

# Funding our water and wastewater systems

## Customers pay for upkeep, developers pay for growth

Just like a homeowner spends resources on their home, the City invests in maintaining our infrastructure. This includes our water and wastewater (sewer) systems that deliver safe, clean drinking water and reliably dispose of that wastewater after use. Following the City philosophy that growth pays for growth, let's take a look at how we make these investments!

### Customer Rates & Fees

Fund the **repair and replacement** of systems due to general wear and tear. This includes the operating budget and staffing.

**Rates** increase to keep up with inflation, routine updates and repairs. **Services fees** increased in 2022 for the first time in over a decade!

As we plan for the future, rates and fees will increase to support reinvestment in our infrastructure.

### System Development Charges (SDCs)

Fund the **need for increased capacity**. Developers pay these to connect to the existing system.

*Once new development is connected, those new customers pay water and sewer bills just like everyone else.*

As we plan for the future, SDCs will increase as development means more users and requires increased system capacity.

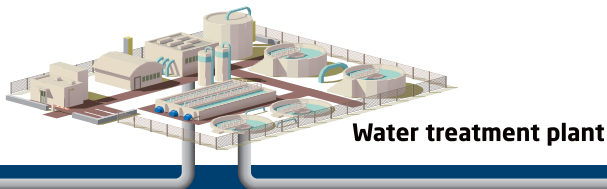


## Examples applied in our water and wastewater systems

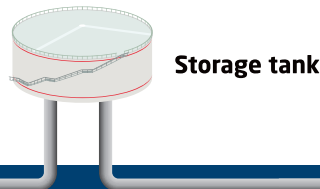
Most of the funding needs for our water system are repair and replacement. Most of the funding needs for our wastewater system are capacity increases.

### Ralston and Arvada water treatment plants, storage tanks and distribution pipes

Ensure water is properly treated to deliver clean, good tasting water.



Water treatment plant



Storage tank



#### Customer Rates and Fees

Two thirds or about 70% of project needs are repairs and replacement.

#### SDCs

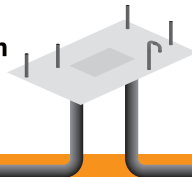
One third or about 30% of project needs are increased capacity needs.

### Wastewater (sewer) pipelines and lift stations

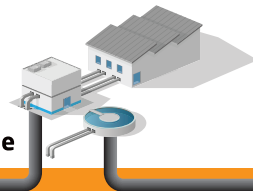
Transport wastewater to our wastewater treatment partner, Metro Water Recovery.



Lift station



Wastewater (sewer) pipeline



#### Customer Rates & Fees

About 30% of project needs are repairs and replacement.

#### SDCs

About 70% of project needs are increased capacity needs.

On Monday, Oct. 17, City Council will decide on the amount of increase for next year based on the Utilities Team recommendation. Learn more at [arvada.org/utilities-transparency](http://arvada.org/utilities-transparency).