



Water & Sewer Update

Increased Distribution/Collection Fee Effective Oct. 1, 2017

Charlotte County Utilities Department

AUGUST 2017

Some customers connecting to Charlotte County's water and sewer system will be charged increased fees effective Oct. 1, 2017. The staged annual increases were approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on Jan. 26, 2016.

The distribution/collection fee will increase from \$1,290 to \$2,090 for new water service and increase from \$740 to \$1,455 for new sewer service, per [Schedule A](#) on page 8 of approved [Resolution Number 2016-017](#). **Customers planning to connect to the water or sewer system later can lock in the current rate by paying now, before it increases on October 1.**

There are several circumstances where the increased distribution/collection **fee may NOT affect customers**, such as:

- Connections in [existing MSBU areas](#) where the distribution/collection fee has already been assessed via property tax bills
- Connections in neighborhoods where the developer already paid the distribution/collection fee
- Connections that were requested as a line extension, or mandatory connections that resulted from a line extension (the distribution/collection fee is not charged in lieu of the adopted line extension charge)

Most of the customers that will be charged the increased distribution/collection fee when they connect are located adjacent to existing lines (currently in mandatory status), or are located outside of MSBU areas or project areas. Since there are various circumstances to consider, property owners, builders and developers are encouraged to call 941-764-4300 x 3 to understand each property's cost of connecting to the system.

The staged annual increases in the distribution/collection fee were designed to equalize with the approved line extension charge; to make the total expenses to connect to the system more consistent amongst all customers by 2018. The Utilities Department must also adjust to the increasing costs of construction and maintenance of the countywide system.

The increased distribution/collection fee does not affect the monthly base facility charges, usage or consumption charges, which have been in effect since 2016 and are not proposed to increase at this time. A listing of the monthly rates and rate resolutions can be found on the Utilities Department's "[Rates](#)" web page.

Residents who don't currently have sewer service available can follow development of the [Charlotte County Sewer Master Plan](#), a 15-year road map for future development of sewer systems in the County. While the [plan](#) is not yet approved by the BCC, it will identify geographic areas that will be prioritized for the next five to ten years.

Customers planning to connect to the water or sewer system are encouraged to contact us as soon as possible to find out if service is available and take advantage of the current rates.

CONTACT US: 941-764-4300 x 3

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Staged annual increases are necessary to cover the increasing costs of construction, labor, conveyance, maintenance and processing of wastewater, and delivery of potable water.