

WLSSD Capacity Availability Information

FAQs

Residential Customers

Do I have to pay a CAF fee?

- If you are building a new home or adding one or more dwelling units to an existing home you must pay a CAF fee.

What will my CAF fee be?

- If you are building a one family dwelling or adding one dwelling unit, one CAF unit, the CAF fee will be \$940.
- Two family dwelling or addition of two units, 2 CAF units x \$940 = \$1880.
- Three family dwelling or addition of three units, 3 CAF units x \$940 = \$2820.
- Four or more dwelling units, contact WLSSD for CAF unit and fee determination.

Non-Residential Customers

Do I have to pay a CAF fee?

- If, as determined by WLSSD criteria, your new building, addition to existing building, alteration or change of use will increase the amount of wastewater flow within the WLSSD system, you will pay a CAF fee.

What will my CAF fee be?

- Contact WLSSD to obtain a Procedure Manual with criteria for CAF unit and fee determination. You will submit your unit and fee calculations directly to WLSSD for approval. Bring WLSSD approved calculations and CAF unit total to Construction Services to pay fees.

All Customers

When do I pay the CAF fee?

- The CAF fee is to be paid at the time the building permit is issued.

How do I pay the fee?

- CAF fees are paid at the Duluth Construction Services' office in Room 100 City Hall, usually at the same time that building permit fees are paid.

In 2005 the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) adopted a Capacity Availability Fee (CAF) to address the cost of sewer system capacity constructed to meet the needs of future growth in the service area. The CAF reflects the cost of system capacity available for expanded connections and uses. CAFs are assessed by WLSSD for all new sewer connections and for construction resulting in expanded use of the sewer system.

The City of Duluth Construction Services' Office acts for WLSSD as the collector of CAFs. CAFs are to be paid at the Construction Services office when a building permit is issued.

The CAF amount is calculated using a formula determined by WLSSD based on an anticipated volume of wastewater generated when the building is in use. Each CAF unit is equal to 260 gallons of daily wastewater flow. Each CAF unit is \$940.00. Single family dwellings will pay for one CAF unit, and each additional dwelling unit equals one additional CAF unit. For non-residential buildings the criteria to determine number of CAF units considers average wastewater flows for specific activities that will typically occur.

Except for one, two and three family dwellings, the number of CAF units for each project will be determined by WLSSD using information provided directly to WLSSD by the customer. WLSSD has published a Capacity Availability Fee Procedures Manual detailing the CAF program and the criteria for determining number of units for commercial properties. Copies of the manual are available from WLSSD. CAF units are calculated by the customer or his/her architect, contractor or other agent. Calculations and supporting information are submitted to WLSSD for approval. The WLSSD approved CAF unit total is presented to Construction Services by the customer with payment of the CAF.

Direct ALL questions related to the Capacity Availability Fee, CAF unit determinations and requests for the CAF Procedures Manual to WLSSD Planning Department staff

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