

Please Complete Your Ballot And Mail It Back Promptly

Method Of Voting

To complete the enclosed ballot, mark the oval next to either "Yes" or "No." Then sign the ballot, place it in the provided postage-paid return envelope, and mail or hand deliver it to:

**City of Alameda
City Clerk's Office
2263 Santa Clara Ave #380
Alameda, CA 94501**

Only official ballots that are signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition, and are received before 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 25, 2019, will be counted. Postmarks will not be accepted.

The fee shall not be imposed if votes submitted in opposition to the fee exceed the votes submitted in favor of the fee. If a majority of votes returned are in support, the fee may be levied beginning in fiscal year 2020-21 and continuing in future years, as authorized by the City Council, to fund stormwater capital improvement projects, maintenance and operations, and clean water and pollution control services.

If you lose your ballot, require a replacement ballot, or want to change your vote, contact Sarah Henry at (510) 747-4714 or by email at shenry@alamedaca.gov for another ballot. See the enclosed ballot for additional instructions.



The City's Clean Water Program removes 823 dump truck loads of debris, including debris from the City's streets by sweeping 24,000 miles annually.

Public Accountability

The proposed 2019 Water Quality and Flood Protection Fee revenues will be collected and deposited into a separate account that can only be used for authorized storm drainage activities and will undergo annual independent audits. The City Council must approve the fee each year in a public meeting, and the fee can never exceed actual estimated costs.



The City cleans and inspects 250 trash capture devices quarterly, removing 40 cubic yards of debris annually.

Ballot Tabulation

Each parcel with a proposed fee greater than zero will count for a vote. Ballots will be tabulated under the direction of the City Clerk at a location accessible to the public. The tabulation will commence at 9:00 am on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, in City Hall at 2263 Santa Clara Avenue Room 380 and continue between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 p.m. until the tabulation is complete.



The City has conducted a series of engineering studies to determine the best ways to protect neighborhoods during big storms and sea level rise.

Additional Information

Please contact Sarah Henry at (510) 747-4714 or by email at shenry@alamedaca.gov or visit our website at www.alamedaca.gov/cleanwater.



City of Alameda Water Quality & Flood Protection Initiative Official Ballot Information Guide

Why Did You Receive This Ballot?

In the early 1990s, the City of Alameda established its Clean Water Program to manage all City-owned storm drainage infrastructure including 11 pump stations (some dating back to the 1940s), 126 miles of pipelines, 96 acres of drainage lagoons, 278 outfalls to the San Francisco Bay and numerous tide gates and seawalls. This infrastructure collects and conveys our stormwater runoff during rain events safely and reliably to the Bay, while protecting our waterways from trash and other pollutants.

The Program is currently funded only by an annual storm drainage utility fee. This fee has not been increased in 15 years, while costs have increased significantly. At the same time we face increasing challenges such as local flooding, deferred maintenance on our aging infrastructure, and the impacts of climate change. As a result, expenses exceed revenues and operating reserves are now depleted.

The Program currently provides approximately \$4.2 million annually for the operations and maintenance of our storm drainage system. Several recent engineering studies have determined that \$5.4 million per year is needed in Alameda to prevent further system degradation. The current revenue generated by the existing fee is only \$2.5 million, resulting in a significant annual structural deficit. In addition, the City faces:

- Enhanced operations and maintenance needs to ensure homes are not flooded and roads remain clear for the movement of people, goods and emergency vehicles;
- \$30 million in high-priority capital project needs due to aging infrastructure; and
- Increasingly rigorous water quality standards.

To continue to maintain our storm drainage infrastructure and avoid eliminations and/or significant cuts to existing programs, the Clean Water Program is proposing **The 2019 Water Quality and Protection Initiative**. This additional storm drainage fee is dedicated to our storm drainage system and funds cannot be used for any other purposes.



The City of Alameda's Clean Water Program maintains the storm drainage infrastructure which protects homes, property, and streets from flooding and protects the City's beaches and the Bay from trash and pollutants caused by urban runoff during rain events.

What Would This Fee Provide?

Capital Improvements To Prevent Flooding - High Priority Local Projects: The Water Quality and Flood Protection Initiative details \$30 million in high-priority capital improvements and replacements including pump station upgrades and replacements, installing trash capture devices, outfall upgrades, and enhancements to intersections to reduce flooding.

Ongoing Operations & Maintenance of this Aging Infrastructure: The Water Quality and Flood Protection Fee initiative specifies an annual program to perform repairs and replacements of aging infrastructure, system cleaning and inspections. This operation and maintenance program will ensure the storm drainage system provides a high level of protection against flooding, and keeps trash and pollutants out of the Bay.

State and Federal Clean Water Requirements: The City's stormwater system must comply with important state and federal clean water standards to ensure that water discharged from the system is safe, clean, and healthy enough to protect our beaches and the Bay.

Funding Protections: Revenues from the proposed fees cannot be taken by the Federal, State, or County governments. Even the City Council cannot allocate these funds to non-storm drainage uses.

All Ballots Must Be Received By 6:00 pm November 25, 2019 To Be Counted

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City of Alameda

Water Quality & Flood Protection Initiative

Official Ballot Information Guide

How Much Is The Proposed Fee?

If approved, the Water Quality and Flood Protection Fee will be collected on the annual property tax bill. The fee for a single-family home on a typical medium-sized parcel (i.e. 0.08-0.14 acre, or 3,267-6,316 square feet), which is the most common fee, is proposed to be an additional \$78.00 per year, or \$6.50 per month. The entire schedule of proposed fees is shown in the table below. Properties that drain directly to the Bay or meet the Low Impact Development standards will be given rate credits of 57% and 25%, respectively.

The amount of the proposed fee is in addition to the existing stormwater utility fees paid by each property. For example, the owner of a typical home will pay \$56.00 (current fee) plus \$78.00 (proposed new fee) for a total of \$134.00 per year, or \$11.17 per month. The total additional amount to be collected by the proposed 2019 Water Quality and Flood Protection Fee in Fiscal Year 2020-21 is \$2.89 million, bringing total Clean Water Program revenues to \$5.45 million.

Land Use Category	Proposed Annual Fee FY 2020-21
Residential *	
Small Under 0.08 ac**	\$ 47.73 per parcel
Medium 0.08 to 0.14 ac	\$ 78.00 per parcel
Large over 0.14 ac	\$ 85.07 per parcel
Condo - Med Density	\$ 47.73 per parcel
Condo - Hi Density	\$ 24.55 per parcel
<i>Multiple homes on single parcel pays 16% higher rate</i>	
Non-Residential ***	
Apartment	\$ 908.18 per acre
Commercial / Retail / Industrial	\$1,083.80 per acre
Office	\$ 765.06 per acre
Church / Institutional	\$ 866.58 per acre
Institutional w/Playfield	\$ 619.22 per acre
Park	\$ 59.76 per acre
Vacant (developed)	\$ 59.76 per acre
Open Space / Agricultural	exempt

* Residential category also includes du- tri- and four-plex units

** ac = acre; 1 acre = 43,560 square feet

*** Non-Residential parcel size is calculated to a hundredth of an acre

How Was The Fee Determined?

The proposed 2019 Water Quality and Flood Protection Fee is based on the quantity of stormwater runoff produced by each parcel or category of parcel. This runoff is based upon the proportional impervious area (e.g. roof tops and pavements) on each category of parcel. A copy of the full 2019 Water Quality and Flood Protection Fee Report can be found online at the Public Works Department's website at www.alamedaca.gov/cleanwater.

Properties Subject To The Fee

All properties are subject to the fee except for open space and agricultural land.

Will The Fee Increase In The Future?

In order to offset the effects of inflation on the cost of labor, materials, and utilities, the proposed fee is subject to an annual increase based on the change in the Consumer Price Index but capped at no more than 3% in any single year.

Don't My Property Taxes Already Pay for This?

No. The Clean Water Program started in 1992 with a fee charged to properties. This has been the only revenue source for the Program since its inception. This is similar to water and sewer rates where the activities to provide those services are supported solely by user rates. This ensures that the rates are fair and equitable, and funds cannot be used for other purposes.



With such flat terrain and topography in our neighborhoods, the City of Alameda experiences frequent flooding of streets that also flow onto nearby properties. As shown in the City's recently adopted Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, this flooding will only grow in frequency and severity with climate change and sea level rise.

Clean Water Program Elements

Operations & Maintenance (O&M):

Storm response, street sweeping, lagoon maintenance & monitoring, storm drain inspection & cleaning

Water Quality (WQ):

Trash reduction, green infrastructure planning, shoreline/beach clean-ups, pollution prevention, illegal discharge inspections, development oversight, public education

Drainage Improvements (DI):

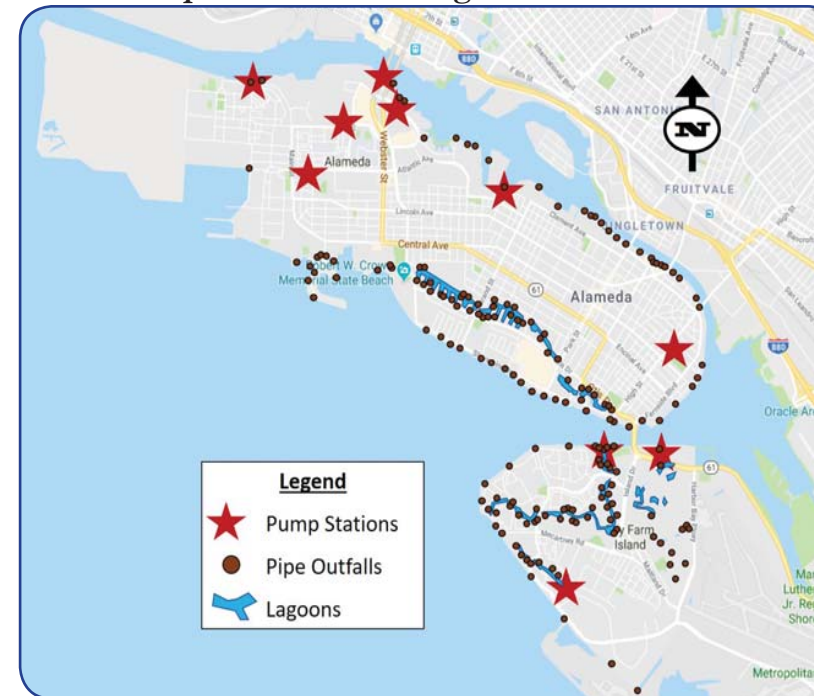
Retrofit or upsize pump stations, pipe, culvert and catch basin replacement, lagoon dredging, green infrastructure & trash capture devices

Coastal Flooding & Sea Level Rise Protection (CF&SLR):

Climate change planning, improved and increased capacity pump stations & pipes, perimeter levee infrastructure, shoreline improvements



Map of Storm Drainage Infrastructure



If The Initiative Fails ...

A Depleted Fund Means Cuts to Services:

- Clean Water Program would be more reactive (less proactive)
- Longer Response Times
- Reduced Storm Drain Maintenance
- Less Street Sweeping
- No Stormwater Capital Projects

Higher Risk of Catastrophic Failures

Inability to Adapt to Climate Change

High Priority Capital Improvement Projects

Category/ Project	Area
Flood Protection / Pipes / Lagoons	
Shoreline Culvert	South Shore
Bay Farm Island Gate Opener	Bay Farm Island
Bayview Weir Rehab	Bayview
Tidal Protection of Outfalls	Citywide
Veterans Court	Bay Farm Island
Lagoon Walls	South Shore
Seawall @ BFI Gate	Bay Farm Island
Dredge Lagoon	South Shore
Dredge Lagoon	Bay Farm Island
Pump Stations	
Arbor	North Central
Webster	Westside
Central/Eastshore	Eastside
Environmental	
Green Infrastructure	Citywide
Trash Capture	Citywide
Operational Enhancements	
Outfall Upgrades	Citywide
Intersection Culverts	Citywide
Ponding Improvements	Citywide
Line Clean & Video	Citywide
Lagoons	South Shore & Bay Farm Island