



**Sonoma  
Water**

# FY 2025-2026 Proposed Rates Sanitation Districts and Zones

Grant Davis  
General Manager

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[sonomawater.ca.gov](http://sonomawater.ca.gov)





# Requested Board Actions

- Adopt five (5) Resolutions overruling objections, adopting a report on charges for sewage services, modifications to rate structures and confirming charges for 1) Sonoma County Water Agency Sanitation Zones Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup, Geyserville, Penngrove, and Sea Ranch; and County Sanitation Districts 2) Occidental, 3) Russian River, 4) South Park, and 5) Sonoma Valley.
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# FY 2025/2026 Proposed Rate Increases – Zones

Zone	Airport, Larkfield, Wikiup	Geyserville	Penngrove	Sea Ranch
Percent Increase	8.5%	8.6%	7.8%	8.9%
FY 25-26 Annual Rate	\$1,444	\$1,680	\$2,298	\$1,806
FY 25-26 Annual Rate Increase	\$112	\$132	\$166	\$148
FY25/26 Monthly Rate	\$120	\$140	\$192	\$151
FY25/26 Monthly Rate Increase	\$9	\$11	\$14	\$12

*Note: FY 25/26 Annual Rate = Annual charge per Equivalent Single Family Dwelling and annual dollar increase over FY 24/25. Includes FY25/26 monthly charge and monthly increase over FY25/26.*





# FY 2025/2026 Proposed Rate Increases - Districts

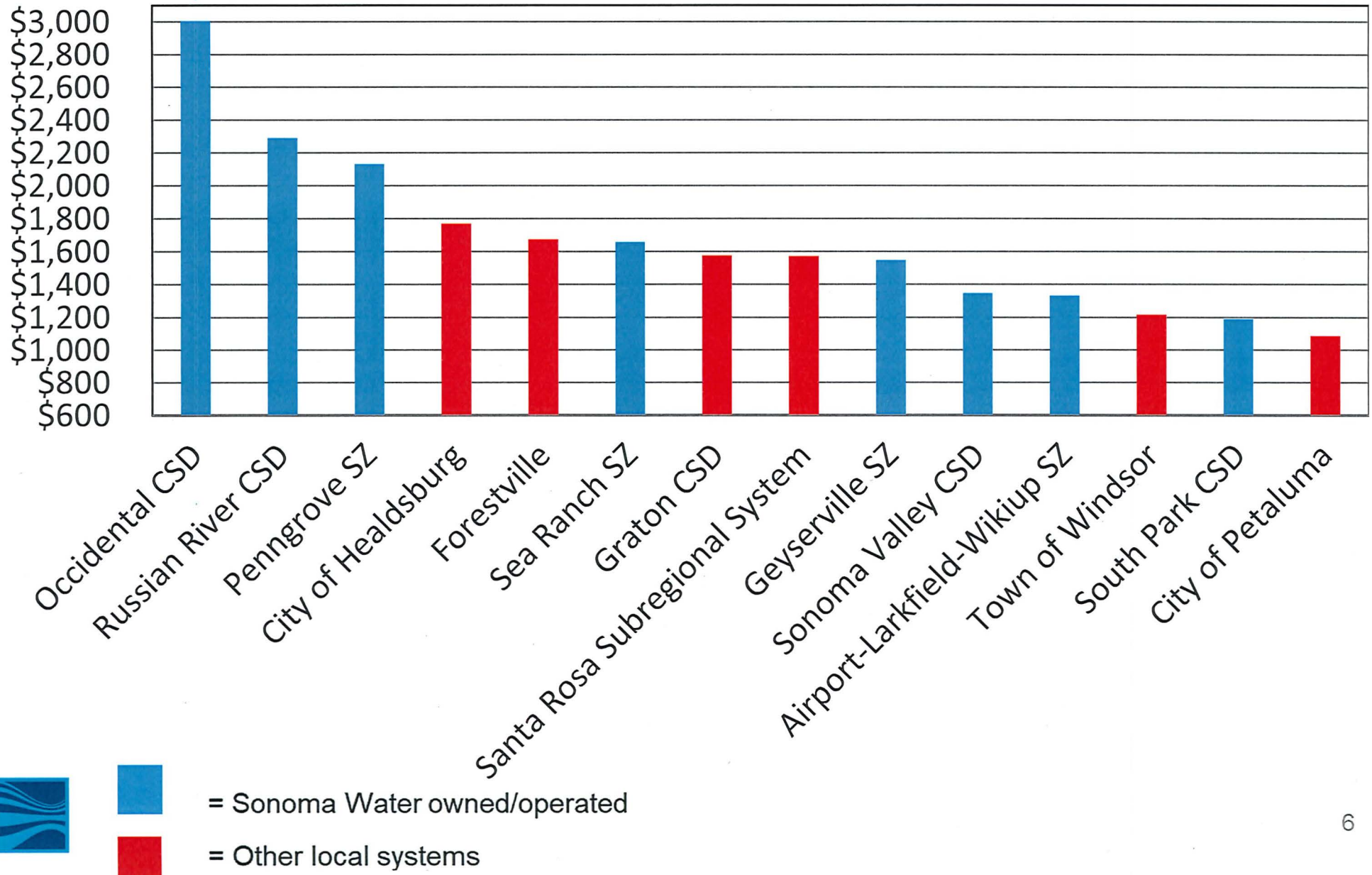
District	Occidental	Russian River	Sonoma Valley	South Park
Percent Increase	4.7%	8.5%	6.0%	3.5%
FY 25-26 Annual Rate	\$3,146	\$2,486	\$1,428	\$1,232
FY 25-26 Annual Rate Increase	\$140	\$194	\$80	\$42
FY25/26 Monthly Rate	\$262	\$207	\$119	\$103
FY25/26 Monthly Rate Increase	\$12	\$16	\$7	\$4

*FY 25/26 Annual Rate = Annual charge per Equivalent Single-Family Dwelling and annual dollar increase over FY 24/25. Includes FY25/26 monthly charge and monthly increase over FY25/26.*



# Proposed Annual Charges for Sewer Service - 2025

## Based on 200 gallons per day per Equivalent Single-Family Dwelling





# Sanitation Rate Relief Program

## Why?

- People with reduced or fixed income may struggle to pay sanitation bills

## Who?

- Residential customers who own and live in their home as their primary residence
- Current participant in the PG&E CARE Program, or
- Total income of all persons living in the home of 75% or less of the area median family income
- 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that provide housing to low-income renters

## How much?

- 50% of FY 25-26 sewer bill for eligible customers
- Up to \$600,000 from Sonoma Water General Fund

## How will people be informed?

- Website, social media, press release, outreach through social service agencies and non-profit organizations

## Next steps?



- Seeking Board authorization for program

# Sanitation Rate Relief Program

	FY 2023/2024 Results		FY 2024/2025 Results	
DISTRICT / ZONE	# OF ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	RATE RELIEF DOLLARS	# OF ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	RATE RELIEF DOLLARS
Airport Larkfield Wikiup SZ	14	\$9,594	16	\$10,656
Geyserville SZ	2	\$1,424	2	\$1,548
Penngrove SZ	3	\$3,751	4	\$4,264
Sea Ranch SZ	1	\$762	0	\$0
Occidental CSD	3	\$5,445	5	\$7,515
Russian River CSD	44	\$49,865	57	\$67,156
South Park CSD	16	\$9,324	20	\$41,887
Sonoma Valley CSD	85	\$49,187	108	\$98,451
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>\$129,352</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>\$231,477</b>



# Grants and Loans

District/Zone	Grant/Bond/Loan Awards past 5 Years (Dollars)	Grant/Loan Applications Pending (Dollars)
Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup SZ	48,566	-
Geyserville SZ	54,438	-
Occidental CSD	1,460,467	-
Penngrove SZ	532,037	-
Russian River CSD	5,627,518	46,844,230
Sea Ranch SZ	3,864	-
South Park CSD	42,828	-
Sonoma Valley CSD	20,653,330	1,669,650
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,423,048</b>	<b>48,513,880</b>

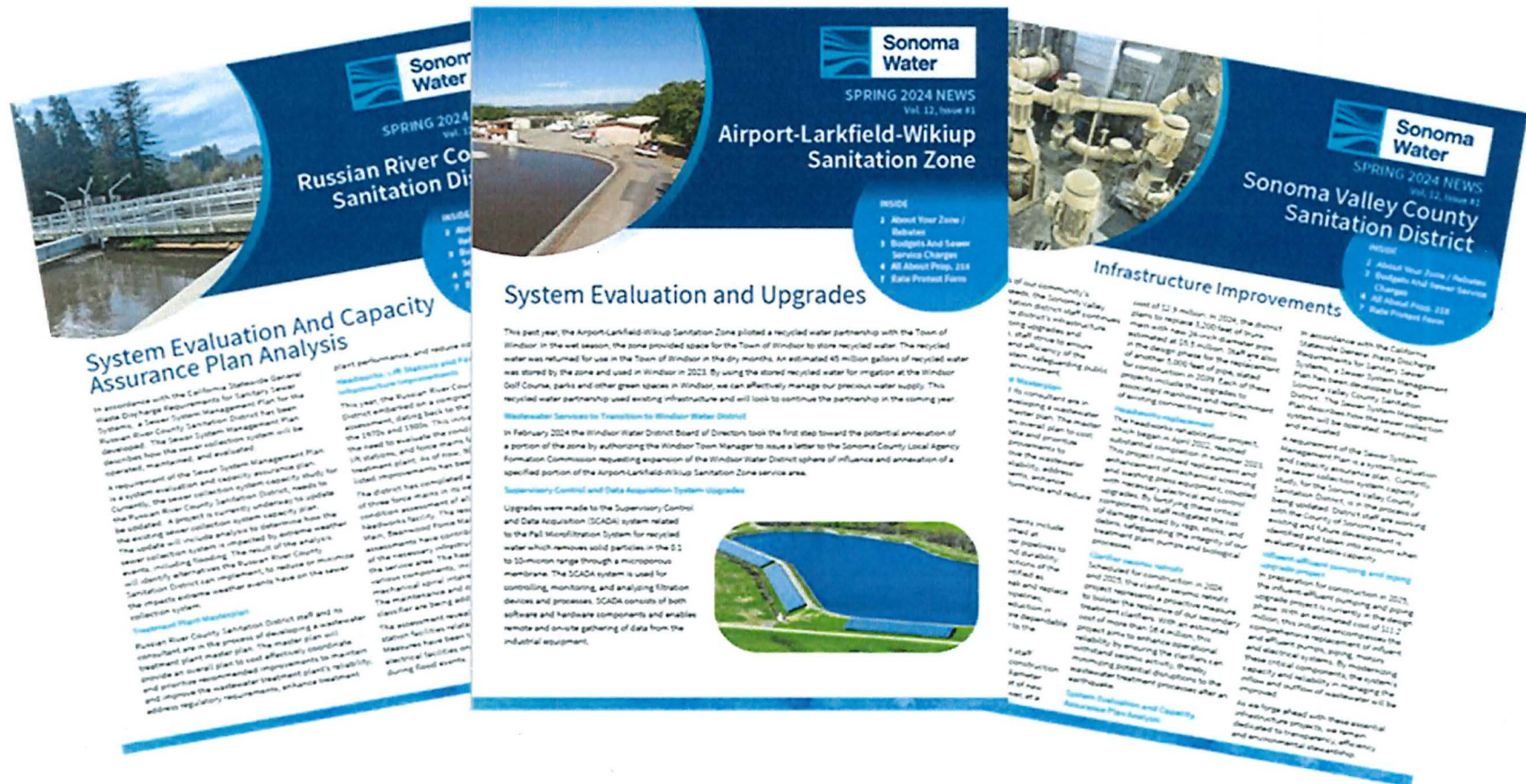
State Water and Wastewater Arrearage Grants: FY 22/23: \$146,500 for 86 customers. FY 23/24: \$189,600 for 109 customers. Russian River CSD pursuing \$45 million for Headworks Lift Station Force Main Project. Sonoma Valley CSD issued \$15 Million in Revenue Bonds in July 2022 to fund capital improvements.





# Total Protest Returns

## Report of Results





# Proposed Capacity Charges

Key objectives of the Wastewater Capacity Charge Study:

- “Growth pays for Growth”
- Comply with legal requirements of California Government Code.





# Capacity Charges

## Capacity Charges Are:

- A one-time fee paid by new customers as a condition of development or changes in property use that result in increased capacity needs to help ensure that new growth does not burden existing rate payers.
- Levied to recover costs for capacity in facilities benefiting new development.
- Regulated by Government Code Section 66013
  - Capacity charges can recover costs for existing facilities or future facilities



# Proposed Capacity Charges

## System Buy-In Approach

- New connections “buy in” for their proportionate share of costs for capacity needed in existing wastewater system facilities and assets.
- Option A: Buy-in value based on reasonable replacement cost of system assets (in current dollars).
- Option B: Buy-in value based on replacement cost of system assets (in current dollars) reduced by depreciation (in current dollars) which reflects that age and use reduces the value of existing assets.





# Proposed Capacity Charges

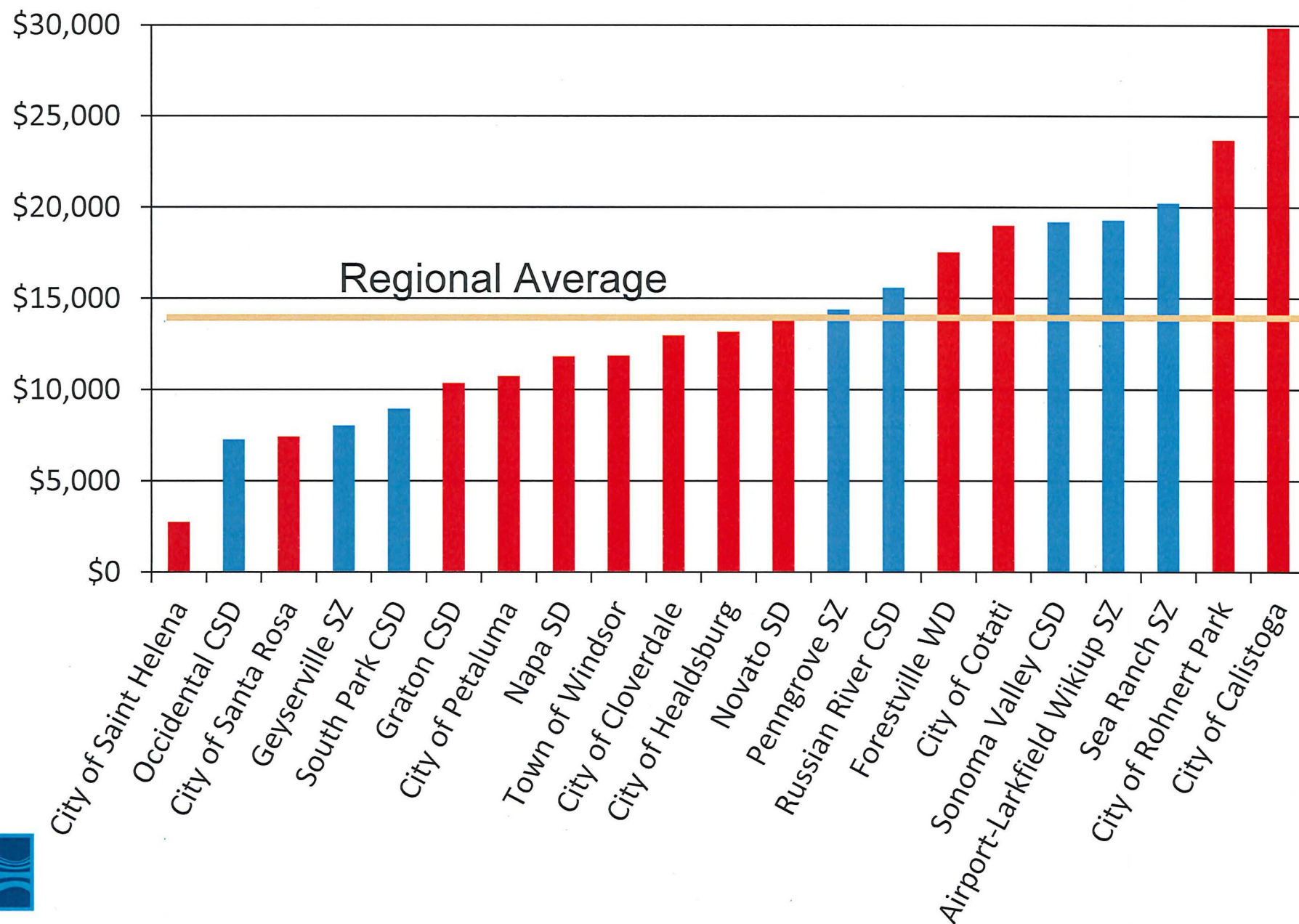
District/Zone	Current Charges per ESD	Proposed Charges per ESD Option A	Proposed Charges per ESD Option B
Airport-Larkfield Wikiup SZ	\$15,051	\$36,941	\$19,308
Geyserville SZ	\$4,984	\$31,143	\$8,046
Penngrove SZ	\$4,984	\$38,397	\$14,390
Sea Ranch SZ	\$6,230	\$60,104	\$20,232
Occidental CSD	\$2,284	\$21,423	\$7,290
Russian River CSD	\$5,969	\$61,507	\$15,589
Sonoma Valley CSD	\$17,752	\$49,867	\$19,204
South Park CSD	\$2,284	\$12,537	\$8,965



Option A - Replacement Cost New

Option B - Replacement Cost New Less Depreciation

# Regional Wastewater Capacity Charges





# Proposed Capacity Charges Effective Date

- Effective July 1, 2025.

## Housing Developments:

- Subject to the exceptions in Government Code section 65589.5(o), capacity charges shall be calculated based on the charges that were:
  - in effect when a preliminary application is submitted to the city or county, or
  - in the case of no preliminary application, at the time the application is deemed complete by the entitling land use agency.



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