



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Assistant City Manager, Patrick Gallegos

(562) 431-2527 Ext. 1308

pgallegos@sealbeachca.gov

THE CITY OF SEAL BEACH IS REVIEWING WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES *Community Invited to Learn About City Water and Sewer Services and How Customer Rates Are Determined*

SEAL BEACH, CA- The City of Seal Beach is hosting a webinar on November 30 for residents to learn about their water and wastewater (sewer) services along with the status of rates studies the City began earlier this year. Water and sewer rate studies are financial reviews to project future revenues and expenses, usually for the upcoming five years. The ultimate purpose of each rate study is to determine whether operating revenues are sufficient to meet expenses for operations and maintenance, upcoming or needed replacements, critical capital improvements, and debt service.

Ideally, rate studies should be performed every 3-5 years. The City's last water and sewer rate study was in 2019 and adopted in early **2021**. Financial consultants and City staff have been working diligently on a series of steps involving data evaluation and technical analyses to derive customer rates while considering customer impacts of any rate modifications.

Per state law, revenues generated from water and sewer service rates must only be used to fund the actual costs to operate and maintain the system including infrastructure projects and the cost of debt to finance capital improvement projects. Through the Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds – separate from the City's General Fund – customer rates fund the complex water and wastewater systems. The cost of providing these essential services has increased due to inflation and rising costs of operations, maintenance, and environmental and regulatory compliance.

Webinar attendees will hear an overview of the City's water and sewer operations, revenue and infrastructure needs, and how the City is reinvesting revenues received from customer rates. The community is highly encouraged to attend the Zoom webinar to learn more and provide input into the rate study.

WHEN: 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 30

WHERE: Virtual Webinar

JOIN BY COMPUTER: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85685873710>

JOIN BY PHONE: (669) 444-9171 or (669) 900-9128
Webinar ID: 856 8587 3710

The Seal Beach City Council will consider financial plans for both utilities and potential rate scenarios at its regular meeting on Monday, December 11 at 7 p.m. The community is encouraged to attend the meeting or watch via livestream. To learn more about the City Council meeting, go to <https://www.sealbeachca.gov/Government/Agendas-Notices-Meeting-Videos/Council-Commission-Meetings>.

The City created a website for the water and wastewater rate study to keep the community informed through updates, FAQs, informational videos, presentations, and a calendar of upcoming City Council and community meetings. The website is located at www.2023utilityratestudy.sealbeachca.gov.

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