City of West Sacramento
City Hall, City Clerk's Office
1110 W. Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95691

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To Consider Proposed Water and Sewer Rate Adjustments

En español: Notificación de audiencia pública para considerar los ajustes propuestos en las tarifas de agua y cloacas

На русском языке: Уведомление о публичных слушаниях по рассмотрению предлагаемых изменений тарифов на водоснабжение и водоотведение.



Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: City of West Sacramento
City Hall Council Chambers
1110 W. Capitol Avenue, 2 Fl.
West Sacramento, CA 95691

This Notice is provided by the City of West Sacramento in accordance with Article XIII D, Section 6 of the California Constitution (Proposition 218), which requires the City to notify property owners of record with City water and/or sewer service of proposed water and sewer rate adjustments and their right to protest.

This Notice is available in English, Spanish and Russian. Please refer to the website linked below.

La Ciudad de West Sacramento emite esta notificación de acuerdo con el Artículo XIII D, Sección 6 de la Constitución de California (Propuesta 218), que exige a la ciudad notificar a los propietarios registrados con servicio de agua y/o cloacas de la ciudad acerca de los ajustes propuestos en las tarifas de agua y cloacas y su derecho a reclamar.

Esta notificación está disponible en inglés, español y ruso. Visite el enlace del sitio web que se indica a continuación.

Настоящее уведомление представлено городом Уэст-Сакраменто в соответствии со статьей XIII D, разделом 6 Конституции штата Калифорния (Пропозиция 218), которая требует уведомлять зарегистрированных собственников недвижимости, получающих услуги городского водоснабжения и/или водоотведения, о предлагаемых изменениях тарифов, а также информировать их о праве на подачу протеста.

Это уведомление доступно на английском, испанском и русском языках. Пожалуйста, ознакомьтесь с ним на сайте, указанном ниже.

wsac.city/utility-rates

utilityrates@cityofwestsacramento.org

(916) 617-4589

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The West Sacramento City Council will conduct a Public Hearing at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2026, to consider adopting proposed rate adjustments to the City's current water and sewer service rates and charges. All interested people are invited to attend the Public Hearing. The City Council will hear and consider all oral testimony and written materials submitted regarding the proposed rate increases at the Public Hearing. In the absence of a majority protest, the City Council has the authority to adjust the proposed water and/or sewer rates in response to oral testimony and written materials submitted for consideration, provided adjustments do not increase rates beyond those proposed in this Notice. If adopted by the City Council, the proposed rates will become effective on April 1, 2026, with annual rate adjustments on April 1, 2026, and January 1 of each year from 2027 through 2030.

REASONS FOR PROPOSED RATE INCREASES

The City is committed to providing safe and reliable water and sewer services, now and in the future. Effective financial management of our water and sewer systems is essential for long-term resilience and maintaining the high quality of life we have come to expect in West Sacramento. However, aging infrastructure, rising costs for water supplies, evolving regulations, and inflation pose financial and operational challenges. These critical water and sewer services are funded in large part by the rates customers pay. While the City is dedicated to keeping utility rates low by maintaining efficient staffing levels and responsibly using reserves when needed, costs continue to rise. Similar to higher costs for most consumer goods, utilities are impacted by rising costs for energy, fuel, equipment, parts, disinfection/treatment chemicals, and labor. Per state law, revenues generated from utility rate increases must only be used to fund the costs to provide the utility service(s), including operations and maintenance, capital improvements, the cost of debt to finance capital equipment, and maintaining cash and emergency reserves.

In recent years, the City's utility costs have consistently exceeded revenues. To address this, the City consulted utility finance experts to review the costs of operating each system. As a result, a rate increase is necessary to maintain fiscally sound budgets and continue providing reliable service. Utility revenues must cover ongoing operations, financial obligations, and investments in replacements, upgrades, and future expansion. This ensures the long-term stability of water and sewer services. Additionally, healthy reserves are essential to manage financial risks, such as droughts, emergency repairs, natural disasters, and rising treatment chemical costs. The proposed rate increases are designed to safeguard the quality and reliability of essential services for all residents.

How Were Proposed Rates and Charges Determined?

The proposed rates will ensure the City collects sufficient revenue to cover operating and capital expenses to maintain high-quality, reliable water and sewer services. The proposed rates were determined based on the projected revenue needed to fund:

- Operations and Maintenance, such as supplies, chemicals, electricity, etc.
- Capital Improvements, such as large projects to repair/replace pipes, wells, pump stations and equipment.
- Debt Service to pay back loans.
- Reserves to meet minimum debt service requirements and fund emergency or unplanned expenses.

What Happens if the City Does Not Raise Rates?

Current rates are not sufficient to sustain the utility enterprise funds. Over the past five years, cumulative inflation doubled compared to projected and typical rates. In addition, ongoing deferrals of critical infrastructure could compromise the reliability of the City's aging systems. If critical maintenance and replacements are not prioritized, it could lead to higher costs and possible increased regulatory oversight and fines by permitting agencies.



Questions About Proposed Rates?

The City is hosting two informational Open Houses prior to the Public Hearing. City staff and financial consultants will be available to answer your questions one-on-one. Gain insight into system improvements and understand how proposed rates may impact your bill. Drop in for any length of time to learn more about your water and sewer service, proposed rate increases, and the investments needed to ensure reliable service for years to come.

Informational Open Houses

- **Tuesday, Feb. 3, 7-8:30 p.m.**
  Boathouse
  3650 Southport Pkwy
  West Sacramento
- **Saturday, Feb. 7, 10-11:30 a.m.**
  Club West
  1125 Riverbank Rd.
  West Sacramento

PROPOSED WATER RATES

The City's water rate structure includes two components: 1) a fixed service charge and 2) a consumption (volumetric) rate based on water use by meter size as shown in the tables below.

TABLE 1: Proposed 5-Year Schedule of Monthly Water Fixed Charges

The fixed charge covers the cost of providing service, including water treatment, system maintenance, meter reading, billing, and customer service. Table 1 shows the current and proposed monthly water service charge by meter size over the next five years. Most city water customers have a 3/4-inch or 1-inch metered connection.

METER SIZE	Current	4/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/1/2028	1/1/2029	1/1/2030
Up to 3/4"	$24.61	$35.93	$41.32	$43.80	$45.99	$48.29
1"	$40.98	$58.42	$67.18	$71.21	$74.77	$78.51
1.5"	$81.78	$114.65	$131.85	$139.76	$146.75	$154.09
2"	$131.02	$182.12	$209.44	$222.01	$233.11	$244.77
3"	$262.13	$362.06	$416.37	$441.35	$463.42	$486.59
4"	$409.61	$564.48	$649.15	$688.10	$722.51	$758.64
6"	$818.94	$1,126.78	$1,295.80	$1,373.55	$1,442.23	$1,514.34
8"	$1,310.45	$1,801.53	$2,071.76	$2,196.07	$2,305.87	$2,421.16
10"	$1,883.65	$2,588.74	$2,977.05	$3,155.67	$3,313.45	$3,479.12

TABLE 2: Proposed 5-Year Schedule of Monthly Water Consumption (Volumetric) Rates

Table 2 shows the current and proposed monthly water consumption (volumetric) rate, which is the amount each Residential and Commercial customer pays per hundred cubic feet of water used. NOTE: The consumption water rate is in dollars per hundred cubic feet ($/hcf). One hundred cubic feet is equal to 748 gallons.

CONSUMPTION RATES	Current	4/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/1/2028	1/1/2029	1/1/2030
All Customers						
$/HCF (1 HCF = 748 gallons)	$2.43	$2.46	$2.83	$3.00	$3.15	$3.31





TABLE 3: Proposed 5-Year Schedule of Monthly Water Flat Rates

Table 3 shows the current and proposed monthly water flat rate over the next five years for customers with a meter that does not measure consumption.

FLAT WATER RATES ($/month)	Current	4/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/1/2028	1/1/2029	1/1/2030
Residential (1, 2, or 3 dwelling units)						
Up to 3/4"	$59.23	$71.08	$81.74	$86.64	$90.97	$95.52
1"	$58.26	$69.91	$80.40	$85.22	$89.48	$93.95
Additional Dwelling Units	$33.61	$40.33	$46.38	$49.16	$51.62	$54.20



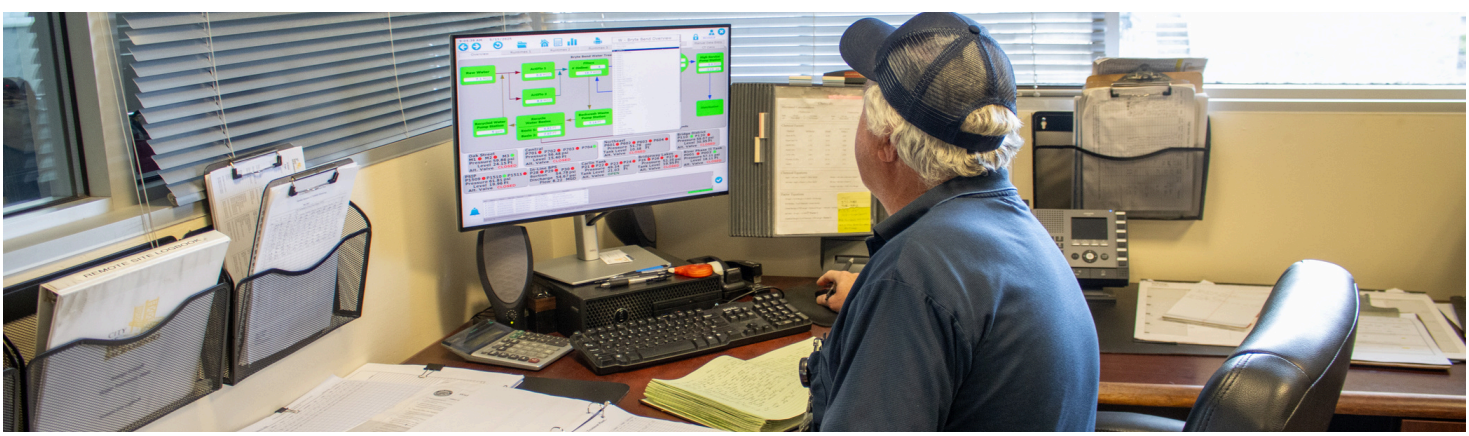
PROPOSED SEWER RATES

Single-Family and Multi-Family Residential sewer customers are charged a fixed rate per month per dwelling unit. Commercial customers are charged a fixed charge and a variable rate for actual water use.

Table 4. Proposed 5-Year Schedule of Monthly Sewer Fixed Charges and Volumetric Rates for All Customers
Table 4 shows the current and proposed monthly sewer service charges and volumetric rates over the next five years. The volumetric sewer rate is in dollars per hundred cubic feet ($/hcf). ***NOTE: These rates and charges do not include Sacramento Area Sewer District treatment costs that are included as a pass-through on customer bills.***

Customers with a Fixed Charge and a Flat or Volumetric Rate	Current	4/1/2026	1/1/2027	1/1/2028	1/1/2029	1/1/2030
Residential						
Single-Family Fixed Charge	$10.88	$19.85	$25.81	$32.26	$35.49	$38.33
Multi-Family Fixed Charge (per dwelling unit)	$8.16	$13.53	$17.59	$21.99	$24.19	$26.13
Commercial						
Fixed Charge per Account	$5.40	$3.19	$4.15	$5.19	$5.71	$6.17
Metered Rate per HCF	$3.16	$2.41	$3.14	$3.93	$4.32	$4.67
Other Non-Residential (Non-Metered)						
Fixed Charge per ESD*	$10.88	$19.85	$25.81	$32.26	$35.49	$38.33

***ESD** = 1 Equivalent Single-Family Dwelling as defined by Sacramento Area Sewer District in the Treatment and Resource Recovery Ordinance



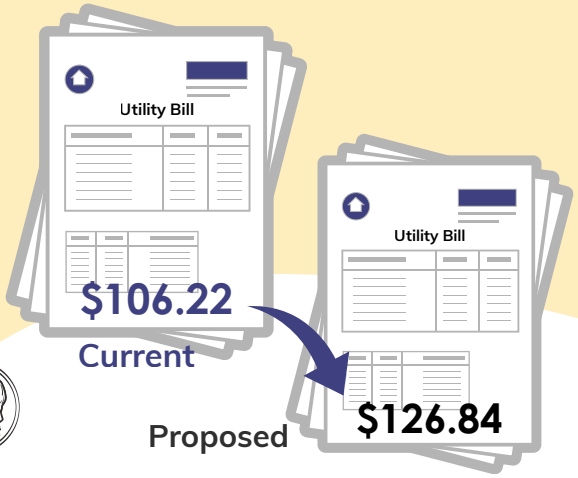
Proposed Bill Impacts

The average household may see an increase of

+$20.62

on their monthly combined water and sewer bill. (68¢ per day)





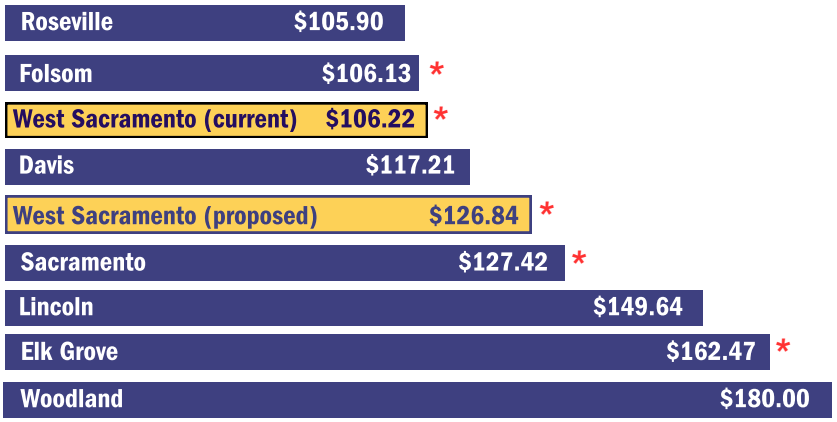
Bill Calculator

A water bill calculator is available at wsac.city/utility-rates. Input your monthly water usage, and the calculator will show you how the proposed adjustments will affect your monthly bill.



Average Bill Comparison

A comparison of similar Single-Family Residential combined water and sewer bills in neighboring cities is shown in the chart below.



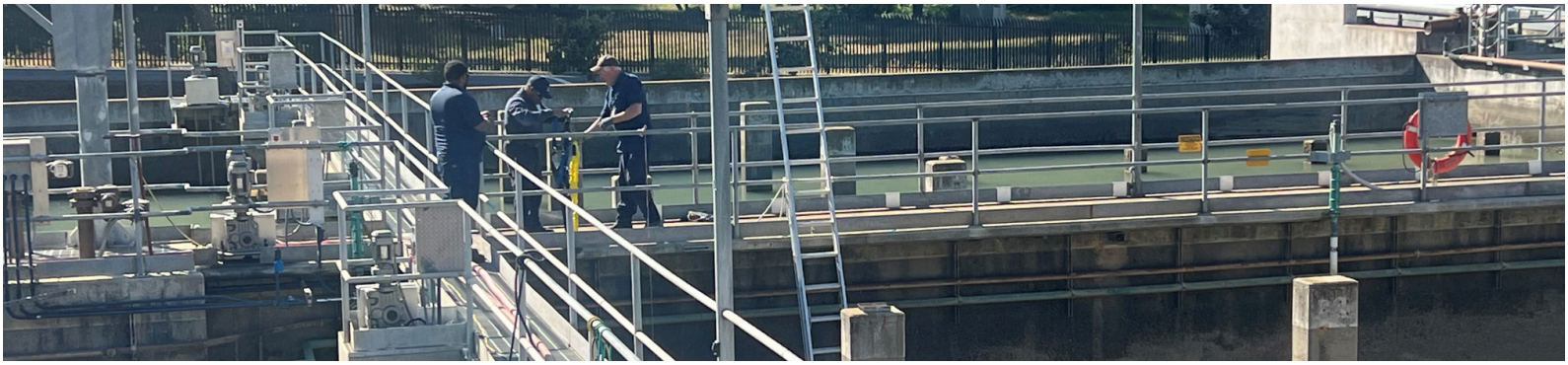
* *Rates include Sacramento Area Sewer District treatment costs.*

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR CHALLENGING PROPOSED RATES:

Please note that pursuant to California Government Code Section 53759, there is a 120-day statute of limitations for judicially challenging all rates set forth in this Notice that runs from the date that the West Sacramento City Council adopts a Resolution approving proposed rates.

Detailed information about the rate study and proposed rates is available on the City's website at wsac.city/utility-rates. Customers and residents are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing or submit written comments (see page 5 for more information).

Scan this code to be taken directly to the webpage.



HOW TO PROTEST PROPOSED RATES

The proposed water and sewer rates are subject to a majority protest process under Proposition 218.

Any record owner of a property that receives water and/or sewer service from the City or occupant who is directly liable for payment of the City's water and/or sewer service charges (Customer of Record) may submit a Written Protest against the proposed rate adjustments for water and/or sewer service. Owners of multiple parcels may file one Protest for each parcel owned within the City's service area. Only one Written Protest against the proposed rate adjustments for the water or sewer service charges per parcel will be counted in determining whether a majority protest exists.

The reasons for proposed rate adjustments, the basis upon which they were calculated, and the amount of the proposed rates are described in more detail in the 2025 Rate Study Report posted at wsac.city/utility-rates and available for review at the City Clerk's office, 1110 W. Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691. Scan the enclosed QR Code to be taken directly to the webpage.

Written PROTEST Procedures

A **Written Protest** must include all of the following to be counted in determining whether there is a majority protest (50% + 1):

- Clearly stated opposition to the proposed rates and charges for the water service, sewer service, or both, as applicable;
- Name of the property owner of record or account holder who is submitting the Protest;
- Identification by street address or other clear identification of the property for which the protest is made; and
- Signature and legibly printed name of the record property owner or customer who is submitting the Protest.

Written Protests may be delivered to the City Clerk during the Public Hearing. In advance of the Public Hearing, written Protests may be mailed or personally delivered to the City Clerk at the Submittal Location shown below **by 5 p.m. on March 18, 2026, or submitted in person at the Public Hearing, prior to the close of the hearing. No e-mailed or faxed Protests will be accepted, nor late postmarked Protests or Written Protests submitted after the conclusion of the Public Hearing.**

At the Public Hearing, the City Council will accept and consider all Written Protests and hear all oral comments on the proposed rate adjustments. However, oral comments will not be counted in determining the existence of a majority protest.

What is a Majority Protest? The existence of a majority protest will be determined separately for proposed water rate adjustments and proposed sewer rate adjustments. A majority protest against the proposed water or sewer rate adjustments will exist if at the end of the Public Hearing there are written protests submitted and not withdrawn that represent a majority of the parcels (50% +1) that receive water or sewer service, as applicable. The City Council cannot adopt proposed rate adjustments if a majority protest exists.

Written OBJECTION Procedures - Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies

How do I preserve my ability to judicially challenge the Proposed Rates? Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 53759.1 and 53759.2, a person or entity will be prohibited from bringing a judicial action or proceeding alleging that the proposed rates do not comply with Proposition 218 unless that person or entity has submitted a Written Objection to the proposed rates according to the procedures described below. A **Written Objection** is known as an Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies requirement and **serves a separate purpose (detailed herein) than a Written Protest. To exhaust your administrative remedies, your Written Objection must include the specific grounds for alleging noncompliance of the proposed rates with Proposition 218.**

Written Objections may be emailed, mailed, or personally delivered to the City Clerk at a Submittal Location provided below and must be received by the City Clerk **by 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2026. Note that this deadline for submitting a Written Objection is earlier than the deadline for submitting a Written Protest.**

A failure to timely object to the proposed rate adjustments in writing bars any right to challenge the rate adjustments through a legal proceeding. The City will prepare written responses to all timely Written Objections for the City Council's consideration. Although a Written Objection and a Written Protest serve different purposes, a Written Objection that also complies with the requirements for a Written Protest (see enclosed, "How to Protest Proposed Rate Adjustments") will be counted as a Written Protest in determining whether there is a majority protest against the proposed rate adjustments.

SUBMITTAL LOCATIONS FOR WRITTEN PROTESTS AND WRITTEN OBJECTIONS:

Mail:
City of West Sacramento, ATTN: City Clerk
1110 W. Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691

In Person:
City of West Sacramento City Hall, City Clerk's Office
1110 W. Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA 95691

E-mail:
Written Objections Only (Written Protests are not accepted by e-mail) clerk@cityofwestsacramento.org

About the City's Water and Sewer Utilities



Water Utility Service

The City maintains a water distribution system that services all commercial, industrial, and residential areas within the city limits. The main water supply is the Sacramento River. The City owns and operates an intake structure located at Bryte Bend, upstream of the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers. To ensure an adequate water supply for West Sacramento's current and future needs, the City maintains three water supply contracts to divert and purchase additional water supplies to prevent shortages.

These Water Funds are responsible for the operation and maintenance of all water treatment and distribution equipment/programs, as well as the maintenance and upgrade of associated equipment through the capital replacement program (CIP). Operation and maintenance include the facilities and infrastructure at the George Kristoff Water Treatment Plant, which was expanded in 2004 from a capacity of 24 million gallons per day (MGD) to 60MGD. It also includes the eight remote tank and pumping facilities, including the Bridges Tank and Pump Station.



The **Water Treatment Division** is an operating activity of the Public Works, Operations & Maintenance (PWOM) Department, responsible for providing potable water to residential, commercial, and industrial customers in West Sacramento. Other functions of the Water Treatment Division include the operation and maintenance of eight remote pumping and storage stations that maintain the distribution system pressures and provide fire-flow backup in emergencies.

Water Distribution is an activity of the Utility Maintenance Division in the PWOM Department. It is responsible for the maintenance of the City's water distribution system, consisting of approximately 200 miles of pipeline and 15,848 customer accounts. This division responds to customer water pressure and quality complaints and maintains the water meter program. The Water Distribution Division helps ensure water reliability and public safety by maintaining and replacing broken or aging water infrastructure. A large responsibility of the division is the accurate operation of the water meter program. A properly maintained meter program enables a consistent revenue stream into the Water Fund.

Wastewater (Sewer) Utility Service

The City maintains a sewage collection system that services all residential, commercial, and industrial areas within city limits. Operations and Maintenance include cleanout installation and repair, lower lateral pipe repair or replacement, television inspection of pipes, lower lateral cleaning, and main line cleaning.



Facilities and infrastructure consist of 193 miles of sewer lines and 14 sewer lift stations. Sewer lift stations use pumps to move wastewater uphill through pipes to the Sacramento Area Sewer District wastewater treatment facility.

Sewer Collection is an activity of the **Utility Maintenance Division** in the PWOM Department. This activity is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the City's sewer collection system, which is comprised of pressurized mains, gravity mains, sewer lift stations, and service lines up to the customer's property line (15,223 customer accounts).

At a Glance

Critical Water and Sewer Infrastructure

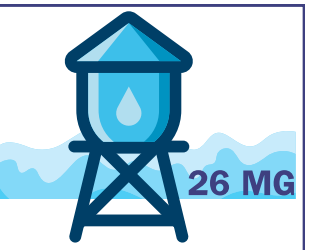
The Water and Sewer divisions are responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure assets worth more than $100 million and play a key role in protecting community health and the environment, including:



West Sacramento has a 22-square-mile service area

212 miles of water mains

97 miles of water service lines



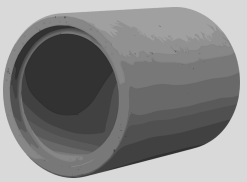
- 9 water tanks
- 26 million gallons of water storage capacity

6,109 water valves, 8 water pump stations, 16,000+ water meters

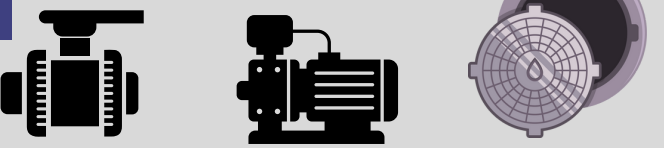


2,982 fire hydrants

214 miles of sewer mains



- 9 sewer pump stations
- 5 sewer lift stations



How Each Customer Dollar Is Invested

Based on the proposed five-year average for combined water and sewer services, the graphic below illustrates how each customer $1 is spent.

