

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Restrictions on Future Sewer Connections in the Julian Sewer Service Area of the San Diego County Sanitation District.

**Policy
Number**

I-113

Page

1 of 4

Purpose

To identify criteria for allowing future sewer connections to the conveyance system that transports sewage to the Julian Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Background

The original wastewater treatment and collection system in Julian was constructed in 1936 and consisted of approximately 1,720 feet of 6 inch pipe and a 2,000 gallon septic tank and leach field. The Julian Sanitation District was formed in 1945 and consisted of approximately 63 acres which included the Julian town site. By 1952, the wastewater flow had increased to 7,000 gallons per day (gpd). An additional 22,000 gallon septic tank and a 6 inch outfall to Colman Creek were added to replace the undersized tank and failing leach fields.

The existing Julian Wastewater Treatment Plant began operation on June 28, 1981. The plant consists of a septic tank, two aerated basins, two secondary sedimentation basins, and two emergency storage ponds which store the plant effluent prior to irrigation of surrounding lands. In July 2011, the Julian Wastewater Treatment Plant and all its supporting facilities were annexed into and became a part of the San Diego County Sanitation District (“District”). The District now owns and operates these facilities.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has regulatory oversight of the Julian Wastewater Treatment Plant. Permit conditions contained in RWQCB-Order No. 83-09, limit the effluent discharge to 40,000 gpd. On any given day, exceedance of the 40,000 gpd limit could be a violation of the operating permit. Julian experiences higher flows on weekends, and the average daily flow to the treatment plant during winter months in 2015 was 34,000 gpd on weekends. This leaves a permit capacity available for new permits of about 6,000 gpd (i.e., 38.7 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) based on 155 gallons per EDU).

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors, acting as the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Sanitation District that:

The Julian Wastewater Treatment Plant consistently operates at or near capacity, especially during rain storms and on weekends, so future connections to the sewerage system will be limited. A total of 38.7 EDUs are currently available, and future sewer permits will only be issued to properties that meet the allocations and criteria specified below.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Restrictions on Future Sewer Connections in the Julian Sewer Service Area of the San Diego County Sanitation District.

Policy Number

Page

I-113

2 of 4

1. Previously Issued Commitments (14.6 EDU Allocated)

A total of 14.6 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) have been previously committed for future connections to the sewerage system. These commitments are in the form of purchased sewer capacity commitments (SCCs) or other contractual obligations. Future sewer connections will be permitted for parcels listed in the table below, given that flows do not to exceed the EDU limits indicated.

Assessor Parcel Number	EDUs (SCC)	EDUs (Contract)
291-072-21	1	
291-078-01	6	
291-084-27	2	
291-085-10	1	
291-087-04	0.4	
291-083-10	1	
291-079-02, 11, 15		3.2
TOTAL EDUs: 14.6		

2. Sewer Capacity Transfer Program (11.5 EDU Available)

In order to better utilize the limited available treatment plant capacity and allow property improvements, especially in the Julian commercial district, transfer of assigned capacity may be allowed between existing customers, or parcels with previously purchased sewer capacity commitments (No. 1. above). A total of 11.5 EDUs are currently available for transfer.

EDU transfers, and associated supplemental wastewater discharge permits, shall only be considered when all of the following conditions are met:

- a. Granting and receiving property owners agree to the transfer
- b. Transfer is to accommodate immediate proposed uses; and tenant improvement or building plans are submitted with each capacity transfer application
- c. Transfer will not result in parcels having less than the minimum sewer capacity associated with the zoning for that parcel (1.0 EDU for residential, 1.2 EDU for commercial/industrial), and units of transfer shall be no smaller than 1/10th of an EDU
- d. Applicants are in compliance with all District ordinance(s) establishing provisions for use of District sewerage facilities

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Subject

Restrictions on Future Sewer Connections in the Julian Sewer Service Area of the San Diego County Sanitation District.

**Policy
Number**

I-113

Page

3 of 4

- e. There is sufficient remaining available capacity to support the proposed transfer. The 11.5 EDUs currently available for transfer shall be deemed allocated when a completed application for transfer is received. If a building or use permit for which the allocations are sought expires or is terminated and use of the District's sewers has not commenced, the allocations shall be deemed to have expired.

3. Failed Septic Systems (12.6 EDU Available)

There are currently 12.6 EDU available to allow properties with failed septic systems to receive sewer service from the District. The 12.6 EDUs shall be allocated on a first come first served basis.

a. Septic Failures within the District:

There may be occurrences of properties located within District boundaries where the County Department of Environmental Health or other responsible government agency has certified that the septic or other sewer system serving the property 1) has failed or is no longer available, 2) cannot be adequately repaired or replaced, and 3) poses a threat to the health and safety of the public or the affected residents. Issuance of a sewer permit under this category shall not diminish or otherwise reduce the capacity rights associated with existing SCCs or contractual commitments.

b. Septic Failures outside the District:

There may be occurrences of properties located outside the District boundary where the County Department of Environmental Health or other responsible government agency has certified that the septic or other sewer system serving the property 1) has failed or is no longer available, 2) cannot be adequately repaired or replaced, and 3) poses a threat to the health and safety of the public or the affected residents. Properties in this category shall only be allowed to connect to the sewerage system, in accordance with Board Policy I-36 (which describes an annexation process), at the discretion of the Director of the Department of Public Works in consultation with the Director of the Department of Environmental Health. Issuance of a sewer permit under this category shall not diminish or otherwise reduce the capacity rights associated with existing SCCs or contractual commitments.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Restrictions on Future Sewer Connections in the Julian Sewer Service Area of the San Diego County Sanitation District.

**Policy
Number**

Page

I-113

4 of 4

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-21.

Board Action

6-20-89 (1 Julian San)
10-15-91 (2 Julian San)
9-29-92 (22)
3-22-94 (1 Julian San)
7-14-98 (20, SAN 3)
08-07-02 (5)
12-09-08 (33)
05-09-12 (4)
03-02-16 (2)

CAO Reference

1. Department of Public Works
2. Department of Environmental Health