Suburban Lancaster
SEWER AUTHORITY
Collect. Treat. Protect.

NOTICE TO SLSA CUSTOMERS
SEWER RATE INCREASE

Effective July 1, 2026, the SLSA billing rates were increased from $145.00 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) per quarter to the new rate of $152.50 per EDU per quarter, or $50.83 per EDU per month for accounts billed on a monthly basis. The rate increase will be reflected in the sewer bill for the third calendar quarter of 2026 (or July 2026 for accounts billed on a monthly basis). For non-residential customers who are billed on a metered water consumption basis, the rate has been increased from $9.67 per thousand gallons to $10.17 per thousand gallons.

The rate increase is needed to pay for maintenance, repairs, and improvements to SLSA's collection and conveyance system (including 14 sewage pumping stations and about 100 miles of sewer piping); SLSA's share of capital projects at the City of Lancaster's Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant; and general increases in SLSA's costs to operate its system.

All sewage collected within SLSA's service area is ultimately conveyed to the City of Lancaster's Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment and disposal. In addition, sewage from SLSA is conveyed through portions of the City of Lancaster's conveyance facilities (sewage pumping stations and pipelines) on its way to the City Plant. The City is undertaking ongoing upgrade and improvement projects for its treatment plant and its conveyance facilities. Some of these projects are mandated by the ongoing Chesapeake Bay Restoration Program. SLSA is obligated to pay a portion of the costs associated with these projects based upon its flow contribution to the City's sewerage facilities.

Grease buildup at SLSA's pumping stations is a persistent problem. Handling grease buildup represents significant operating costs for SLSA for grease removal and disposal and use of chemicals to control grease buildup and odors. Because grease has a detrimental effect downstream on operations at the City's Treatment Plant, SLSA is obligated to remove the grease from its pumping stations and dispose of it at licensed facilities at high costs to customers.

SLSA is very aware of the impact of increased billing rates on its customers and is committed to minimizing its costs and the resulting impact on its user fees. Nevertheless, certain expenditures such as those described above are unavoidable and SLSA is contractually obligated to include these in our rate structure.