



# Santa Margarita Water District

- Home
- Your Water
- Conservation
- Operations
- Doing Business
- News
- About Us
- Community
- Contact Us
- Search

## Your Water

- Your Water
- Water Quality
- Questions About Your Water
- Water Supply
- Water and Sewer Rates**
- About Your Tax Bill
- Water Links
- Emergency Preparedness
- Water Pressure
- Leak Detection

## Water and Sewer Rates

The District's water, sewer, and power surcharge (if applicable) rates are listed below. Customer bills are based on an approximate 30-day billing cycle. Your monthly bill may have fewer or more days, depending when your meter is read. Customers can find more detailed information about the District's rates and surcharges by viewing the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page.

If you have any questions regarding your account or the current rates, please contact our Customer Relations department at 949-459-6420 or [click here](#) to contact us. Customers can also use our "Live Chat" feature on our website, available during normal operating business hours of Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

### Water Rates

There are two parts to the water rates charged to SMWD's customers: the fixed basic service charge and the variable consumption charge. The basic service charge is a fixed amount based on the meter size at the service address. The most common meter sizes for residential properties are ¾" and 1". See your water bill for your water meter size. To promote conservation and recover costs, a tiered billing structure is used for potable (drinking) water that increases as customers use more water.

### Sewer Rates

There are two parts to the sewer rates charges to SMWD's customers: the fixed basic service charge and a volumetric charge, based on the amount of sewer discharged. Since it is not practical to individually meter sewer discharge, water consumption is used to determine the volumetric charge. For commercial customers, the volumetric charge is also based on the type (quality) of wastewater discharged by different classes of users. User categories are outlined in the charts below.

### Water and Sewer Rates as of January 1, 2014

Due to steadily rising costs of imported water from our supplier, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), and general inflationary cost increases as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Santa Margarita Water District increased its water and sewer rates beginning January 1, 2014. Since more than half of SMWD's operating budget is dedicated to purchasing water and energy, an increase in rates was necessary to ensure the delivery of a safe, reliable water supply.

The estimated increase for a residential customer will be about \$2.82 a month (based on the average single-family home usage of 17 CCF or approximately 12,700 gallons of water). The rates increase includes two factors: a [wholesale water pass-through charge](#) of \$0.11 per CCF (CCF is 100 cubic feet of water; it equals 748 gallons) for imported water from MWD and a 1.4% CPI that applies to water and sewer usage and base charges. Customers will see the updated "wholesale pass thru charge" of \$0.62 per CCF beginning in their February 2014 monthly bill. Additional information about rising imported water, energy and operational costs, as well as information about the District's ongoing operational efficiency programs, can be found in the December 2013 issue of [On Tap](#), the District's newsletter.

With imported water, energy and operational costs continuing to rise, the SMWD Board of Directors is

- Pay My Bill
- Live Online
- Community Events
- Meetings & Agendas
- Employment
- Working in Your Community

currently conducting a cost of service rates study to review water, recycled water, and sewer rates and charges. This rates study is reviewing the overall structure for setting future rates to meet rising operation and capital costs, allowing the District to continue providing our customers with reliable water and wastewater services. We will continue to keep our customers informed about the rates study as it is expected to be completed in spring 2014. The District is dedicated to providing our customers with the highest quality service at the most affordable price.

Please contact our Customer Relations department at 949-459-6420 if you have any questions.

### Residential Water and Sewer Rates

Basic Water Service Charges (monthly)		
Meter Size	Current Rate 2013	Rate as of Jan. 2014
3/4"	\$6.32	\$6.41
1"	\$8.14	\$8.25
1 1/2"	\$13.45	\$13.64
2"	\$19.84	\$20.12
2 1/2"	\$28.35	\$28.75
3"	\$36.85	\$37.37
4"	\$55.98	\$56.76
6"	\$109.14	\$110.67
8"	\$172.92	\$175.34
10"	\$257.96	\$261.57

Basic Sewer Service Charges (monthly)		
Meter Size	Current Rate 2013	Rate as of Jan. 2014
3/4"	\$9.13	\$9.26
1"	\$14.69	\$14.90
1 1/2"	\$28.47	\$28.87
2"	\$45.04	\$45.67
2 1/2"	\$67.18	\$68.12
3"	\$91.18	\$92.46
4"	\$139.12	\$141.07
6"	\$277.46	\$281.34
8"	\$443.30	\$449.51
10"	\$664.17	\$673.47

Consumption Charges (1 ccf = 748 gallons)			
Class	Tier (ccf)	Current Rate 2013	Rate as of Jan. 2014
Single Family	0-6	\$2.20	\$2.33
	7-20	\$2.32	\$2.46
	21-35	\$2.80	\$2.94
	36-70	\$3.30	\$3.45
	71+	\$4.17	\$4.33
Multi-family Single Meter Common Meter	0-3	\$2.20	\$2.33
	4-6	\$2.32	\$2.46
	7-12	\$2.80	\$2.94
	13-24	\$3.30	\$3.45
	25+	\$4.17	\$4.33

Sanitation Volumetric Charge			
Class	Max Units	Current Rate 2013	Rate as of Jan. 2014
Single Family	11	\$1.05	\$1.06
Multi-Family/Single Meter	9	\$1.05	\$1.06
Multi-Family/Common Meter	7	\$1.05	\$1.06

### Commercial Water and Sewer Rates

Basic Water Service Charges (monthly)		
Meter Size	Current Rate 2013	Rate as of Jan. 2014
3/4"	\$6.32	\$6.41
1"	\$8.14	\$8.25
1 1/2"	\$13.45	\$13.64
2"	\$19.84	\$20.12
2 1/2"	\$28.35	\$28.75
3"	\$36.85	\$37.37
4"	\$55.98	\$56.76
6"	\$109.14	\$110.67
8"	\$172.92	\$175.34
10"	\$257.96	\$261.57

Basic Sewer Service Charges (monthly)		
Meter Size	Current Rate 2013	Rate as of Jan. 2014
3/4"	\$9.13	\$9.26
1"	\$14.69	\$14.90
1 1/2"	\$28.47	\$28.87
2"	\$45.04	\$45.67
2 1/2"	\$67.18	\$68.12
3"	\$91.18	\$92.46
4"	\$139.12	\$141.07
6"	\$277.46	\$281.34
8"	\$443.30	\$449.51
10"	\$664.17	\$673.47

Consumption Charges (1 ccf = 748 gallons)			
Class	Tier (ccf)	Current Rate 2013	Rate as of Jan. 2014
Irrigation	Flat Rate	\$2.37	\$2.51
Lakefill	Flat Rate	\$2.37	\$2.51
Domestic	Flat Rate	\$2.37	\$2.51
Non-Domestic	Flat Rate	\$1.82	\$1.85
Non-Domestic/Blended	Flat Rate	\$2.33	\$2.47
<b>Other Commercial</b>			
C1-Med-Low Strength	Flat Rate	\$2.37	\$2.51
C2-Med-Low Strength	Flat Rate	\$2.37	\$2.51
C3-Med-High Strength	Flat Rate	\$2.37	\$2.51
C4-High Strength	Flat Rate	\$2.37	\$2.51
CR-Recreational	Flat Rate	\$2.37	\$2.51
Fire Service	Flat Rate	\$2.37	\$2.51
Construction	Flat Rate	\$2.37	\$2.51

Sanitation Volumetric Charge			
Class	Max Units	Current Rate 2013	Rate as of Jan. 2014
C1-Med-Low Strength	No Max	\$1.25	\$1.27
C2-Med-Low Strength	No Max	\$1.53	\$1.55
C3-Med-High Strength	No Max	\$2.05	\$2.08
C4-High Strength	No Max	\$3.68	\$3.73
CR-Recreational	No Max	\$1.25	\$1.27

### About Power Surcharges

SMWD customers who live in an elevated area within the District where water is pumped to their location may pay a power surcharge. The surcharge passes through the cost the District pays for electricity to

pump the water. The surcharge is determined by the pumping zone. There are three pumping zones in the District that are assessed a surcharge. This rate applies to domestic and non-domestic water.

Domestic Power Surcharges (per ccf)		
Elevation	Current Rate 2013	Rate as of Jan. 2014
Zone 3	\$0.18	\$0.18
Zone 4	\$0.26	\$0.26
Zone 5	\$0.36	\$0.37

Non-Domestic Power Surcharges (per ccf)		
Elevation	Current Rate 2013	Rate as of Jan. 2014
Zone C	\$0.12	\$0.12
Zone D	\$0.24	\$0.24
Zone E	\$0.34	\$0.35