



## Sewer User Fee Increase

June 19, 2023

Dear OWSI Sewer Customer,

As part of our commitment to providing you with high-quality services and ensuring the sustainability of our community, we will be implementing an annual increase in wastewater (sewer) charges. Olympic Water and Sewer Inc. (OWSI) provides water and wastewater service to the Port Ludlow Master Planned Resort (MPR). OWSI has been providing this service under this name since 1999 and has been providing the service under all names since 1970.

**OWSI is raising its sewer user fee 7.5% adding \$8.94 to each bi-monthly bill. You will see this increase on the August 2023 bill.**

**The process of moving and treating raw sewage is extremely corrosive to metal and concrete, necessitating diligent maintenance of** facilities both above and below the ground. Inflation continues to elevate the costs of doing business. The expense for maintaining the infrastructure is influenced by the supply and demand of materials as well as fuel prices contributing to the rising cost of chemicals.

Due to the age of the wastewater treatment facility, advances in sewage treatment technology, and possible upcoming discharge regulations relating to nitrogen removal OWSI started looking at upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant. At this time significant plant upgrades to reduce nitrogen discharge are cost prohibitive. OWSI is looking at a phased approach to nitrogen removal that will be less of a financial impact to customers. Phase 1 of the upgrade will be to increase the ability to treat residual solids from the treatment process. Once this phase is completed it will give OWSI flexibility at the treatment facilities to treat more flow for longer periods. Nitrogen discharge into the Puget Sound has been found to be an environmental impact. OWSI is committed to reducing nitrogen discharge with this phased wastewater plant project.

The wastewater industry like many others is experiencing the effects of many experienced operators either retiring or transitioning to other industries. Wages and benefits are increasing state and industry-wide and as we are committed to retaining qualified operators we must offer competitive wages.

We understand the significance of cost considerations for our customers, and we assure you that we have carefully reviewed the proposed increase to ensure it is reasonable and fair. The following table shows the new rates compared to surrounding utilities sewer user fees. Some rates are dependent on the amount of water used. The average annual bi-monthly usage for the OWSI user group is 8280 gallons or 1107 cubic feet. We used that amount to calculate surrounding municipality's sewer rates when they based their charges off water usage.

	Monthly	Bimonthly	Surcharge	SC Bimonthly	Total Bimonthly Bill
Port Angeles	\$93.60	\$187.20			
Sequim	\$61.16	\$122.32			
Sunland Water	\$82.58	\$165.16			
Port Townsend	\$80.87	\$161.74	\$ 9.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 179.74
Kitsap County	\$92.24	\$184.48			
OWSI	\$64.09	\$128.18			

**OWSI New Rate** **\$ 128.18**

**OWSI Old Rate Bi-Monthly** **\$ 119.24**

**Commercial overage charge for each cubic foot over 1200 cubic foot in a billing period has increased from \$.073 to \$.074.**

Please feel free to contact us with questions. You may email us at [owsi@portludlowassociates.com](mailto:owsi@portludlowassociates.com) or write to us at 70 Breaker Lane, Port Ludlow, WA 98365. Our voice message number is (360) 437-8349. That number is checked daily during regular office hours of 10am–3pm Monday through Friday.

**\*\*\*\* After-hours Emergency answering service 1-877-826-5787 \*\*\*\***

A reminder that you can pay your bill online by credit card or e-check. Payment processing charges will apply but many customers have found it to be a convenient alternative. Online account access is available through our website at no charge, allowing you to setup a profile and view your account history as well as ability to receive electronic (email) billing statements. Please visit our website at [www.ows-inc.com](http://www.ows-inc.com) (select Customer Service > Make a Payment & eStatements for more information. Your bank may also offer a bill-pay service; we recommend scheduling your payments to be made at least 5 business days prior to the due date giving sufficient time for payment to be received and processed.

We greatly appreciate your understanding and support as we work towards maintaining and improving our wastewater management services. Together, we can contribute to the long-term sustainability and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

*Diana Smeland*

Diana Smeland  
President  
Olympic Water and Sewer Inc.