

## NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

### June 6, 2019 Public Hearing on Sewer Service Charge Increase

The District will hold a public hearing on its proposed 2019-20 budget and sewer rates on Thursday, June 6, 2019, at 4:30 PM at the District's office, 300 Smith Ranch Road, San Rafael, CA 94903. In 2015, a plan was approved by the District Board of Directors that detailed sewer service charges through 2019-20. The proposed 2019-20 increase will be reviewed by the Board for approval at the June 6 public hearing.

#### Rate Change Explained

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

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

To cover the cost of these critical services and upgrades, the District proposes increasing the rate from \$898 to \$927 per year per sanitary sewer unit (an increase of \$2.42 per month) effective July 1, 2019.

#### 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 other sanitary agencies.

#### How the Funds are Being Used

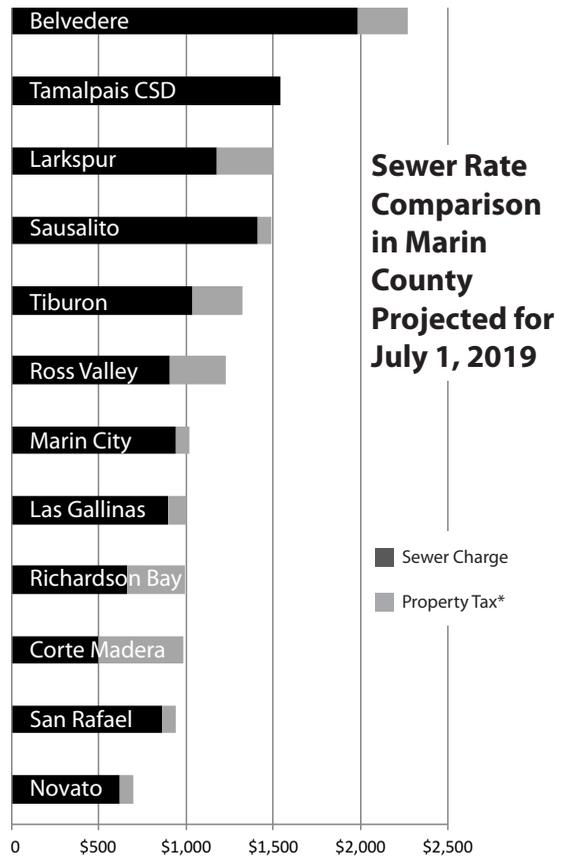
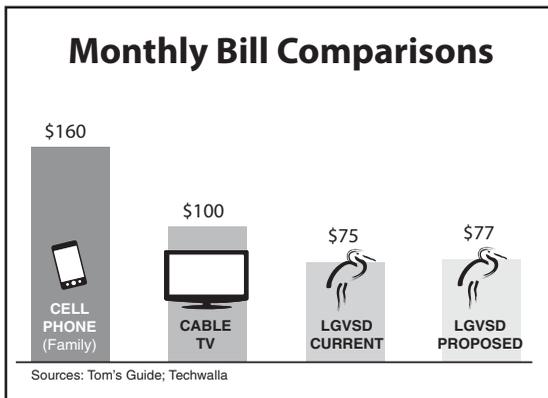
While the majority of the funding is being reserved and used for the current expansion and upgrade of the treatment plant (\$60 million), LGVSD has completed, or is working on, the following projects:

- Rehabilitating sewer and lower lateral pipelines.
- Increasing capacity of sewer mains for high flow events.
- Rehabilitating pump stations and improving force mains.
- Maintaining facilities to avoid equipment failure, make emergency repairs when necessary, and replace vehicles and equipment.
- Constructed a Biogas Energy Recovery System (replacing an over 25 year old methane fueled generator) which also generates CNG (compressed natural gas) to fuel the District's new CNG sewer maintenance truck.
- Rehabilitation of the primary digester to improve solids decomposition and increase methane production for power generation and vehicle fuel.

# LGVSD Rates\* Remain Below Marin County Average

The annual cost of sewer service for a typical District single family residential customer (or sanitary sewer unit) are below the average median of comparable Marin County communities.

\*Agencies also receive property tax revenue to fund operations. These revenues are a significant source of funding and vary greatly among sewer districts and cities providing services.



## 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. Construction started in January, 2019. When complete, LGVSD will be able to deliver full secondary biological treatment capacity for flows up to 18 million gallons per day (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.

In addition, the District and Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) have agreed to expand the existing LGVSD 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 is expected to lower the cost to produce recycled water.

Plans have been developed for the construction of an administration building. This will be built when funds become available.

# Summary of Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District Sewer Service Charges for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020

This is the final year in a five-year program of rate changes approved in 2015. The amount and method for calculating charges for various classes of customer are outlined below.

## Residential Rates Beginning July 1, 2019

**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 \$927 per living unit for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. Multi-family residential units such as apartments are charged 90% of the annual single family home sewer service charge.

## Non-Residential Rates Beginning July 1, 2019

**Non-Residential Rates:** The rates for non-residential customers are proportional to the increase 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 equivalent single family residential units (or sanitary sewer units). Water used solely for irrigation and recycled water which does not 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 information and 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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### **Board of Directors**

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Megan Clark  
Rabi Elias  
Judy Schriebman  
Crystal Yezman

### **District Administration**

Mike Prinz, *General Manager*

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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, 2017**

**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 charge must be submitted in writing to the District before the end of the public hearing to be held on June 6, 2019 at 4:30 PM. Protests must identify the owner(s) of the property or properties for which the protest is entered, and be signed by the property owner. If a majority of owners of affected parcels within the District submit written protests against the proposed changes, the District will not approve the sewer service charge increases.

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**ATTEND THE RATE HEARING:** June 6, 2019 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.*