NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED INCREASE IN SEWER SERVICE CHARGES FOR COUNTY SERVICE AREA 71

JULY 28, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Chambers of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center,
1115 Truxtun Avenue, First Floor,
Bakersfield, California

On the date and at the time and place stated above, the County of Kern will hold a public hearing on a proposed increase in sewer service charges for County Service Area (CSA) No. 71 for Fiscal Years 2026-2027 through 2030-2031.

The hearing will be conducted pursuant to Health & Safety Code §§ 5470 *et seq.* and California Constitution Article XIIID, § 6. During the hearing, the Board will hear and consider any written objections and protests that are submitted prior to the conclusion of the hearing. If less than a majority of the affected property owners submit written protests, the Board may adopt the proposed sewer service charge and rate adjustment formula and collect the charges by placing them on the property tax roll.

Proposed Sewer Rates

The proposed rate increase is calculated so that each property will be charged only its fair share of the CSA's cost to provide the service, and no more. In that regard, the revenues derived from the increase will not exceed the funds required to provide the service and they will only be used for the purposes of providing the service. The proposed rates are based on the current City of Bakersfield sewer rate fee increase, and on the County/CSA operational & maintenance data and cost estimates which are in written reports on file with the Clerk of the Board and available for review during regular business hours at the Kern County Public Works office located at 2700 M Street, Suite 570, Bakersfield, California 93301.

Proposed sewer service fees for each Equivalent Single-Family Dwelling:

Fiscal Year	Current FY 2025-2026	Proposed FY 2026-2027	Proposed FY 2027-2028	Proposed FY 2028-2029	Proposed FY 2029-2030	Proposed FY 2030-2031
Annual Rate	$295.00	$549.00	$651.00	$753.00	$855.00	$957.00
Monthly Rate	$24.58	$45.75	$54.25	$62.75	$71.25	$79.75

A public workshop on the proposal to raise sewer service charges will be held on July 8, at 2 p.m., at the Kern County Public Services Building, 2700 M Street, PSB Public Meeting Room, Bakersfield, CA.

Automatic Pass-Through Adjustments and Other Surcharges

The proposed annual rate increases for Fiscal Years 2027-2028 through 2030-2031 are primarily due to increases in the City of Bakersfield's charges for wholesale sewer service conveyance and treatment. Additional cost increases are based on the CSA's projected cost escalations, including general and construction cost inflation (CPI and CCI, respectively). If actual wholesale wastewater conveyance and treatment or inflation-based cost increases exceed the projected cost escalations, the CSA proposes to

pass through such unforeseen increases directly to customers in future years pursuant to Government Code section 53756, as follows:

> If the City of Bakersfield's charges for wholesale sewage conveyance and treatment exceed the assumed rate for the applicable year, the CSA will pass through the difference.
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> If the annual change in the Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim Area (CPI-U), as published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics as of January 31 of the preceding fiscal year, exceeds the assumed rate for the applicable year, the CSA will pass through the difference.
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> If the annual change in the Engineering News-Record Construction Cost Index ("CCI") for the Los Angeles region, measured from February to February of the following year, exceeds the assumed rate for the applicable year, the CSA will pass through the difference.

Collectively, the adjustments described above are referred to as the "Pass-Throughs." The CSA may implement the Pass-Throughs at any time during the five-year term of the adopted rate schedule, upon written notice to each affected property owner and customer of record at least 30 days prior to implementation, as required by Government Code section 53756(d). The Pass-Throughs may be applied to sewer rates and fixed charges as applicable. In no event will the Pass-Throughs cause the adopted rates to exceed the cost of providing sewer service.

Protests, Legal Objections

If you wish to protest the proposal, you ***must submit a written protest before the conclusion of the public hearing*** on July 28, 2026. For a written protest to be considered valid it must include: 1) the identity of the parcel represented by the protest; 2) the name and address of the protestant; 3) a statement illustrating the protestant's legal relationship to the parcel; and, 4) a signed statement containing an original signature, indicating that the writing is to be considered a written protest on behalf of the parcel.

Written protests may be mailed or hand delivered to the Kern County Clerk of Board 1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor, Bakersfield, California 93301. Protests received after the conclusion of the public hearing will not be considered.

Pursuant to Government Code section 53759.1, property owners may submit a written legal objection to the proposed sewer rates. To be considered sufficient, a legal objection must include a description of the nature of the legal objection with sufficient specificity to allow the CSA to respond in writing. Failure to timely submit a written legal objection by July 25, 2026 (45 days from the date of mailing, June 10, 2026) will bar any right to challenge the proposed sewer rates through a legal proceeding.

Pursuant to Government Code section 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for any judicial action or proceeding challenging any new, increased, or extended sewer fee or charge.

Anyone wishing to provide comment or present evidence may do so at the public hearing. If you challenge the adoption of the proposed ordinance in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors at, or prior to, the public hearing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kyle Perez at (661) 862-8852 or write to Kern County Public Works, Development Division, 2700 M Street, Suite 570, Bakersfield, California 93301.