

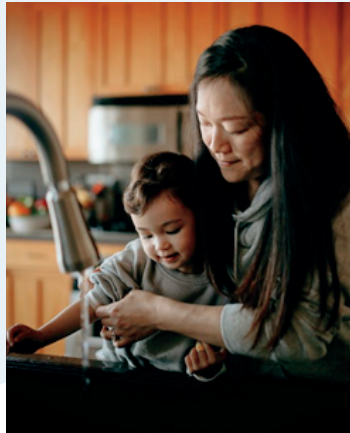


Maintaining Los Altos Sewer System

Protecting Water Quality, Public Health, and the Environment

The City Los Altos Sewer Maintenance Division provides 24-hour emergency response for all residential and commercial users of the city sewer system. The division is responsible for maintaining approximately 140 miles of sewage collection system serving the City of Los Altos and portions of unincorporated Santa Clara

County. The system's primary function is to protect water quality and public health. A series of underground pipes and manholes, pumping stations, and other equipment convey sewage from homes, businesses, and industries to wastewater treatment plants, where it is cleaned and returned to the environment.



How Does the Sewer System Impact Los Altos Citizens?

The sewer system is there for residents every time they use a kitchen sink, flush a toilet, take a shower, or wash a load of laundry. Proper sewer system maintenance also helps protect the environment, minimizes the chances of sewer backups or service disruptions, and minimizes overall sewer system costs.

Additional Revenues Required to Repair, Maintain Sanitary Sewer System

To determine the necessary revenue to maintain and operate Los Altos' sewer system, the City commissioned an analysis in 2022 to recommend the appropriate rate structure for 2023/24 and the succeeding four fiscal years to fund the cost of providing sewer services.

The City Council approved the final rate study on February 28, 2023, at its regular meeting, determining proposed rate levels, and initiated the rate authorization process set forth by Prop. 218 – the California state law that gives local residents a voice in local utility rates which must not exceed the cost of providing the service.

Public Hearing and Ratepayer Notice

This mailing includes the Notice of Hearing, which allows the opportunity to protest the proposed rate increase. Protests against the rate increase must be received in writing at City Hall by the close of the public hearing on June 13. If more than 50% of ratepayers protest the increase, the rate increase will not proceed.

Current Sewer Service Rate

\$301.29 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU)

\$2.42 per Unit of estimated sewer use (Usage Charge)

**One Unit equals one HCF (Hundred Cubic Feet) or 748 gallons. Rates are charged based on average winter water consumption (the three lowest consecutive months from the previous year).*

2023 Rate Adjustment

\$340.49 (EDU)

\$3.30/Unit (Usage Charge)*