



The Santa Monica BayKeeper filed a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles (City) in 1998 over sewer spills that occurred during the record-breaking El Niño rainy season. The storms triggered overflows and flooding from the wastewater collection (sewer) system. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and South Los Angeles community groups joined the litigation in 2001, seeking tough controls on sewer spills and odors. The City's sewer system is one of the world's largest and most complex with about 6,500 miles of pipes and 47 pumping stations. The system is also relatively mature and in need of renewal, with 60% of its pipes more than 50 years old.

Following six hard-fought years of litigation, the City reached agreement with all parties in the lawsuit on a comprehensive program of cleaning, upgrading and repair of its sewer system. This settlement will benefit the entire City and marks an historic collaboration between the City, environmental advocates, community groups and the state and federal governments. Neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles will benefit through:

- Increased neighborhood and public health protection through the reduction or elimination of sewer overflows and sewer-related odors.
- Increased wastewater capacity through infrastructure upgrades and improvements – allowing for potential residential and growth while providing reliable service Citywide.
- Healthier water bodies, including the Los Angeles River, beaches and coastal waters, resulting in fewer beach closures and improved water quality.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are some of the projects the City has recently undertaken to improve the wastewater collection system?

- Construction of seven new major sewer projects estimated at a cost of approximately \$500 million.
- Implementation of an enforcement program for restaurants and other food service establishments to reduce sewer blockages resulting from the disposal of fats, oils, and grease (FOG). This program has resulted in eliminating FOG-related secondary sewer overflows by 50%.
- A chemical treatment control program to reduce sewer blockages resulting from tree root intrusion.
- Expansion of the City's system-wide sewer inspection and cleaning program.
- A public outreach program to educate and motivate people to do their part to prevent spills from FOG and tree roots.

What has this work accomplished in the area of spill prevention?

These improvements have reduced all spills by more than 30%.

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What are the City's commitments under the settlement agreement?

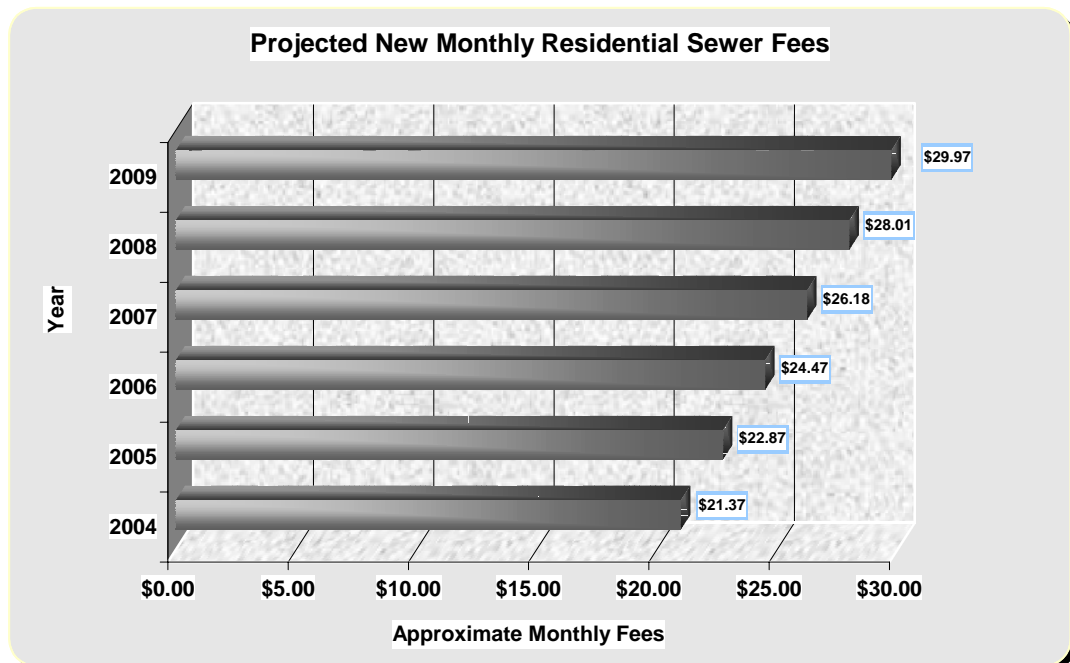
Under the settlement agreement the City will commit to:

- A \$2 billion, 10-year sewer repair and upgrade program.
- Continue the current enhanced sewer cleaning maintenance program to prevent the clogs and blockages that cause sewer overflows.
- Continue the sewer pipe condition assessment and capacity planning effort to ensure that more than 10 percent of the sewer system will be visually inspected annually.
- Control and mitigate sewer odors through maintenance, chemical treatment and the construction of seven state-of-the-art odor control facilities.

What will this cost?

The City of Los Angeles did not increase residential sewer fees for a decade. To meet the settlement's terms and continue efforts to improve the City's infrastructure, an increase in the wastewater (sewer) fee is necessary over the next five years.

Currently, the typical monthly residential sewer fee is about \$21.37. Each year, the monthly fee would go up by an average of about \$1.72 over the previous year's sewer fees. The chart below shows how the approximate monthly fees for a typical residence will increase over the five-year period. Actual increases will depend on each customer's wastewater discharge amounts.



Where will construction take place? How will it affect the community?

At this time, project managers anticipate that projects will be spread throughout the City. Most construction affects project neighbors. However, the City will include time-tested planning, communication, and mitigation efforts to reduce impacts and inconvenience to the community such as noise, traffic, and business disruptions.

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