



Your source for all things water

2023 rates set to make basic water, sewer services more affordable

As inflation rose to its highest level in more than 40 years this summer, a local group of citizen volunteers was putting the finishing touches on a plan to make water and sewer services easier on the pocketbook — especially for San Antonio’s most vulnerable residents.

A new SAWS rate structure, proposed by the utility’s Rate Advisory Committee, or RAC, aims to reduce wastewater charges on 100% of residential bills, while 83% will include reduced water charges.

The reduced water charges apply to residential customers who use 9,000 gallons or less per month. Those with higher use will see a modest cost increase, to further encourage water conservation.

The average residential customer will see their total SAWS bill reduced by \$5.80, from \$66.68 to \$60.88.

For customers who meet income requirements and enroll in SAWS’ Affordability Discount Program, 98% of bills will be lower. This discounted rate will be funded through a new Uplift Assistance Program Fee.

“We know our city has a high percentage

of residents living below the federal poverty level,” said Mary Bailey, SAWS vice president of customer experience. “The new rates will provide more help than ever before for nearly every customer in our Affordability Discount Program.”

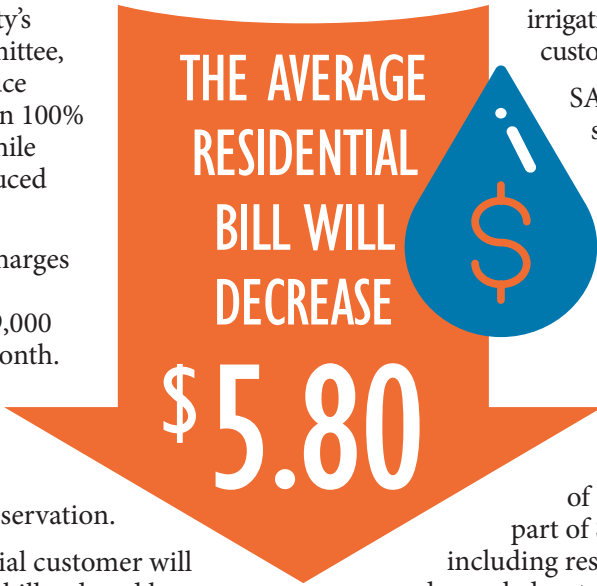
The proposal also includes new rates for commercial, wholesale, irrigation and recycled water customers.

SAWS carries out a rate study about every five years. This helps ensure revenue will continue to meet the costs of providing service while making sure those costs are shared fairly across each customer type.

The Rate Advisory Committee is made up of customers from every part of SAWS’ service area, including residential, multifamily and recycled water customers, as well as large and small businesses, manufacturers, and environmental and community groups.

If approved by the SAWS Board of Trustees and San Antonio City Council, the new rates will take effect in January 2023.

To learn more about the proposed rates and how they were determined, visit saws.org/rac.



2023 rates and your bill

While the proposed 2023 SAWS rates will make water and sewer service more affordable for most customers, exactly how much your own bill will change will vary, depending on your household’s water use and other factors.

The charts on pages 2 and 3 show how the proposed 2023 rates will affect customer bills for different amounts of water use.

To see how your own bill will be affected by the new rates, use the rate calculator at saws.org/calculator.

[More rates information inside](#) ▶

How Will My Bill Change?



Use our online calculator to preview 2023 rates.

saws.org/calculator

PUBLIC NOTICE

DECLARATION OF INTENT TO CHANGE WATER, WASTEWATER, IRRIGATION AND RECYCLED WATER RATES



Implementation of new water, wastewater, irrigation and recycled water rates effective for consumption on or about Jan. 1, 2023 is hereby declared. Customers will begin receiving bills that reflect the proposed 2023 rates on or about Feb. 1, 2023.

Consistent with the notification procedures of Chapter 13 of the Texas Water Code, Title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code and applicable city regulations, the San Antonio Water System Board of Trustees announces its intent to implement new water, wastewater, irrigation and recycled water rates.

The new rates, as proposed by SAWS staff, are scheduled to

be presented to the SAWS Board of Trustees for approval on Nov. 1, 2022. If approved, the water, wastewater, irrigation and recycled water rates are scheduled for review and consideration by San Antonio City Council on Nov. 10, 2022. Upon approval by City Council, the proposed 2023 rates will become effective for consumption on or about Jan. 1, 2023.

The charges below and on page 3 represent samples of current and proposed billing amounts for different levels of consumption across various customer classes.

More information is available at 210-704-SAWS (7297) or saws.org/rates.

Para información en español, por favor lláme al 210-704-7297.

Water Rates (includes TCEQ, EAA and Uplift Assistance Program pass-through fees)

Class	Consumption in Gallons	Proposed Water Rate Adjustments				
		Assumed Meter Size	Existing 2022 Rates	Proposed 2023 Rates	\$ change over 2022	% change over 2022
General ICL	5,000	5/8"	\$ 39.76	\$ 40.59	\$ 0.83	2.1%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 65.45	\$ 68.26	\$ 2.81	4.3%
General OCL	5,000	5/8"	\$ 45.55	\$ 46.83	\$ 1.28	2.8%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 73.96	\$ 77.44	\$ 3.48	4.7%
Wholesale	1,000,000	6"	\$ 6,868.56	\$ 6,926.85	\$ 58.29	0.8%

Class	Consumption in Gallons	Proposed Water Rate Adjustments				
		Assumed Meter Size	Existing 2022 Rates	Proposed 2023 Rates	\$ change over 2022	% change over 2022
Residential ICL	5,000	5/8"	\$ 30.43	\$ 28.55	\$ (1.88)	-6.2%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 65.87	\$ 65.93	\$ 0.06	0.1%
Residential OCL	5,000	5/8"	\$ 35.79	\$ 33.44	\$ (2.35)	-6.6%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 74.45	\$ 74.57	\$ 0.12	0.2%
Uplift Assistance Program Residential ICL	5,000	5/8"	\$ -	\$ 12.85	\$ 12.85	0.0%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ -	\$ 33.10	\$ 33.10	0.0%
Uplift Assistance Program Residential OCL	5,000	5/8"	\$ -	\$ 14.65	\$ 14.65	0.0%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ -	\$ 37.00	\$ 37.00	0.0%
Irrigation ICL	5,000	5/8"	\$ 51.57	\$ 51.64	\$ 0.07	0.1%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 94.37	\$ 96.39	\$ 2.02	2.1%
Irrigation OCL	5,000	5/8"	\$ 59.59	\$ 60.15	\$ 0.56	0.9%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 108.02	\$ 110.95	\$ 2.93	2.7%

Sewer Rates (includes TCEQ and Uplift Assistance Program pass-through fees)

Class	Consumption in Gallons	Proposed Sewer Rate Adjustments				
		Assumed Meter Size	Existing 2022 Rates	Proposed 2023 Rates	\$ change over 2022	% change over 2022
Residential ICL	5,000	5/8"	\$ 28.58	\$ 25.47	\$ (3.11)	-10.9%
Residential OCL	5,000	5/8"	\$ 34.28	\$ 30.39	\$ (3.89)	-11.3%
Uplift Assistance Program Residential ICL	5,000	5/8"	\$ -	\$ 8.16	\$ 8.16	0.0%
Uplift Assistance Program Residential OCL	5,000	5/8"	\$ -	\$ 9.78	\$ 9.78	0.0%
General ICL	5,000	5/8"	\$ 29.16	\$ 32.71	\$ 3.55	12.2%
General OCL	5,000	5/8"	\$ 34.98	\$ 39.08	\$ 4.10	11.7%
Wholesale	1,000,000	6"	\$ 4,778.13	\$ 4,596.13	\$ (182.00)	-3.8%

Recycled Water Rates

Class	Consumption in Gallons	Assumed Meter Size	Proposed Recycled Water Rate Adjustments							
			Existing 2022 Rates		Proposed 2023 Rates		Change from 2022			
			Standard	Seasonal	Standard	Seasonal	Standard		Seasonal	
						\$	%	\$	%	
Recycled Water - Non-Exchange Customer	5,000	5/8"	\$ 22.48	\$ 23.06	\$ 25.85	\$ 26.53	\$ 3.37	15.0%	\$ 3.47	15.0%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 30.24	\$ 31.41	\$ 34.78	\$ 36.13	\$ 4.54	15.0%	\$ 4.72	15.0%
	1,000,000	6"	\$ 1,998.72	\$ 2,110.43	\$ 2,298.77	\$ 2,427.47	\$ 300.05	15.0%	\$ 317.04	15.0%
Recycled Water - Exchange Customer	5,000	5/8"	\$ 16.65	\$ 16.65	\$ 19.15	\$ 19.15	\$ 2.50	15.0%	\$ 2.50	15.0%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 18.58	\$ 18.58	\$ 21.38	\$ 21.38	\$ 2.80	15.1%	\$ 2.80	15.1%
	1,000,000	6"	\$ 823.90	\$ 823.90	\$ 948.44	\$ 948.44	\$ 124.54	15.2%	\$ 124.54	15.2%
Recycled Water - Exchange Customer, Excess of Amount Transferred	5,000	5/8"	\$ 7.26	\$ 7.71	\$ 8.35	\$ 8.87	\$ 1.09	15.0%	\$ 1.16	15.0%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 14.52	\$ 15.42	\$ 16.70	\$ 17.74	\$ 2.18	15.0%	\$ 2.32	15.0%
	1,000,000	6"	\$ 1,452.00	\$ 1,542.00	\$ 1,670.00	\$ 1,774.00	\$ 218.00	15.0%	\$ 232.00	15.0%

Definitions:

ICL: Inside City Limits. **OCL:** Outside City Limits. **General Class:** Includes Commercial, Industrial, and Apartment customers.

Seasonal Period: Water rates applied to all billings beginning on or about May 1 and ending after five complete billing months on or about Sept. 30 of each year. (Applies only to Recycled Water rates.)

Standard Period: Water rates applied to all billings beginning on or about Oct. 1 and ending after seven complete billing months on or about April 30 of each year. (Applies only to Recycled Water rates.)

Military members: Throughout November, the San Antonio Zoo salutes you! Enjoy free standard admission to the zoo and half-off admission for up to four guests on date of visit. Details at sazoo.org.

Event Calendar

Family Flashlight Night

Nov. 4

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place

sabot.org

Cinema On Will's Plaza: Fantastic Mr. Fox

Nov. 11

Tobin Center
100 Auditorium Circle

tobincenter.org/cinema

Second Saturday Habitat Clean-Up

Nov. 12

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road

mitchelllake.audubon.org

Ford Holiday River Parade

Nov. 25

Arneson River Theater
418 Villita St.

thesanantonioriverwalk.com

Holiday Art Market

Nov. 26

Tobin Center
100 Auditorium Circle

tobincenter.org

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)

saws.org/waternews

Apply for Uplift now to take advantage of new affordability discount rates in January

From a global pandemic to skyrocketing inflation, the last two years have taken a toll on many families' finances. But you shouldn't have to choose between putting food on the table or keeping your water service on.

That's where San Antonio Water System's Affordability Discount Program can help.

More than 34,000 families are currently receiving assistance to



pay their monthly water bill. Come January 2023, when SAWS' new proposed rate structure becomes effective, nearly all of their bills will be lower.

Depending on your family size and income, that could be you, too — but you must be enrolled in the SAWS Uplift assistance program!

Established in 2018, Uplift makes it easy to apply for 14 different assistance programs through a single, simple online form. Apply today at saws.org/uplift.



Water less to avoid lawn disease

Crisp autumn air is a welcome relief after a brutally hot summer — unless you've been overwatering your lawn. Cooler temperatures and increased moisture make your grass susceptible to fungal disease.

Bermuda, zoysia and St. Augustine grasses are all vulnerable to these common turf diseases.

- **Take-all root rot or take-all patch:** characterized by yellow dead patches, black spots on stems; found most often in spring.
- **Brown patch fungus:** appears as



circular or irregular patches of light brown, thinned grass and prevalent in fall and winter. There are many products available that will cure this fungus when applied properly.

Compost, either alone or mixed with a small amount of sand to make top dressing, helps acidify the soil and minimize lawn diseases.

The simple rule to remember is keep moisture and fertilizer to a minimum.

Visit GardenStyleSA.com for weekly watering amounts and landscaping tips to keep your yard looking great using less water.

Switch off your sprinklers and save money in 2023

Save water now, save money throughout 2023. It's as simple as turning off your irrigation system for the season.

SAWS sewer charges are based on your average winter water use, as measured across three complete billing cycles from mid-November to mid-March. So watering your landscape less now can add up to big savings all year long.

At this time of year your plants and

lawns are preparing for dormancy, so they don't absorb as much water. Any water you do apply evaporates much more slowly.

So do your landscape and your wallet a favor: turn off your irrigation system and only use it manually to water once a month if there is no rain.

Visit GardenStyleSA.com for weekly watering advice and landscaping tips to reduce outdoor water use.