



## ORDINANCE NO. 28733

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to wastewater and surface water management;  
2 amending Chapter 12.08 of the Tacoma Municipal Code by amending  
3 Section 12.08.320 thereof to correct 2021 and 2022 rates and charges for  
4 the discharge of septic holding tank contents, to remain at 2020 levels for  
5 years 2021 and 2022, to become effective retroactive to January 1, 2021;  
6 and declaring an emergency, making necessary the passage of this  
7 ordinance and its becoming effective immediately.

8 WHEREAS the guiding strategy for 2021-2022 rate adjustments is to  
9 maintain minimum cost of service rate increases for financial sustainability while  
10 being responsive to the financial impacts of COVID-19, and

11 WHEREAS, on November 24, 2020, the City Council passed Ordinance  
12 No. 28704, adjusting wastewater and surface water rates for years 2021 and 2022,  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, while the City Council approved overall rate increases of 1.5 and  
15 2 percent for 2021 and 2022, respectively, the rate increase for the discharge of  
16 septic holding tank contents set forth in Tacoma Municipal Code (“TMC”) 12.08.320  
17 was approved at a nearly 29 percent increase, based on a cost of service analysis,  
18 and does not conform to the guiding strategy for rate adjustments, and

19 WHEREAS, after additional review, the Environmental Services (“ES”)  
20 Department desires to correct the rate increase to conform to the guiding strategy  
21 for rate adjustments, and further desires to phase-in increases in the rate for  
22 discharge of septic holding contents to reach cost of service and ensure that the  
23 methodology for calculating cost of service is as accurate as possible, and

24 WHEREAS ES staff is recommending that the rates set forth in  
25 TMC 12.08.320 be amended to remain at 2020 rates, effective retroactive to  
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January 1, 2021, to more closely align with other rates in TMC 12.08 and to allow time for additional research and cost of service analysis; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That Section 12.08.320 of the Tacoma Municipal Code is hereby amended as set forth in the attached Exhibit "A," retroactive to January 1, 2021.

Section 2. That the facts and conclusions as set forth in the above-stated recitals are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein, and based upon the same, an emergency exists, making this ordinance effective upon passage by an affirmative vote of at least six members of the City Council.

Section 3. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance, including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerkal errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Passed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Deputy City Attorney



EXHIBIT "A"

CHAPTER 12.08  
WASTEWATER AND SURFACE WATER  
MANAGEMENT – REGULATION AND RATES

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**12.08.320 Discharge of holding tank contents – Charges – Report.**

A. A charge shall be made for the total gallons of holding tank waste material discharged at the wastewater treatment plant, and shall be payable to the City Treasurer and credited to the Wastewater Management Fund. The charge shall be as follows:

**Effective Date: January 1, 2021:**

	From Within the City	From Outside the City
Septic Tank Wastes (Holding, Cesspool, etc.) and Chemical Toilet Wastes	\$ <del>19.70</del> <u>15.26</u> /100 gal.	\$ <del>21.67</del> <u>16.79</u> /100 gal.

**Effective Date: January 1, 2022:**

	From Within the City	From Outside the City
Septic Tank Wastes (Holding, Cesspool, etc.) and Chemical Toilet Wastes	\$ <del>20.09</del> <u>15.26</u> /100 gal.	\$ <del>22.10</del> <u>16.79</u> /100 gal.

B. Prior to the discharge of any material from holding tanks, the operator will correctly identify the source and contents being disposed. Incomplete or inaccurate reporting may result in the application of the highest chargeable rate.

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