



# COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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GRACE ROBINSON HYDE  
*Chief Engineer and General Manager*

June 5, 2019

Board of Directors  
County Sanitation District No. 4  
of Los Angeles County

Directors:

## **Wastewater Revenue Program for Fiscal Year 2019-20**

The agenda for the Board meeting on June 12, 2019, contains two items regarding the wastewater revenue program. The first item pertains to the Service Charge Report that was filed with the District Clerk on February 13, 2019. The second item relates to the annual adoption of the state-mandated appropriations limit and the final budget for fiscal year 2019-20.

### **SERVICE CHARGE REPORT**

Adoption of the Service Charge Report is needed for the continued collection of service charges on the property tax roll for residential, commercial and small industrial dischargers. The current service charge rate is \$12.50 per month (\$150 per year) per single-family home (SFH) and no increase is being proposed for fiscal year 2019-20. Multi-family residential units will pay 60% of the adopted SFH rate and condominiums will pay 75% of the adopted SFH rate. Likewise, commercial and industrial dischargers will pay in proportion to their use of the regional wastewater management system compared to a SFH. Dischargers with verified low water usage (particularly seniors and retirees) may also qualify for a reduced charge.

Prior to considering adoption of the Report, the Board must hold a public hearing. The Board set the date, time, and location of the public hearing as June 12, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the Districts' Boardroom. Notice of the public hearing was published twice in newspapers of general circulation within the District. Public testimony will be accepted at the hearing and all written comments must be received at or by this time. After all public input has been received by the Board, the public hearing will be closed and the Board will consider adoption of the Report.

### **APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT**

The Constitution of the State of California places a limit on the authorization to expend the proceeds of taxes levied by state and local governments in California. In addition, the Government Code requires the governing body for each local jurisdiction to establish, by resolution, an appropriations limit for each fiscal year. The appropriations limit for FY 2019-20 has been determined by adjusting the previous limit for FY 2018-19 based upon population change factors for Los Angeles County and the change in the California Personal Per Capita Income. All of this is in accordance with the procedures

outlined in Article XIII B of the Constitution and Section 7910 of the Government Code. The proposed appropriations limit and anticipated tax revenue are shown in Exhibit No. 1. This information has been available to the public at the Districts' Joint Administration Office in conformance with the requirement that the documentation used in the determination of the appropriations limit be available fifteen days prior to its establishment by the Board of Directors.

#### FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-20

Enclosed for your review is the proposed final budget for fiscal year 2019-20, a list of proposed capital projects, and information on the monies set aside in various funds/reserves. These funds and reserves were established in accordance with the District's Wastewater Financial Reserve Policy adopted in December 2018.

The final budget provides a comparison with the current 2018-19 budget and a breakdown of the items included in the budget. It is divided into three sections: anticipated expenses, projected revenues, and transfers to or from reserves. In preparing the budget, it is projected that the general revenue sources available to the District for meeting expenses during the coming fiscal year include a pro rata share of the ad valorem (property) taxes, service charges, industrial wastewater surcharges, and interest income. Lastly, any surplus will be transferred to the designated reserves to be used to help fund the construction of future capital improvements.

The budget has been prepared in accordance with the Joint Administration Agreement. In the case of Districts that contract with the City of Los Angeles for sewerage service, the Joint Administration Agreement states that these Districts shall pay one one-hundredth of one percent of all joint expenses.

In past years, certain administrative expenses directly attributable to the District's operations were categorized as either O&M-Joint Administration or O&M-Technical Services depending upon which Districts' Department incurred the expense. In the attached budget, these expenses are now shown on their own line. These local administration costs show a substantial increase due to additional planned work to revise the District's Connection Fee program; work with the City of Los Angeles to restructure portions of the existing disposal contract; and District-specific related administration costs that were not included in past budgets.

District No. 4 owns and operates several trunk sewers within the District. No significant repair work on these sewers is scheduled in fiscal year 2019-20. However, the District does not own or operate any treatment and disposal facilities. The District contracts for these services with the City of Los Angeles. Thus, the portion of the proposed service charge attributable to disposal O&M and capital is a direct reflection of the City of Los Angeles' costs for its wastewater treatment system.

#### SUMMARY OF REQUIRED ACTIONS

Although no change is being made to the service charge rate, a public hearing on the Service Charge Report is required under the California Health and Safety Code in order for the District to continue to collect the previously approved wastewater service charge as a separate line item on the property tax roll. This is the most cost-effective and efficient means of collecting the service charges. After the public hearing is closed, the Board must adopt the Service Charge Report in order to ensure collection of the service charge through property tax billing.

It is also recommended, in relation to budgetary matters, that the Board of Directors adopt a resolution establishing the appropriations limit on the proceeds of taxes, adopt the budget for FY 2019-20, adopt a resolution requesting the tax levy, and authorize appropriations in the sewerage system budget, all as shown on the agenda.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace R. Hyde". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Grace Robinson Hyde

GRH:gc

Enclosures