

Frequently Asked Questions Sewer Service Charge Proposition 218 Protest Process

How can I see the proposed Sewer Service Charge Ordinance and Notice of Public Hearing mailed to Property Owners? The ordinance and notice is posted on the Project web site at <http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/LOWWP.htm>

Who was the Notice mailed to? The notice was mailed to the 5,262 record owners of parcels subject to the sewer service charges in the "Service Area" as defined in the ordinance. "Record owner" means the owner of a parcel whose name and address appears on the last equalized secured property tax assessment roll.

What if I recently acquired my property after the last equalized secured property tax assessment roll? If you recently acquired your property after January 1, 2010 and would like to have the Notice mailed to you, please leave your name, address, and APN (if known) at (805) 788-6633. If ownership can be verified through the County's property data system, a notice will be mailed to you. Alternately, the notice is available as stated above.

Who will pay the sewer service charges? Property owners will receive the bill.

How can property owners protest the sewer service charges? Submit a Written Protest. If you oppose the proposed sewer service charge, your protest must be submitted in writing to be considered, even if you plan to attend the public hearing. If written protests are submitted by landowners of a majority of the affected parcels, the proposed sewer service charges cannot be imposed. Electronic mail protests will not be counted in calculating a majority protest. Protests must contain a description of the property (like the street address), including the parcel number. Please indicate that it is the sewer service charge that you are protesting. Landowners may mail or deliver their written protests to the County at County Clerk/Recorder's Office, Attn: Clerk of the Board, 1055 Monterey St. Suite D120, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 in a manner that ensures receipt by the County no later than the close of the public hearing on December 14, 2010. Landowners may also present or withdraw written protests at the hearing on December 14, 2010. Only those written protests that are actually received by the County prior to the close of the December 14, 2010 hearing will be considered. If you agree with the need for the proposed sewer service charges, no action on your part is required.

Are protests public records? Yes, all protests submitted to the Clerk of the Board become part of the record and are available for public inspection.

How is a majority protest determined? If written protests against the proposed sewer service charges are presented by a majority of owners of the 5,262 identified parcels, the County shall not impose the sewer service charge.

What will happen if there is a successful protest? Without an approved service charge ordinance, the County would not be able to implement the Project. The County may begin the process again and propose a different sewer service charge structure to continue its efforts to implement a Project, or alternatively, AB 2701 would allow the County to discontinue its efforts on the Project.

How do I get more information? A public town-hall meeting will be held beginning at 7 pm (doors open at 6 pm) on Monday, November 29, 2010 in the multi-purpose room of the Los Osos Middle School at 1555 El Moro, Los Osos, CA. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the sewer service charges and answer questions from the public. In addition to information on this website for the Los Osos Wastewater Project, an informational brochure will be mailed to the community in the near future prior to the meeting. You may also contact Will Clemens at (805) 788-6633 or wcclemens@co.slo.ca.us.

When can I expect to start paying? The sewer service charges become effective 180 days after the County provides written notice that the wastewater system is operational and available for connection. This is estimated to occur in 2014.

Why are we setting sewer service charges now if we won't have to pay until 2014? The agencies providing loans to construct the wastewater system will not loan any funds until the sewer service charges are legally adopted which ensures the County has the ability to repay the loans on the entire project.

In 2007 the community approved assessments to pay for the sewer system. Why do we also have to pay sewer service charges? Sewer service charges are necessary to pay for operations as well as debt service on the amount of project costs not paid for by assessments. This has always been a part of the County's funding plan and estimated costs of both County assessments and sewer service charges were provided to the community in 2007 prior to the assessment vote. (See Brochure No. 5 at http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/PW/LOWWP/DOCS/Public_Communication.htm)

How do the cost estimates provided in 2007 compare to the current cost estimates? The average cost estimate provided in 2007 for a Single Family Residence, including both County assessments and sewer service charges, was \$200 per month. The current average cost estimate for a Single Family Residence, including both County assessments and sewer service charges, is \$194 per month.