

1 Sponsored by: Councilmember Ryan Mello
2 Requested by: County Executive/Planning and Public Works Dept.

3
4
5
6 **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-53**
7

8
9 **An Ordinance of the Pierce County Council Amending Section 13.13.085 of**
10 **the Pierce County Code, "Rates and Charges," by**
11 **Establishing the Year 2024 and Year 2025 Rates and Charges**
12 **for the Availability and Furnishing of Sanitary Sewer**
13 **Services; and Setting an Effective Date.**
14

15 **Whereas**, pursuant to Chapter 36.94 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW),
16 Pierce County has full authority to establish, alter, regulate, and control rates and
17 charges it imposes for the availability of sanitary sewer service; and
18

19 **Whereas**, Pierce County recognizes the need for proactive infrastructure
20 planning and target investments as outlined in the Pierce County Government
21 Economic Action Agenda, accepted under Resolution No. 2007-13; and
22

23 **Whereas**, it is the responsibility of the Sewer Division of the Planning and Public
24 Works Department (PPW) to provide sanitary sewer services in a manner that is fiscally
25 responsible and maintains stable and predictable rates and charges to ensure the long-
26 term financial viability of the utility through adequate reserves and capital investment;
27 and
28

29 **Whereas**, PPW currently provides sanitary sewer services to an estimated
30 population of approximately 329,000 persons through approximately 71,000 residential
31 and commercial accounts in the unincorporated urban areas of Pierce County and the
32 Cities of Lakewood, University Place, DuPont, Edgewood, Milton, the Town of
33 Steilacoom, and portions of the City of Tacoma and City of Fife; and
34

35 **Whereas**, the County public sewer system is comprised of the Chambers Creek
36 Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, Cascadia Wastewater Treatment Plant,
37 approximately 740 miles of Utility-owned pipeline, 104 major pump stations, 766
38 residential grinder pump stations, and other components having an estimated asset
39 replacement value of \$2.1 billion; and
40

41 **Whereas**, demand for sanitary sewer treatment services has increased steadily
42 due to population growth since the establishment of the County Sewer Utility with
43 historic monthly average wastewater flows increasing from approximately 5 million
44 gallons per day in 1984 to approximately 21.4 million gallons per day in 2022 and has
45 experienced peak month flows exceeding 42.2 million gallons per day; and
46
47



1 **Whereas**, based upon population growth forecasts produced by the Washington
2 State Office of Financial Management, the demand for sewer service is expected to
3 continue to increase, necessitating ongoing operation and reliability of wastewater
4 infrastructure to meet the long-term needs of people and businesses in the service area;
5 and

6
7 **Whereas**, the wastewater industry requires highly specialized, certified
8 engineering and technical operations staff with the necessary training and skills to
9 manage complex treatment plant equipment and systems; and

10
11 **Whereas**, continued growth in the Cascadia wastewater basin necessitates
12 additional staff to maintain an adequate level of service and reduce the probability of
13 incidents leading to non-compliance as the treatment plant serving that area expands
14 under Stages 4/5 of the Tehaleh community development; and

15
16 **Whereas**, the Sewer Division of PPW has identified a \$93 million biennium
17 capital program necessary to take care of aging infrastructure, capacity improvements,
18 operational efficiencies, and environmental preservation; and

19
20 **Whereas**, developing a robust preservation plan using condition-based data to
21 reduce the risk of negative environmental and operational impacts necessitates an
22 operational investment for the creation of a sewer system risk assessment and
23 reduction program; and

24
25 **Whereas**, because a functioning sewer system with capacity for growth supports
26 economic development and growth in Pierce County, it is necessary to increase the
27 rates and charges imposed for the availability and furnishing of sanitary sewer services
28 to keep pace with an expanding customer base and increasing maintenance,
29 operations, and preservation costs.

30
31 **Whereas**, the Council finds that passage of this Ordinance is in the best interest
32 of the County and its citizens; **Now Therefore**,

33
34 **BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Pierce County:**

35
36 Section 1. Section 13.13.085 of the Pierce County Code, "Rates and Charges,"
37 is hereby amended as shown in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated
38 herein by reference.



Only those portions of Section 13.13.085 that are proposed to be amended are shown.
 Remainder of text, tables, maps and/or figures is unchanged.

13.13.085 Rates and Charges.

A. Regular rates and charges, effective January 1 of each year, for the furnishing of service, or for having such service available, except for the Cascadia (Tehaleh) Sewer Service Area, shall be as follows:

<i>Customer Class</i>	<i>Rates and Charges</i>		
	2023	2024	2025
Single Family Residential Class:			
Service Charge, per unit, per month	\$59.06	\$61.57	\$64.09
Multi-Family Residential Class:			
Service Charge, per unit, per month	\$51.59	\$53.78	\$55.99
Commercial Class 1:			
Basic Service Charge, per account, per month	\$17.67	\$18.42	\$19.18
Plus: Volume Service Charge, per CCF of water consumption	\$4.92	\$5.13	\$5.34
Commercial Class 2:			
Basic Service Charge, per account, per month	\$17.67	\$18.42	\$19.18
Plus: Volume Service Charge, per CCF of water consumption	\$6.56	\$6.84	\$7.12
Commercial Class 3:			
Basic Service Charge, per account, per month	\$17.67	\$18.42	\$19.18
Plus: Volume Service Charge, per CCF of water consumption	\$8.29	\$8.64	\$9.00
Commercial Class 4:			
Basic Service Charge, per account, per month	\$17.67	\$18.42	\$19.18
Plus: Volume Service Charge, per CCF of water consumption	\$9.95	\$10.37	\$10.80
Commercial Class 5:			
Basic Service Charge, per account, per month	\$17.67	\$18.42	\$19.18
Plus: Volume Service Charge, per CCF of water consumption	\$3.24	\$3.38	\$3.52
Plus: BOD Surcharge, per pound of BOD	\$0.57	\$0.59	\$0.62
Plus: TSS Surcharge, per pound of TSS	\$0.64	\$0.67	\$0.69



B. Regular rates and charges, effective January 1 of each year, for the furnishing of service, or for having such service available for the Cascadia (Tehaleh) Sewer Service Area, shall be as follows:

<i>Customer Class</i>	<i>Rates and Charges</i>		
	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>
Single Family Residential Class:			
Service Charge, per unit, per month	\$65.17	\$68.07	\$71.01
Multi-Family Residential Class:			
Service Charge, per unit, per month	\$57.39	\$59.94	\$62.53
Commercial Class 1:			
Basic Service Charge, per account, per month	\$8.77	\$9.16	\$9.56
Plus: Volume Service Charge, per CCF of water consumption	\$6.75	7.05	\$7.35
Commercial Class 2:			
Basic Service Charge, per account, per month	\$8.77	\$9.16	\$9.56
Plus: Volume Service Charge, per CCF of water consumption	\$6.75	\$7.05	\$7.35
Commercial Class 3:			
Basic Service Charge, per account, per month	\$8.77	\$9.16	\$9.56
Plus: Volume Service Charge, per CCF of water consumption	\$6.75	\$7.05	\$7.35
Commercial Class 4:			
Basic Service Charge, per account, per month	\$8.77	\$9.16	\$9.56
Plus: Volume Service Charge, per CCF of water consumption	\$6.75	\$7.05	\$7.35