Contact Info

CITY CONTACTS

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MCES CONTACTS

For more information and to access SAC forms, visit:
www.metrocouncil.org/environment/RatesBilling/SAC_Program.htm

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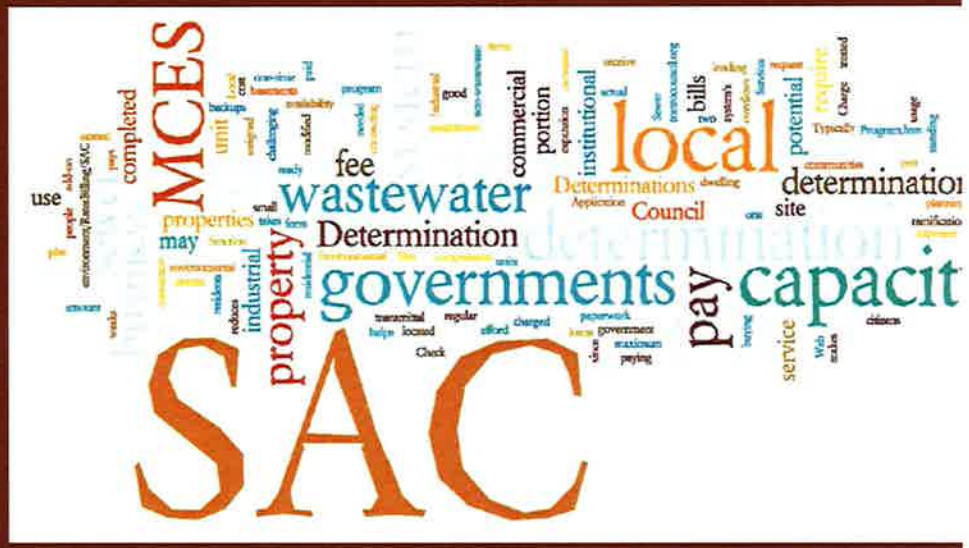

SEWER AVAILABILITY CHARGE (SAC)

Why Do I Have to Pay SAC? And Other FAQs

What is SAC?

SAC or **Sewer Availability Charge** is a one-time fee charged by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) to local governments for use of reserve capacity in the Metropolitan Waste System.

Local governments may also charge, on top of the MCES charge, a local SAC or add-on fee for capacity in the local sewer system.

What is paid for by SAC?

SAC pays for capital or dept payments associated with providing reserve capacity in the Metropolitan Waste System. Remaining capital or debt payments is paid by system users through the Municipal Wastewater Charge.

For more information on the award-winning system, visit www.metrocouncil.org/water.

Why do I have to pay SAC?

The SAC program, which has existed since 1973, helps pays for system capacity and expansion.

When residents and business owners pay SAC to local governments, they are paying for their portion of this capacity. It's a cost of service for standing ready to receive wastewater.

What if I can't afford SAC?

MCES recognizes the economy has been challenging for most people and businesses. Typically SAC and other municipal fees are eligible expenses for small business loans.

Check with your local bank or lending agent.

What is a SAC Determination?

A SAC Determination is a computation of SAC units assigned to each property. The result—or determination—is the maximum potential capacity (not actual usage) needed for each property.

All residential properties have the same SAC unit assignment of 1 SAC per dwelling unit.

Industrial, commercial and institutional properties require a "determination" of the amount of wastewater capacity needed for the site.

Do I need a Determination?

Any commercial, industrial or institutional property connecting to the wastewater system for the first time—or businesses whose use changes or is modified—will need a SAC Determination.

Local governments (where the property is located) may complete determinations, or MCES staff may complete them upon request.

MCES completes all industrial determinations.

More about Determinations

To apply for a determination with MCES, submit the SAC Determination Application (available on our Web site: metrocouncil.org/environment/RatesBilling/SAC_Program.htm) and items listed on the transmittal form. Some determinations require more than a scalable floor plan and application.

It usually takes one to two weeks to complete a determination once all paperwork has been received.

SAC is then paid to your local government, usually as part of permit or business license.