ORDINANCE NO. 67

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDWAY CITY SANITARY DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, ADJUSTING USER FEE RATES FOR COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER NONRESIDENTIAL SANITARY SEWER SERVICES AND ADOPTING FINDINGS THEREOF.

WHEREAS, the current sanitary sewer service users' fees applicable to commercial, industrial, and other nonresidential activities are insufficient to cover the District's reasonable costs to operate, maintain, and replace or rehabilitate that portion of the District's sewer system serving commercial, industrial, and other nonresidential properties; and

WHEREAS, the District is therefore required to adjust its users' fees applicable to commercial, industrial, and other nonresidential activities, and to recategorize such activities, to adequately cover the costs of providing service to properties on which such activities are located and to continue equitable allocation of such costs based on the impact each property has on the District's sewer collection system; and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2009, Government Code Section 53756 authorizes any agency providing sewer service to adopt a schedule of fees or charges for a period not to exceed five (5) years authorizing automatic adjustments that pass through adjustments for inflation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Proposition 218 adopted by the voters of the State of California in November 1996, the District's engineering and financial consultants and staff have identified the operational and capital facilities costs and revenue requirements of the District applicable to that portion of the District's facilities impacted by commercial, industrial, and other nonresidential uses (collectively "commercial" or "business" uses), and have identified the appropriate users' fees adjustments to cover said operational costs of the District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Proposition 218 the District provided notice of the proposed users' fee adjustments to the record owners of each parcel upon which the fees are proposed for adjustment, as well as to all real property tenants directly responsible for sewer users' fee bills, setting a public hearing for June 24, 2009, and describing the basis upon which the amount of the proposed adjustments were calculated and the reasons for the proposed adjustments in fees; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2009, the Board of Directors conducted the public hearing provided for in the Proposition 218 Notice, at which time the Board of Directors heard all objections and protests to the proposed adjustments in sewer users' fees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has considered all of the valid written protests received in opposition to the proposed users' fees adjustments, totaling 4, which failed to constitute a majority protest pursuant to Proposition 218.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDWAY CITY SANITARY DISTRICT DOES HEREBY FIND AND ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. FINDINGS. The Board of Directors of the Midway City Sanitary District hereby makes the following findings:

- A. The commercial areas of the District's sanitary sewer collection system impact approximately 9.4% of the entire system, but account for approximately 60% of the total annual labor cost incurred by the District to maintain its system.
- B. Recategorizing properties based on the demand the nature of the activities occurring on the properties place on the District's sewer system will provide for continued equitable allocation of sewer user fees.
- C. Because the District's existing facilities are 40 to 50 years old, and due to uncontrollable factors such as corrosive soils, instances of subsidence, tidal effects on the water table, and the limited life expectancy of certain materials, the District's sanitary sewer collection system within the commercial areas of impact is in need of repair or replacement. The estimated cost to fully replace or rehabilitate this portion of the system ranges from \$7,764,300 (to reline the system) to \$38,821,583 (to replace the system).
- D. If the District chooses the less expensive option of relining, rather than completely replacing, the existing commercial portion of the sewer collection system, and such costs are spread out over 20 years, the District would need to generate a minimum of \$574,087 annually to adequately service, maintain, and rehabilitate the commercial portion of the District's sewer system. The annual revenue generated by current sewer user fees applicable to commercial, industrial, and other nonresidential activities is only approximately \$282,272.
- E. The District's engineering and financial consultants and staff have calculated the fee adjustments adopted herein based upon the amount of funds required by the District to service, maintain and operate the portion of the District's sewer system used for commercial, industrial, and other nonresidential sewer service, including costs to comply with regulations imposed by State agencies. The reports on which the adjusted fees are based and a complete spreadsheet showing the District's current and projected operational costs and required capital improvement projects were made publicly available for review at the District's administrative office at least forty-five days prior to the adoption of this Ordinance.
- F. The Board of Directors has determined that the sanitary sewer service users' fees applicable to commercial, industrial, and other nonresidential activities should be modified in accord with the calculations and recommendations of the District's engineering and financial consultants and staff and the legislative findings herein, and that automatic annual adjustments to such users' fees for inflation should be authorized, in order to adequately finance the operations, capital improvements and debt obligations for the District relating to commercial, industrial, and other nonresidential activities.
- G. The Board of Directors has determined the following with regard to the users' fees and charges for sanitary sewer service established by this Ordinance: (i) the fees and charges are not imposed as a condition of approval of a development project, as defined in California Government Code section 66001; (ii) the fees and charges are established upon a rational basis between the fees charged each customer and the service and facilities provided to each customer; (iii) the revenues derived from the fees and charges do not exceed the estimated reasonable cost to provide the capital facilities and sewer services for which they are levied; (iv) the revenues derived from the fees and charges shall not be used for any other purpose than that for which the fees and charges are imposed; (v) the fees and charges do not exceed the

proportional cost of the sewer service attributable to each consumer; (vi) the fees and charges are imposed on sewer services which are immediately available to the consumer; and (vii) the fees and charges are not levied for general governmental services.

- H. The Board of Directors has determined that the authorization for automatic annual adjustments for inflation established by this Ordinance is appropriate, represents the estimated increases in the users' fees needed to adequately finance the operations, capital improvements and debt obligations for the District relating to commercial, industrial, and other nonresidential activities for those years, and will not cause the revenues derived from the fees to exceed the estimated reasonable cost to provide the capital facilities and sewer services for which the fees are levied.
- I. The adoption of this Ordinance and the establishment of such users' fees is statutorily exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to the provisions of Public Resource Code section 21080(b)(8) and Section 15378 and Section 15273 of the CEQA Guidelines because, (i) the increased rates and charges are for the purpose of meeting operational and maintenance expenses of the Sewer Enterprise, and (ii) the rates and charges constitute the creation of funding mechanism/other governmental fiscal activity which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Section 2. COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SEWER FEE ADJUSTMENTS. Pursuant to the provisions of Health and Safety Code Section 5471, the fees for commercial and industrial sanitary sewer service established by Subsection A of Section 2 of Ordinance No. 54 and Subsection A of Section 1 of Ordinance No. 57, and as adjusted pursuant to Subsection A of Section 2 of Ordinance No. 64, are hereby adjusted as follows:

For each separate commercial, industrial or nonresidential activity connected to the sewer collection facilities of the District, a sewer service fee shall be imposed not to exceed the initial sum of \$435.00 annually, corresponding to a fee of \$87.00 per assigned unit of service. Each separate commercial, industrial or nonresidential activity (collectively "commercial" or "business" units) is hereby categorized and assigned a number of units of service based on the demand the activity places on the District's sewer collection facilities in accordance with the table below. Uses or activities not specifically set forth below shall be categorized by the General Manager, in his or her reasonable discretion, based upon the types of discharges made and demand placed on the District's sewer system by such activities or uses.

Sewer Use Code Categories*	Number of Assigned Units of Service	Rate Per Business Unit Per Parcel	Proposed Annual User Fee Per Business Unit Per Parcel
Very High Demand	5	\$ 87.00	\$ 435.00
High Demand	4	87.00	348,00
Average Demand	3	87.00	261.00
Low Demand	2	87.00	174.00
Very Low Demand	1.3	87.00	113.00

^{*}Very High Demand uses include the following: car wash, car dealership, gas station, restaurant, laundromat, manufacturing (water is used in the manufacturing process), food processing, hospital, schools, spa/health club, facilities combining these types of uses and other uses with similar discharges.

1 2

*High Demand uses include the following: supermarket, bars, entertainment (theater, night clubs, banquet facilities, bowling alley and cinemas), dentistry, department stores, veterinary and other uses with similar discharges.

*Average Demand uses include the following: bakery, car dealer/used, library, medical, post office, parks with bathrooms, food stores, salon, government buildings, auditoriums, and other uses with similar discharges.

*Low Demand uses include the following: warehouse, manufacturing, mini-marts, light industrial, open storage, church, cleaners, automotive repair, storage units, and other uses with similar discharges.

*Very Low Demand uses include the following: small office building (less than 10,000 square feet), small retail store, vacant buildings or lots with sewer connection, and other uses with similar discharges.

Commencing July 1, 2010, and continuing annually thereafter through July 1, 2015, annual commercial, industrial and nonresidential rate adjustments shall automatically be made in accordance with the consumer price index ("CPI"), as measured from March 1 through February 28 of the immediately preceding year by the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange Counties Consumer Price Index ("All Urban Consumers"). In no case, however, shall the CPI adjustment exceed 5% in any one year. The General Manager is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to implement the CPI adjustment.

Section 3. EFFECT ON PRIOR ORDINANCES. Except to the extent otherwise inconsistent with this Ordinance, the fees and charges established pursuant to Section 2 of Ordinance No. 54 and Section 1 of Ordinance No. 57, as amended by Section 2 of Ordinance No. 64, including, without limitation, all residential sewer rates and all residential and commercial and industrial solid waste collection rates, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. COLLECTION. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 5473, the Board of Directors has elected to collect the District's fees on the County Tax Roll and the County Tax Collector is authorized and ordered to make said collections in accordance with the terms and conditions of agreements between the County of Orange and the District. The General Manager is further directed to take all necessary action to submit the charges for the applicable fiscal year to the County Tax Collector in the amounts of each parcel as delineated pursuant to the report required under Health & Safety § 5473.1. At the time of the public hearing required under section 5473.1, the Board of Directors may adjust the fees up to the not-to-exceed amounts established under this Ordinance.

Section 5. EXEMPTIONS AND APPEALS.

A. The fees adjusted pursuant to this Ordinance shall apply to all owners of properties served by the District, and no exception shall be provided for properties otherwise deemed exempt from the payment of taxes or assessments by provisions of the State Constitution or statute, including properties owned by certain other public agencies or tax exempt organizations.

B. Any property owner may appeal the levy of the charges adjusted herein, and if the charges have been paid under protest to the Orange County Tax Collector, together with property taxes, the owner may submit a claim for rebate to the District, on the forms prescribed and provided by the District, within one hundred twenty (120) days after the annual property tax bill is mailed. All applications for rebate of the annual fees will be determined by the General Manager of the District, who may grant a partial or full rebate or adjustment of the charge based on receiving satisfactory

proof that the services have been otherwise provided as required by District Ordinance (in order to prevent any nuisance or danger to public health and safety) and/or that there is an actual inequity between the amount of the charge and the services provided by the District. Such inequities may include, but are not limited to:

- 1. The parcel of property or unit of service is not connected to the District's sewer collection system;
- 2. The use of the parcel is different from the use indicated by the charge;
- 3. Nuisance conditions do not exist, have not existed, and are not anticipated to exist on the property, which would be otherwise abated by the provision of services by the District.

Section 5. The secretary of the Board of Directors of the District shall certify to the passage of this Ordinance and shall cause the same to be published once in a newspaper of general circulation published in the District and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon the expiration of one week from the date of such publication.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED this 24th day of June, 2009.

President

ATTEST:

Secretary

Secretary

1 2 CERTIFICATION I, Al P. Krippner, Secretary of the Midway City Sanitary District of Orange County, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance No. 67 was duly adopted at a 3 regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said District, held on the 24th day of June, 4 2009, by the following vote of the members of the Board: 5 DIRECTORS DIEF, EPPERSON, KRIPPNER, NEUGEBAYER AND RICE AYES: NOES: 6 NONE ABSENT: NONE and I further certify that Joy L. Neugebauer, as President and Al P. Krippner, as Secretary, signed and approved said Ordinance on the 24th day of June, 2009. 8 9 Secretary (District Seal) 10 11 12 13 14 STATE OF CALIFORNIA) 15) §§ 16 COUNTY OF ORANGE 17 I, Al P. Krippner, Secretary of Midway City Sanitary District of Orange County, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Ordinance No. passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of said District at a regular meeting thereof 18 held on the 24th day of June, 2009. 19 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official Seal of said District this 24th day of June, 2009. 20 21 22 Secretary 23 (District Seal) 24 25 26

27

28