

# **SEWER UTILITY RATE STUDY**

## **BURNEY WATER DISTRICT**



**NOVEMBER 2024**

**JOB No. 306.38.3C**





November 8, 2024

306.38.3c

David Zevely  
Burney Water District  
20222 Hudson Street  
Burney, CA 96013

Dear David,

PACE Engineering, Inc. is pleased to present the report entitled:

**SEWER UTILITY RATE STUDY  
BURNEY WATER DISTRICT**

The Sewer Utility Rate Study contains the results of our review and analysis of current Burney Water District (District) sewer service charges. This review was conducted to develop a rate program that would provide revenues needed to allow the District to recover total costs of operating and maintaining the Sewer Enterprise from existing and future wastewater customers and allow for completion of needed capital improvements. Costs reviewed include personnel, operation and maintenance, debt service, normal capital replacements, administration, capital improvement programs, and depreciation. The proposed rate structure was developed under the premise that service charges would be equitable such that, as nearly as practical, each customer would pay their fair share of the costs of providing the services received.

We would like to thank District staff for their able assistance in completing this Sewer Utility Rate Study. Please let me know of any questions you have regarding the report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie McCollum".

Laurie McCollum  
Principal Engineer

Enclosure

M:\Jobs\0306\0306.38 Collection System Improvement Project - Phase 2\Phase 3c Update WW Rate Study\1\_Report\Cover Letter\_Final.docx

# SEWER UTILITY RATE STUDY

## BURNEY WATER DISTRICT



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## ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in this report:

2014 SMP	2014 Sewer Master Plan
AWF	Average Winter Flow
BWD	Burney Water District
CDP	Census Designated Place
CF	Cubic Feet
CPI	Consumer Price Index
cwt	Hundredweight
District	Burney Water District
ENR CCI	Engineering News Record, Construction Cost Index
FY	Fiscal Year
GPD	Gallons per Day
HE	Household Equivalent
MHI	Median Household Income
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PACE	PACE Engineering, Inc.
SMP	Sewer Master Plan
SOI	Sphere of Influence
USDA RD	United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

# **BURNEY WATER DISTRICT SEWER UTILITY RATE STUDY NOVEMBER 2024**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Burney Water District (District or BWD) owns and operates a wastewater system consisting of a collection system, wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), and effluent disposal facilities. Due to the lack of complete financial records for each activity, the Enterprise Funds are aggregated and reported as one major fund. As such, the District's primary operating fund is the Water, Sewer, and Pool Fund. However, revenues and expenses are kept separate for the water, sewer, and pool utilities. Expansion and upgrade of the water and sewer systems are funded via water and sewer operating revenues including monthly service charges and capacity charges, and pool upgrades are funded via pool fees.

### **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

PACE Engineering, Inc. (PACE) was retained by the District to review current sewer service charges and recommend rate adjustments to cover the costs of operating and maintaining the sewer system. This includes needed improvements remaining that were recommended in the 2014 Sewer Master Plan (2014 SMP) completed by PACE, which were not completed as part of the most recent WWTP and Collection System Improvement Projects.

This report presents the results of the review and analysis of the District's current sewer service charges. This review was conducted to determine if the current rate structure provides adequate revenues needed to allow the District to recover the total costs of operating and maintaining the sewer system from existing and future customers. Costs reviewed included personnel, operation and maintenance (O&M), debt service, normal additions and replacements to the systems, administration, capital improvement programs, and depreciation.

The purpose of the Rate Study was also to identify possible changes to the District's current rate structure to provide future revenues needed to meet projected costs. The proposed rate structure was developed under the premise that service charges would be equitable such that, as nearly as practical, each customer would pay their fair share of the costs of providing the services received.

The scope of this study includes a review and analysis of operation of the District's sewer utilities based on historical expenditures and revenues, the proposed Capital Improvement Plan as updated from the 2014 SMP, and projected future revenue requirements.

The Rate Study included:

- Meeting with District staff to collect and review available information and review methodology to be used in the development of the recommended rate structure for sewer service.
- Reviewing historical account information and anticipated future costs for the five-year study period (Fiscal Year [FY] FY 25-26 through FY 29-30).
- Prioritizing capital improvement funding needs from the District's SMP and supplemental improvements the District may deem warranted.
- Developing a forecast of annual revenue requirements.
- Recommending a rate structure that generates the level of revenue needed, with a distribution of those costs on an equitable basis between current and new customers.

### **STUDY ASSUMPTIONS**

The following assumptions were used to analyze and project future costs, revenues, and rates for this Rate Study:

- Proposed sewer rates should be increased gradually such that they generate sufficient revenues to cover costs of system operation and maintenance and replacement capital improvements allocated to system users.
- Revenues generated from sewer capacity charges will be directed to the funding of future capital expansion improvements and debt service payments for growth related improvements. These revenues will not be used for operating expenses.
- The sewer utility will operate with a balanced budget, maintaining adequate reserves and replacement funds and funding depreciation.

### **SEWER RATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Findings related to the District's sewer utility are summarized below:

- The current sewer rate structure consists of a fixed monthly service charge of \$24.23 for all accounts using less than four cubic feet (CF) of average winter flow (AWF). Service charges for all accounts are calculated based on their winter water use December through February, with the exception of large commercial and industrial accounts which have their own rate codes. These are currently updated annually, with rate changes reflected on the August billing cycle.

- The current sewer rate structure is fairly easy to understand and administer, with the exception of larger commercial and industrial user rates. There appears to be no clear rationale behind some of the historical commercial and industrial rates.
- Current sewer rates do not provide sufficient revenues to sustain expenditures or the capital replacement program at levels desired for long-term system reliability.

### Sewer Rate Recommendations

The sewer rates recommended for adoption for FY 25-26 through FY 29-30 are summarized in Table 1. The analyses contained in this report assumed proposed 25-26 rates would be effective January 1, 2025. High priority projects in the District call attention to the fact that these sewer rates need to be implemented as soon as possible.

**Table 1 – Recommended Monthly Single-Family Sewer Rates**

	Existing FY 24-25	Proposed FY 25-26	Proposed FY 26-27	Proposed FY 27-28	Proposed FY 28-29	Proposed FY 29-30
Single-Family Base Rate <sup>1</sup> (\$/HE)	\$24.23	\$33.92	\$44.10	\$50.27	\$54.29	\$55.38
Commodity Rate (\$/CF)	\$0.017	\$0.024	\$0.031	\$0.035	\$0.038	\$0.039
1. One household equivalent (HE) equals 170 gallons per day (GPD) of wet weather water demand, which is the estimated flow from a typical single-family household. All users consuming more than this will be charged a corresponding higher base rate.						

The typical residential sewer bill will increase annually over the next five years by the following amounts: \$14.41 (40%), \$15.13 (30%), \$9.18 (14%), \$5.98 (8%), and \$1.61 (2%).

Non-residential accounts will all now be charged based on winter water usage as well. This methodology will provide consistent base-rate practices for all District accounts.

### Sewer Financial Plan Recommendations

The following recommendations are made with respect to the fund structure and reserve policies of the sewer utility. These recommendations are intended to improve the financial condition of the utility and minimize the potential for future rate volatility.

- The sewer utility should maintain a minimum operating reserve of 25% of the budgeted total expenses less ongoing capital projects. The designated operating reserves would provide funds available for emergencies, unanticipated fluctuations in revenues relative to costs, and other unforeseeable events.
- A separate Wastewater Improvements Fund should also be maintained. The need for sewer system improvements can vary from year to year, thus unspent funds budgeted for capital improvements would be transferred to this fund at the end of each fiscal year so that they can be used for future needs.



- Review and update other fee-related services, such as call-outs, contractor hookups and usage, etc.
- Review inflationary trends annually using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and confirm that inflation is still within the inflation factors used in the five-year financial plan. Higher than projected inflation will require adjustments to the rate schedule equivalent to the actual CPI increase above those anticipated herein. Each year the CPI increase from January to December will be calculated, with the change in inflation to take effect the following fiscal year starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Update this Utility Rate Study within five years.
- To assure that future growth is paying its fair share of the capital improvements, the District should charge a capacity charge for the sewer utility at 100% of the recommended value. In addition, the capacity charge should be adjusted for inflation on an annual basis in accordance with the change in the Engineering News Record, Construction Cost Index (ENR CCI), which currently stands at 13,632 for October 2024. The ENR CCI has been in place since 1908 and indexes the cost of construction taking into account 200 hours of common labor at a rate averaged over 20 cities, plus 25 hundredweight (cwt) of standard structural steel shapes, 1.128 tons of Portland cement, and 1,088 boardfeet of 2 x 4 lumber.

# BURNEY WATER DISTRICT SEWER UTILITY RATE STUDY NOVEMBER 2024

## SEWER UTILITY

### Current Sewer Rates

The latest sewer rate ordinance adopted by the Burney Water District (District) Board of Directors in May 2015 is included in Appendix A.

Due to the relatively small size of the system and lack of large commercial and industrial users, the current wastewater rate structure is a flow-based system without any adjustments for the organic strength of the wastewater. Single-family units are charged one base rate per family unit. Single-family household equivalents (HEs) are typically calculated for each non-residential account based on water use for the months of December, January, and February. The average daily water use for each account during these three winter months is approximately equivalent to their estimated average daily wastewater discharge. This average daily wastewater discharge is then divided by a gallons per day (GPD) flow for a typical HE to arrive at the number of HEs per account, with a minimum of one HE being assigned to each account.

Winter water usage was updated for this analysis. Average usage from December 2022 through February 2023 and December 2023 through February 2024 results in an average daily flow of 170 GPD per HE. Therefore, it was assumed an HE will use approximately 170 GPD and be charged as such. All users' monthly sewer bills will be computed by multiplying the number of HEs times the monthly base rate, plus an additional commodity charge currently at \$0.017 per cubic feet (CF) of the average winter flow (AWF). Historical sewer rates are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Historical and Current Sewer Rates**

Year	Monthly Base Rate	Commodity Charge per CF
2010	\$11.15	\$0.011
2011	\$11.15	\$0.011
2012	\$11.15	\$0.011
2013	\$16.15	\$0.011
2014	\$20.19	\$0.011
2015	\$24.23	\$0.017
2016	\$24.23	\$0.017
2017	\$24.23	\$0.017
2018	\$24.23	\$0.017
2019	\$24.23	\$0.017
2020	\$24.23	\$0.017
2021	\$24.23	\$0.017
2022	\$24.23	\$0.017
2023	\$24.23	\$0.017
2024	\$24.23	\$0.017

## Historical Growth and Expenditures

### Historical Sewer Utility Customers and Flows

Currently, there is a considerable amount of land area within the District's sphere of influence (SOI) that is vacant and is not connected to or served by the District's sewer system. The District anticipates that as this land is developed, it will connect to the sewer system. This growth will continue to add customers and increase revenue for sewer operations. However, this is not likely to occur in the near future, as District growth and population have remained relatively static over the last 10 years. Rather than having issues associated with too much growth in the near future, it is more likely the District may struggle to meet increased operation and maintenance (O&M) costs with fixed source for revenue. That having been said, there have recently been a few developments that have tentative maps and/or preliminary plans already completed. Therefore, the SMP utilized those developments to forecast growth. As detailed in the SMP, full build-out of these developments at an assumed growth rate of 1% per year will take 60 years to complete.

The total number of active sewer system connections decreased from 1,306 at the end of 2009, to 1,303 at the end of 2023. In January 2024, there were 1,182 active single-family residential connections, 121 commercial connections, and no industrial connections. Due to the current state of the local economy, District staff agreed that a 0.1% annual growth rate would be reasonable for projecting future wastewater flows over the next five years.

Figure 1 summarizes the current number of active customer accounts, as well as the current estimated amount of annual wastewater discharged by each class of customer.

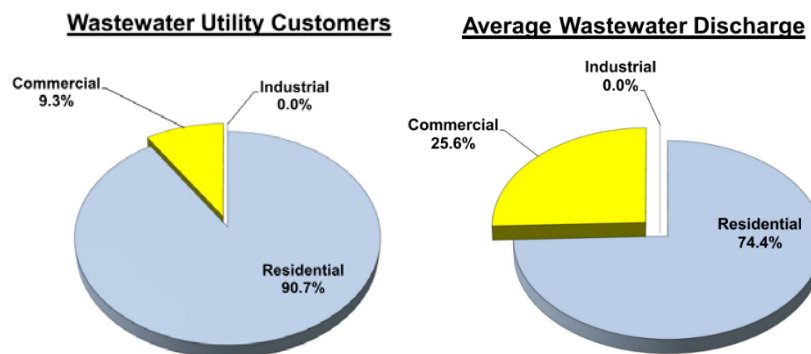


Figure 1 – Summary of Customers and Annual Sewer Discharge

## Sewer Utility Expenditures

Sewer utility expenditures for O&M and capital replacement projects are normally made from sewer utility revenues. Table 3 is a summary of the sewer utility expenditures for Fiscal Year (FY) 18-19 through FY 22-23.

Historically, the District has not funded depreciation for the sewer utility. Per Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, it is recommended governments report depreciation expense in the statement of activities. As such, the District intends to fund depreciation for all sewer system components with replacement costs greater than \$5,000. The District's FY 22-23 audited financial statements indicate a sewer utility depreciation of \$106,210 per year. This equates to about \$4.98 per month, per HE. As such, analysis is included herein with funding depreciation.

**Table 3 – Historical Sewer Utility Expenditures**

Category		Actual (FY 18-19)	Actual (FY 19-20)	Actual (FY 20-21)	Actual (FY 21-22)	Actual (FY 22-23)
1	Salaries and benefits	\$337,967	\$352,471	\$346,426	\$483,464	\$225,916
2	Insurance	\$13,817	\$19,276	\$25,785	\$26,983	\$31,500
3	Legal, accounting, and professional services	\$25,187	\$86,811	\$27,385	\$50,149	\$77,675
4	Utilities	\$121,620	\$133,413	\$127,074	\$116,899	\$94,739
5	Vehicles and equipment	\$5,881	\$74,796	\$21,946	\$26,371	\$47,214
6	Permits and fees	\$19,356	\$27,286	\$23,764	\$28,589	\$31,267
7	Depreciation	\$117,786	\$118,546	\$112,858	\$108,220	\$106,210
8	Rent	\$1,729	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
9	Repairs and maintenance	\$21,968	\$22,313	\$14,206	\$14,766	\$31,925
10	Office	\$6,687	\$15,037	\$22,994	\$24,456	\$11,403
11	Other operating expenses	\$32,722	\$21,507	\$24,169	\$22,276	\$79,956
12	<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	\$704,720	\$871,456	\$746,607	\$902,173	\$737,805
13	<b>% Change:</b>		23.7%	-14.3%	20.8%	-18.2%

## **Sewer Rate Development**

### Current Sewer Rate Revenue Requirement

Analysis of the FY 24-25 sewer rate revenue requirement is based on the District's FY 24-25 adopted budget. The annual sewer utility rate revenue requirement is based on sewer system O&M costs, plus replacement capital improvement needs and depreciation, less other sewer system revenues such as interest earnings and other income.

The District's FY 24-25 sewer utility budget indicates annual sewer expenditures of \$793,000 with \$47,410 of funded depreciation. The expected FY 24-25 sewer enterprise revenues total \$631,695. Thus, the current rate structure is not adequate to meet FY 24-25 revenue needs and will result in a loss of \$161,305 with only a portion of depreciation being funded. As such, a rate increase is anticipated to occur such that it will take effect January 1, 2025. It is also important to note the District faces a number of additional sewer rehabilitation and replacement capital improvements in the near future, as discussed in the SMP, which will increase annual revenue requirements. See Table 5 for needed improvements.

### Cost of Service Analysis

Development of wastewater rate recommendations normally involves two primary steps. First, the Sewer Enterprise Fund costs are allocated to functional cost components and then a rate structure is designed to incorporate these cost components. The goal is to allocate the costs and design a rate structure that results in the costs being proportionately distributed among all customers.

There are a number of ways to allocate costs for rate setting purposes. Some are rather complex, requiring significant effort to develop and administer. Others are more straightforward to develop, understand, and administer. The District's current sewer rate structure is primarily flow based and does not take waste strength into account. This is generally an acceptable approach for relatively small systems with minimal commercial and industrial users.

It is important to note that historically the estimated number of single-family connection equivalents as shown in Table 7 have been strictly a rate-based HE, established to meet budgeted revenue requirements. It was not representative of winter water usage-based HEs due to larger commercial and restaurant users not being charged on a strictly HE basis. While it is evident water usage was a part of the basis of the historical sewer rate structure, the complete basis was not fully known by PACE Engineering, Inc. (PACE) or the District. Larger users have been assigned rate codes that are not equivalent to the number of HEs, which is the usage of an average single-family residence, or meter size basis. As a result, the current structure does not account for the variability of usage amongst users offering similar services or similar plumbing configurations (i.e., restaurants). Therefore, the District now intends to update and simplify the method for determining service charges for these accounts so there is a justifiable and equitable basis.

One of the current, most-widely used approaches to structure wastewater rates is to base monthly charges on actual water consumption. This is currently already done for the majority of

District users and is considered to be the most fair for all customers. It is also easily defended as part of Proposition 218 proceedings. Unfortunately, this adjustment will cause sewer bills of some customers who have not historically been paying for their fair share of the District's wastewater expenses to experience substantial increases over historical bills and rates.

Another approach for allocating monthly charges is to utilize a rate structure based on organic strength of waste. Using this type of structure, high-strength dischargers, such as restaurants, would pay a higher bill than others discharging the same flow. Factors can range from 1.5 to 2.0 times a flow-based approach. These types of rate structures are more difficult to administer and are generally used in much larger communities with a lot of industrial and heavy commercial users.

One of the challenges with using water consumption for establishing sewer rates is accounting for irrigation volumes – water that is recorded by a water meter but does not get discharged into the sewer system. To account for this, it is common to consider only winter water usage. Most water usage during the wettest months goes into the sewer system.

Most users in the District are currently charged based on winter water usage from December through February, which is reevaluated every year. It is recommended all users be charged based on winter water usage, which may be reevaluated if it is called for. Evaluating rates every year is a difficult and time-consuming task for a small district with limited administrative staff. Most importantly, winter water usage does not tend to vary that often unless significant changes are made to the form or function of a user's property. This typically triggers a review by Shasta County (County) and/or the District, at which time the rate is recommended to be reevaluated on an as-needed basis.

The amount of fixed costs and consumptive costs associated with the sewer system was determined based on a line-item by line-item review of the FY 24-25 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget. All or part of each line item was allocated to one category or the other as shown in Table 4. Only maintenance, operations, and utilities costs were considered as having 70% attributed to variable costs. All other costs were split equally between the fixed and variable cost categories. Based upon this analysis, it is estimated that at least 46% of the sewer system's FY 24-25 revenue should be from the fixed monthly service charges. However, an overemphasis on commodity charges can create revenue volatility. As the rate structure currently stands, approximately 67% of revenue is generated from the fixed rate component during average annual flows. As such, it is recommended the District continue this structure as rates are increased to maintain revenue stability for the sewer system, especially with significant improvement projects anticipated in the near future.

<b>TABLE 4</b>				
<b>Fixed and Variable Cost Analysis of FY 24-25 Sewer Budget</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Labor Expenses</b>	<b>Budgeted (FY 24-25)</b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>Fixed</b>
2	PERS Retirement	\$ 65,000	\$ 32,500	\$ 32,500
3	Health Insurance	\$ 60,200	\$ 30,100	\$ 30,100
4	Unemployment Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
5	Wages and Salaries Production	\$ 210,000	\$ 105,000	\$ 105,000
6	Social Security	\$ 14,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
7	Overtime Paid	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
8	Sick Pay	\$ 7,450	\$ 3,725	\$ 3,725
9	Vacation Pay	\$ 11,600	\$ 5,800	\$ 5,800
10	Comp. Time Taken	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
11	Standby Time Paid	\$ 7,440	\$ 3,720	\$ 3,720
12	Workers Comp.	\$ 6,450	\$ 3,225	\$ 3,225
13	<b>Total Labor Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 390,140</b>	<b>\$ 195,070</b>	<b>\$ 195,070</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>General Expenses</b>	<b>Budgeted (FY 24-25)</b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>Fixed</b>
15	Audit	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
16	Advertising	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 100
17	Bad Debt	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
18	Bank Fees	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 100
19	Debt Service	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
20	Dues, Fees, and Subscriptions	\$ 12,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
21	Engineering Fees	\$ 18,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
22	Interest Expense	\$ 150	\$ 75	\$ 75
23	Legal Expense	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
24	Liability Insurance	\$ 32,900	\$ 16,450	\$ 16,450
25	Office Supplies	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
26	Office Equipment Lease	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
27	Outside Services	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
28	Permits and Fees	\$ 35,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500
29	Professional Fees	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
30	Seminars and Education	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
31	Penalties and Fines	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
32	<b>Total General Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 148,450</b>	<b>\$ 74,225</b>	<b>\$ 74,225</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>General Expenses - O&amp;M</b>	<b>Budgeted (FY 24-25)</b>	<b>Variable</b>	<b>Fixed</b>
34	Chemicals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
35	Gas, Fuel, and Oil	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,250	\$ 2,250
36	Lab Supplies	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
37	Meals Expense	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 100
38	Miscellaneous Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
39	Operating Expense	\$ 21,000	\$ 14,700	\$ 6,300
40	PG&E Pumping Costs	\$ 110,000	\$ 77,000	\$ 33,000
41	PG&E Office Utilities	\$ 4,800	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400
42	Rental of Equipment	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
43	Repairs/Maint. Building	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
44	Repairs/Maint. Equipment	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,800	\$ 1,200
45	Repairs/Maint. Infrastructure	\$ 20,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 6,000
46	Sludge Disposal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
47	Tools	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
48	Telephone	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
49	Testing Expense	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,750
50	Travel Expense	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
51	Vehicle Repairs and Maint.	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500
52	<b>Total O&amp;M Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 207,000</b>	<b>\$ 136,000</b>	<b>\$ 71,000</b>
53	Depreciation Expense	\$ 47,410	\$ 23,705	\$ 23,705
54	<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 793,000</b>	<b>\$ 429,000</b>	<b>\$ 364,000</b>
55	<b>% of Total Expenses:</b>		<b>54%</b>	<b>46%</b>

## Multi-Year Financial Plan Guidelines

To develop recommendations regarding future rates, a multi-year financial plan was developed for the sewer utility. This financial plan considers both capital and operating programs.

Capital Projects: The District's 2014 Sewer Master Plan (2014 SMP) recommended a number of improvements needed to correct existing deficiencies and to meet future increasing sewer demands. Many of the immediate and near-term improvements were recently completed as part of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System Improvement Projects completed this year. As such, an updated prioritized list of the specific improvements, including those that are still needed as recommended in Table 7 of the SMP, is included in Table 5, with estimated project costs updated to October 2024 dollars. Costs include five years of aging sewer main replacement at 0.33% per year. Construction and indirect contingencies of 55% were assumed due to the preliminary nature of anticipated projects and unknown problems that may arise during design and construction.

Table 5 also indicates the approximate allocation of the project costs to the replacement and growth categories. Replacement category improvements include replacement and/or upgrade of existing infrastructure to improve its effectiveness. Typically, replacement related improvements are funded by monthly service charges and growth-related improvements are funded by new development. However, lenders must be assured they will be repaid and are often reluctant to accept a financial plan dependent upon projected fees from future growth. Therefore, it is normally necessary to cover debt service for improvements with monthly service charges. A similar approach can be utilized when growth related improvements are funded with District funds, wherein future capacity charges can be used to reimburse the utility over time. Refer to the Financial Considerations section of the 2014 SMP for details of the recommended capacity charges related to growth. Recommended charges have been increased in this Rate Study from the 2014 SMP due to inflation and anticipated contingencies.

The financial plan has been developed assuming recommended WWTP and collection system improvements will be funded via a combination of grants and loans. Rates herein assume a 45% grant can be obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD). Annual debt service on a \$4,996,200 USDA RD 40-year, 2.375% low-interest loan would be about \$214,400 per year. This includes a 10% debt service reserve account as required by USDA RD. Given that depreciation is anticipated to be 100% funded and placed in a separate account, this will meet the USDA RD requirement that a short-lived assets reserve account be established. Due to the magnitude of the recommended improvements listed in Table 5, capital improvement funding will need to be included in the District's sewer financial plan for the foreseeable future, and grants will need to be obtained.



**TABLE 5**  
**Sewer Capital Improvements Prioritization Estimated Costs <sup>(1)</sup>**

Item No.		ESTIMATED COST <sup>(2)</sup>				% Attributed to Growth	Cost Attributed to Growth
		Immediate Term (2012-2022)	Near Term (2022-2032)	Intermediate Term (2032-2052)	Long Term (2052-2072)		
<b>GENERAL COLLECTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
1	Replace 700' of 8" Bartel St Sewer with 12" (Pts. 1 to 2)		\$320,000			0%	\$0
2	Parallel 1,500' of 8" Park Ave Sewer with 8" (Pts. 2 to 3)			\$530,000		46%	\$243,800
3	Parallel 2,500' of 15" Sewer Prior to Main LS with 15" (Pts. 4 to 5)			\$900,000		46%	\$414,000
4	Parallel 900' of 15" Sewer Prior to Main LS with 18" (Pts. 5 to 6)			\$410,000		46%	\$188,600
5	Parallel 1,500' of 8" Missouri Way and Grogan St Sewer with 8" (Pts. 7 to 8)				\$380,000	46%	\$174,800
6	Parallel 400' of 15" Ontario Ave Sewer with 12" (Pt. 9)				\$130,000	46%	\$59,800
7	Parallel 200' of 6" Orchard Way Sewer with 8" (Pt. 10)				\$50,000	46%	\$23,000
8	Aging Sewer Main Replacements <sup>(3)</sup>		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	0%	\$0
<b>BARTEL LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
9	Replace 2 Centrifugal Pumps with Starters			\$160,000		46%	\$73,600
<b>MAIN LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
10	2 Centrifugal Pumps with Starters		\$160,000			0%	\$0
11	Replace 3 Centrifugal Pumps with Starters				\$240,000	46%	\$110,400
12	Replace Generator				\$140,000	46%	\$64,400
<b>GENERAL COLLECTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,480,000</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,940,000</b>		<b>\$1,352,000</b>
<b>WWTP IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
13	Influent Screening Unit		\$1,120,000			0%	\$0
14	Vacuum Truck		\$400,000			0%	\$0
15	Fall Prevention System and Freeze Protection for RAS Vault		\$30,000			0%	\$0
16	Oxidation Pond Cleaning and Plowing		\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	0%	\$0
17	Replace 8 Valves at Oxidation Ponds		\$500,000			0%	\$0
18	Sludge Dredging		\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	0%	\$0
19	New Sludge Lagoon or Sludge Handling Facilities			\$1,000,000		46%	\$460,000
20	Replace MCC and Update Electrical, complete				\$600,000	46%	\$276,000
<b>WWTP IMPROVEMENTS SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,490,000</b>	<b>\$1,440,000</b>	<b>\$1,040,000</b>		<b>\$736,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,970,000</b>	<b>\$5,440,000</b>	<b>\$3,980,000</b>		<b>\$2,088,000</b>
Contingency and Indirect Costs (55%):		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,734,000</b>	<b>\$2,992,000</b>	<b>\$2,189,000</b>		<b>\$1,148,000</b>
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS:</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,704,000</b>	<b>\$8,432,000</b>	<b>\$6,169,000</b>		<b>\$3,236,000</b>
Cumulative Project Costs:		\$0	\$7,704,000	\$16,136,000	\$22,305,000		
Total Cumulative Project Costs w/o Growth Components:			\$7,704,000				
Average Yearly Cost for 10 Years:			\$770,400				
Number of Existing HEs:			1,588				
Average Yearly Cost per HE:			\$485.14				
<b>Average Monthly Cost per HE:</b>			<b>\$40.43</b>				
						Additional HEs Over Next 60 Years:	1,317
						Additional Future Capacity Charge per HE:	\$2,457
						Existing Capacity Charge:	\$8,058
						<b>Total Future Capacity Charge:</b>	<b>\$10,515</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Based on a 1% annual growth rate.

<sup>(2)</sup> All costs in October 2024 dollars at an ENR index of 13632.

<sup>(3)</sup> Costs shown would result in ~20% of systemwide sewer main replacement after 60 years.

Operating Reserve: Operation reserves ranging from 10% to 40% of annual operating costs are common for public water utilities. As such, and given the potential for significant fluctuations in annual water sales, which can result in variable rate revenues, it is recommended the District establish and maintain a sewer operating reserve account equal to at least 25% of the total sewer utility expenses less on-going capital projects. It is recommended this operating reserve account eventually be increased to 40% when possible.

As of the end of October 2024, the District had \$265,037 in restricted cash on hand. The District has an additional unrestricted reserve account for non-enterprise specific equipment replacement, which totaled \$436,527 at the end of October 2024. However, these funds are for both the sewer and water systems and are designated for emergency use only. Therefore, they were not included in the calculations and projections herein. It is recommended in the future that separate water and sewer reserve funds be set up such that emergency funds can more easily be tracked and utilized.

Debt Service Reserve: USDA RD requires a 10% debt reserve account be maintained to assure annual debt payments can be made if and when a USDA RD loan is obtained for needed capital improvements, as well as a short-lived assets reserve account. The short-lived assets reserve is intended to provide the means for accumulating funds to replace equipment and materials that have useful lives of 5 to 15 years. The District will be funding depreciation for all equipment with costs greater than \$5,000.

Financial Plan Assumptions: The following is a list of the primary assumptions used in developing the multi-year financial plan:

- Labor expenses will increase at 4% per year, while all other O&M costs will increase at 3% per year. Additional O&M costs were also added to account for newly added WWTP processes from recently completed improvements.
- One new utility worker and one new administrative assistant will be hired in FY 25-26.
- The number of wastewater HEs will increase at 0.1% per year.
- According to USDA RD, the median household income (MHI) for Burney as a Census Designated Place (CDP) is \$58,443, or 73% of the State nonmetropolitan MHI of \$80,546. Burney would likely receive the poverty interest rate offered by USDA RD given that a documented health or sanitary problem does exist in the District. The current single-family monthly sewer bill is only \$36.01, or 0.74% of the MHI. Therefore, no grant funding is anticipated for the capital improvements outlined in Table 5 unless rates are increased to at least 1.5% of the MHI, or \$73.05. However, as shown herein, it is expected that rates will need to be greater than this number by the time loan repayment begins.

- A \$4,996,200 USDA RD loan for the recommended WWTP and collection system improvements would result in an annual loan payment of approximately \$214,400, or approximately \$11.25 per month per HE. This utilizes the current USDA RD poverty interest rate of 2.375%, which is valid through the end of March 2025.
- Future project costs will be inflated at 4% per year, which is approximately equal to the average annual increase in the Engineering News Record, Construction Cost Index (ENR CCI) over the last five years.
- Maintain a separate Wastewater Operating Reserve Fund of 25% of the annual operating and debt service expenses less on-going capital improvements.
- Fund all recommended near-term improvements updated from the SMP, shown again in Table 5 herein with updated costs. This includes five years of aging sewer main replacements as detailed in the SMP at 0.33% per year.
- Maintain a 10% Debt Service Reserve Fund if and when a USDA RD loan is obtained.
- Update the existing rate structure resulting in all HEs to be determined from average winter water usage for all users.
- Depreciation will be 100% funded.

Financial Plan Results: A five-year projection of the sewer utility budgeted and projected expenses is shown in Table 6. As shown therein, future labor expenses are projected to increase by 4% each year and all other future O&M expenses are projected to increase by 3% per year. Labor expenses were also increased to account for hiring one utility worker and one administrative assistant in FY 25-26. O&M expenses in FY 24-25 were also increased to account for newly added WWTP processes from recently completed improvements, as well as projected increased O&M expenses in FY 27-28 from headworks screening upgrades.

Table 7 presents a summary of the five-year financial plan values based on the proposed rate increases for each year, and includes the year beginning fund balances, revenues, expenditures, and year end recommended operating reserve for the sewer utility. As can be seen, there is a fund balance of \$0 at the beginning of FY 24-25 reflecting no cash readily available in the current sewer reserve fund. Year-end operating reserve funds fluctuate due to project implementation and should begin FY 30-31 with about \$370,000 after FY 27-28 capital improvements have been completed.

TABLE 6 Sewer Utility Budgeted and Projected Expenditures								
No.	Account Description	Inflation Factor	Budgeted (FY 24-25)	Projected (FY 25-26)	Projected (FY 26-27)	Projected (FY 27-28)	Projected (FY 28-29)	Projected (FY 29-30)
1	<b>Labor Expenses</b>							
2	PERS Retirement	4%	\$65,000	\$83,800	\$87,152	\$90,638	\$94,264	\$98,034
3	Health Insurance	4%	\$60,200	\$81,108	\$84,352	\$87,726	\$91,235	\$94,885
4	Unemployment Insurance	4%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5	Wages and Salaries Production	4%	\$210,000	\$318,400	\$331,136	\$344,381	\$358,157	\$372,483
6	Social Security	4%	\$14,000	\$18,385	\$19,120	\$19,885	\$20,681	\$21,508
7	Overtime Paid	4%	\$8,000	\$10,320	\$10,733	\$11,162	\$11,609	\$12,073
8	Sick Pay	4%	\$7,450	\$9,673	\$10,060	\$10,462	\$10,881	\$11,316
9	Vacation Pay	4%	\$11,600	\$13,989	\$14,549	\$15,131	\$15,736	\$16,365
10	Comp. Time Taken	4%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11	Standby Time Paid	4%	\$9,750	\$10,140	\$10,546	\$10,967	\$11,406	\$11,862
12	Workers Comp.	4%	\$6,450	\$6,708	\$6,976	\$7,255	\$7,546	\$7,847
13	<b>Subtotal:</b>		<b>\$392,450</b>	<b>\$552,523</b>	<b>\$574,624</b>	<b>\$597,609</b>	<b>\$621,513</b>	<b>\$646,374</b>
14	<b>General and Administrative Expenses</b>							
15	Audit	3%	\$8,000	\$8,240	\$8,487	\$8,742	\$9,004	\$9,274
16	Advertising	3%	\$200	\$206	\$212	\$219	\$225	\$232
17	Bad Debt	3%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
18	Bank Fees	3%	\$200	\$206	\$212	\$219	\$225	\$232
19	Debt Service	3%	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,478
20	Dues, Fees, and Subscriptions	3%	\$12,000	\$12,360	\$12,731	\$13,113	\$13,506	\$13,911
21	Engineering Fees	3%	\$18,000	\$18,540	\$19,096	\$19,669	\$20,259	\$20,867
22	Interest Expense	3%	\$150	\$155	\$159	\$164	\$169	\$174
23	Legal Expense	3%	\$6,000	\$6,180	\$6,365	\$6,556	\$6,753	\$6,956
24	Liability Insurance	3%	\$32,900	\$33,887	\$34,904	\$35,951	\$37,029	\$38,140
25	Office Supplies	3%	\$6,000	\$6,180	\$6,365	\$6,556	\$6,753	\$6,956
26	Office Equipment Lease	3%	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,478
27	Outside Services	3%	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,478
28	Permits and Fees	3%	\$35,000	\$36,050	\$37,132	\$38,245	\$39,393	\$40,575
29	Professional Fees	3%	\$15,000	\$15,450	\$15,914	\$16,391	\$16,883	\$17,389
30	Seminars and Education	3%	\$6,000	\$6,180	\$6,365	\$6,556	\$6,753	\$6,956
31	Penalties and Fines	3%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
32	<b>Subtotal:</b>		<b>\$148,450</b>	<b>\$152,904</b>	<b>\$157,491</b>	<b>\$162,215</b>	<b>\$167,082</b>	<b>\$172,094</b>
33	<b>Operation and Maintenance Expenses</b>							
34	Chemicals	3%	\$1,000	\$1,030	\$1,061	\$1,093	\$1,126	\$1,159
35	Gas, Fuel, and Oil	3%	\$7,500	\$7,725	\$7,957	\$8,195	\$8,441	\$8,695
36	Lab Supplies	3%	\$4,000	\$4,120	\$4,244	\$4,371	\$4,502	\$4,637
37	Meals Expense	3%	\$200	\$206	\$212	\$219	\$225	\$232
38	Miscellaneous Expense	3%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
39	Operating Expense	3%	\$26,000	\$26,780	\$27,583	\$28,411	\$29,273	\$30,165
40	PG&E Pumping Costs	3%	\$125,000	\$128,750	\$132,613	\$136,591	\$140,689	\$144,909
41	PG&E Office Utilities	3%	\$4,800	\$4,944	\$5,092	\$5,245	\$5,402	\$5,565
42	Rental of Equipment	3%	\$6,000	\$6,180	\$6,365	\$6,556	\$6,753	\$6,956
43	Repairs/Maint. Building	3%	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,478
44	Repairs/Maint. Equipment	3%	\$4,000	\$4,120	\$4,244	\$4,371	\$4,502	\$4,637
45	Repairs/Maint. Infrastructure	3%	\$20,000	\$20,600	\$21,218	\$21,855	\$22,510	\$23,185
46	Sludge Disposal	3%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
47	Tools	3%	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,478
48	Telephone	3%	\$10,000	\$10,300	\$10,609	\$10,927	\$11,255	\$11,593
49	Testing Expense	3%	\$5,500	\$5,665	\$5,835	\$6,010	\$6,190	\$6,376
50	Travel Expense	3%	\$3,000	\$3,090	\$3,183	\$3,278	\$3,377	\$3,478
51	Vehicle Repairs and Maint.	3%	\$5,000	\$5,150	\$5,305	\$5,464	\$5,628	\$5,796
52	<b>Subtotal:</b>		<b>\$228,000</b>	<b>\$234,840</b>	<b>\$241,885</b>	<b>\$249,142</b>	<b>\$256,666</b>	<b>\$264,428</b>
53	<b>Wastewater Collection System Improvement Projects</b>							
54	Replace 700' of 8" Bartel St Sewer with 12"		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$320,000	\$0	\$0
55	Aging Sewer Main Replacements		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$0
56	Main Lift Station 2 Centrifugal Pumps with Starters		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160,000	\$0	\$0
57	<b>Subtotal:</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,480,000	\$0	\$0
58	Construction Contingency (30%):		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$744,000	\$0	\$0
59	Environmental, Engineering & Indirect Costs (25%):		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$806,000	\$0	\$0
60	Inflation Adder @ 4% Per Year:		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$503,000	\$0	\$0
61	<b>Total Estimated Subtotal:</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,533,000	\$0	\$0
62	<b>USDA RD Loan Funded Expenditures:</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,493,150	\$0	\$0
62	<b>USDA RD Grant Funded Expenditures:</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,039,850	\$0	\$0
63	<b>Subtotal Rate Payer Expenditures:</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
64	<b>Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects</b>							
65	Influent Screening Unit		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,120,000	\$0	\$0
66	Vacuum Truck		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$0
67	Fall Prevention System & Freeze Protection for RAS Vault		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$0
68	Oxidation Pond Cleaning & Plowing		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$0	\$0
69	Replace 8 Valves at Oxidation Ponds		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$0
70	Sludge Dredging		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,000	\$0	\$0
71	<b>Subtotal:</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,490,000	\$0	\$0
72	Construction Contingency (30%):		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$747,000	\$0	\$0
73	Environmental, Engineering, and Indirect Costs (25%):		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$809,000	\$0	\$0
74	Inflation Adder @ 4% Per Year:		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$505,000	\$0	\$0
75	<b>Total Estimated Subtotal:</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,551,000	\$0	\$0
76	<b>USDA RD Loan-Funded Expenditures:</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,503,050	\$0	\$0
62	<b>USDA RD Grant Funded Expenditures:</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,047,950	\$0	\$0
77	<b>Subtotal Rate Payer Expenditures:</b>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
78	<b>Debt Service</b>							
79	Existing Long Term Debt		\$0	\$13,838	\$13,838	\$13,838	\$13,838	\$13,838
80	Debt Service on USDA RD Loan <sup>1</sup>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$194,900	\$194,900	\$194,900
81	USDA RD Loan 10% Debt Reserve Account		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$19,500	\$19,500	\$19,500
82	USDA RD Short-Lived Assets Reserve Account <sup>2</sup>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
83	<b>Subtotal:</b>		\$0	\$13,838	\$13,838	\$228,238	\$228,238	\$228,238
84	<b>Internal Services</b>							
85	Depreciation		\$47,410	\$106,210	\$109,396	\$112,678	\$116,059	\$119,540
86	<b>Subtotal:</b>		<b>\$47,410</b>	<b>\$106,210</b>	<b>\$109,396</b>	<b>\$112,678</b>	<b>\$116,059</b>	<b>\$119,540</b>
87								
88	<b>Total Expenditures:</b>		<b>\$816,310</b>	<b>\$1,060,315</b>	<b>\$1,097,234</b>	<b>\$1,364,882</b>	<b>\$1,404,958</b>	<b>\$1,446,474</b>

## Notes:

1. Assumes a USDA RD low-interest 40-year loan at a poverty interest rate of 2.375% effective October 1, 2024, covering 55% of the total project cost. If a USDA RD grant lower than 45% is obtained, the debt service will be increased.
2. Depreciation will be 100% funded which includes short-lived assets.

**TABLE 7**  
**Summary of Sewer Utility Financial Plan**

		Budgeted (FY 24-25)	Projected (FY 25-26)	Projected (FY 26-27)	Projected (FY 27-28)	Projected (FY 28-29)	Projected (FY 29-30)
1	<b>SEWER RATES USED</b>						
2	Recommended Single-Family Monthly Base Rate (\$/HE)	\$24.23	\$33.92	\$44.10	\$50.27	\$54.29	\$55.38
3	Recommended Single-Family Monthly Commodity Charge (\$/CF)	\$0.017	\$0.024	\$0.031	\$0.035	\$0.038	\$0.039
4	<b>Single-Family Monthly Increase:</b>		\$14.41	\$15.13	\$9.18	\$5.98	\$1.61
5							
6	<b>ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SINGLE FAMILY CONNECTION EQUIVALENTS</b>						
7	Beginning of Year HEs		1,588	1,590	1,592	1,594	1,596
8	Estimated Additional HEs Due to Growth		2	2	2	2	2
9	Estimated Year-End HEs		1,590	1,592	1,594	1,596	1,598
10							
11	<b>BEGINNING FUNDS AVAILABLE BALANCE</b>	\$0	-\$23,310	-\$121,615	\$33,331	\$97,729	\$238,332
12							
13	<b>REVENUES</b>						
14	Fixed Service Charges	\$793,000	\$962,010	\$1,252,180	\$1,429,280	\$1,545,560	\$1,578,450
15	<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$793,000</b>	<b>\$962,010</b>	<b>\$1,252,180</b>	<b>\$1,429,280</b>	<b>\$1,545,560</b>	<b>\$1,578,450</b>
16							
17	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
18	Labor Expenses	\$392,450	\$552,523	\$574,624	\$597,609	\$621,513	\$646,374
19	General and Administrative Expenses	\$148,450	\$152,904	\$157,491	\$162,215	\$167,082	\$172,094
20	Operation and Maintenance Expenses	\$228,000	\$234,840	\$241,885	\$264,142	\$272,066	\$280,228
21	Wastewater Collection System Improvement Projects	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
22	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Projects	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
23	Debt Service	\$0	\$13,838	\$13,838	\$228,238	\$228,238	\$228,238
24	Depreciation	\$47,410	\$106,210	\$109,396	\$112,678	\$116,059	\$119,540
25	<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$816,310</b>	<b>\$1,060,315</b>	<b>\$1,097,234</b>	<b>\$1,364,882</b>	<b>\$1,404,958</b>	<b>\$1,446,474</b>
26							
27	<b>YEAR-END BALANCE/OPERATING RESERVE:</b>	<b>-\$23,310</b>	<b>-\$121,615</b>	<b>\$33,331</b>	<b>\$97,729</b>	<b>\$238,332</b>	<b>\$370,307</b>
28							
29	<b>YEAR-END CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEES <sup>(1)</sup>:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$21,030</b>	<b>\$21,030</b>	<b>\$21,030</b>	<b>\$21,030</b>	<b>\$21,030</b>
30							
31	<b>YEAR-END OPERATING RESERVE <sup>(2)</sup>:</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>	<b>-11.5%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>7.2%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>
32							
33	<b>ANNUAL INCREASE IN MONTHLY BASE RATE:</b>		<b>40.0%</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
34	<b>ANNUAL INCREASE IN MONTHLY COMMODITY CHARGE:</b>		<b>40.0%</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>8.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
35	<b>SINGLE-FAMILY MONTHLY INCREASE:</b>		<b>\$14.41</b>	<b>\$15.13</b>	<b>\$9.18</b>	<b>\$5.98</b>	<b>\$1.61</b>

1. Capital Improvement Fees are for growth related improvements and are not used for operating expenses.

2. Percentage operating reserve is based on the year-end Operating Reserve Fund Balance divided by Total Expenditures less On-going Capital Projects.

As shown in Table 7, capital improvement fees have a fund balance of \$0 at the end of FY 24-25 reflecting the current amount of readily available reserve funds in the sewer capital improvement reserve fund. This amount increases by the recommended future capacity charge shown in Table 7 of the SMP, updated in Table 5 herein to reflect recent improvements completed and current needs or \$10,515 per HE added due to growth. Assuming 2 HEs are added per year, this would equate to a capital improvement reserve fund of approximately \$105,100 at the end of FY 29-30.

A summary of the sewer utility revenue and expenditures associated with the proposed rate structure is shown on Figure 2. As indicated by this bar graph, the new rate structure will increase revenues such that projected expenditures can be met and reserves can begin to be maintained to eventually reach recommended levels.

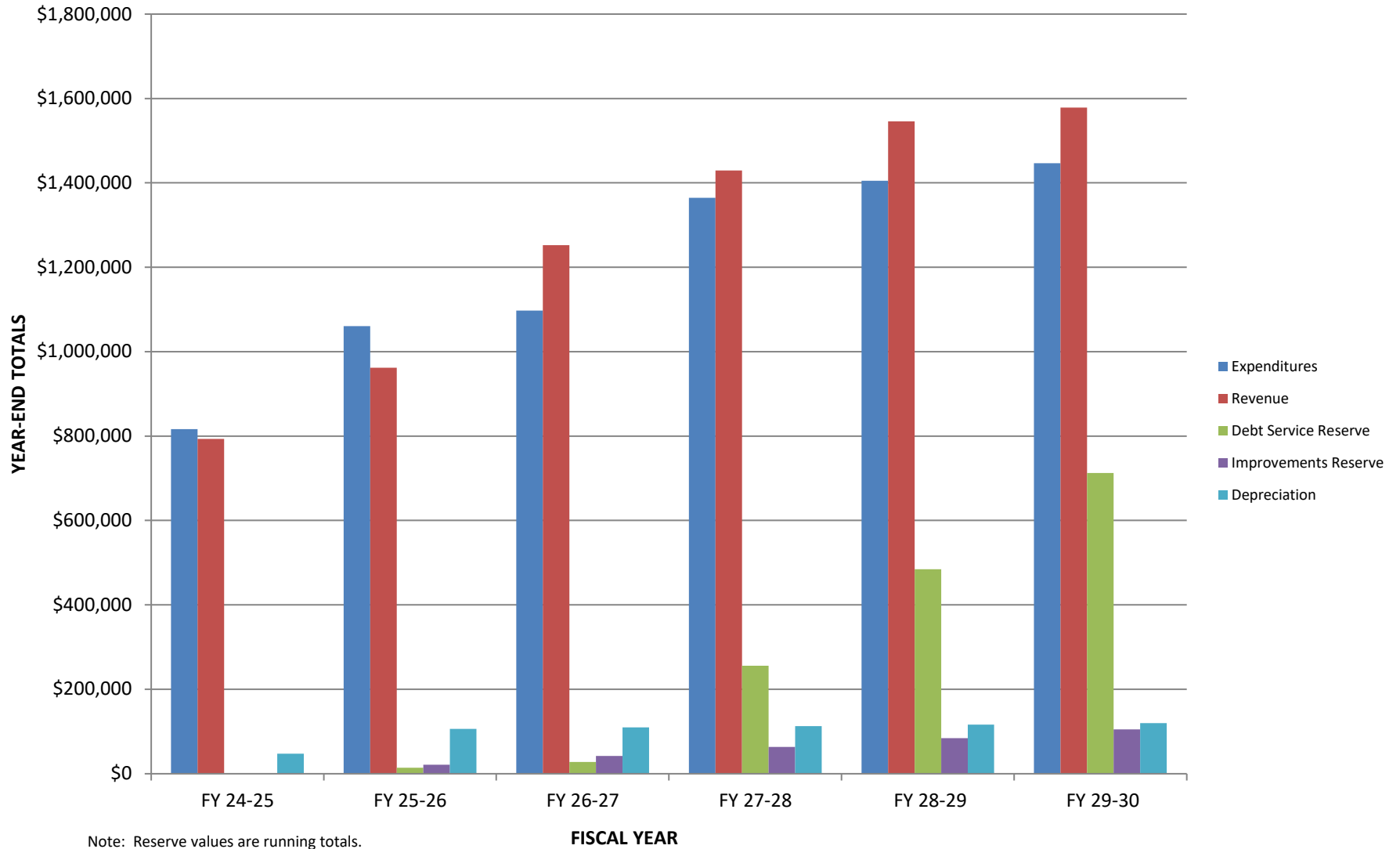
### Proposed Sewer Rates

Proposed sewer rates shown in Table 7 with depreciation being funded will increase the typical residential bill over the next five years by the following amounts: \$14.41 (40%), \$15.13 (30%), \$9.18 (14%), \$5.98 (8%), and \$1.61 (2%). All accounts will now be charged based on winter water usage as well.

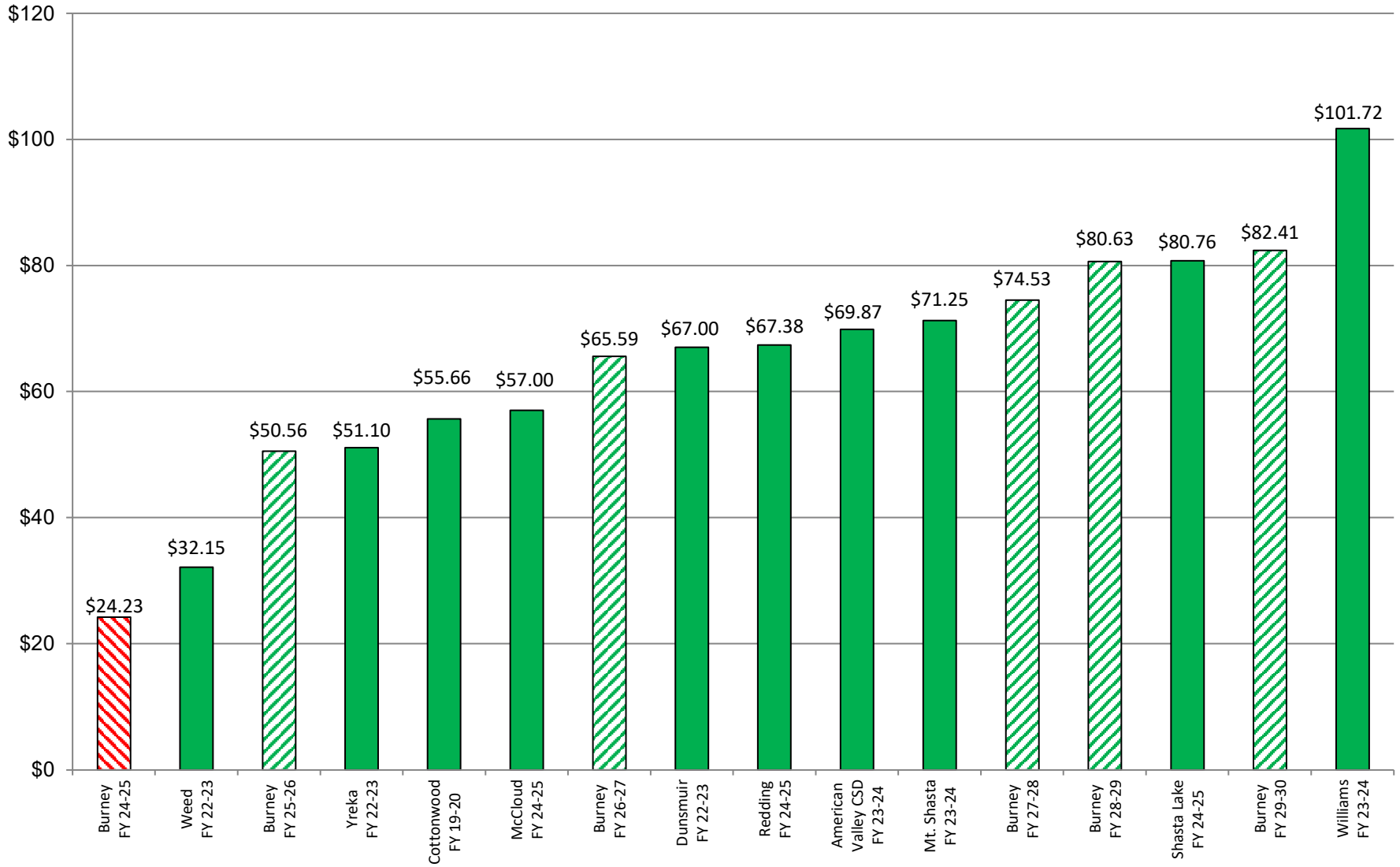
If rates were increased more slowly, the District would not be able to fund as much depreciation and would continue to operate in the red for a longer period of time, improvements could not be constructed as soon as needed, and adequate reserve funds would not accumulate.

A comparison of wastewater rates for neighboring wastewater systems is shown in Figure 3. As one can see, the single-family monthly service charges range from a low of \$24.23 for the current District rate to a high of \$101.72 at the City of Williams. The communities included typically have similar collection and advanced treatment systems; however, the age and condition of the sewer system varies. Additionally, many of these systems have future rate increases planned. This comparison indicates that after the five-year increases are in effect, the proposed single-family residential average District rate of \$82.41 will be in line with current rates of similar communities.

**FIGURE 2  
PROJECTED SEWER REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES  
BASED ON PROPOSED RATE SCHEDULE**



**FIGURE 3**  
**AVERAGE SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL MONTHLY SEWER BILL COMPARISON**





2015 SEWER RATE ORDINANCE

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**APPENDIX A**

# Burney Water District



20222 HUDSON STREET, BURNEY, CA 96013 (530) 335-3582

## ORDINANCE 2015 S-1

### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BURNEY WATER DISTRICT, AMENDING EXHIBIT 1, TABLE B OF SEWER ORDINANCE NO. 2014 S-1; SETTING SEWER BASE RATE CHARGES AND REPEALING ALL OTHER ORDINANCES OR PORTIONS THEREOF IN CONFLICT.**

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Burney Water District has determined that an increase is necessary in the sewer base rate charges in order to cover rising operational costs and infrastructure replacement costs.

Now Therefore, Be It Ordained by the Board of Directors of the Burney Water District, that the following amendments to Exhibit 1, Table B of Sewer Ordinance No. 2014 S-1 shall be added as follows:

Section 1. Sewer Ordinance 2014 S-1: Exhibit 1, Table B is hereby amended to read as follows:

- "7. **Sewer Base Rate Charges** are determined by the Average Winter Flow (AWF), measured in Cubic Feet (CF).  
The AWF is calculated by averaging December, January and February metered water usage. The Sewer Base Rates are adjusted annually, with rate changes reflected on the August billing cycle.  
The Sewer Base Rate Charge Formula is approximately  $(0.017 \times CF) + 24.23$ .

<b>Average Winter Flow (in CF)</b>	<b>Sewer Base Rate Charge</b>
Readiness to Serve	\$0.00
0-4	\$24.23
5-99	\$24.32
100-199	\$25.93
200-299	\$27.63
300-399	\$29.33
400-499	\$31.03
500-599	\$32.73
600-699	\$34.43
700-799	\$36.13
800-899	\$37.83
900-999	\$39.53
1000-1099	\$41.23
1100-1199	\$42.93
1200-1299	\$44.63
1300-1399	\$46.33
1400-1499	\$48.03
1500-1599	\$49.73
1600-1699	\$51.43
1700-1799	\$53.13
1800-1899	\$54.83
1900-1999	\$56.53
2000-2099	\$58.23
2100-2199	\$59.93
2200-2299	\$61.63
2300-2399	\$63.33
2400-2499	\$65.03
2500-2599	\$66.73
2600-2699	\$68.43
2700-2799	\$70.13

2800-2899	\$71.83	
2900-2999	\$73.53	
3000-3099	\$75.23	
3100-3199	\$76.93	
3200-3299	\$78.63	
3300-3399	\$80.33	
3400-3499	\$82.03	
3500-3599	\$83.73	
3600-3699	\$85.43	
3700-3799	\$87.13	
3800-3899	\$88.83	
4300-4399	\$97.33	
4400-4499	\$99.03	
4600-4699	\$102.43	
4800-4899	\$105.83	
5100-5199	\$110.93	
5300-5399	\$114.33	
5600-5699	\$119.43	
6600-6699	\$136.43	
7600-7699	\$153.43	
7700-7799	\$155.13	
8300-8399	\$165.33	
8800-8899	\$173.83	
11100-11199	\$212.93	
12600-12699	\$238.43	
12700-12799	\$240.13	
15700-15799	\$291.13	
17600-17699	\$323.43	
20400-20499	\$371.03	
Restaurant	\$26.34	Plus \$1.90 per 100 cubic foot of water consumption
Sleepy Hollow	\$186.71	
Charm Motel	\$389.81	
Green Gables Motel	\$313.63	
Shasta Pines	\$364.42	
Burney Motel	\$164.15	
Burney Mt. Power/Ind.	\$474.48	

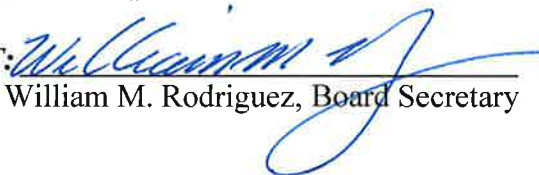

Section 2. All ordinances, parts of ordinances or agreements inconsistent or in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 3. The provisions of this Ordinance shall take effect on the billing scheduled to be mailed the first week of July 2015, after adoption by the Board of Directors of the Burney Water District.

Section 4. If any section, sub-section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this ordinance. The Board of Directors of the Burney Water District hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, sub-section, sentence, clause, or phrase if declared unconstitutional or invalid.

Duly adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 2015 by the following vote of the Board of Directors of the Burney Water District.

Ayes **HAMLIN, HOMER, BURKEY, TAYLOR**  
 Noes **-**  
 Absent **RYNESS**  
 Abstain **-**

**ATTEST:**  William M. Rodriguez, Board Secretary  
 Fred Ryness, President of the Board