year sewer service charge increase plan at a public hearing in conformance with the requirements of Proposition 218. The rate increase took effect on July 1, 2015.

Funds from sewer service charges are used for all District services, including: maintenance, replacement and updating aging sewer system facilities to meet new stringent regulatory requirements. Making critical improvements helps the District avoid costly regulatory fines, protects public health, and safeguards the environment.

To cover the cost of critical services and upgrades, the District has approved increasing the rate from \$835 to \$868 per year per sanitary unit.

#### **How the District Keeps Costs Down**

The District maintains a small staff and proactively plans for and makes responsible investments in infrastructure and improvements. Good compliance with regulatory requirements has helped the District avoid costly fines that have been imposed on many other sanitary agencies.

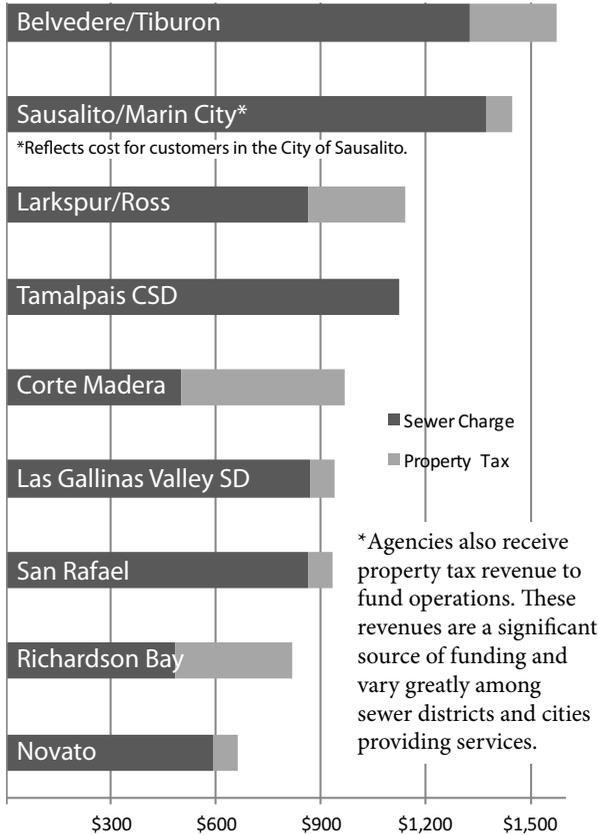
#### **How the Funds are Being Used**

While the majority of the funding is being reserved for the expansion and upgrade of the treatment plant (\$40 million), LGVSD has completed, or is working on, the following projects to date:

- Rehabilitating sewer and lower lateral pipelines (\$2 million); increasing capacity of sewer mains for high flow events.
- Rehabilitating pump stations and improving force mains.
- Proactively maintaining all areas to avoid equipment failure, make emergency repairs, and replace vehicles and equipment.
- A Biogas Energy Recovery System which is replacing a 20 year old methane fueled generator. This project will also clean the methane to CNG (compressed natural gas) quality to fuel the District's new CNG sewer maintenance truck.
- Rehabilitate the primary digester to improve solids decomposition and increase methane production for power generation and vehicle fuel.

# LGVSD Rates\* Remain Below County Average

The District's annual rates are among the lowest in the region, and even with the proposed increases are expected to remain below average.

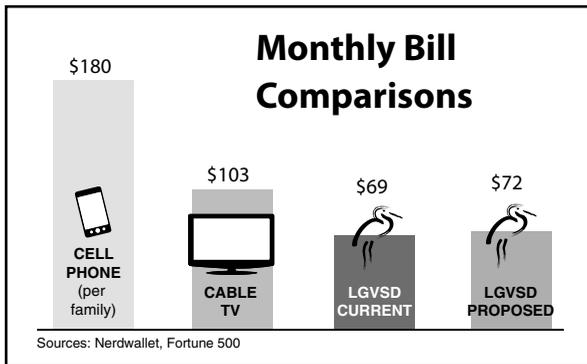


# Moving Forward on the Treatment Plant Upgrade

In order to address critical issues (aging infrastructure, changes in wastewater content, and new regulations), the District is embarking on one of the largest projects in the District's history with the Treatment Plant upgrade. It is expected to start in late 2017. When complete, LGVSD will be able to deliver full secondary biological treatment capacity for flows up to 18 million gallons per day (MGD), provide short-term storage for flows of 18 to 25 MGD, and raise the elevation of the secondary treatment facilities to make the plant more resilient against flooding and the impacts of sea level rise.

The design for the new Operations and Control Center is also underway, as part of the more broad treatment plant upgrade. The plans address general safety concerns, operational issues and sea level rise, but also use innovative and cost-effective ways to build the new structure. The Center will be built into the hillside, eliminating the need to construct a large retaining wall, thus generating significant cost savings.

In addition, the District recently signed an agreement with Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) to expand the LGVSD 2012 Recycled Water Treatment Facility. The expanded facility will replace the existing MMWD facility which has reached the end of its useful life, allowing LGVSD to operate a single recycled water treatment plant. The expansion will improve efficiency and lower the cost to produce recycled water. It is more cost effective than upgrading the MMWD facility.



# Summary of Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District Sewer Service Charges for July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

This is the third year in an approved five-year program of rate changes. The amount and method for calculating charges for various classes of customer are outlined below.

## Residential Rates Beginning July 1, 2017

**Residential Rates:** The annual sewer service charge for single family homes or similar residential units such as condominiums and mobile homes will be set at an amount of no more than \$868 per living unit for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017. Multi-family residential units such as apartments are charged 90% of the annual sewer service charge.

## Non-Residential Rates Beginning July 1, 2017

**Non-Residential Rates:** The rates for non-residential customers are proportional to the rise in residential rates. Rates are calculated individually for each type of non-residential use as described below.

User Classes	Rate Calculation	Water Use Calculation
<b>Domestic strength users:</b> Commercial, office buildings, retail, churches, halls, public agencies, laundromats, service stations, medical offices, hospitals, convalescent/nursing homes, barber/beauty shops, and car washes	<b>The annual sewer service charge rate times the average summer and winter water use times a strength factor of:</b>  1.0	To calculate water use, the District obtains the average of winter and summer water usage for each non-residential customer from the Marin Municipal Water District. This data is then converted to a sanitary sewer unit by dividing by 16 CCF for a bi-monthly billing period. Water used solely for irrigation and recycled water that is not used for purposes that enter the sewer system, i.e. water not used for toilet flushing, laundry, commercial car washes, etc., is excluded from the calculation.
<b>High strength users:</b> Bakeries	3.2	
Markets with disposals	2.6	
Restaurants/Cafes	2.4	
Mortuaries, mixed uses/ other, hotels with restaurants	2.0	
<b>Industrial and other high-strength users</b>	Contact the District for assistance	
<b>Schools without showers or cafeteria facilities</b>	0.01 times the annual sewer service charge rate per average daily attendance for students, faculty and employees	
<b>Schools with showers or cafeteria facilities</b>	0.02 times the annual sewer service charge rate per average daily attendance for students, faculty and employees	



Because of legal noticing requirements, you may receive more than one copy of this notice. This notice applies to all properties receiving service from Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District.

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San Rafael, CA 94903

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#### **District Administration**

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### **Our Commitment to Excellence**

**Public Education and Outreach Award  
Three-County Area  
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016**

**Collection System of the Year  
Three-County Area  
2008, 2010, 2012, 2016**

**Excellence in Financial Reporting,  
Certificate of Achievement, 2016**

**District Transparency Certificate of  
Excellence by the Special District  
Leadership Foundation**

### **To Protest the Proposed Changes**

Protests against the proposed changes in the sewer service charges must be submitted in writing, must identify the owner(s) of the property or properties for which the protest is entered, and be signed by the property owner. They must be submitted to the District before the end of the public hearing to be held on June 8, 2017 at 4:30 PM. If written protests against the proposed changes to the sewer rate methodology are presented by a majority of owners of affected parcels, the District will not approve the sewer service charge increases.

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**ATTEND THE RATE HEARING:** June 8, 2017 at 4:30 PM at the District's office  
300 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael, CA 94903

**WEB:** [www.lgvsd.org](http://www.lgvsd.org) **PHONE:** 415-472-1734 **EMAIL:** [info@lgvsd.org](mailto:info@lgvsd.org)

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District at (415) 472-1734 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Notification prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable accommodation to help ensure accessibility to this meeting.

This notice is being sent pursuant to Government Code § 53756(d). • *Printed on recycled paper using soy ink.*