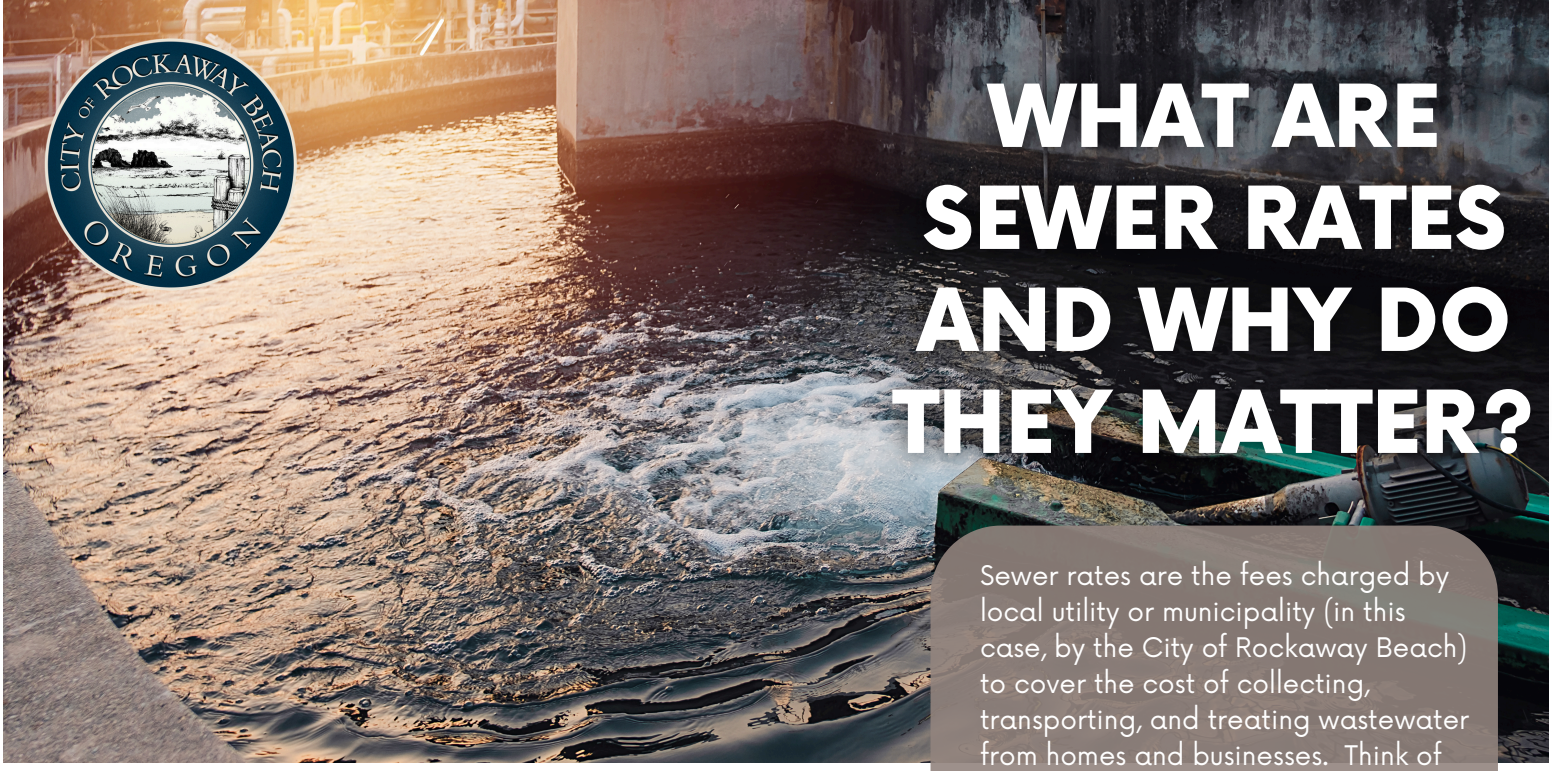

WHAT ARE SEWER RATES AND WHY DO THEY MATTER?

Sewer rates are the fees charged by local utility or municipality (in this case, by the City of Rockaway Beach) to cover the cost of collecting, transporting, and treating wastewater from homes and businesses. Think of sewer rates as your share of keeping everything that flows down the drains - sinks, showers, toilets - safe and environmentally handled.

Here's how they break down:

- **Operating Costs**
  Day-to-day expenses for running sewage treatment plants, maintaining pipes, and paying staff
- **Infrastructure Maintenance**
  Repairing aging sewer lines, pump stations, and treatment facilities to prevent leaks or backups
- **Capital Improvements**
  Upgrading systems for capacity, environmental compliance, or population growth
- **Regulatory Compliance**
  Meeting state and federal environmental standards for water quality before wastewater is released back into the natural environment

About Our System

The original sewer system in Rockaway Beach was constructed in 1954 and the Manhattan Beach area was constructed in 1965. Two major expansions to the 1954 sewer system occurred in 1979 and 1981. The system consists of more than 30 miles of line and eight lift stations. The treatment plant was originally constructed in 1954 and underwent an expansion in 1979. While the system has been well maintained, the infrastructure is aging and in need of costly repairs and replacements. To learn more about the City's sewer system and needed improvements, check out the Wastewater Master Plan here: https://corb.us/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Wastewater-Master-Plan-2014.pdf.

Our Goal

The last adjustment to sewer rates was done more than 15 years ago. Since that time, operational costs have risen significantly. Energy, labor, chemicals, and equipment costs have all gone up due to inflation. Without rate adjustments, utilities such as our sewer, struggle to cover basic operating expenses. Raising sewer rates isn't just about collecting more money - it's about protecting public heath, the environment, and the long-term viability of the system.

Next Steps

- **November 12th at 4:30 PM** HRD Engineers will present a rate analysis to the City Council at the Council Workshop.
- **December 10th at 6:00 PM** the City Council will hold a public hearing to consider adoption of new sewer rates.
- **January 1, 2026** new sewer rates likely to take effect.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

Send an email to ratestudy@corb.us

An FAQ will be prepared based on questions received.

SCAN QR CODE

to view a Rates 101 presentation and learn more about this project