NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO CALCULATION METHOD FOR WASTEWATER CHARGES

The Lompoc City Council will hold a public hearing on July 21, 2026, to consider a modification to the calculation method for wastewater charges for residential and commercial customers. The hearing will be held at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chamber located at 100 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc, CA 93436.

As more fully described in this Notice of Public Hearing, the City proposes to modify the calculation method for wastewater charges, effective September 1, 2026.

- This notice is being sent to property owners of record for each parcel as well as all wastewater customers in Lompoc, as required by the California Constitution.

- Currently, wastewater units are calculated based on average water usage during the months of January, February, and March (winter average) for the 4 prior years, where 1 unit of water equals 1 unit billed for wastewater. Those units are billed each month from July through the following June. The minimum monthly charge for wastewater is currently 5 units. The City will continue to use the winter average of water usage as the basis for billing wastewater units, with a 5-unit minimum. However, the City will only use the prior winter average, as opposed to the current 4-year average. Industrial accounts will continue to be calculated based on annual 12-month averaging. Future adjustments will take effect July 1 each year, to be based on water usage from the prior January, February, and March.

- This reason for this change is to give property owners and customers more control over their wastewater charges and provide bill predictability. It will also allow the City to further automate the billing process, improving both accuracy and efficiency.

The wastewater per-unit rates that are currently in place have not been adjusted since 7/1/2017, and they will remain in place. They are:

Type	Per Unit charge	Minimum charge
Residential	$9.28	$46.40
Commercial	12.45	62.25
Industrial	13.09	65.45

The procedural requirements of Proposition 218 require that the City provide a notice of the proposed new wastewater charges calculation method to all property owners of record and wastewater customers forty-five (45) days prior to holding a public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING AND PROTEST PROCEEDINGS

Each parcel may protest the proposed new calculation method for wastewater charges in writing prior to or during the public hearing. Consistent with the provisions of Proposition 218 and Government Code Section 53755, this notice has been mailed to all customers and record owners of the affected properties at the addresses as they appear on the latest equalized assessment roll. If you are an owner of real property or customer subject to the proposed new calculation method as described in this Notice, and you object to those proposed new calculation method, you may file a written protest with the City at or before the time set for the public hearing. Written protests must be mailed or personally delivered to the City Clerk, and must be *received* by no later than the close of the public hearing on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. E-mail protests or fax protests will not be accepted. Written protests should be mailed to:

City Clerk
City of Lompoc
100 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436

A valid written protest must include:

1. The name of the protester and whether the protester is a property owner or a tenant customer;
2. Identification of the property by either assessor's parcel number or street address;
3. A statement of protest ("I/we protest" will suffice), and,
4. The signature of the protestor.

The City Council will not implement the proposed new calculation method if a majority of parcels in the City's service area submit written protests. Each parcel will be counted as a single vote, regardless of the number of property owners or wastewater customers from that parcel. A parcel is considered to have filed a protest if any wastewater customer or property owner from that parcel files a protest.

The City Clerk will determine the validity of all protests submitted and exclude any invalid protests from the final tabulation. The City Clerk may confer with the City Attorney in determining the validity of written protests. As part of this process, the City Attorney may review contested or suspect protest forms. The City Clerk's decision shall be final and binding.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice, or the proposed new calculation method for wastewater charges, or you would like more information, please email the City at: cityclerk@ci.lompoc.ca.us.