



Metropolitan Council Adopts 2019 Wastewater Charges and Rates

On Wednesday, the Metropolitan Council adopted 2019 regional municipal wastewater charge (MWC) and sewer availability charge (SAC) rates. The wastewater charge for 2019 represents a 3.5% increase from 2018 although city officials should take note that the rate of increase will vary among municipalities based on the amount of local flow relative to regional flow. The MWC accounts for 75% of the revenues for regional wastewater services.

The Metropolitan Council also adopted the 2019 SAC rate. The SAC charge will remain flat, as it has for the last four years, with a charge of \$2,485.00 per unit. The SAC reserve level is now at \$82 million and above the required reserve policy of \$40 million. Graphs provided by Council staff at the Council's Wednesday meeting illustrated the trend of SAC levels over the last several years. SAC levels have rebounded over the last few years, following significant drops in SAC from 2009-2011 that caused the Council to need to shift funds from the wastewater charge to the SAC reserve to cover debt service costs otherwise paid with SAC revenues.

MCES staff noted that MCES' outstanding debt service is 1.3 billion for 2018. The adoption of wastewater rates by the Metropolitan Council follows adoption of the rates by the Council's Environment Services Committee and customer budget forums held earlier this summer. Cities will receive notification of their rate charge in mid-August, but can refer to estimate letters that were sent in May for budgeting purposes, as the amounts estimated at that time are generally within one-half percent of the finalized local rate charges.

New Inflow-Infiltration Mitigation Grant Program and Website

A reminder that there is a new inflow and infiltration demonstration project that has been established by the Metropolitan Council, with a grant up to \$500,000. All communities that discharge to the regional wastewater system are eligible to apply. The deadline is August 31st.

Data from the program will be used to help inform communities on effective inflow-infiltration mitigation strategies. Again, proposals are due by August 31, 2018. Click [here](#) for more information on the process and how to apply.

The Metropolitan Council has also launched a new website with tools and resources for local governments and citizens on private property inflow-infiltration. The new website contains a variety of information and resources about how to reduce I/I. Metro Cities encourages city officials to check out the new and comprehensive website.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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