



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Public Works
Department No.: 054
Agenda Date: April 21, 2026
Placement: Set-Hearing
Departmental on
June 9, 2026 and
Administrative on
June 23, 2026
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Chris Sneddon, P.E., Public Works Director
Contact: Kevin Thompson, P.E., Civil Engineering Specialist
SUBJECT: County Service Area 12 (Mission Canyon Sewer District), Resolution Relative to Collection of Sewer Service Charges and Sewer Connection Charges on the Tax Roll – First Supervisorial District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors, acting as the governing authority of County Service Area 12, conduct a hearing on the Departmental agenda on June 9, 2026 to consider the following actions:

- a) Receive and file with the Clerk of the Board a report entitled *County Service Area 12 Fixed Charges Fee Report for Fiscal Year 2026-2027* (Attachment A); and
- b) Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance to set sewer connection charges and increase sewer service charges for County Service Area 12 (Attachment B); and
- c) Read title: "An Ordinance to Set Sewer Connection Charges and Sewer Service Charges for County Service Area 12 in the Mission Canyon Area," and waive reading of the Ordinance in full; and
- d) Direct the Clerk to count and report the number of written protests;
 - i. If no majority protest, continue the item on the Administrative Agenda for June 23, 2026 to:

1. Adopt the Ordinance (Second Reading) to set sewer connection charges and increase sewer service charges for County Service Area 12; and
 2. Adopt a resolution authorizing the collection of said charges on the tax roll (Attachment C); and
 3. Determine that the above actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15273(a)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of the State CEQA Guidelines because they are for the establishment of service charges for services provided with County Service Area 12, that no expansion of services or facilities will result, that the fees will be used for meeting operating expenses and financial reserve needs and requirements, and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis.
- ii. If a majority protest, take no action and provide direction to staff.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to consider the adoption of an ordinance to set fiscal year 2026-2027 connection charges and sewer service charges for County Service Area 12 (CSA 12), which serves the Mission Canyon area. The service charge is proposed to increase by \$20.62 from \$316.82 to \$337.44 per user, a 6.51% increase. The revenue from this service charge funds annual operating, maintenance, and reserve costs. The connection charge is a one-time fee paid for the use of system capacity by new development, which is proposed to remain at \$5,633 per residential unit.

Discussion:

CSA 12 provides for sewer collection in the Mission Canyon area. Wastewater is conveyed to the City of Santa Barbara for treatment pursuant to the terms of a joint powers agreement. There has been no increase to the sewer service charge since fiscal year 2020-2021. The annual service charge is proposed to increase to \$337.44 per user, a 6.51% increase. This will generate approximately \$18,300 in additional revenue. The revenue from sewer service charges funds the annual operating, maintenance, and reserve costs. The increase is proposed to cover cost escalations as well as to make up for the use of capital reserves to fund repairs in prior years.

Sewer services consist of wastewater collection provided by the Public Works Department. Currently there are 808 assessed parcels benefiting from sewer collection services and the current annual service charge is \$316.82. The CSA 12 sewer system is regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) *Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Sanitary Sewer Systems, Order No. 2022-0103*. A joint powers agreement with the City of Santa Barbara provides for the connection to the City sewer system and use of the City's wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater collection services involve the operation of two lift stations, sewer system cleaning, and sewer line video inspections every 5 years. Capital repairs are funded from reserves and are based on condition assessment from the video inspections. The increase is noticed to land owners pursuant to Article 13D of the California Constitution and may be adopted by the Board if there is less than a majority of written protests.

Background:

CSA 12 was officially formed March 2, 1984 to alleviate health and safety concerns related to poorly performing septic systems and in response to a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

Basin Plan amendment (Resolution 83-04) that prohibited improper waste discharge from individual sewage disposal systems within certain portions of the Mission Canyon area. A project to construct a sewer system serving the more densely developed area of Mission Canyon was completed on December 12, 1986 with connections made the following year. The larger parcels located in the upper canyon were mostly allowed to remain on individual disposal systems.

The connection charge covers the cost of a new sewer customer buy-in. Homeowners that originally connected to the sewer system paid for system construction through a bond, which was retired in 2003. The charge for new development will remain at \$5,633 per residential unit.

The sewer service charges are collected on the tax roll as provided by the Government Code. The attached resolution (Attachment C) authorizes the collection of sewer service charges on the tax rolls pursuant to Ordinance No. 3574 adopted by the Board on June 23, 1986 (Chapter 22A of the County Code).

Fiscal Analysis:

The proposed annual sewer service charge assessed to each residential dwelling will generate approximately \$299,005.58 from 886.1 residential unit equivalent (RUE) connections on 808 parcels to fund CSA 12 operation, maintenance, and reserve costs. The reserve is approximately \$1.95 million.

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>RUE Count</u>	<u>RUE Charge</u>	<u>Annual Revenue</u>
Sewer Charges	886.1	\$337.44	\$299,005.58

Special Instructions:

After the set hearing on April 21, 2026, direct the Clerk of the Board to:

1. Publish notice of this hearing, as set forth in the attached notice of public hearing (Attachment E) in the Santa Barbara Independent two times pursuant to Government Code Section 6066. **The two recommended dates for publication are no later than 14 and 7 days prior to the hearing.**
2. Publish a summary of the ordinance in a newspaper of general circulation in Santa Barbara County, and post the full text of the ordinance, at least 5 days prior to the hearing.

After the 2nd Reading on June 23, 2026, direct the Clerk of the Board to:

3. Publish a summary of the ordinance in a newspaper of general circulation in Santa Barbara County with the names of the board members voting for and against and post a certified copy of the ordinance with the names of the board members voting for and against, within 15 days of adoption, pursuant to Section 25124(b)(1) of the Government Code.
4. If the recommended actions are approved, request the Clerk of the Board post the Notice of Exemption (Attachment D) and forward a stamped copy to the Public Works Department office in Santa Maria, attention Kevin Thompson. Public Works to post the Notice of Exemption at the Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.
5. If the recommended actions are approved, request the Clerk of the Board to email a certified minute order of the ordinance and the resolution to:
 - a. Public Works Department in Santa Maria, attention Kevin Thompson, kethomp@countyofsb.org

Subject: County Service Area 12 (Mission Canyon Sewer District), Resolution Relative to Collection of Sewer Service Charges and Sewer Connection Charges on the Tax Roll

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b. Auditor-Controller at auditor@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

Attachment A – CSA12 Fiscal Charges Fee Report 2026-2027

Attachment B – CSA12 Ordinance 2026-2027

Attachment C – CSA12 Resolution 2026-2027

Attachment D – Notice of Exemption

Attachment E – CSA12 Notice of Public Hearing

Contact Information:

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