

CHICO URBAN AREA NITRATE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM



Project Update

The design for Project Area 2N, the East Avenue/Cohasset Road Area, is now complete. Construction for this area is anticipated to begin Summer 2012 and be completed by Winter 2012.

To answer your questions about sewer construction and sewer connection in Project Area 2N, a community meeting will be held:

June 13, 2012, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

**Bidwell Junior High School - Multi-Purpose Room
2376 North Avenue, Chico**

For information about the elements of a sanitary sewer system, and the fees associated with connection, please see the reverse side of this newsletter.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact Casey Hatcher, chatcher@buttecounty.net.

The Risks of High Nitrate Levels

High levels of nitrate in some Chico wells have been a concern since 1979 when the problem was first detected. Elevated nitrate levels in drinking water or prepared baby formula can cause a rare condition called methemoglobinemia in infants, also known as “blue baby syndrome”, which results in reduced oxygen supply to vital tissues such as the brain.

Healthy adults can consume fairly large amounts of nitrate with few known health effects. In fact, most of the nitrate we consume is from our diets, particularly from raw or cooked vegetables. However, prolonged intake of high levels of nitrate is linked to intestinal problems due to the formations of nitrosamines. N-nitrosamine compounds have been shown to cause cancer in test animals. Studies of people exposed to high levels of nitrate or nitrite have not provided convincing evidence of an increased risk of cancer.

By connecting your property to public sewer you can do your part to reduce nitrate contamination and help improve the quality of Chico groundwater.

About the Project

The Chico Urban Area Nitrate Compliance Program (Nitrate Program) was developed in response to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Prohibition Order No. 90-126 issued on April 27, 1990, which prohibited waste discharges from individual septic systems within the Chico Urban Area. The Order affects nearly 12,000 dwelling units. The County of Butte, City of Chico, and Chico Redevelopment Agency (Agency) have worked together to find a means to provide public sewer facilities to which citizens could connect in order to comply with the Prohibition Order. Project planning costs have been funded with County Service Area 114 revenue dedicated to this project. The costs of construction will be funded with a \$38 million loan from the State Water Resources Control Board, which will be repaid with tax increment revenue received by the Agency. This loan has already been approved through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund which is dedicated to addressing water quality issues.

Project Timeline

Project Area	Location	Estimated Construction Completion
1N	Lassen Avenue Area	Complete
1S	Chapman-Mulberry Neighborhood Area Completed January 2012	Complete
2N	East Avenue/ Cohasset Road Area	Winter 2012
2S	East 5 th /East 8 th Avenue Area	Fall 2014
3N	Esplanade/ Nord Hwy Area	Fall 2016
3S	Nord/West 11 th Avenue Area	Fall 2017

Contact



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What do you mean by sanitary sewer system?

Sanitary sewer systems are the collection of pipes, pumps and lift stations, manholes, service lines, and other infrastructure throughout the City designed to handle and safely transport used water, body waters, and toilet paper as sewage to the Water Pollution Control Plant.

What is the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)?

The WPCP provides wastewater treatment and disposal for the greater Chico Urban Area. At the WPCP, municipal wastewater flows through a series of mechanical and biological treatment processes to remove the solids from the liquids. The treated wastewater meets regulatory standards for discharge into the Sacramento River. The treated biosolids are disposed at the Neal Road Landfill.

WPCP Fee = \$2,251/unit (fee waived for property within the Nitrate Compliance Program Connection Area Boundaries)

What is a sewer lateral?

A sewer lateral is the pipe that carries the wastewater from the house to the sanitary sewer main line in the street. Every building receiving sewer service from the City of Chico has at least one sewer lateral.

Sewer Lateral Fee = \$29.81/ft. (fee waived for property within Nitrate Compliance Program Connection Area Boundaries)

What is a sewer main line?

The sewer main line is the pipe in the street in front of a property. The lateral attaches to the sewer main pipe which then transports waste water to the sewer trunk lines.

Sewer Main Fee = \$47.80/ft. (fee waived for property within Nitrate Compliance Program Connection Area Boundaries)

What is the sewer trunk line?

The sewer trunk line is the larger diameter pipe that connects to the sewer main lines and flows out to the WPCP.

Sewer Trunk Line Capacity Fee = \$1,693 per unit

What is a lift station?

Lift stations pump municipal wastewater from a low point to a higher elevation which enables the sewage to flow by gravity to the next low point and eventually into the WPCP.

Lift Station Capacity Fees vary based on the property location. Contact the City of Chico for a Fee Schedule or view the Fee Schedule online: <http://www.chico.ca.us/government/CityFeeSchedules.asp> (see Schedule 50, Section 50.060)

Why do I pay a Sewer Application Fee?

The sewer application fee covers the cost to: calculate sewer fees, generate property owner informational letter and packet, and file and track the application.

Sewer Application Fee = \$100

What is the cost to finance the sewer related fees?

Property owners have the opportunity to finance the trunkline capacity fee and the lift station fee, if applicable, over a ten-year period. The fees are then collected on property tax bills. The annual interest rate is calculated on a rate of interest being received by the City on all of the city's invested funds, plus two percent (2%).

Sewer In-Lieu Application Fee = \$346

Annual Interest Rate on Fees Financed = Currently 6.02%

What is the monthly service rate if I do connect to sewer?

Once connected to city sewer, the City of Chico is responsible for all operation, maintenance, and repair associated with the sanitary sewer system. The following rates apply to residential property.

Monthly Service Rates (within city limits of Chico) = \$20.44 per month

Monthly Service Rates (within unincorporated area of County) = \$21.28 per month

Questions?

For specific questions related to sewer application, sewer fees, or the sewer fee in-lieu process please contact: Rich Burgi, Associate Civil Engineer, City of Chico, (530) 879-6950, rburgi@ci.chico.ca.us