



Napa Sanitation District

Capacity Charge Increase Effective July 1, 2015

What is a capacity charge?

Sometimes called a “connection fee,” a capacity charge is the fee that the Napa Sanitation District charges when a new home or business connects to the sewer system, or expands its impact on the system. Unlike the sewer service charge, which is a regular, recurring fee for ratepayers (annual for most, monthly for some), the capacity charge is a one-time fee paid at the time of development, or at any time capacity used by a facility or property increases. If you own or live in an existing property in the District, this fee likely has already been paid. The increased capacity charge will only affect existing customers who expand their capacity at a commercial or industrial property.

Why is the District raising the capacity charge?

New growth in the community should contribute towards the cost of expanding the wastewater collection and treatment systems necessary to accommodate that growth. The District raises the capacity charge by the Construction Cost Index (CCI) each year on July 1. This ensures that the District has sufficient funds to complete the necessary capital improvements at the treatment plant and in the sewer collection system, in order to treat the wastewater generated by our new and existing customers.

What is the new capacity charge, and how was it calculated? The capacity charge for a single family residence will increase on July 1, 2015 by the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index (CCI) for the San Francisco Area (February to February) of 2.6%, resulting in a capacity charge of \$8,950. The capacity charge for commercial and industrial businesses is based on the single family residence rate. It varies depending on the size and type of the business for commercial facilities, and on the wastewater flow and strength for industrial facilities.

	Prior Fee	Fee as of July 1, 2015	Increase by CCI
Single Family Dwelling	\$8,723	\$8,950	2.6 %

facts about the Napa Sanitation District

The Napa Sanitation District provides wastewater collection, treatment and disposal services to the residents and businesses in the City of Napa and surrounding unincorporated areas of Napa County.

Service Area:

20 square miles
33,000 service connections
270 miles of sewer pipelines

Soscol Water Recycling Facility:

Permitted capacity: 15.4 million gallons/day
Average flow: 9 million gallons/day
Average amount of wastewater treated annually: 10,100 acre feet

Recycled Water & Biosolids:

Recycled water produced annually:
Up to 2,300 acre feet (AF)
Recycled water used in 2014: 1,778 AF

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napa sanitation district

Clean water. Healthy community.

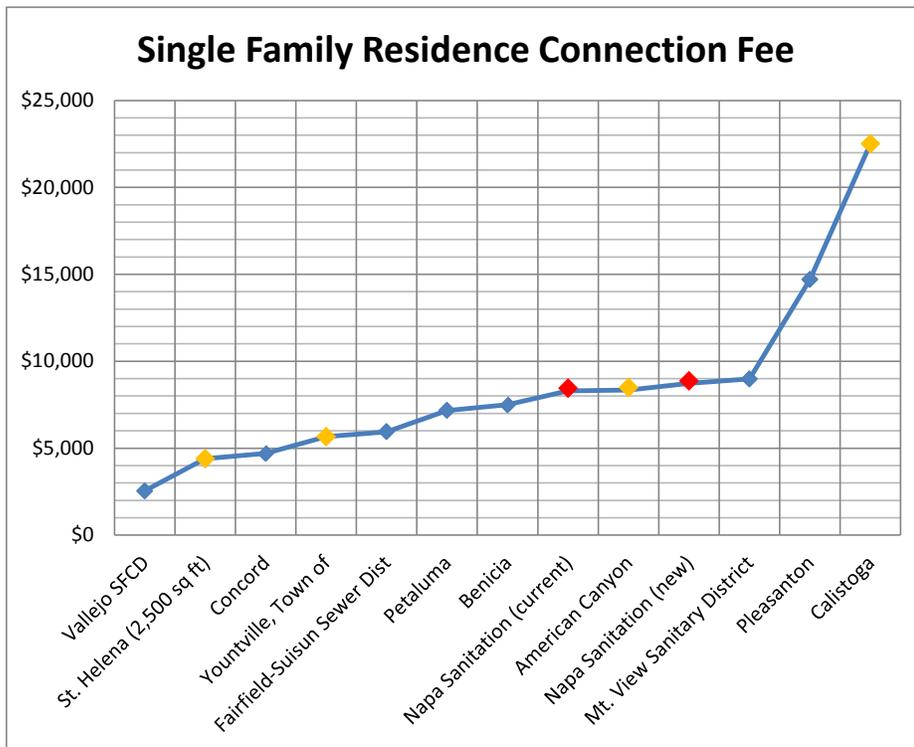


Are existing projects “grandfathered” into the current fee?

Yes. Projects that have been deemed complete by Napa Sanitation District engineering staff will be “grandfathered” into the fee that was in effect when the project was deemed complete. This applies even if building permits are not issued and the capacity charge not paid until months or even years later. This “grandfathering” program expires on December 31, 2016. All development that pulls building permits after that date, even if previously deemed complete, will pay the capacity charge in effect at the time the permits are pulled.

Example: A project is deemed complete on August 1, 2014, and pulls building permits on July 1, 2015. This project will pay a capacity charge of \$8,723 per development unit, which is the fee that was in effect on the date the project was deemed complete.

Example: A project is deemed complete on August 1, 2014, but does not pull building permits until January 1, 2017. The grandfathering of fees has expired and this project must pay the capacity charge in effect on the date permits were pulled.



How does this fee compare to other districts in our area?

At left is a graph of capacity charges for agencies and cities in the local area. Napa Sanitation District’s current and new capacity charges are indicated by red diamonds, other agencies in Napa County are indicated by yellow diamonds.

Will this rate increase hinder development?

Although no one likes to see fees increase, most people recognize that if there is to be future development, the sewer system must have the financial ability to expand to meet the capacity needs of that development. At the same time, allowing projects to be grandfathered in (see above) reduces the impact on new development.