



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND BALLOT INFORMATION GUIDE

Proposed 2026 Flood Protection & Clean Stormwater Fee

Why did you receive this notice?

No majority protest was filed at the May 5, 2026 public hearing, so the City Council directed this mailed ballot proceeding under Proposition 218. A majority YES vote is required for the fee to take effect in July 2026.

YOUR BALLOT IS INCLUDED WITH THIS NOTICE

Why is this fee being proposed?

Stormwater runoff is the leading source of pollution affecting Monterey Bay. In Monterey, rainwater flows across rooftops, streets, and parking areas, picking up trash, oil, and other pollutants before entering the storm drain system and flowing untreated to the Bay. The City's stormwater program is responsible for maintaining this system and complying with state and federal water quality regulations.

The City's stormwater reserve fund will be depleted in fiscal year 2026/27. The proposed fee would establish a dedicated funding source to support ongoing stormwater operations and maintenance.

How is the fee calculated?

The proposed fee is based on each property's contribution to stormwater runoff. This is determined by the amount of impervious surface area—such as rooftops, driveways, and pavement—that prevents water from soaking into the ground.

A standard unit is based on the average single-family residential parcel (3,497 square feet of impervious area). Properties are assigned a fee proportional to their relative runoff contribution compared to this benchmark.

Properties that do not generate runoff beyond natural conditions, such as open space and agricultural land in a natural state, are not charged.

Voting Instructions

To complete the enclosed official ballot:

1. **Fill in the oval** next to your choice
2. **Sign, date, and print your name** on the ballot
3. Enclose in the provided **postage-paid return envelope**
4. **Place in the mail** to 580 Pacific Street, or hand deliver to City Hall, at the City's secure drop box across from the accessible entrance to the Council Chamber.

How is the money protected?

This is a property-related fee under Proposition 218—not a tax—and requires approval by a majority of property owners who vote. All fee revenue would be placed in a dedicated stormwater enterprise fund and:

- Can only be used for stormwater purposes
- Cannot be diverted to other City services
- Will be subject to annual independent audits and City Council review

Annual adjustments are limited to no more than 3% per year (CPI-based cap).

How much is the proposed fee?

The proposed fee is based on the actual cost to operate and maintain the City's stormwater system, using historical expenditure data adjusted for inflation. It is not designed to generate revenue beyond these costs.

For a typical single-family home, the fee is **\$4.81** per month (\$57.72 per year).

In total:

- An estimated \$904,000 would be collected annually, funding about two-thirds of the City's ongoing stormwater operations and maintenance costs, with the remaining one-third continuing to be funded by the General Fund.
- Rates vary by property type and lot size — view the full fee schedule at monterey.gov/stormwaterfee.

The proposed fee is designed to fund a significant portion of ongoing operations and maintenance needs, but does not include funding for major capital improvements.

**FY 2026/27
Operations &
Maintenance Cost:
\$1,343,000 and
fund breakdown:**



DEADLINE:

Ballots must be received by
Monday, July 6, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS?

Call (831) 646-3921 or email
suggest@monterey.gov

NEED A REPLACEMENT BALLOT?
Call (831) 646-3921