SUBSTITUTE
ORDINANCE NO. 28997

AN ORDINANCE relating to wastewater and surface water management; amending the Official Schedule of Stormwater and Wastewater Utility Service Rates and Fees, effective January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026; and amending Chapter 12.08B of the Municipal Code, relating to Use of Sanitary Sewer, by amending Section 12.08B.210, entitled "Rates and fees for wastewater service inside the City limits" to clarify the fees charged for the availability of wastewater service.

WHEREAS the Environmental Services Department, working with the Environmental Services Commission, has updated its multi-year rate plan and developed proposed general revenue increases for the 2025-2026 Biennium for Wastewater and Stormwater customers, and

WHEREAS the proposed rate increases are driven by the lower than planned implemented rate increases in 2021 and 2022 to provide some bill relief to customers during the Covid 19 pandemic, as well as ongoing operating expenses and construction inflation, and

WHEREAS the proposed overall revenue increases are seven percent for Wastewater and eight percent for Stormwater, which also includes increased financial assistance for income-qualifying residential customers, and

WHEREAS the guiding strategy for these rate adjustments is to maintain the lowest responsible cost increase for customers, while maintaining long-term financial sustainability of the utilities, and

WHEREAS the proper operation and adequate funding of the Wastewater and Stormwater utilities produces direct benefits in cleaner water discharges to Commencement Bay, and

WHEREAS the utilities provide infrastructure and services to manage wastewater and stormwater for the protection of health, property, and quality of life for all residents; promote the growth and development of a vibrant economy; and help sustain a healthy environment, and

WHEREAS the utility service rate and fee changes for 2025 and 2026 would become effective January 1 of each year, and

WHEREAS consistent with state law, the City charges certain wastewater fees or penalties when a customer is required to connect to an available public sanitary sewer main as defined in the City's Side Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Availability Manual, but the customer does not connect, and

WHEREAS the Environmental Services Department recommends amending Section 12.08B.210 to clarify the fees charged for the availability of wastewater service; Now, Therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF TACOMA:

Section 1. That the City Council hereby adopts the Recitals of this Ordinance as its formal legislative findings.

Section 2. That the Official Schedule of Stormwater and Wastewater Utility Service Rates and Fees, is hereby amended, effective January 1, 2025, and January 1, 2026, as set forth in the attached Exhibits "A" for Wastewater and "B" for Stormwater, respectively.

Section 3. That Chapter 12.08B of the Municipal Code, relating to Use of Sanitary Sewer, is hereby amended, by amending Section 12.0B.210, entitled "Rates and fees for wastewater service inside the City limits", to clarify the

basis of the fees and penalties, consistent with state law, the City charges for the availability of wastewater service, as more fully set forth in the attached Exhibit "C."

Section 4. That the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, is authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance and Exhibit C, including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Passed _____

_____
Mayor

Attest:

_____
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

_____
Deputy City Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"
(TMC 12.08B – USE OF SANITARY SEWER)

Wastewater Rate and Fee Table								
TMC Reference Section	**Type of Rate or Fee**	**Frequency or Measure**	**Fee and Rate**		**Effective Date**	**Fee and Rate**		**Effective Date**
12.08B.210	Residential Fixed Fee	per month, per single-family residence		$~~30.09~~35.75	January 1, ~~2023~~2025		$~~32.50~~40.04	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
12.08B.210	Residential Flow Rate	per month, per ccf		$~~5.65~~6.27	January 1, ~~2023~~2025		$~~60.5~~6.34	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
12.08B.210.D	Low Income Residential Rate and Fee Reduction	per month	35 percent reduction		January 1, 2023			
12.08B.220.C	Outside City Residential Fixed Fee	per month, per ccf	110 percent	$~~33.10~~39.33	January 1, ~~2023~~2025	110 percent	$~~35.75~~44.04	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
12.08B.220.C	Outside City Residential Flow Rate	per month, per ccf	110 percent	$6.~~22~~90	January 1, ~~2023~~2025	110 percent	$6.~~66~~97	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
12.08B.220.B	Outside City Connection Fee (Fixed Fee portion only – Connection charge in lieu of assessment also applies per TMC 12.08B.220.D)	Per connection		$1,250.00	January 1, 2021			
12.08B.220. D	Outside City Connection Charge-in-lieu-of-Assessment	per Assessable Unit of Frontage		$55.00	January 1, 2021			
12.08B.220.J	Contributing Jurisdiction Rate	per month		Rate calculated by control authority in accordance with TMC 12.08B.220.J				

Wastewater Rate and Fee Table								
TMC Reference Section	**Type of Rate or Fee**	**Frequency or Measure**	**Fee and Rate**		**Effective Date**	**Fee and Rate**		**Effective Date**
12.08B.230.B.1	Connection Fee (Fixed Fee portion only – Connection charge in lieu of assessment also applies per TMC 12.08B.230)	per connection		$1,250.00	January 1, 2021			
12.08B.230	Connection Charge-in-lieu-of- Assessment	per connection		Rate calculated by control authority in accordance with TMC 12.08B.230	January 2, 2021			
12.08B.250.A	Special Approved Discharge Annual Fixed Administration Fee	per permit, per 365 days		$650.00	January 1, 2021			
12.08B.250.B	Special Approved Discharge Rate	per sampling event, per ccf	FL = Flow rate	$5.~~33~~85	January 1, ~~2023~~2025	FL = Flow rate	$5.~~73~~97	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
		per mg/l, per ccf,	X = TSS	$0.~~007510~~008112		X = TSS	$0.~~008112~~008736	
		per mg/l, per ccf	Y = BOD	$0.~~008262~~009984		Y = BOD	$0.~~009088~~010421	
12.08B.270.B	Holding Tank Waste Discharge Rate	per 100 gallons discharged	From Within the City	$15.26	January 1, ~~2023~~2025	From Within the City	$15.26	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
			From Outside the City	$16.79	January 1, ~~2023~~2025	From Outside the City	$16.79	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
12.08B.280	TAGRO	per product or service		Established by Director based on Market Conditions				

Wastewater Rate and Fee Table

TMC Reference Section	Type of Rate or Fee	Frequency or Measure	Fee and Rate		Effective Date	Fee and Rate		Effective Date
12.08B.290	Pilot Rate Program for Commercial/ Industrial Users			Established by Control Authority in accordance with TMC 12.08B.290				
12.08B.320 12.08B.330	Commercial and/or Industrial User Fixed Fee	per month	MF = Monthly fixed fee	$~~15.46~~18.71	January 1, ~~2023~~2025	MF = Monthly fixed fee	$~~16.70~~20.21	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
12.08B.320	Monitored Commercial and/or Industrial User Rate	per sampling event, per ccf	FL = Flow rate	$5.~~33~~85	January 1, ~~2023~~2025	FL = Flow rate	$5.~~73~~97	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
		per mg/l, per ccf	X = TSS	$0.~~007510~~008112		X = TSS	$0.~~008112~~008736	
		per mg/l, per ccf	Y = BOD	$0.~~008262~~009984		Y = BOD	$0.~~009088~~0101421	
12.08B.330	Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit Fee	annual		$700.00	January 1, 1997		$	
12.08B.330	Industrial Wastewater Zero- Discharge Permit Fee	annual		$480.00	January 1, 1997		$	
12.08B.330	Commercial and/or Industrial User Flow Rate	per month, per ccf	Category 1	$~~7.84~~8.73	January 1, ~~2023~~2025	Category 1	$~~8.47~~9.17	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
			Category 2	$~~8.46~~9.78		Category 2	$~~9.14~~10.52	
			Category 3	$~~10.65~~12.03		Category 3	$~~11.51~~12.82	
			Category 4	$~~12.51~~14.13		Category 4	$~~13.52~~15.05	
			Category 5	$~~12.70~~14.96		Category 5	$~~13.72~~16.09	
			Category 6	$~~14.56~~16.91		Category 6	$~~15.73~~18.10	
			Category 7	$~~16.45~~19.11		Category 7	$~~17.77~~20.45	
			Category 8	$~~17.02~~19.87		Category 8	$~~18.39~~21.27	

EXHIBIT "B"
(TMC 12.08D – STORMWATER MANAGEMENT)

STORMWATER RATE AND FEE TABLE								
TMC Reference Section	**Type of Rate or Fee**	**Frequency or Measure**	**Fee and Rate**		**Effective Date**	**Fee and Rate**		**Effective Date**
12.08D.140.A	Special Approved Stormwater Discharge Permit Application Fee (to Stormwater System)	At time of application for each discharge location	$500.00		January 1, 2021			
12.08D.140.A	Special Approved Stormwater Discharge Permit Quantity Rate (to Stormwater System)	Per gallon discharged	$0.00		January 1, 2021	$0.00		January 1, 2022
12.08D.210	Stormwater Fixed Fee	Per Month, per parcel	$~~10.67~~12.34		January 1, ~~2023~~2025	$~~11.42~~13.33		January 1, ~~2024~~2026
12.08D.210	Stormwater Rate – All parcels except Waterfront/Direct discharge	Per Month, per 500 square foot of parcel area	Undeveloped – First Acre or Less	$0.~~30~~34	January 1, ~~2023~~2025	Undeveloped – First Acre or Less	$0.~~32~~37	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
			Undeveloped – Area in Excess of One Acre	$0.~~07~~08		Undeveloped – Area in Excess of One Acre	$0.~~07~~08	
			Light	$~~0.97~~1.11		Light	$1.~~03~~20	
			Moderate	$1.~~33~~53		Moderate	$1.~~41~~65	
			Heavy	$~~1.96~~2.24		Heavy	$2.~~08~~42	
			Very Heavy	$~~2.65~~3.05		Very Heavy	$~~2.81~~3.29	
			Open Space with forested land cover	NA		Open Space with forested land cover	NA	

STORMWATER RATE AND FEE TABLE								
TMC Reference Section	**Type of Rate or Fee**	**Frequency or Measure**	**Fee and Rate**		**Effective Date**	**Fee and Rate**		**Effective Date**
12.08D.210	Stormwater Rate – Waterfront/Direct discharge parcels	Per Month, per 500 square foot of parcel area	Undeveloped – First Acre or Less	$0.~~16~~18	January 1, ~~2023~~2025	Undeveloped – First Acre or Less	$0.~~17~~19	January 1, ~~2024~~2026
			Undeveloped – Area in Excess of One Acre	$0.~~06~~07		Undeveloped – Area in Excess of One Acre	$0.~~07~~08	
			Light	$0.~~52~~59		Light	$0.~~55~~64	
			Moderate	$0.~~71~~81		Moderate	$0.~~75~~87	
			Heavy	$1.~~04~~19		Heavy	$1.~~11~~29	
			Very Heavy	$1.~~41~~62		Very Heavy	$1.~~50~~75	
			Open Space with forested land cover	NA		Open Space with forested land cover	NA	
12.08D.210	Low-income senior and low-income disabled percentage reduction	Percentage Reduction of Stormwater Fixed Fee and Stormwater Rate	35 percent reduction		January 1, 2023			
12.08A.260.A&C	System Development Charge	Per square foot of surface area to be mitigated	Established by separate ordinance based on the location of the benefited parcel and the regional stormwater facility					
12.08A.260.A&E	Maintenance Surcharge	Per square foot of surface area to be mitigated	Established by separate ordinance based on the location of the benefited parcel and the regional stormwater facility					

EXHIBIT C

SUBCHAPTER 12.08B
USE OF SANITARY SEWER

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12.08B.210 Rates and fees for wastewater service inside the City limits.

F. When a parcel located within the City limits has an available public sanitary sewer main as defined in the Side Sewer and Sanitary Sewer Availability Manual, but is not connected to the public sanitary system, the property owner will be charged a fee, as a penalty for not connecting to the public system, equal to the appropriate sewer rate as authorized in this Section 12.08B.210 that the property owner would be charged if the parcel were connected to the public system.