

Frequently Asked Questions Supplemental Environmental Project



1. What do I have to do to get connected?
 - a. Complete and sign the Right of Entry and Application for Sewer Service Forms and return them to the District.
2. Who is responsible for connecting my property to the sewer?
 - a. Normally, 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. However, MSWD is offering a one-time free connection and septic abatement to select property owners as part of a special Supplemental Environmental Project currently being planned.
3. Will my septic tank be removed?
 - a. To abate a septic system, the tank does not need to be removed; however, the contractor will pump the septic tank and fill it with sand. This is called abandon in place.
4. 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](#).
5. When will the work be complete?
 - a. Construction on the Supplemental Environmental Project will take place sometime between March 2023 and March 2024.
6. Do I need to be home when the work is being done?
 - a. You will not need to be home while the work is being completed; however, MSWD will contact you prior to the commencement of any work being performed.
7. How long will it take to complete my connection and abatement project?
 - a. From start to finish most homes will have work completed within a week.
8. Will this damage my street?
 - a. Abatement of the septic tank and connecting to the sewer lateral should not impact the streets in your area.

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9. What difference will I see in my wastewater system?
 - a. If your septic tank is in good repair, you will see very little difference. If anything, you should see an improvement in your wastewater service and will be able to avoid added expenses associated with the upkeep of your septic system.
10. Why am I being offered this service for free when others are not?
 - a. MSWD has chosen 21 properties that are located near our well sites.
11. What if I choose not to participate?
 - a. Property owners may choose to opt out of the Supplemental Environmental Project; however, properties that have access to wastewater service and choose not to connect could be subject liens that could impact the shellability of the property or worse, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board Colorado River Basin Region can assess fines of up to \$5,000 per day for non-compliance.
12. Are landscaping services included?
 - a. In general, the District and its contractors will leave the property as it was found. If the work damages landscaping, we will make every effort to repair it to its previous condition.
13. What's the value of joining the wastewater system?
 - a. MSWD is dedicated to protecting our local groundwater supply. One of the most important ways we do this is by replacing septic systems with central sewer to treat wastewater in an environmentally sound manner. Moving properties to the wastewater system saves money and protects our aquifer, our only source of drinking water. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the cleanup of contaminated groundwater is 10 to 100 times the cost of prevention.
14. Why do I need the property owner's signature?
 - a. Since the property owner is legally responsible for the property, we must have authority from the property owner prior to the start of the project. We will make every effort possible to reach all property owners prior to the January 6, 2023 deadline to solicit their approval.