



**Sonoma  
Water**

# FY 2020-2021 Proposed Rates Sanitation Districts and Zones

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



# Requested Board Actions

- Adopt Resolutions (5) 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.
- Adopt Ordinances setting sewer service charges, on behalf of Sonoma County Water Agency Sanitation Zones calling for collection on the tax roll for all Zones, and remaining in effect until modified by the Board, and making findings and determination of exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.
- Adopt Ordinances for the County Sanitation Districts setting sewer service charges, revising rate structures and calling for collection on the tax roll, and remaining in effect until modified by the Board, and making findings and determination of exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

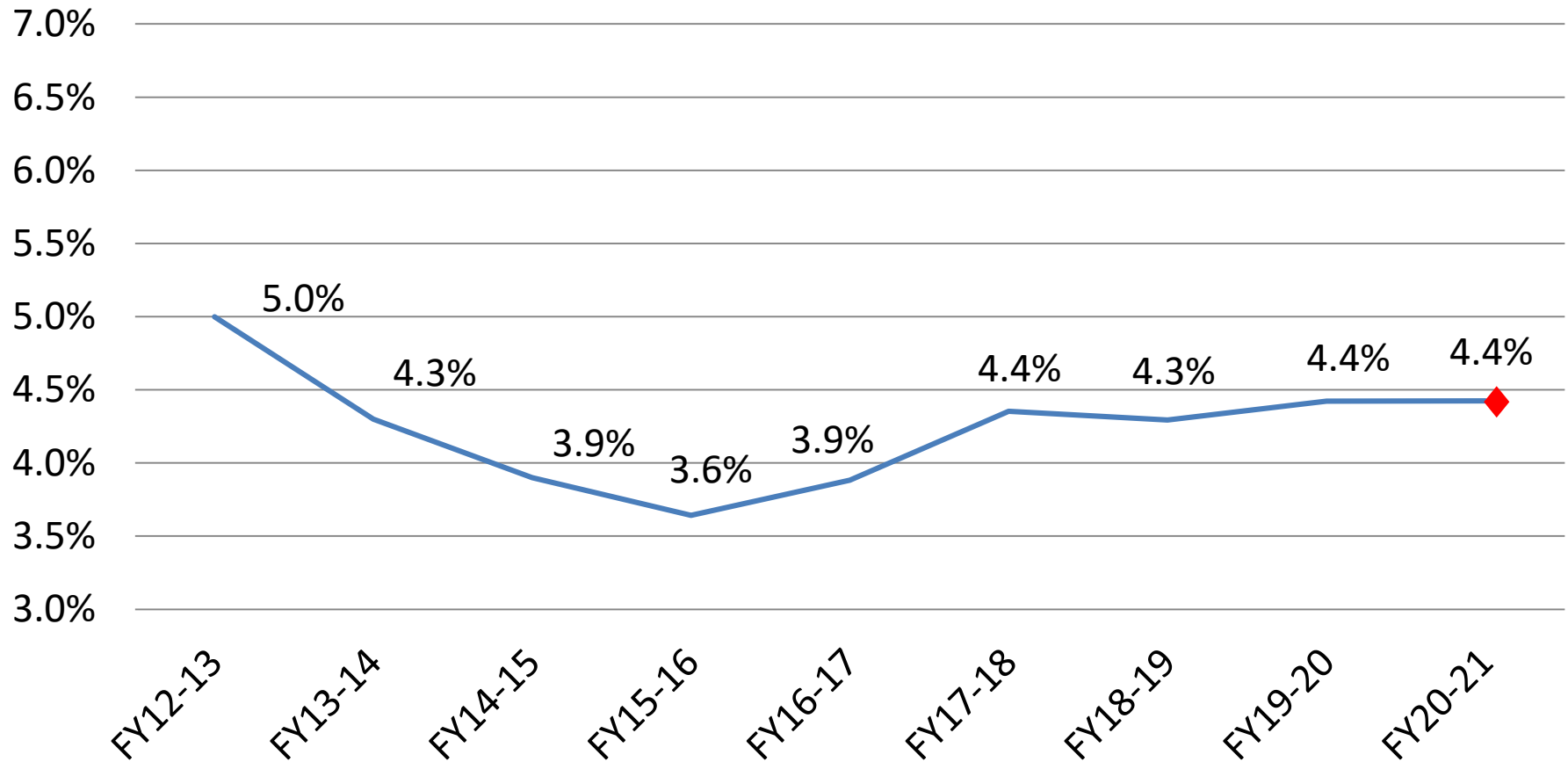


# Business Model

- Long-Term Financial Plans set target rates for next 5+ years
- Capital Investments Goal - Reinvest at rate of depreciation
- Use rate increases above CPI for capital investments
- Keep routine operations and maintenance expenses at CPI



# Average Sanitation Rate Increase



# FY 2020/2021 Proposed Rate Increases

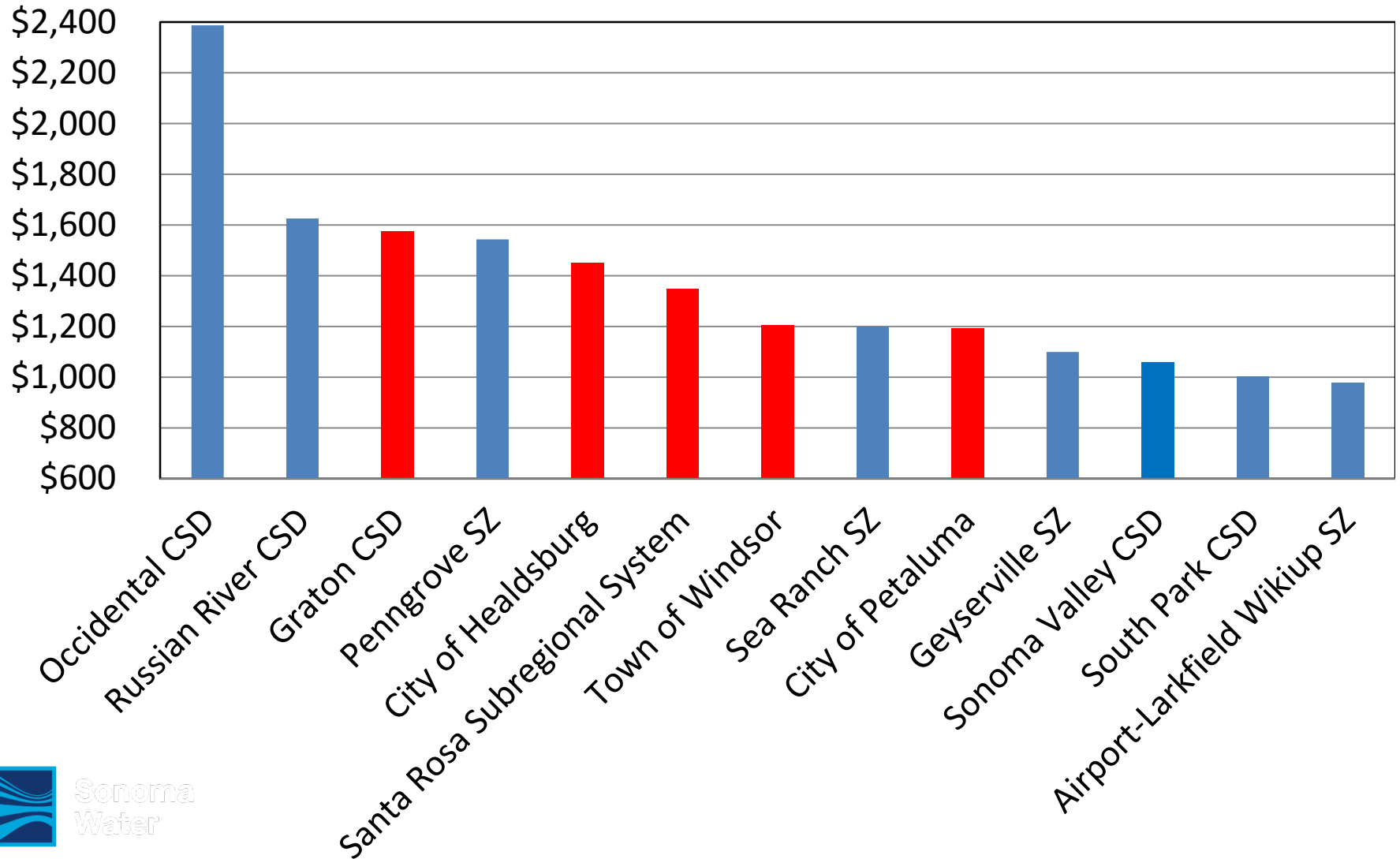
Zone	Airport, Larkfield, Wikiup		Geyserville		Penngrove		Sea Ranch	
Percent Increase	4.0%		5.5%		5.5%		3.5%	
FY 20-21 Amount	\$1,018	+\$39	\$1,158	+\$59	\$1,628	+\$85	\$1,242	+\$42

District	Occidental		Russian River		Sonoma Valley		South Park	
Percent Increase	4.9%		5.0%		3.5%		3.5%	
FY 20-21 Amount	\$2,504	+\$117	\$1,706	+\$81	\$1,094	+\$37	\$1,037	+\$35

*Note: FY 20-21 Amount = Annual Charge per Equivalent Single Family Dwelling and Dollar Increase over FY 19-20.*

# Annual Charges for Sewer Service - 2020

Based on 200 Gallons per Day per Equivalent Single Family Dwelling



# Rate Calculation – Sanitation Zones

Zone	Airport-Larkfield-Wikiup	Geyserville	Penngrove	Sea Ranch
Rate Increase	4.0%	5.5%	5.5%	3.5%
Operating Revenue	4,534,000	434,000	1,274,000	741,000
Operating Expenses	3,920,000	521,000	1,012,000	816,000
Net Revenue	614,000	(87,000)	262,000	(75,000)
Grants/Loans				
FY20-21 Capital Improvements	615,000	5,000	159,000	155,000
FY22-25 Projects	2,050,000	475,000	120,000	2,605,000
	Replace Main Electrical Breaker and Filter Modules, Sludge Removal, Plant Improvements	Sludge Removal, Force Main Replacement	Lift Station Seismic Hazard Mitigation, Capacity Analysis	Sludge Removal, Creek Crossing

# Rate Calculation – Sanitation Districts

District	Occidental	Russian River	Sonoma Valley	South Park
Rate Increase	4.9%	5.0%	3.5%	3.5%
Operating Revenue	1,467,000	5,362,000	18,504,000	4,393,000
Operating Expenses	1,143,000	4,479,000	11,060,000	2,619,000
Net Revenue	324,000	883,000	7,444,000	1,775,000
Grants/Loans		2,023,000		
FY20-21 Capital Improvements	66,000	2,665,000	8,971,000	380,000
FY22-25 Projects	3,074,000	11,196,000	28,225,000	6,500,000
	Automation, Replace Force Main, Hauling, Treatment, Disposal Fees	Force Main, Headworks, Lift Stations, Underground Tank, Electrical Service, ACL Compliance	Replace Trunk Mains, Electrical Resiliency, Clarifier Seismic Retrofit	Replace Collection Systems, Transfer to City of Santa Rosa

# FY 2020-2021 Sanitation Highlights



- Larkfield Estates Sewer Main Extension
- Geyserville – Percolation Pond Drainage, Capacity Analysis
- Penngrove - Lift Station Flood Resiliency Project (FEMA grant)
- Sea Ranch – Lift Station Control Panel Replacement
- Occidental - Hauling Wastewater to Airport Treatment Plant, Lift Station Automation
- Russian River – Headworks, Lift Station/Force Main Project (State grant), Clarifier Seismic Retrofit (FEMA grant)
- Sonoma Valley – Sewer Trunk Main Replacements, Headworks Project, Sonoma Developmental Center
- South Park - Multi-year Transition of O&M to City of Santa Rosa

# FY2020/2021 Sanitation Highlights

- Airport - Larkfield Estates Sewer Main Extension, Electrical Breaker, Sludge Removal
- Geyserville – Percolation Pond Drainage, Capacity Analysis, Sludge Removal
- Penngrove - Lift Station Flood Resiliency Project Design – Offsetting FEMA Grant Funds, Marin-Sonoma Narrows Force Main Relocation – Caltrans Funds, Force Main
- Sea Ranch – Lift Station Control Panel Replacement, Sludge Removal
- Occidental - Hauling Wastewater to Airport Treatment Plant, Lift Station Automation, Lift Station Canopy Repair
- Russian River – Headworks, Lift Station and Force Main Condition Assessments with Offsetting Grant Funds, Clarifier Seismic Retrofit Design - Offsetting FEMA Grant Funds
- Sonoma Valley – Construct Sewer Trunk Main Replacements, Continue Design on Three Other Phases, Headworks Rehabilitation, Continue Design of Sonoma Creek Bank Repair, Roof Replacement, Blower Improvements Project
- South Park - Continue Rate Study, Multi-year Transition of Operations and Management to City of Santa Rosa, and Implementation of Volume-based Rates to Provide Customers Greater Control over their Sewer Bill

# Public Outreach

- Tours of sanitation facilities
- Annual Prop. 218 Newsletters



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# Public Outreach



## SONOMA VALLEY COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT SEWER TRUNK MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

The multi-year effort to replace Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's aging sewer lines made large strides in 2019 and into 2020 with the installation of 4,300 feet of new pipeline, much of it located beneath Highway 12. Work to replace the 27-inch diameter trunk main started in the summer of 2019 and is nearly complete. Repairing the roadway requires an extended period of warm and dry weather.

How sewer trunk main was replaced in the section of Highway 12 between 6th Street West and Ramon Street. A portion of the pipeline was replaced in coordination with Regional Park this year. In order to maximize with Sonoma County Regional Parks on their baseball field improvements. The \$6.1 million project is part of a three-year project to replace nearly two miles of aging pipeline.

The next phase of the project is expected to get under way in the summer of 2020, with trunk main replacement from Ramon Street, through the Sonoma Oaks Mobile Home Park, north through Maxwell Farms Regional Park, across Varano Avenue and ending south of old Maple Avenue. Most of that work will take place outside of the public roadway.



## HOW YOUR SEWER SERVICE FEES ARE SPENT

Service fees collected from property owners are used to operate and maintain the sanitation facilities that are managed by Sonoma Water. This graphic depiction provides a snapshot of types of activities that are required to operate our facilities in an environmentally responsible and fiscally prudent manner, to replace worn out equipment before it fails.



## BUDGET APPROVAL

After the proposed budgets and rates are developed, the budgets are available for public review at libraries throughout the county and at Sonoma Water's office located at 404 Aviation Boulevard, Santa Rosa. They are also available online. Typically, this happens at the end of March. In addition, notices of the proposed rates are mailed to the owners of the properties in the districts and zones at that time. The public can protest rate increases up to the date of the rate hearings, which are typically held in mid-May at the Board of Supervisors chambers. (A protest form and rate hearing information are available on pages 6-7 of this notice.)

## ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT

In 1995 Sonoma Water assumed responsibility from the County of Sonoma for managing the county sanitation zones and districts, including your District. The District began operation in 1953. Currently, it serves 12,548 Equivalent Single-Family Dwellings within a 4,500-acre service area. The treatment plant has a design capacity of 3 million gallons per day (average daily dry weather flow) and treats wastewater to tertiary treatment levels (also referred to as advanced water treatment). High-quality recycled water is an important resource and its use offsets potable water demands and enhances the environment. Between May 1 and October 31, the recycled water is used for irrigation and wetland/habitat marsh enhancement. Between November 1 and April 30, recycled water is discharged into Sycamore Slough or Hudson Slough.



## 2020 PUBLIC TOUR

Please to invite community members to sign up for a free public tour and visit our water distribution system, sanitation and control systems. The following tour is available in English and Spanish. It is available in English and Spanish.

**in River Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour Saturday, May 30, 2020 - 10:00 AM - 11:45 PM**  
Register online at [www.sonomawater.org/tours](https://www.sonomawater.org/tours)  
Your tour will be led in English, with the opportunity to sign up for translation services in Spanish.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant, including the lab monitoring millions of live protozoa and microorganisms and recycling wastewater.  
The tour has a capacity of 25 guests, and spots are first come, first served.  
Must be at least 9 years old and accompanied by an adult to participate in tour.  
Part of the tour. Please, bring water, sunscreen, and a hat/cap, dress in layers and wear comfortable shoes.  
Event.

For more information to receive notifications of upcoming tours. If you have any questions, please contact [Jill.Sullivan@sonomawater.org](mailto:Jill.Sullivan@sonomawater.org) or (707) 547-1922.

## IN YOUR DISTRICT

**WATER SAVING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE**  
Why of the Moon Water District customer, you have some water saving tools at your fingertips!  
Water saving programs which are offered on a first come, first served basis while funding lasts.  
\$50 back on the purchase and installation of a new, qualifying high-efficiency clothes washer  
or all Energy Star Most Efficient listed clothes washers except those containing silver ion  
<https://www.sonomawater.org/water-saving-programs>



## DO FLUSH

The following can be flushed down the toilet.



Toilet paper

## DO NOT FLUSH

The following cannot go in the toilet as they can clog pipes and septic systems.



Paper towels



Cigarette butts



Disposable diapers



Wipes  
(Baby or flushable)



Feminine hygiene  
products



Plastics



Medications



Cotton  
(Cotton swabs or balls)



Dental floss



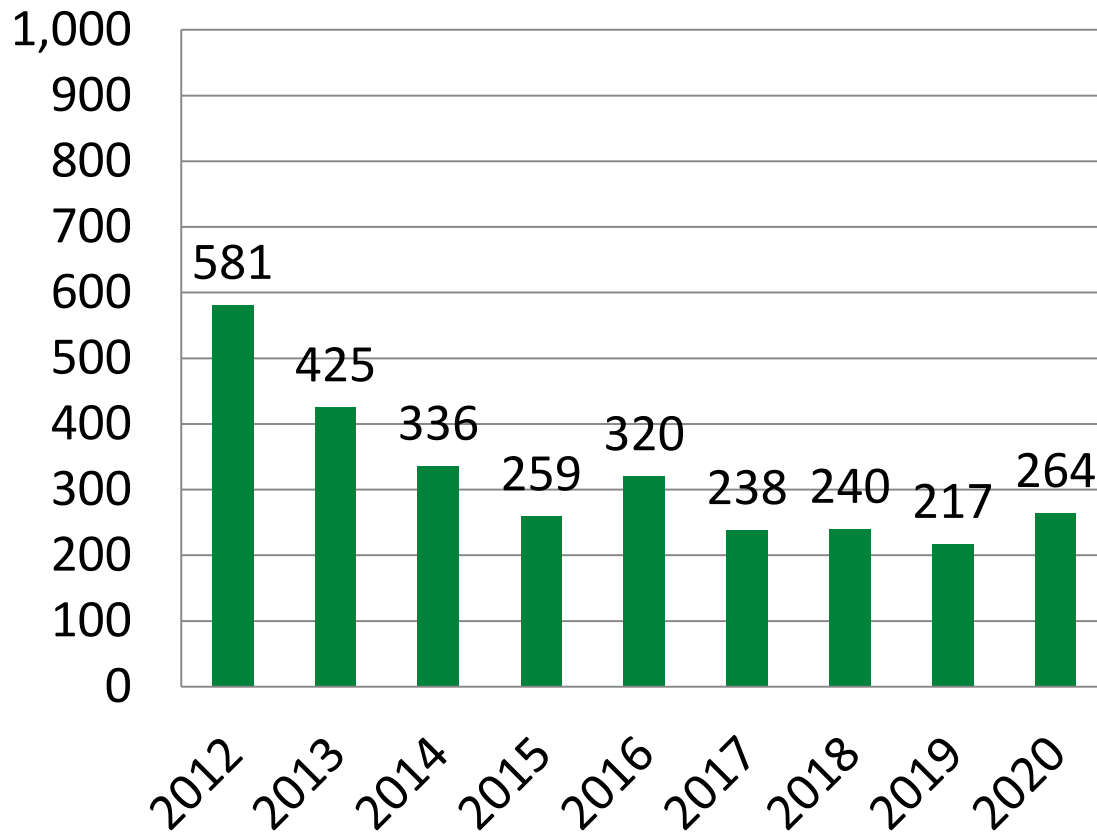
Toxic Substances

Dispose these items in the trash.



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# Total Protest Returns



## Range

Airport - 0.68%

Occidental – 12.1%

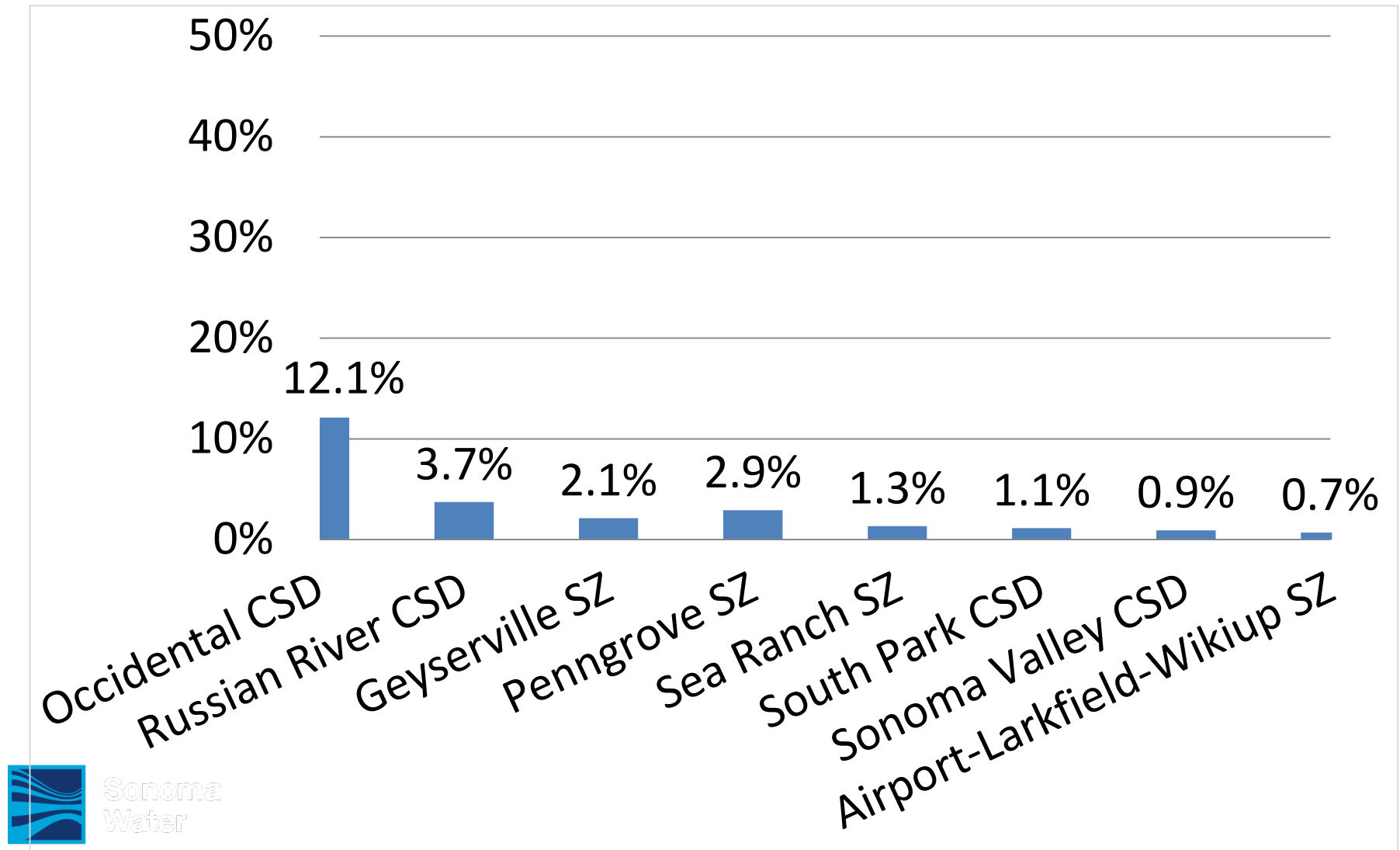
Average – 3.12%

Total Number of  
Equivalent Single  
Family Dwellings:  
30,740



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# Proposition 218 Protest Data By Percentage



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