

## Frequently Asked Questions for Notice to Connect program:

1. What do I have to do to get connected?
  - a. Complete and sign the Application for Sewer Service and return the original to the District for approval.
  - b. Provide a copy of the District approved Application for Sewer Service to the City of Desert Hot Springs (City) or the County of Riverside (County) to obtain a Sewer Opening Permit.
  - c. Complete the septic tank abandonment and sewer connection.
  - d. Provide the District with a copy of the final inspection card from your land use agency.
  
2. Am I required to connect my property to the new sewer system?

Per the District's Sewer Ordinance 2009-2 Sections 3.01 and 8.04:

  - a. *"The Owner of each house, building or property within the District in which plumbing fixtures are installed, which abuts a street or easement in which there is located a Public Sewer, is required at the Owners expense to connect said house, building or property with said sewer, in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance and within the time specified in an official Notice to Connect...In accordance with State Water Code Section 31103."*
  - b. California Water Code 13281 requires the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to prohibit the discharge of wastewater from existing or new individual septic tank disposal systems if sewer is available. This law further states that for a sewer system to be deemed available it is necessary for a sewer system to be within 200 feet of an existing or proposed dwelling unit.
  
3. Who is responsible for connecting my property to the sewer?
  - a. The property owner is responsible for all fees, permits, and contractor costs associated with abandoning/abating the septic system and connecting the plumbing to the sewer lateral at your property line.
  - b. In most cases, seeking out a qualified licensed contractor is the best option to complete the connection work.
  
4. Can I perform the sewer connection and septic tank abatement work myself?
  - a. A portion of the work can be performed by the property owner, however, please contact the City or County for their requirements and additional information.
  
5. What do I do with the inspection card issued by the City or County?
  - a. Once your connection is made and the City or County has approved and signed off on your inspection card, you are required to provide a copy to MSWD.
  
6. Am I required to remove my septic tank?

- a. You do not have to remove your septic tank. Your contractor will pump the septic tank and fill it with sand. This is called abandon in place.
7. Once I am connected to the sewer will there be any other costs?
  - a. Once you are connected to the sewer there will be a monthly sewer service fee in addition to your regular monthly water bill. You can view the Cost of Service [here](#).
8. What does the sewer assessment amount cover?
  - a. The property owner's cost portion for construction of the sewer mainline and the lateral to the property line, including the restoration of the streets/roads.
  - b. MSWD sewer connection fee.
9. What happens to the sewer assessment when I sell my property?
  - a. The assessment is attached to the property and will be transferred with the property to the new owner.
10. What is the Backup Facilities Fee (Sewer Connection Fee)?
  - a. Sewer connection fees are applied to the construction of sewer interceptor lines and upgrades/expansion of treatment facilities and are required when properties are connected to sewer.
  - b. Sewer connection fees **DO NOT** cover the cost for the onsite private sewer connection and septic tank abatement.
11. Do I have to pay the Backup Facilities Fee (Sewer Connection Fee) of \$2,520?
  - a. This fee was included in the assessment amount for your property.
  - b. You were given the opportunity to pay the Sewer Connection Fee with your Notice to Pay Assessment. If no prepayment was made, this amount was included in your assessment on your property taxes.
12. Is there financial assistance available?
  - a. For information on our Financial Assistance program please click [here](#).
13. How many contractor proposals are required when applying for financial assistance?
  - a. A minimum of three (3) proposals from licensed contractors is required to be submitted with your financial assistance application.