

# FAQs re 2022 Proposition 218 Public Hearing Notice

## Why is MCSD raising the service charges?

MCSD is committed to providing safe and reliable sewer and solid waste collection and disposal services for our customers. As our sewer system ages, it is important to continue investing in replacing, rebuilding, and expanding them in accordance with a long-term, balanced financial plan. Based on the most recent sewer and solid waste rate study, it has been determined that rate increases are necessary for MCSD's sewer and residential curbside services to enable MCSD to recover current and projected costs of operations and maintenance; fund capital infrastructure improvements vital for providing safe and reliable sewer and solid waste services; maintain the operational and financial stability of MCSD and avoid operational deficits and depletion of reserves. The proposed adjustments are designed to bring in the revenue needed to cover operating expenses and meet obligations for vital capital projects.

## When was the last time MCSD raised its residential curbside and sewer rates?

These rates were last raised in 2005.

## How can I learn more about the proposed rate adjustments?

The Sewer & Solid Waste Rate Study Report details the proposed rate adjustments. A copy of the report can be found on MCSD's website at:

<https://www.midwaycitysanitarydistrict.com/>

## Where can I find my sewer and solid waste bill?

Sewer and solid waste services are billed annually on your Orange County property tax bill. You can view your property tax bill online at:

[http://tax.ocgov.com/tcweb/search\\_page.asp](http://tax.ocgov.com/tcweb/search_page.asp)

## How can I support or vote "yes" on the proposed rate adjustments?

If you do not wish to oppose the proposed rate adjustments, no action is necessary. By not submitting a protest, you are showing your support of the rate adjustments. You may also attend the public hearing on June 21, 2022 to voice your support.

## How can I dispute/protest?

To protest the proposed rate increases, mail or hand-deliver a written protest letter to:

Midway City Sanitary District  
Attn: Director of Finance and Human Resources  
14451 Cedarwood Avenue, Westminster, CA 92683

Only the owner of record of a parcel receiving curbside solid waste or sewer service from the District, or a tenant of the parcel who is directly liable for paying the fees, may file a valid protest. Only one protest per parcel will be counted. Protests must be submitted in writing even if you plan to speak at the public hearing. Written letters of protest must be received at MCSD prior to the close of the June 21, 2022 public hearing. Email protest letters will not be accepted. Protest letters must contain the name(s) of the record owner(s) of the parcel, a street address and/or the assessor's parcel number of the parcel, a statement of protest identifying which fees you are protesting, and your original signature. If you are not the owner(s) of record as of Orange County's last tax roll, your

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protest must contain written evidence that you presently own the property or are directly liable for paying the fees.

If a majority of the affected parcel owners submit written protests, the proposed rates will not go into effect.

### **I am a tenant; can I submit a dispute/protest?**

No, unless you are directly liable for payment of the curbside solid waste and/or sewer fees to MCSD. In most cases, MCSD collects these fees directly from the property owner as part of the property owner's property tax payment. If the person signing the protest is not shown on the last assessment roll of Midway City Sanitary District as the owner(s) of the parcel, the protest will not be counted, unless evidence that the person is nonetheless directly liability for payment of the protested fee accompanies the protest letter.

### **Can I call, email, or fax my protest vote?**

No. You must submit a written protest with an original signature.

### **How many protests will it take to stop a service charge increase?**

Pursuant to Proposition 218, MCSD cannot adopt the proposed new rates if it receives valid written protests from a simple majority of 50 percent of the affected parcels, plus one. MCSD's Director of Finance and Human Resources will count all valid written protests to the proposed sewer and solid waste rates to determine if there is a majority protest. Only one protest per parcel will be counted.

### **Can MCSD ever charge more than the approved rates?**

No. That would require starting a whole new Proposition 218 process.

### **What accommodations are being made for people on fixed incomes who just can't afford a service charge increase?**

Unfortunately, it is not possible to offer discounted rates to fixed income residents without making up the discount from some other source, and Proposition 218 prohibits any property owner from being charged more than their proportional cost of service. In other words, MCSD cannot subsidize some of its customers by overcharging other customers.

### **When will the proposed rate increases take effect?**

On June 21, 2022, the MCSD Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to consider the proposed increase to solid waste and sewer rates described in the Proposition 218 Notice. The public hearing for adoption will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Midway City Sanitary District located at 14451 Cedarwood Avenue, Westminster, CA 92683. If adopted, the increases will take effect July 1, 2022.

### **How long will these rates be in effect?**

The proposed new rates will remain in effect indefinitely or until the MCSD Board of Directors decides to change them.