

Sewer Ordinance Revision

Chapter-by-Chapter Summary of Changes

SEWER ORDINANCE REVISION OUTLINE

Chapter 1: General Provisions – *(Contains new language that establishes District Engineer’s authority to enforce the Ordinance and further defines how the ordinance was established. All definitions and abbreviations are now contained in this one Chapter)*

Highlights:

- Section 1.12: States that the rates and fees (that were previously distributed amongst several documents) are now located in a single document called the Rate and Fee Schedule that will be adopted by resolution.

Chapter 2: Sewer Use – *(Describes the uniform requirements for users of the wastewater collection system. It enables the District to protect its interceptors, treatment, pumping, and disposal systems and to comply with all applicable laws)*

This chapter also:

- Identifies what is allowed and not allowed to be discharged to the sewer system
- Establishes grease management practices (grease interceptors and sand/grit interceptors)
- Identifies (with pictures) sewer line maintenance responsibilities for all users
- Identifies new easement access guidelines

NOTE: This chapter is largely comprised of language from the existing approved Sewer Use Ordinance.

Highlights:

- Section 2.1: Change allows the Environmental Management Department to provide a variance to when a user must connect to the public sewer (“200-foot rule”) if District Engineer concurs with the variance.
- Section 2.4: New language that allows the District to require users to restrict their discharge during peak flow or loading periods and allows the District Engineer to require any user to install or maintain a storage and flow control facility to ensure equalization of flow.
- Section 2.7: Language that allows the District Engineer to require the installation of use and maintenance recording keeping and reporting of grease control devices. This section also outlines when grease interceptors may be required, this section is very similar to Uniform Plumbing Consolidated Sewer Ordinance.
- Section 2.10.1: The District is recommending that the line between owner and District responsibility be changed to follow the riser of the cleanout. This section states the District is responsible for inspecting, maintaining, and repairing the lower lateral, District cleanout and main line if the District owns the mainline. New diagram shows this line of responsibility. New language outlines what is expected of the user in maintaining their upper lateral.
- Section 2.10.3: A new section dedicated to low-pressure systems. It is recommended that these systems remain private and that the owner or owners groups has responsibility for ownership, operations and maintenance of the system, unless otherwise approved by the District Engineer.
- Section 2.10.3: A new section that identifies the outside wall of a District manhole as the point where the public and private systems delineate.

Chapter 3: Permits – *(Identifies the permits that the District issues, including Sewer Impact Permits, Wastewater Discharge Permits, Temporary Discharge Permits, and Access Permits)*

Highlights:

- Section 3.1: Clarifies rules on Sewer Impact Fee permit usage and ownership (transferability).
- Section 3.1.1: Incorporates language clarifying annexation rules.

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- Section 3.1.2: Clarifies rules on “service by contract” to entities not currently annexed into the District.
- Sections 3.2 - 3.3: Establishes more clearly the District’s authority to issues Wastewater Discharge Permits, Temporary Discharge Permits and Access Permits as necessary.

Chapter 4: Sewer Impact Fees – *(Describes the fees for connecting to the District sewer system. It also identifies the District’s refund policy. The actual dollar amount for fees will be included in the “Fee and Rate Schedule”)*

Highlights:

- Section 4.1: “Major Commercial User” is removed and “Non-Defined Commercial User” is introduced.
- Section 4.2.9: Clarifies the sewer impact fee refund policy.
- Sections 4.4 - 4.5.10: Consolidates the previously independent ordinances referred to as the “Fee Waiver and Deferral Ordinances” into Chapter 4.

Chapter 5: Other Fees/Charges – *(Identifies fees, other than the Sewer Impact Fee)*

Highlights:

- Section 5.1: Connection to Existing Sewer System Fee
All new users requiring a new or relocated lower lateral connection to an existing sanitary sewer facility owned, maintained, or operated by the District are required to pay a “tap” fee. The new user is responsible for preparing the construction site, activities that include excavating, shoring, establishing traffic control, and exposing the mainline, manhole, lower lateral or cleanout as required by the District under the District standards and specifications, latest edition.
A tap construction fee will be charged for each connection to an existing mainline, manhole, lower lateral or cleanout as specified in the fee and rate schedule.
- Section 5.2: Newly Constructed District Facilities Inspection Fee
When a person modifies or constructs a District cleanout according to the District’s standards and specifications and the cleanout is not to be installed as part of an approved improvement plan, he or she must contact the District for inspection of the cleanout. A fee will be charged for this inspection as specified on the fee and rate schedule.
- Section 5.3: Information Technology Fee
For all sewer cases entered into the County of Sacramento Database, a fee is added to recover the costs of the database development and maintenance. The recovery fee is assessed per the “Rate and Fee Schedule.”
- Section 5.4: Wastewater Discharge Permit
Permit processing will include the costs incurred by the District for activities deemed necessary by the District during the permit review process.

Chapter 6: Billing and Collection – *(Describes the rates the District charges. This includes information about the billing period, basis, adjustments, credits, and schedule of rates. The actual dollar amount for rates will be included in the “Rate and Fee Schedule.”)*

Highlights:

- Section 6.5: Sewer rate refund policy information.
- 6.11: Adds specific language authorizing the District to place a lien on property for failure to pay sewer rates and penalties.

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Chapter 7: Design and Construction – *(Provides District the authority to establish and enforce the standards and specifications. Also requires the design and construction of all District facilities to be in conformance with the standards and specifications.)*

Highlights:

- Section 7.2: States that the local jurisdiction’s Building Inspection Department is responsible for inspection of the upper lateral and the building sewer, and that all such construction shall conform to applicable building and plumbing Code
- Section 7.6: States the owner is responsible for installation of a collector sized sewer pipeline across the property frontage
- Section 7.7: Establishes easement requirements
- Section 7.10: Backflow prevention device installation requirements
- Section 7.11: States that work should not be backfilled until it has been inspected and that such inspection in no way should be considered a guarantee of the contractor’s work. Construction inspection does not relieve the contractor of his obligation to construct facilities in accordance with the District’s standards and specifications and the approved project plans.
- Section 7.12: Language that states all materials are subject to District inspection and acceptance at all times
- Section 7.13: Requires all permits to be available on the job site before starting and during construction.
- Section 7.14: Identifies a two year warranty for work performed by District staff

Chapter 8: Agreements – *(Provides District the authority to require agreements for reimbursement, financing, phasing, Private Sewer Maintenance Agreements, and Deferred Sewer Infrastructure)*

Highlights:

- Section 8.1.2: Modifies Trunk Reimbursement sunset dates
- Section 8.1.2.1: Updates Public Bid Process rules.
- Section 8.2.1: Collector reimbursement agreements will require the project proponent to receive at least three bids on an approved set of improvement plans or provide plans to a minimum of three of the builder’s exchanges and provide for a minimum of a two week bidding period instead of all three.
- Section 8.3, 8.4 and 8.5 and 8.6 provides additional clarification of Agreement requirements

Chapter 9: Enforcement – *(Identifies the District’s authorities and responsibilities to enforce the Sewer Ordinance)*

Highlights:

- Section 9: States the rules for monitoring and taking enforcement action based on fats, oils and grease control, limit wastewater discharge temperatures when necessary and authority to issue discharge permits.
- Section 9.1: Identifies the District’s right-to-enter.
- Section 9.2: Establishes the enforcement requirements related to unmaintained upper laterals.
- Section 9.3-9.11: Identifies the phases of an enforcement action.
- Section 9.12: Liabilities for costs incurred by the District (noncompliance costs to user).
- Section 9.13: Permit revocation and suspension rules.