



Community Workshops Summary

Pauma Valley Community Services District (PVCSD/District) provided an opportunity for the Pauma Valley community to attend one of two workshops held Saturday, October 18th at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. regarding the proposed new wastewater rates and updated security-related fees. The workshop also provided an opportunity for property owners affected by the LAFCO annexation to ask questions.

In total, 36 community members participated in the workshops. Key points are summarized below. The supporting [Wastewater Fee Study](#), [Security Fee Report](#), [Workshop Handouts](#), [Workshop Presentation](#), [Public Hearing Notice](#), and [FAQs](#) are located on the District's website.

WASTEWATER

Proposed New Wastewater Rates

The proposed new wastewater rates will have a base charge according to EDU count per property, plus a use charge based on the assigned strength of wastewater generated from customer types. Properties unsure about the assigned EDU count should contact the District for a review. Using the County's data records, homes with four bedrooms or less are assigned one EDU. Each additional bedroom will be charged 0.25 EDU.

The rates are necessary to meet the District's revenue needs to operate the wastewater system, complete needed capital improvements and build reserves as recommended by industry best practices in the event of an emergency and to fulfill potential future loan requirements.

Capital Improvements/Capacity/New Development

While some capital improvement projects may not occur until new development timelines are known, some repairs are needed to keep the wastewater system in compliance with local, state, and federal regulations. Special consideration is needed to maintain a solidly reliable system due to the proximity of the treatment plant near the San Luis Rey River. The District can be heavily fined if there is spillage into the river, not to mention the environmental impacts.

New development fees have been collected for the proposed Oak Tree area (estimated 40-60 new homes), and the fees were used to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant to appropriate capacity. It is unknown when the development will take place; therefore, rate revenue projections from future properties connected to the system were not included in the fee study.

It is noted that the treatment plant's current capacity is 175 million gallons per day (mgd), and currently, the plant processes about 50 mgd daily. Improvements to the Oak Tree Lift Station and the treatment plant lift station are needed, regardless of new connections to keep the current wastewater treatment plant functioning as needed.

Pauma Valley household income statistics do not support the financial need for state grants; however, the District could apply for a low interest loan to complete capital improvements. The estimated loan amount is \$1.6 million, should the District complete all recommended projects in the next five years.

Operating Costs/District Budget/Undesirable Results

A careful review of the District's current operating costs, budget and required revenue was completed as part of the Fee Study. The District is operating on a very limited budget and does not have adequate reserves to pay for an unforeseen event or emergency. PVCSD relies on professional services to complete many tasks required for regulatory compliance, including having a contracted Grade 3 Operator and outsourcing wastewater testing (laboratory) services. The District could not support industry standard salaries to hire full-time positions for those services.

The general manager clearly stated that several decisions were made in the past that affected the status of the District both financially and with the condition of its infrastructure. However, since 2023, many actions have been taken to identify and take measures to address the issues. The Fee Study and updated Capital Improvements Master Plan are two important actions that have been completed to start down a path to right the overall financial health of the District and ensure reliability of the wastewater system. Should the rate increases not be implemented, it is likely that the State of California will intervene, and local control will be removed, resulting in higher costs to ratepayers who will be given no say in the process.

It was noted that the projected revenue under the proposed rates still do not reach targeted financial reserve goals, however, the District will improve its financial position. It was the financial consultant's recommendation to not have steeper rate increases during the next five years and instead, reevaluate revenue needs again in 3-5 years per industry standards.

Note: A discussion took place about the possibility of future development outside of the Oak Tree area. While it may be feasible, that has no bearing on the current status of needed infrastructure improvements or operating and capital revenue needs.

SECURITY AND GATES FEES

The updated security patrol and gate regulatory fees were reviewed. The fees are necessary for patrol supplies, security enhancements, gate repairs, and security vehicles. When considering replacement vehicles, PVCSD will consider other electric vehicles, not only Teslas. It was noted that California government agencies are required to use EVs.

LAFCO ANNEXATION

Some customers who attended the workshops are affected by LAFCO's directive to have their properties annexed into PVCSD's service boundaries and pay associated annexation costs. These properties have been paying rates and receiving services from PVCSD but are not part of PVCSD's sphere of influence. It was clarified that this is a LAFCO directed action. The District did due diligence to request considerations for property owners; ultimately it is not under the District's control. Those who wish to argue the matter need to do so with a LAFCO representative.

OTHER TOPICS

At the request of attendees, the general manager provided an update about the status of the solar project. The project is moving forward and is anticipated to be online upon completion of connection with San Diego Gas and Electric. The result will be a reduction in electricity fees paid by the District.

PVCSD applied for and received a grant to fund its cybersecurity program, which will protect the integrity of the overall wastewater treatment system from potential cyber-attacks.

PUBLIC OPPORTUNITIES

The public may address questions and concerns by attending board meetings. All meetings are held at the District office located at 33129 Cole Grade Road. Remaining meetings for 2025:

- Monday, October 27, 2025 at 10 a.m.
- November 17, 2025 at 10 a.m.*
- December 15, 2025 at 10 a.m.

**Public Hearings will be held at this board meeting to consider adoption of proposed wastewater rates and security-related fees.*

The public may protest the proposed **wastewater rates**. All protests must be submitted in writing (emails are not acceptable) prior to the close of the Public Hearing on Monday, November 17, 2025. The protest process is detailed at www.paumavalleycsd.ca.gov under customer notifications.