



## News from: Oakland Public Works Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2012

### 2013 Sewer Service Charge Increase Postponed

**Oakland, CA** – The Oakland Public Works Agency is pleased to announce that Oakland's Sewer Service Charge will not be increased in 2013 as originally planned, but will instead be delayed for a year.

A sixteen percent (16%) rate increase in the Sewer Service Charge was planned to take effect on January 1, 2013. The Sewer Service Charge is used to fund maintenance, operation and capital improvements to the City's sanitary sewer collection system, which comprises over 900 miles of pipes, 28,000 sewer structures, seven pump stations, manholes and other facilities to safely transport residential and industrial waste to the East Bay Municipal Utilities District Facility near the Bay Bridge for final treatment.

In a review of the Sewer Service Fund, program managers determined that the planned 2013 rate increase could be postponed for one year without adversely affecting the fund stability or planned programs or projects at this time. Therefore, the upcoming January 2013 sewer fee rate increase will be postponed for one year, and will instead take effect January 1, 2014.

This action was possible because:

- Savings from the City's Labor Unions' concessions and give-backs resulted in reduced labor costs
- Favorable bidding environment for sewer construction projects has seen contracts completed for less than budgeted
- Additional time was needed to purchase and manufacture new sewer equipment and hire new personnel

Postponing the next rate increase for a year will provide a respite to the Oakland rate payers during these difficult economic times while allowing the fund to stay apace with actual expenditures. The one-year postponement will not have any adverse impact on our compliance with regulatory requirements.

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