

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS  
FROM:**



1. The proposed tax increase provides \$45,000,000 for the WWTA. How did you arrive at this amount?

The WWTA's board approved a study conducted by S&ME, at their May 17, 2017 meeting, to research the cost of meeting needs for customers of the WWTA. S&ME returned with a comprehensive report and the amount to fund those needs.

2. If the tax increase is approved, what happens next?

The WWTA will begin with a site selection process so we can start acquiring land and later, will go through a rigorous permitting process that normally takes one to three years.

3. How many new pump stations will the increase fund?

The increase will fund two new stations and allow us to make modifications to four existing stations which will serve some of our existing customers and new our customers for many years to come.

4. How many feet of sewer will be funded ?

Up to 75,000 feet of force main. The final distance will be based on the chosen location for the treatment plant.

5. How has the technology improved? What about the odor from a sewer treatment plant?

Today's technologies are more efficient, biologically and with minimal odor even at peak times. Thanks to these new processes, that a new plant will be able to take advantage of, we expect the smell is very minimal.

6. If I don't live in the northern part of the county, how will I benefit?

By redirecting current flow, we'll create more capacity in the existing system, reducing overflows, improving the overall health of the environment, and/or allowing for growth.

7. How will the new system be designed?

We plan to use a modular approach that will grow as the county's needs grow. This allows us to plan for service both in the immediate and distant future.

8. Will there be a rate increase because of this?

This project won't warrant a rate increase in and of itself. The WWTA's rates match those of the City of Chattanooga. The City, and therefore the WWTA will have a rate increase in October, but these events are not directly related. That rate increase will be used to help with the other projects we have started and will be starting: East Ridge Basin 10 Rehab, Lookout Mountain Rehab, Assessment work scheduled around the County (including Signal Mountain, Red Bank, Collegedale/Ooltewah Area, and Lookout Mountain, currently).

9. How long will this money last? Will you be coming back to the Commission for additional funds within the next few years?

We received information from [Market Graphics Research Group](#), nationally known for providing new home market research information for builders, developers, banks, local governments and others, we are planning for an additional 10,000 residences or residential lots made available in our market by the year 2022.

The additional customers will create more revenue for the WWTA (and the County), improving the WWTA's ability to fund the projects it is responsible for, including rehab of the older service areas and maintenance costs.

10. What about the boaters, skiers and others who enjoy spending time on the water?

Thanks to the new treatment plant, we will be able to stop untreated overflows. Overall it will actually have a positive effect on water quality. The treatment plant will be state of the art.

11. Will I have to pay a sewer bill if sewer comes near my house?

If gravity sewer is run in right-of-way that your house abuts, or if gravity sewer runs on any portion of your property, you will have to pay a sewer bill.