

Liquid Waste Program

2023 Fee Proposal



The mission of the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) is to protect public health and the environment by ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.



- **31** Environmental Programs
- Special Fund Department **100%** fee supported
- FY 2022-2023: over **28,000** inspections countywide
- **113** FTE specifically trained Environmental Specialists and support staff



**Environmental
Compliance
Division**

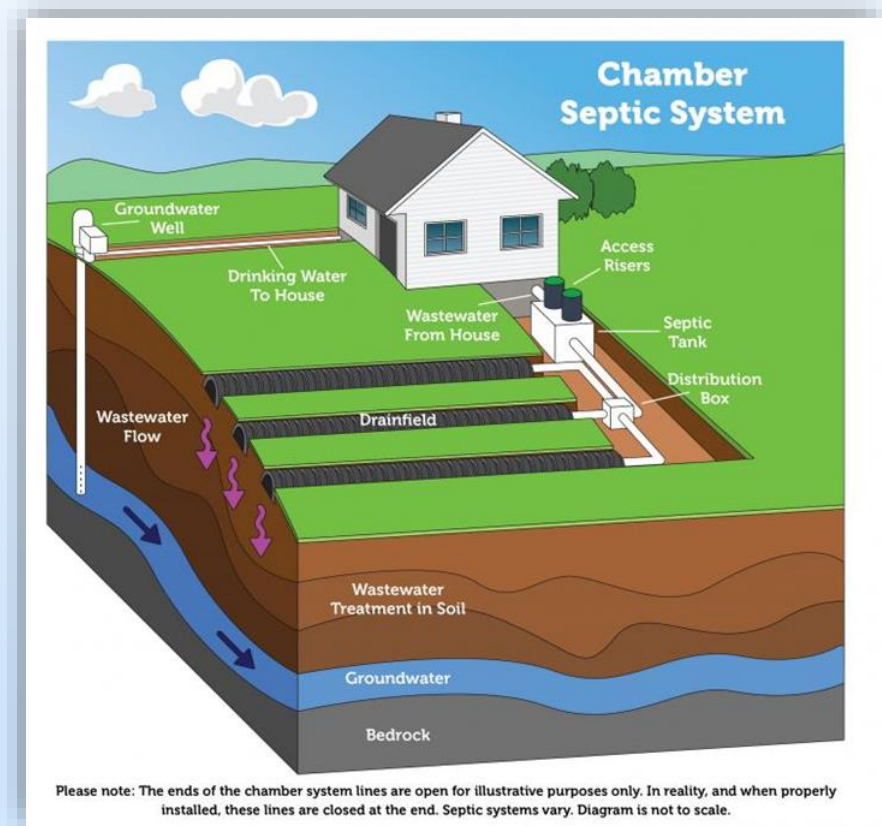


Above Ground Storage Tanks	Cal Accidental Release Prevention Program	Hazardous Materials Business Plan and Storage
Hazardous Waste Storage and Generation	Underground Storage Tanks	Incident Response
Toxic Site Clean up	Wells	Abandoned Well Program
Cross Connection Control Program	Solid Waste Facilities	Land Use
Small Water System	Liquid Waste/Septic Systems	Recycled Water
	Stormwater	

Robert Duncan, Chief
Environmental Compliance

Liquid Waste Program

Where there is no connection to a public sewer system, homeowners and businesses may rely on an **onsite wastewater treatment system (OWTS)**, or septic system, to dispose and treat effluent, or wastewater.



What We Do

The Environmental Management Department (EMD) manages the Liquid Waste Program for Sacramento County to ensure the following:

- ✓ wastewater is **disposed of properly**
- ✓ treatment systems are **installed per requirements**
- ✓ treatment system **repairs are completed**
- ✓ complaints are **investigated**

EMD Environmental Specialist

Specifically Educated and Trained



Liquid Waste Programs are recognized as an extension of Public Health requiring certification as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS)

Program Benefits

- ✓ Septic systems are located in **both** rural and urban areas
- ✓ Surfacing sewage is a **health hazard**, it smells bad, and it brings down property values
- ✓ EMD is **committed** to helping owners maintain their system to keep it from **failing**



Septic System Wastewater May Contain

- bacteria
- viruses
- harmful pathogens



Don't Overload the Commode!

septicmart
www.epa.gov/septic

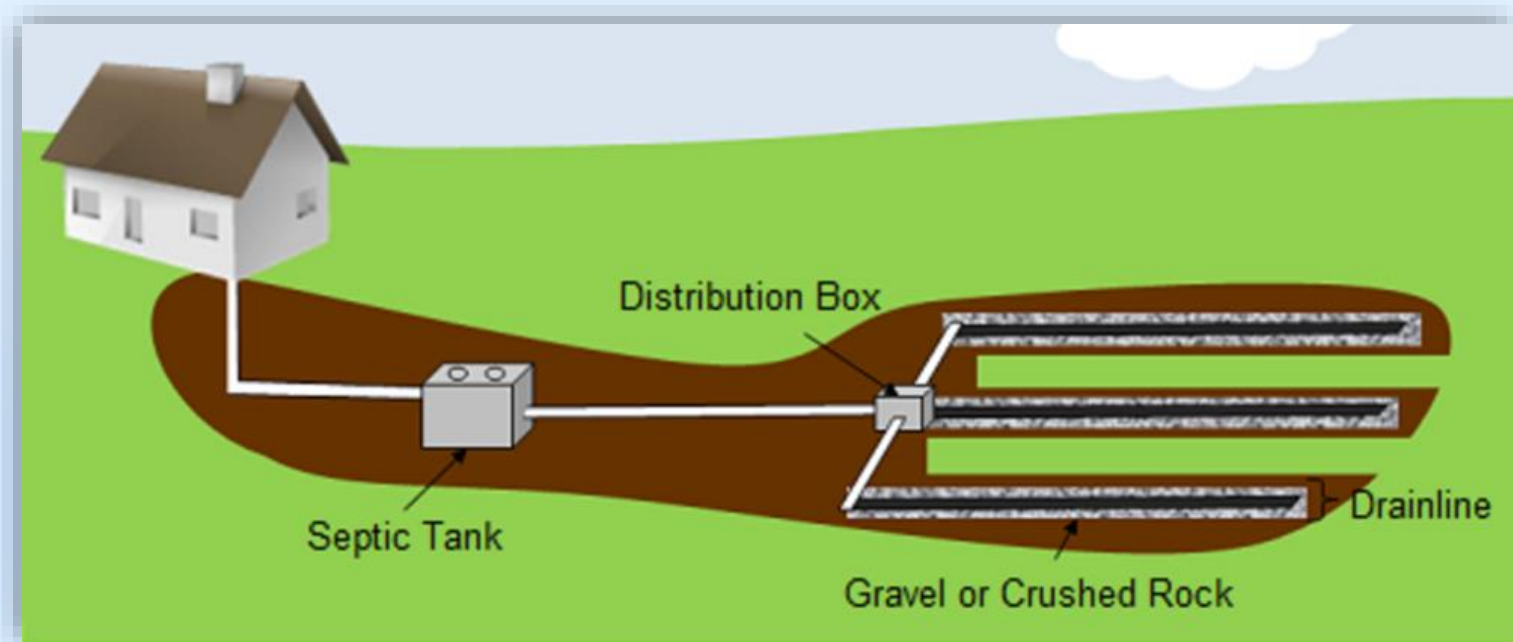
A toilet is not a trashcan. Disposable diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, cat litter and much more can damage your septic system. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.

EPA
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

The image is a poster from the EPA. At the top, it says 'Don't Overload the Commode!' in white text on a dark blue background. Below this is a photograph of a toilet with a wooden plunger stuck in the drain, surrounded by splashing water. In the top right corner of the poster, there is a circular logo for 'septicmart' featuring a cartoon plumber character and the website 'www.epa.gov/septic'. At the bottom, there is a green banner with white text that reads: 'A toilet is not a trashcan. Disposable diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products, cigarette butts, cat litter and much more can damage your septic system. Learn more at www.epa.gov/septic.' The EPA logo is in the bottom right corner of the banner.

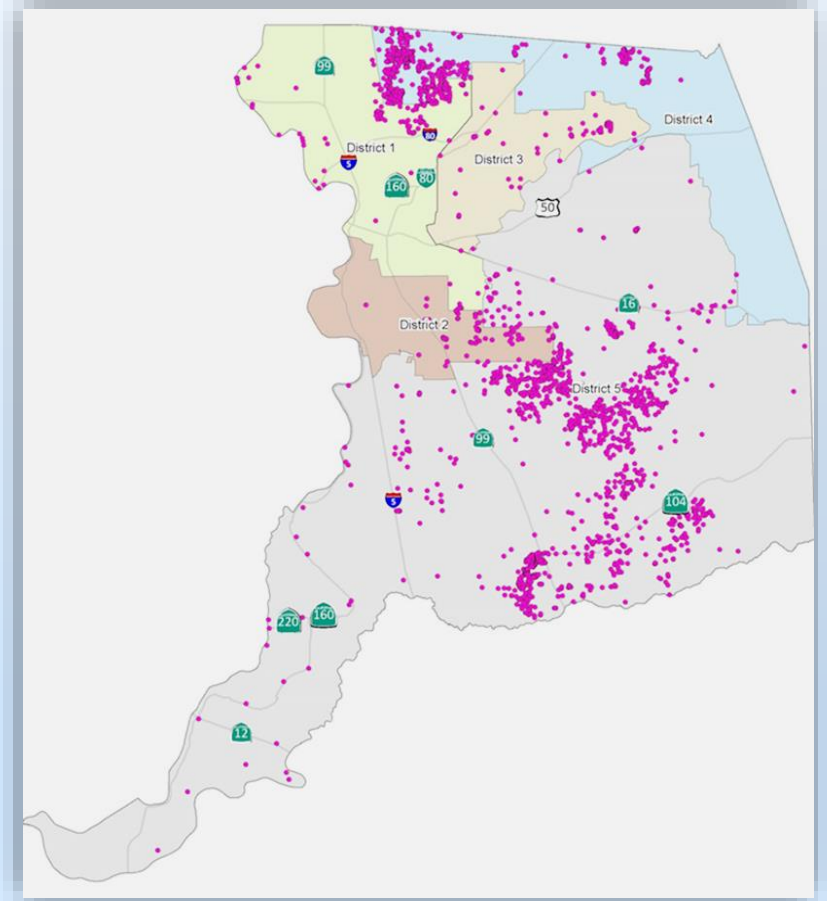
EMD Protects Public Health & the Environment

- New System Plan Review
- System Repairs
- Investigate Complaints
- Pumper Truck Registration



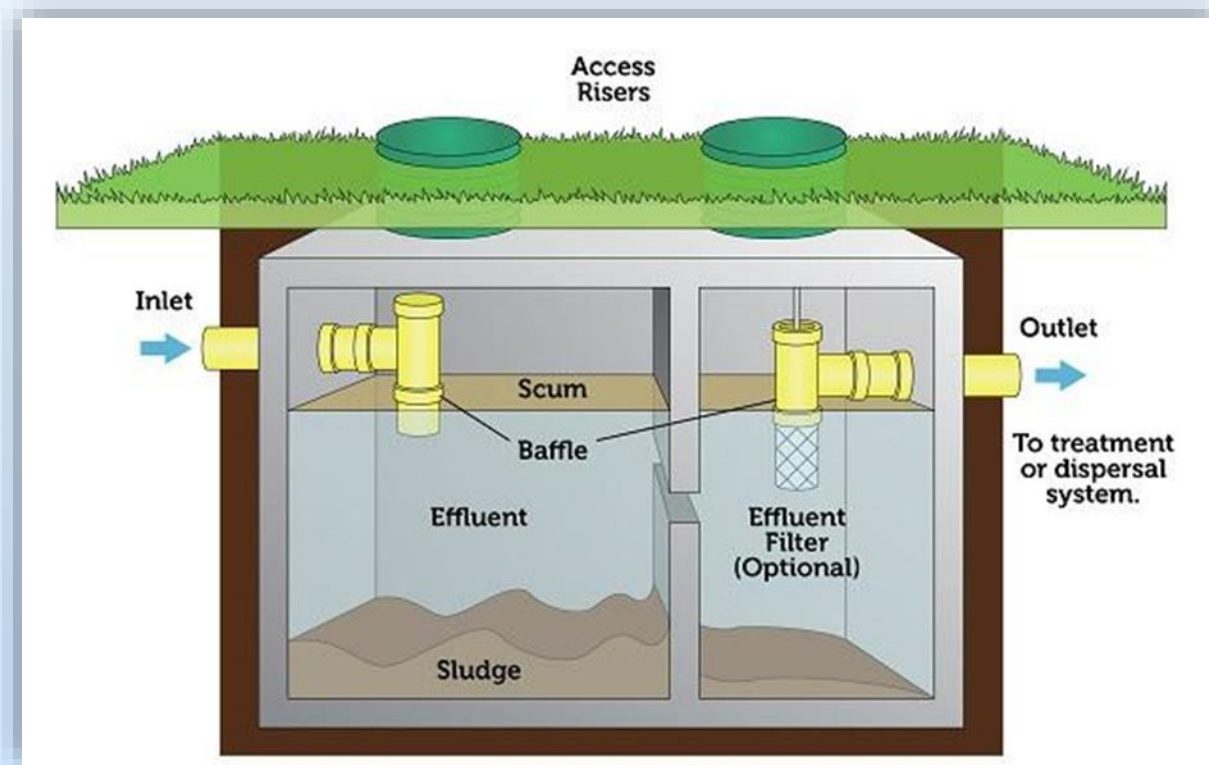
Sacramento County By the Numbers

- Estimated total **20,000** septic systems
- Estimated **many more** systems installed before records maintained
- Over **100** pumper truck inspections every year
- Over **50** complaints investigated in the past 4 years



Septic System Shapes and Sizes

Many systems are Conventional Systems



Two compartments, solids settle with liquid outlet to dispersal system

Septic System Shapes and Sizes

Trench System



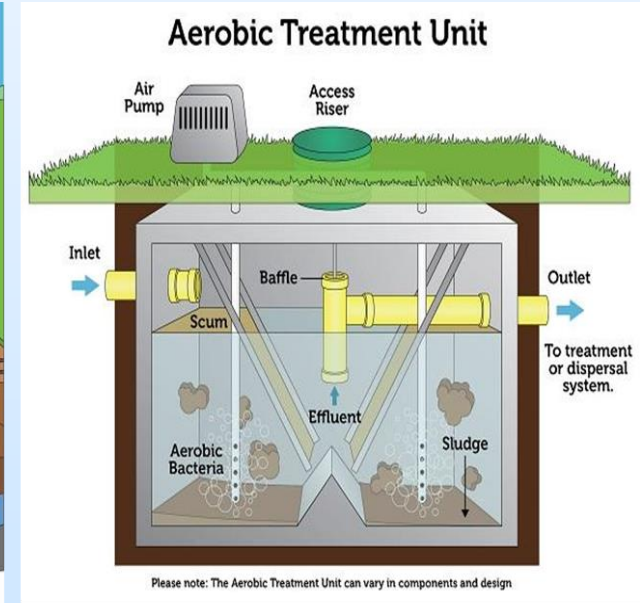
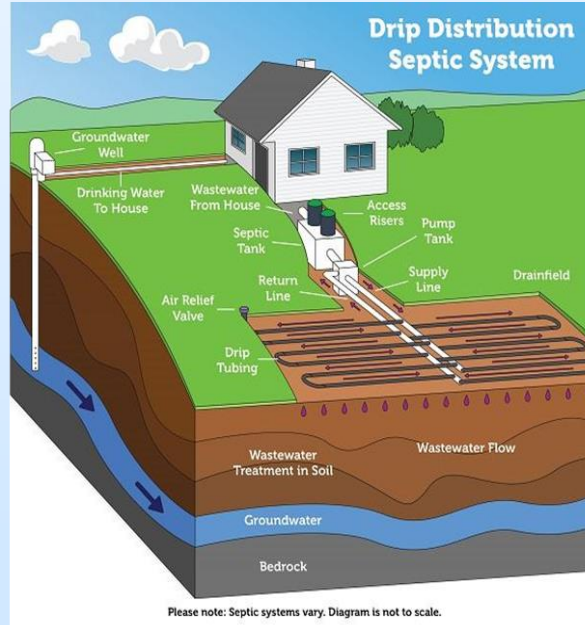
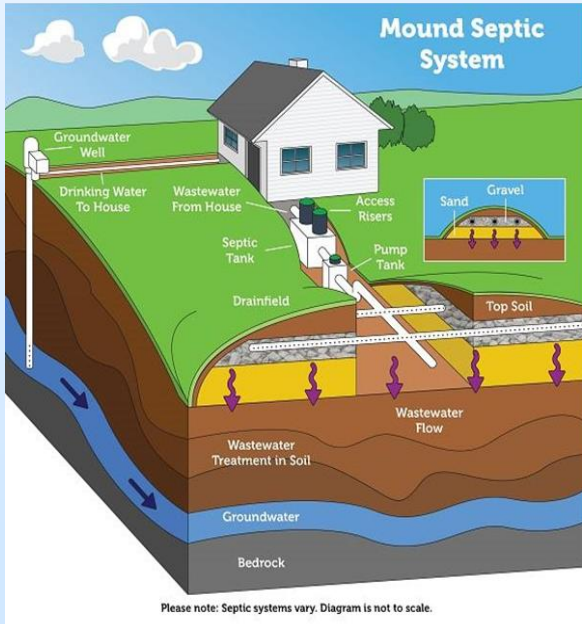
Septic Tanks



Seepage Pits

Advanced Systems May Be Required

when soils are poor and additional treatment is needed



System Installation Repair, Upgrade, or Modification

Per Sacramento County Code, Chapter 6.32, any work performed on a septic system requires a permit.

Permit Application Process:

- Review design criteria
- Compliance with setbacks
- System is properly sized
- Conduct final inspection and issue certificate of completion



Pumper Truck Registration and Inspection

- Businesses and vehicles engaged in the cleaning of septic tanks, portable toilets, and wastewater holding tanks
- Pumper trucks inspected and certified to carry waste material for disposal



Sewage Complaints

EMD investigates the following:

- Surfacing sewage
- Illegal connection
- Failing system
- Disposal to ground
- Disposal to river
- Vehicle discharge

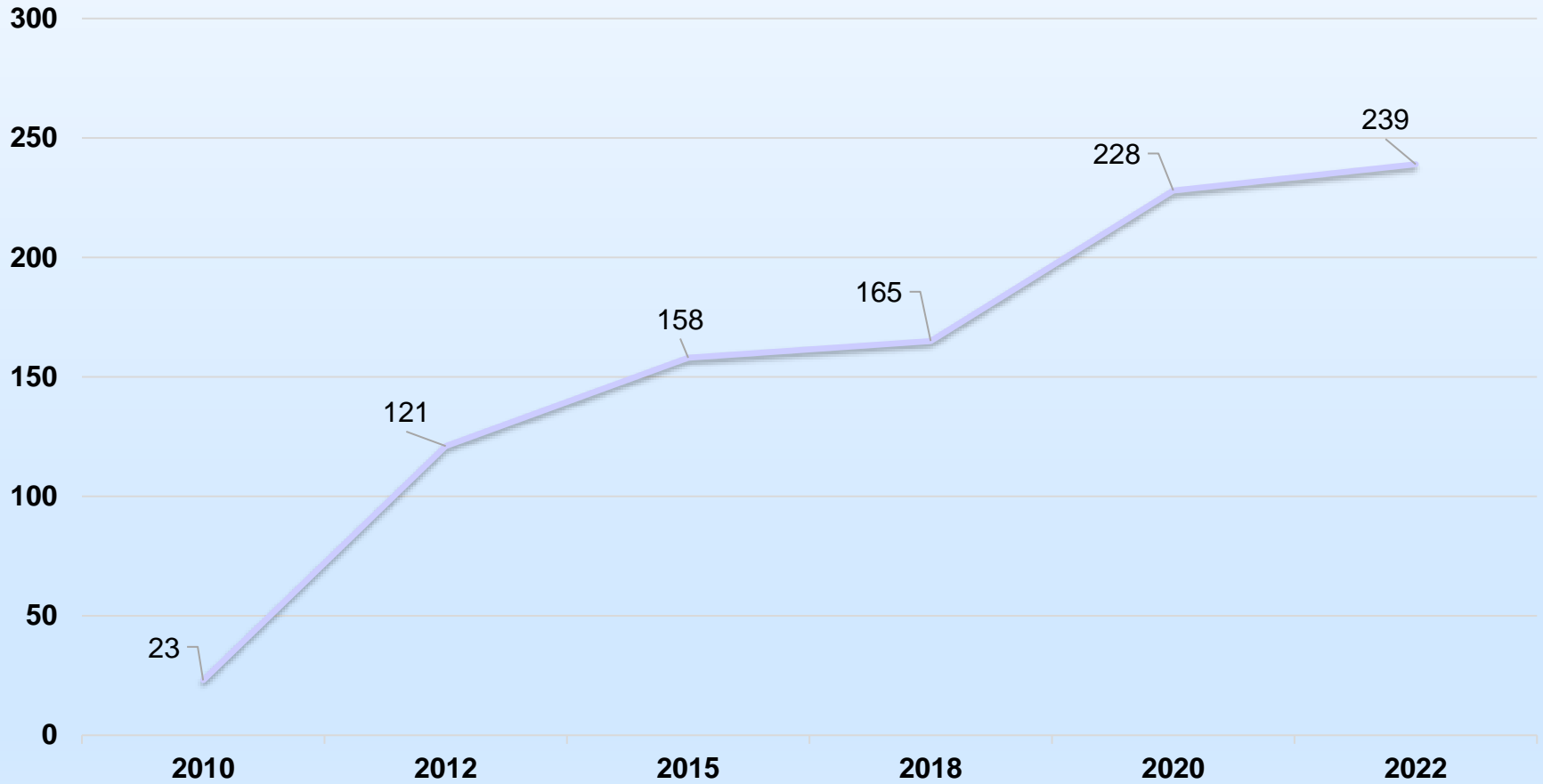


Why is a Fee Adjustment Needed?

- Staff work hours required to implement the program (e.g., changes in regulations & codes)
- Direct & indirect program expenses (e.g., administrative functions)
- Increased demand for septic system services



Liquid Waste Permit Applications Trend



Proposed Two Year Phase-In

Liquid Waste Permit or Service	Current 2023 Fee	Effective July 2024	Effective July 2025*
Standard System Install Permit	\$1,169	\$1,391	\$1,613
Alternate/Experimental System Install Permit	\$1,869	\$2,116	\$2,363
Standard Repair Permit	\$1,169	\$1,301	\$1,433
Alternate/Experimental System Repair Permit	\$1,410	\$1,543	\$1,676
Tank Replacement Permit	\$1,039	\$1,138	\$1,237
Test Drill	\$1,194	\$1,331	\$1,468
Engineering Review	\$1,238	\$1,358	\$1,478
Plot Plan	\$377	\$508	\$639

*Starting July 2025, fees may increase annually pursuant to the US Western Region Consumer Price Index (CPI)

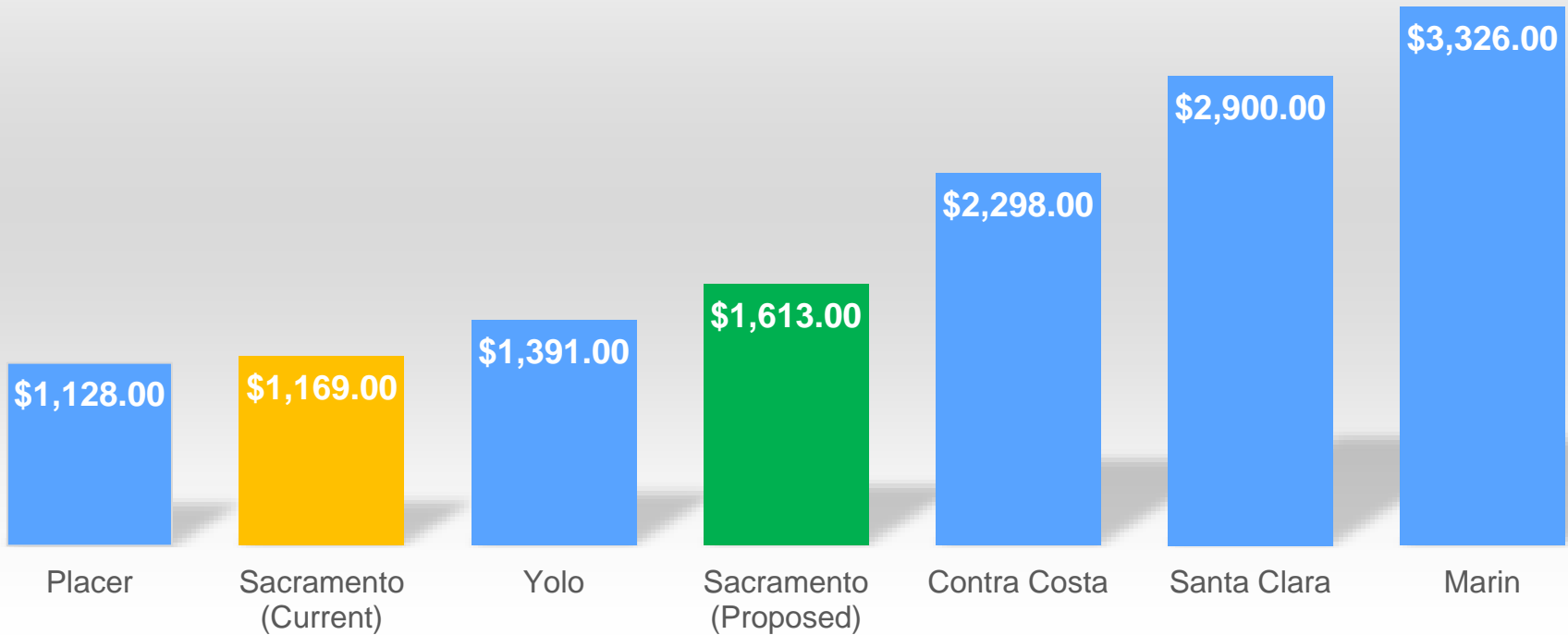
Proposed Two Year Phase-In

Liquid Waste Permit Service	Current 2023 Fee	Effective July 2024	Effective July 2025*
OWTS Operating Permit (Annual Reporting)	\$780	\$862	\$944
OWTS Operating Permit (Triennial Reporting)	\$230	\$251	\$272
OWTS Operating Permit (5-year Reporting)	\$127	\$135	\$143
Destruction Permit	\$320	\$483	\$646
Temporary Holding Tank Permit (1 year)	\$568	\$635	\$702
Fixed Holding Tank Permit	\$568	\$635	\$702
Pumper Truck Registration	\$511	\$586	\$661

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Fee Comparison

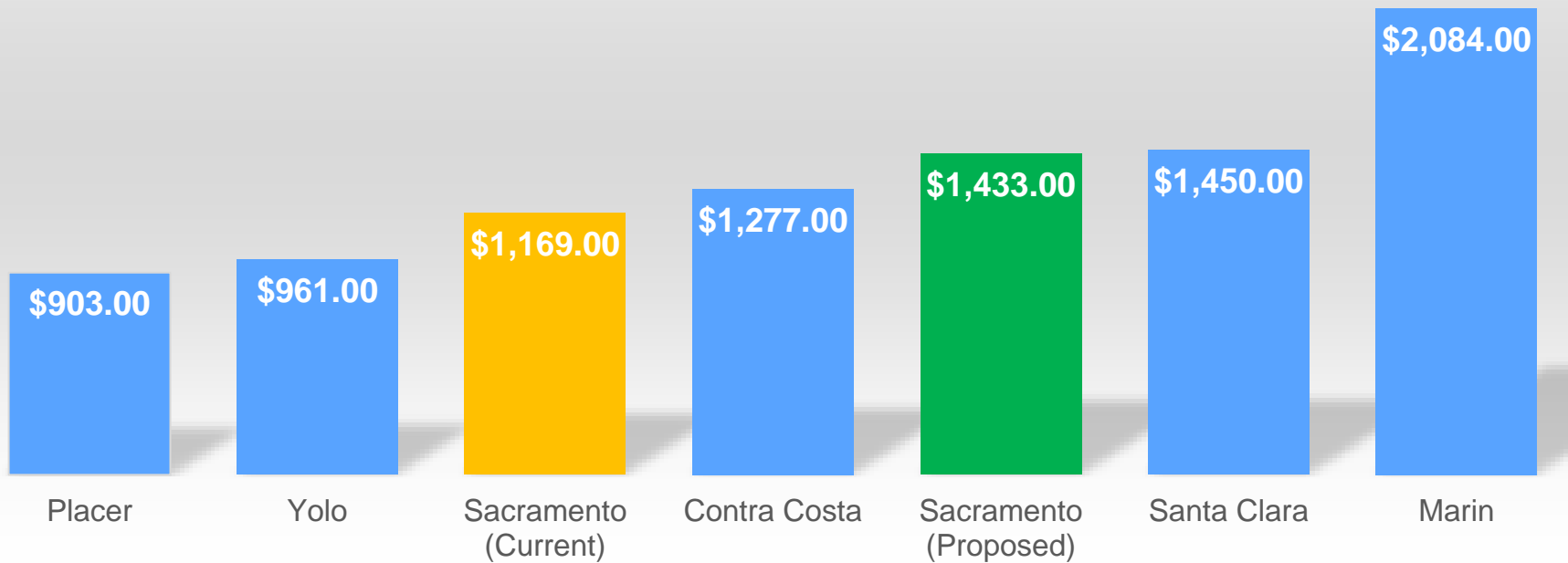
Septic System Standard Installation



Fees proposed to be effective July 2025

Fee Comparison

Septic System Repair Permit

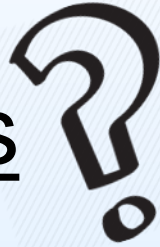


Fees proposed to be effective July 2025

Summary and Additional Notes

- Fee increases will be phased in over 2 years
- Proposed EMD Hourly Rate increase from \$213 to \$232 would be effective July 2024
- Starting July 2025, fees may increase annually pursuant to the US Western Region Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Questions



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