

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the Standby Charge Ballot for County Service Area No. 7 - Zone 2:**

- 1. What is the purpose of the Standby Charge?**
  - The Standby Charge is proposed to fund the maintenance and operation of sanitary sewer infrastructure, specifically the Big Basin Water Company Wastewater Treatment Plant, along with related administrative and incidental costs in County Service Area No. 7 - Zone 2.
- 2. How much is the Standby Charge, and what does it cover?**
  - The total proposed assessment for CSA 7 - Zone 2 is \$68,050.85, with Standby Charges accounting for \$15,847.40. The Standby Charge ensures that vacant parcels contribute to covering the operation and maintenance costs of the Big Basin Water Company Wastewater Treatment Plant, even if they are not actively discharging to the treatment plant.
- 3. How will the Standby Charge be collected?**
  - If the proposed charges pass, your portion of the assessment will be added to the fiscal year 2024-25 property tax bill and collected by the Tax Collector's office in two installments.
- 4. What does a vote in favor or against the Standby Charge mean?**
  - A vote in favor approves the formation of Zone 2 and funding for the Big Basin Water Company's Wastewater Treatment Plant. A vote against rejects the formation and funding of CSA 7 - Zone 2, indicating a preference for an alternative management of the sewer facility.
- 5. When is the Public Hearing, and what is its purpose?**
  - The Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The County Board of Supervisors will take public testimony, hear protests, tabulate Standby Charge Ballots, and take final action on the levy of assessments.
- 6. How and when can I submit my Standby Charge Ballot?**
  - Ballots can be submitted at any time before the end of the Public Hearing. Complete the Ballot portion, mark it "In Favor of Standby Charge" or "Oppose Standby Charge," sign it, and return it by mail or hand delivery to the Deputy CAO. Ensure proper sealing and labeling if not using the provided envelope.
- 7. What happens if my Ballot is not marked, unsigned, or not received on time?**
  - Any Ballot returned unmarked, unsigned, or not received by the Deputy CAO before the end of the Public Hearing will be rejected and not counted. The assessment will not be imposed if Ballots opposing the assessment exceed those in favor.
- 8. Where can I find more information about CSA 7 - Zone 2 or the Ballot?**
  - For additional information, contact Beatriz Barranco, Senior Civil Engineer, at 701 Ocean Street, Room 410, Santa Cruz, California 95060, or by phone at 831-477-3907. The Engineer's Report is available for review at the County offices during regular business hours.

**9. What is the basis for the assessment charges, and how are they determined for each parcel?**

- The basis for assessment charges and charges proposed for each parcel are outlined in Exhibit A and are determined using the Government Code, specifically Government Code 25215.7, which allows reasonable fees or charges for sewer facilities.

**10. Why is a Standby Charge imposed on vacant parcels?**

- The Standby Charge on vacant parcels ensures that all properties connected to the sewer system contribute to the costs of maintaining the Big Basin Water Company Wastewater Treatment Plant, even if they are not actively discharging.

**11. How is the charge distributed among different property types?**

- The methodology uses equivalent benefit analysis, considering factors like property use. Commercial or public properties with higher use have higher charges relative to single-family residential parcels. No charge is imposed if it exceeds the reasonable cost conferred on the parcel due to its proportional share of facility costs.