

**Purpose:**

The City recovers the cost of providing sewer conveyance and treatment services via a sewer service charge. The purpose of this policy is to establish a fair and equitable means of assessing the sewer service charge on single-family residential accounts.

**Background:**

The City's sewer service charge consists of fixed charges (base charge and sewer facility replacement charges) as well as variable commodity charges based on assumed sewer flows. The fixed charge varies by meter size, while the variable charges vary by customer class. For commercial, industrial, and multi-family residential customers, the variable charge is based on actual water consumption. For single-family residential customers, the variable charge is calculated based on a two-consecutive-month winter average of the previous year's water consumption.

**Policy:**

In order to create a fee structure that reasonably reflects the amount of sewage discharged into the City's sewer system, single-family residential customers are billed for sewer services based on a two-month winter average of the previous year's water consumption.

During the winter months most customers significantly reduce water use for irrigation purposes. As a result of this change in usage characteristics, the water consumption during that period more closely correlates to the amount of sewage discharged into the sewer system.

**I. Determination of Winter Average Sewer Service Rate**

Winter-average data is collected between November 1<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>. The winter-average sewer service charge is determined by using the lowest average water consumption for two consecutive months during the data collection period. A minimum of two full months of water consumption data is required; partial month data is not acceptable. Accounts without two full months of water consumption during the winter months will be assessed the default single-family residential rate (see Finance Department Policy 900-02).

**II. Application of Winter Average Sewer Service Rate**

New winter-average rates shall apply to service provided beginning each July 1. These rates shall apply to services provided through June 30 of the following year.

**III. Application for Sewer Service Charge Variance**

The owner or occupant of any premises subject to the sewer service charge may apply in writing for a reclassification (variance) under the provisions of section 13.14.130 of the Chula Vista Municipal Code. The applicant shall bear the burden of proof and shall furnish substantial engineering and

factual data to support the contention that the premises should be reclassified. The applicant shall also bear the costs of the investigation. If the variance is approved, a special handling charge to recover the cost of billing and inspection services shall be established in the document grading the variance and shall be due and payable each billing cycle.

**Procedures:**

Not applicable.

**Forms:**

Not applicable.

**Government Code References:**

[Chula Vista Municipal Code § 13.14.140: Sewer Service Variances Permitted When – Application – Contents - Fees](#)

**Policy History:**

1. Issued 07/01/2014