



## Montecito Sanitary District

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MONTECITO SANITARY DISTRICT APPROVES FIRST RATE STUDY IN 10 YEARS, INITIATES PUBLIC PROCESS FOR RATE ADJUSTMENTS

MONTECITO, CA - April 10, 2026 - On Wednesday, April 8, the Board of Directors of the [Montecito Sanitary District](#) approved its comprehensive Sewer Rate Study and adopted a Resolution of Intention to consider proposed sewer rate adjustments. This initiates the formal public review process required under Proposition 218 to consider the proposed rates, including a public hearing on June 10, 2026.

The District's last rate study was in 2016, and the rates have not changed since 2019. Over the past two years, the District has undertaken a comprehensive evaluation of its wastewater system and long-term financial needs, including updates to its Sewer System Management Plan and the development of a five-year Capital Improvement Plan. In November, the District hired an independent local financial consultant, Robert D. Niehaus, Inc., to conduct its sewer rate study. The study identifies increasing operating costs, aging infrastructure, and evolving regulatory requirements, and recommends phased rate adjustments over the next five years starting July 1, 2026 (FY 2027).

"Our system is aging and at risk of failures," said Rock Rockenbach, Board President. "This is not a decision we take lightly, but it is a necessary step to ensure we can continue to provide safe, reliable wastewater service and responsibly invest in the infrastructure our community depends on."

Like many wastewater service providers across California, the District is facing challenges related to aging infrastructure, rising operating costs, and stricter regulatory requirements. Much of the Montecito Sanitary District's system was built in the 1960s and is becoming increasingly difficult to repair or replace, with key components nearing the end of their useful life.

Over the next five years, the District plans to invest more than \$60 million in capital improvements to repair and replace essential infrastructure. This includes a complete overhaul of the District's failing wastewater treatment plant and system-wide rehabilitation of pipelines, manholes, and pump stations.

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“These proposed rate adjustments will allow the District to proactively maintain and repair our system, reduce the risk of failures and sewer spills, and continue providing safe, reliable wastewater service to our community,” said John Weigold, General Manager.

Following the Board’s action, the District will mail a detailed Proposition 218 notice to all ratepayers, as required by Article XIII D of the California Constitution, outlining the proposed rate adjustments, the basis for the changes, and ways the community can participate.

Property owners and customers of record may submit written protests prior to or at the public hearing on June 10, 2026. If a majority protest is not received, the Board may consider adopting the proposed rates at the hearing. Property owners and customers of record may also submit written legal objections in advance of the hearing.

More information regarding the District’s rate-setting process and 2026 Sewer Rate Study is available online at [www.montsan.org/rates](http://www.montsan.org/rates).

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***About the Montecito Sanitary District***

*Since 1947, the [Montecito Sanitary District](http://www.montsan.org) has served the Montecito community by managing wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal across an 8.9-square-mile service area. The District serves approximately 9,000 residents and 3,185 properties. Its mission is to protect public health and safety and to preserve the natural environment through the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater in the most cost-effective way possible.*