**HOW IS MY WASTEWATER BILL DETERMINED?**

**STEP 1**
The City uses three years of **winter water use data** covering the November through April bi-monthly billing periods in determining residential wastewater rates.

This approach provides a less volatile change in annual rates for ratepayers year over year.

**STEP 2**
The **lowest winter billing period** for each of the three most recent years is selected and averaged together.

This amount represents the winter water use, or essential water use, for your home.

**STEP 3**
To reflect that not all indoor water is returned to the sewer system, a factor of 85% is used. This is an industry best practice to represent residential wastewater flow.

This factors in water use for cooking, cleaning, and other activities that don’t put water down the drain.

**STEP 4**
The **wastewater flow** is multiplied by the current variable rate to provide the commodity rate, or variable component, of the wastewater bill.

A variable component is more equitable as it helps accurately reflect water usage.

**STEP 5**
The variable component is then added to the fixed charge to provide the updated bi-monthly wastewater charge for the residence.

The fixed component helps ensure the financial resiliency and sustainability of the wastewater system.

**STEP 6**
The new charge are effective January 1 and is reflected on the March or April bill statement, depending on the billing cycle.

Updating the wastewater charge specific to the residence each year more accurately reflects usage trends.

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Wastewater Bill Billing Period (Year 4)
payable to the City of Poway: $101.19