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# Charlotte Water

## FY 24 Industrial Sewer Rate Change Update

# Content

- Rate Changes Talking Points and FAQs
- Industrial Waste Charge and Non-Monitored Industries
- Monitored Effluent Charges: Ammonia, COD, TSS
- Septage

# Rate Change Communication

# Key Talking Points/FAQs

- Rates are proposed to increase in three phases:
  - July 1, 2023
  - January 1, 2024
  - Incremental increases annually
  
- Charlotte Water operates under a cost recovery model (e.g. not a for-profit model)
  - Last increase was in 2011
  - Charlotte Water has completed a rate study with a reputable utility consulting firm, Raftelis, to better understand our rates and cost of treatment
  - We are performing cost recovery due to:
    - *Increased costs of treatment*
    - *Treatment plant improvements*
    - *Operational costs, program costs*

# Key Talking Points/FAQs

## □ Why do businesses incur these rates?

- Treatment plants designed and regulated for domestic (residential) strength wastewater
- Industries usually have different/stronger compositions of:
  - *Total suspended solids (TSS)*
  - *Chemical oxygen demand (COD)*
  - *Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)*
- Each industry/business is unique in their usage and discharge

# Key Talking Points Cont'd

## □ How much can I expect my bill to increase?

- Each business is unique, so there is no “one size fits all” answer to how rates will change.
- Your bill is calculated based on how much water you use and your wastewater composition.
- In general, the more you use, the more you pay.
- For monitored industries, the higher the concentration of chemical oxygen demand (COD), total suspended solids (TSS) or ammonia discharged, the more you will pay.

# Industrial Waste Charge and Non- Monitored Industries

# Treatment plants designed and regulated for domestic (residential) strength wastewater

- Industries usually have different/stronger compositions of:
  - Chemical oxygen demand (COD)
  - Total suspended solids (TSS)
  - Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)
  
- Each industry/business is unique in their usage and discharge
  
- Effluent is the term used for wastewater discharge



# Industrial and Commercial Sewer Rates

- All industries incur the Industrial Waste charge, under the Sewer Charges section of your bill
- For Commercial Businesses charges are by volume used at incoming meter
- For Significant Industrial Users charges are by volume measured at the effluent wastewater meter
- Measured in Ccf (1 Ccf = 748 gallons)

Current industrial waste charge: \$0.27/Ccf

SEWER CHARGES			
Usage Fees	Rate/Ccf	x Usage	
	\$5.46	264	\$1,441.44
Sewer Fees (Fixed & Availability)			\$77.75
Sewer, Industrial Waste (chg/Ccf = \$0.27)			\$134.99
Total Sewer Charges			<b>\$1,654.18</b>

# Non-monitored Industrial and Commercial Sewer Rates

□ Non-monitored industries, e.g., breweries and restaurants, incur the high strength volume charge

□ Why?

- Higher than domestic strength wastewater chemical composition of COD, TSS, and/or NH<sub>3</sub>

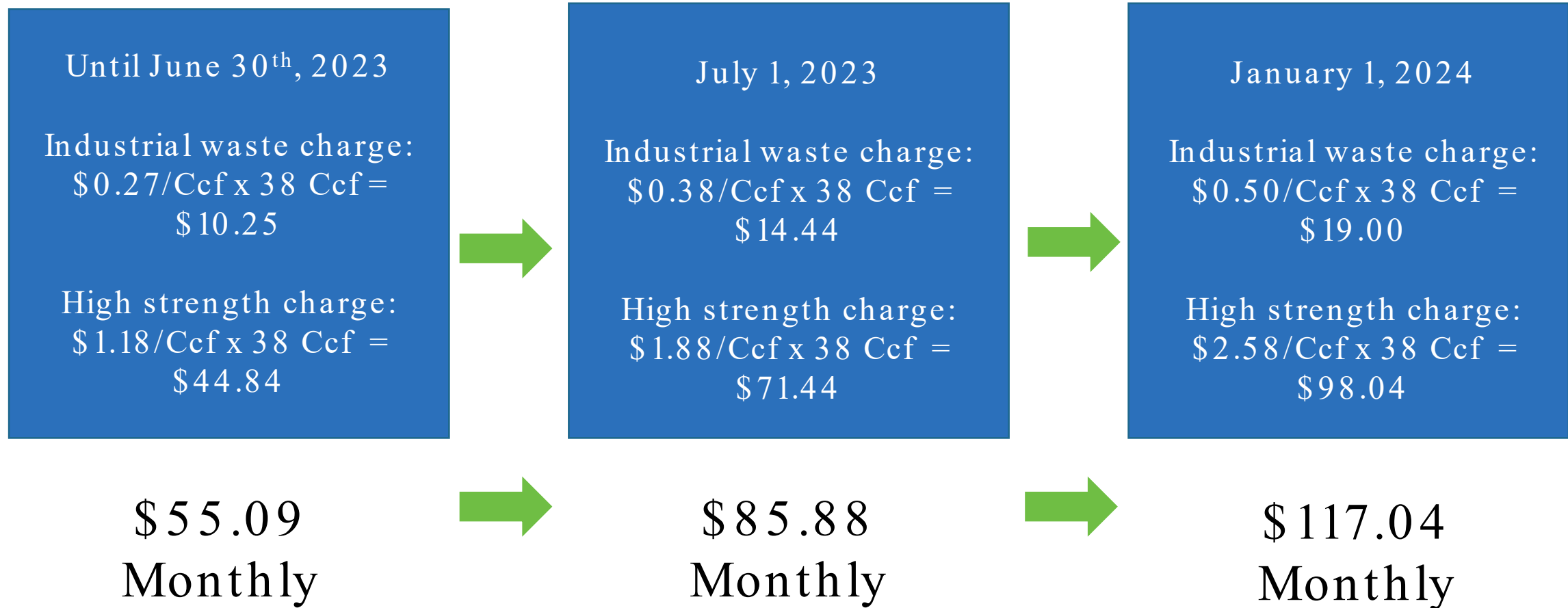
SEWER CHARGES			
Usage Fees	Rate/Ccf	x Usage	
	\$5.46	34	\$185.64
Sewer Fees (Fixed & Availability)			\$49.01
Sewer, Industrial Waste (chg/Ccf = \$0.27)			\$9.18
Sewer, High Strength Volume (chg/Ccf = \$1.18)			\$40.12
		<b>Total Sewer Charges</b>	<b>\$283.95</b>

# Industrial Waste Charge Changing in 3 phases

- Industrial Waste Charge is expected to increase to \$0.38/Ccf
- Incremental annual increases to be expected starting July 1, 2024



# Example: Monthly Charges for a Local Bakery with 38 Ccf use



# Monitored Effluent Charges: Ammonia, COD, TSS

# Treatment plants designed for domestic (residential) strength wastewater

- Industries usually have different/stronger compositions of:
  - Ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ )
  - Chemical oxygen demand (COD)
  - Total suspended solids (TSS)
  
- Each industry/business is unique in their usage and discharge
  
- Effluent is the term used for wastewater discharge

# Monitoring and Sampling

- ❑ Sampling intervals based on your permit
- ❑ Charges based on effluent composition and strength
  - Occur when ammonia, chemical oxygen demand (COD) or total suspended solids (TSS) are above domestic strength levels

Ammonia  
>25 mg/l

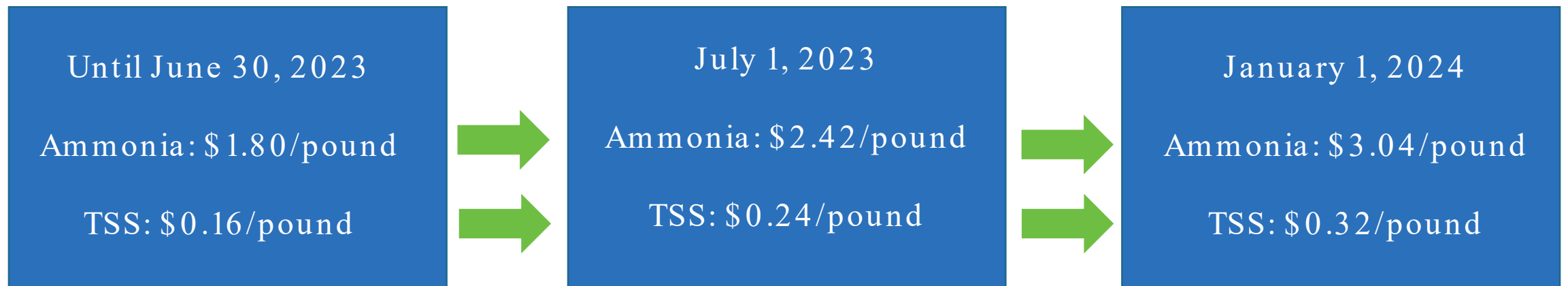
COD  
>500 mg/l

TSS  
>250 mg/l

- ❑ Samples are taken in mg/L and converted to pounds/Ccf using effluent flow submitted by each Significant Industrial User
- ❑ 1Ccf equals 748 gallons

# Monthly System Protections Charges for TSS and Ammonia Changing in 3 phases

- COD - NO proposed change for FY2024: \$0.12
- TSS proposed to increase by \$0.16
- Ammonia proposed to increase by \$1.24
- Proposed changes reflect actual cost of treatment
- Incremental annual increases expected starting July 1, 2024

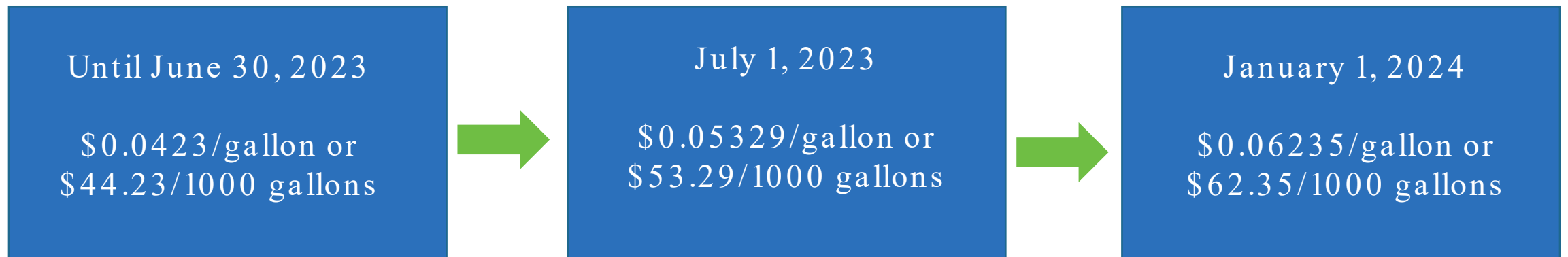




# Septage Rates

# Septage Hauler Rates

- Increase of \$18.12/1000 gallons, in phases
- Proposed changes reflect actual cost of treatment
- Incremental annual increases expected starting July 1, 2024



# DRAFT Additional SIU Slides

# Ideas for potentially reducing your Industrial Charges

- Install pretreatment or upgrade your current system (be sure to request and receive Authorization to Construct prior to changes)
- Water Conservation
  - However, be aware of concentrations of pollutants
- Every Industry is different and there is no one size fits all solution. These are just ideas to think about for saving your industry \$\$\$

# Sampling to Billing

- Self-Monitoring and Industrial Monitoring data is delivered to your Environmental Compliance Specialist for review
- Once reviewed, the data goes into the System Protection database
- When these numbers are entered into the database, the new sampling data will be pulled the next time you are billed.
- Sampling usually applies to bills ~2 months after sampling occurred.

Thank you!

