



Wastewater Rates & Billing Information

Basis upon which the rates are calculated

OMWD's wastewater service charges are calculated to recover the cost to collect, treat, dispose of sewage, and maintenance of the 4S Ranch Wastewater and Reclamation Facilities within the 4S Ranch Sanitation District and Rancho Cielo Sanitation District.

Based on sewage flows and strengths, the rate structure for OMWD's wastewater service charges comprise of five customer classes: Single-Family Residential (4S Ranch and Rancho Cielo), Multi-Family (Condominiums, RV/Trailer Parks), Commercial - Group I (office buildings, small retail stores, schools, storage facilities, pools, government agencies, churches, sports parks); and Commercial – Group II (shopping centers, strip malls, medical office buildings, healthcare facilities, supermarket and/or restaurants).

OMWD's wastewater service charges for all customer classes are comprised of two components:

- (1) **A Service Access Charge (SAC)**, which is an annual flat charge based on one Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU). The SAC is calculated on the basis of recovering certain fixed costs of OMWD to operate and maintain wastewater facilities including repairs, maintenance, and customer services such as billing and collections. The SAC is determined on an EDU basis. EDU is a term used to compare the amount and type of waste produced from a non-residential customer to the waste produced by a single-family home. The number of EDUs assigned to an account is based on the estimated potential amount and type of wastewater generated by that account. A single-family residential home, for example, is assigned one EDU.
- (2) **A Commodity Rate**, which is a charge based on the estimated type and amount of sewage generated by each user in hundred cubic feet (1 HCF is approximately 748 gallons). For each Single-Family Residential user, the commodity charge is determined based on the lowest monthly amount of potable water billed to that user in the winter months of December to March (i.e., the lowest number of units on your water bill on any of these winter months). The lowest winter month's water billed is used to represent the monthly amount of wastewater generated, since potable water use during winter months reflects mainly indoor water use. For the Single-Family Residential user, billed water use is capped at a maximum of 10 HCF per month to account for irrigation usage. The lowest monthly usage is multiplied by 12 to determine the yearly use and yearly charge. For Multi-Family and Commercial customers, the commodity charge is determined based on the actual billed water use of the prior year, which represents the amount each user discharges to the wastewater system in HCF.

The rates for all components of OMWD's wastewater service charges are structured in such a way to proportionately allocate cost of collecting, treating, and disposing of sewage generated by each customer group in 4S Ranch and Rancho Cielo Sanitation Districts.

OMWD’s wastewater service charges are collected on each property owner’s property tax bill on an annual basis. Sewer bills are due and payable at the same time when a property owner’s tax bill is due to the San Diego County Tax Assessors Office, April and December of each year.

Current rates and charges

The rates currently in effect are as follows:

Fiscal Year 2025 (effective July 1, 2024)		
User	Annual System Access Charge (per EDU)*	Commodity Rate (\$/hcf)**
Single-Family Residential⁽¹⁾		
4S Ranch and Santa Luz	\$217.59	\$7.49
Rancho Cielo	\$217.59	\$7.49
Non-Residential		
Multi-Family⁽²⁾	\$172.19	\$7.49
Commercial - Group I⁽³⁾	\$217.59	\$7.49
Commercial - Group II⁽³⁾	\$217.59	\$10.72

* EDU: Equivalent Dwelling Unit

** hcf: hundred cubic feet

Information on how your Wastewater Bill is Calculated

- (1) The annual Single-Family Residential wastewater bill is the sum of the annual System Access Charge per EDU plus an annualized commodity charge based on the minimum amount of water used during the winter months, based on December to March water bills (of the prior year), and up to a maximum of 10 hundred cubic feet (hcf). For example, a typical single-family residential wastewater customer with 7 hcf of minimum water use based on this customer’s December to March water bills (of the prior year) would be charged as follows:
 (Service EDUs of 1 x annual System Access Charge of \$217.59) + (7 hcf water usage x 12 months x the Commodity Rate of \$7.49) = annual bill of \$846.75.
- (2) The annual Multi-Family user wastewater service charge is the sum of annual System Access Charge plus a commodity charge based on a share of actual water use (prior year) for the dwelling unit complex. For example, a condominium with four dwelling units totaling 288 hcf in annual usage would be charged as follows:
 (Dwelling units of 4 x annual System Access Charge of \$172.19) + (288 hcf water usage x the Commodity Rate of \$7.49) = annual bill of \$2,845.88.
- (3) The annual Commercial wastewater service charge is the sum of the annual System Access Charge plus a commodity charge based on a share of actual water use (prior year) for the Commercial

account. For example, an office building (Commercial - Group I) with 408 hcf in annual water usage and Number of Service EDUs of 10 would be charged as follows:

(Service EDUs of 10 x annual System Access Charge of \$217.59) + (408 hcf water usage x the Commodity Rate of \$7.49) = annual bill of \$5,231.82.