

Maple Ridge Sewer Rate Amending Bylaw No. 8027-2025

Recommendation:

THAT Maple Ridge Sewer Rate Amending Bylaw No. 8027-2025 be given first, second and third readings.

**Report Purpose and
Summary Statement:**

The annual sewer levy funds both the City's local sewer infrastructure and maintenance, as well as regional wastewater treatment costs. Sewer rates generate sufficient revenue to cover the cost of providing those services.

Financial Impact:

The 25.00% rate sewer increase in 2025 equates to a total increase of \$136.18 for a single-family dwelling. The sewer parcel charge remains unchanged at \$35.00, resulting in a total increase of 23.50%. In 2025, the average sewer fee per property will be about \$716.

Strategic Alignment:

Climate Leadership & Environmental Stewardship. Both the City and region are improving wastewater treatment to reduce their impact on the environment.

To: Mayor and Council

File number: [4264888]

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BACKGROUND:

ANALYSIS:

Discussion:

The 2025 sanitary sewer utility levy is increasing by 25% as a result of rising expenses incurred by Metro Vancouver for the North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant. This has imposed considerable financial stress on regional municipalities, including Maple Ridge. Each household will see an annual increase of \$90, culminating in an approximate \$3 million total increase for the City. The parcel charge will remain at \$35, bringing the overall increase to 23.5%. From 2026-2029, the sewer rate increases are planned to revert to 8.5%, maintaining consistency with the previously established financial plans for the sewer utility levy. Future adjustments may be possible as regional projects are completed, allowing the City to balance infrastructure needs with fiscal responsibility.

Strategic Alignment:

Climate Leadership & Environmental Stewardship. Both the City and region are improving wastewater treatment to reduce their impact on the environment.

Financial Impact:

The Sewer Utility funds regional capital expenditures through an allocation model that distributes rate increases over time to utility ratepayers. It also covers local sewer infrastructure and maintenance costs. Typically, 65% of sewer fees go toward regional wastewater treatment, which has been increasing by 10% annually, while the remaining 35% funds local infrastructure and maintenance.

Capital project funding contributes to year-to-year fluctuations in sewer rates. Any capital investment impacts from new wastewater regulations will be addressed at the regional level, with member municipalities sharing the costs.

For now, the Region's 10% average annual increase is expected to continue.

CONCLUSION:

The region's significant investments in wastewater treatment have increased costs for the municipalities it serves. This bylaw amendment ensures sufficient funding to meet both Maple Ridge's regional obligations and ongoing investment in local sewer infrastructure and service delivery.

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Attachments: (A) 2025-2029 Sewer Rate Bylaw No. 8027-2025

Report Approval Details

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Attachments:	- 2025-2029 Sewer Rate Bylaw No. 8027-2025.docx
Final Approval Date:	Mar 28, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Trevor Thompson, Chief Financial Officer

Carolyn Mushata, Director of Legislative Services and Corporate Officer

Scott Hartman, Chief Administrative Officer