



SAWS holds off rate change discussion until 2026

In November, the SAWS Board of Trustees approved an interim 2026 budget, delaying a rate adjustment decision. This allows newly appointed SAWS Board and City Council members additional time to understand SAWS' priorities and contribute input.

What happens next?

SAWS leaders have begun a cost-of-service study. The results of that study could support a formal rate-setting process in the first half of 2026.

SAWS rates haven't increased since 2020

SAWS residential and commercial water and wastewater rates have remained steady since 2020. In fact, a rate restructuring in 2023 actually lowered water and sewer charges for most residential customers, despite major challenges such as:

- COVID-19 supply chain impacts
- New legislative requirements after Winter Storm Uri
- Inflation affecting materials and construction costs
- Need-based assistance programs for qualifying customers



Why a 2026 rate adjustment may be needed

Several factors are stretching the utility's budget, including:

- Aging infrastructure
- Ongoing drought conditions
- New legislative requirements

A rate adjustment in 2026 would help fund:

- Upgrades to wastewater treatment plants
- Repair and replacement of aging pipelines

What to expect in 2026

Once the cost-of-service study is completed by early 2026, SAWS leaders will determine the amount of any proposed adjustments to water and wastewater rates and present them to the SAWS

Board for consideration.

If approved by SAWS Trustees, the rate proposal will then go to San Antonio City Council for deliberation and a final vote.

The new rates, if approved by Council, would be expected to take effect in the first half of 2026.

For the latest developments on the SAWS rate process, be sure to follow @mySAWS on Facebook, Instagram and X or visit saws.org/rates2026.

Make sure to 'Be Ready' for a freeze

Freezing temperatures can happen suddenly — even in a mild San Antonio winter. It's good to think ahead and plan to be ready to protect pipes, plants and pets from extreme cold.

SAWS has gathered our best tips and tools to help you "Be Ready" to protect your home and property when temperatures dip below freezing.

From how to prepare water during a boil water notice to which emergency supplies to keep on hand, our resources will help you be ready for the unexpected. It's all available in English and Spanish at saws.org/BeReady.



saws.org/BeReady
210-704-SAWS



READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED



Help keep the dream alive Jan. 19 at the largest **MLK Day** event in the U.S. The march begins at 10 a.m. at M.L. King Academy followed by a celebration at Pittman-Sullivan Park. Details at sa.gov/mlk.

Event Calendar

Guided Bird Tour

Jan. 11

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
mitchelllake.audubon.org

Mindful Flow Yoga

Jan. 17

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabot.org/events

Gardening Essentials

Jan. 19

San Antonio Garden Center
3310 N. New Braunfels Ave.
gardeningvolunteers.org/events

Explore the Night Sky

Jan. 24

Government Canyon State
Natural Area
12861 Galm Road
tpwd.texas.gov/calendar

Wild West Wildlife Festival

Jan. 25

Briscoe Western Art Museum
210 W. Market Street
briscoemuseum.org/learn

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

210-704-SAWS (7297)
saws.org/waternews

Inaugural SAWS expo 'sparks' water-saving innovation



Experts from around the globe came together to exchange ideas and information on all things non-revenue water during the SAWS Sparks Innovation Expo at SAWS Headquarters in October. SAWS collaborated with Isle Utilities for the two-day exhibition. Highlights included panel discussions by industry thought leaders along with product demos of the latest water loss prevention tech, all aimed at helping preserve and deliver more of our most precious resource.

Have you checked your irrigation controller lately?

Do you have the time? Your irrigation system needs to know it to operate properly, especially when Stage 3 watering rules are still in effect.

Make sure the controller is programmed with the correct time, day and year so your system turns on only when it should. In Stage 3, watering with in-ground irrigation, drip, soaker hoses and hose-end sprinklers is only allowed from 5-10 a.m. and 9 p.m. to midnight on your watering day.

While you're at it, replace the back-up battery that maintains the time settings when the power goes out.

Even better: Just turn off your sprinkler system and go manual. Winter's shorter days and cooler temperatures equal much lower watering needs. Let Mother Nature take care of the watering for you. If she doesn't, water once a month on your day and time.

For more information on watering rules, visit saws.org/drought.

Grease goes in the trash

Holidays mean great food, friends and family — and, of course, messy cooking clean up.

Make sure anyone who's cleaning up knows not to dump greasy leftovers down the drain or garbage disposal. Grease is so bad for your pipes!

Instead:

- Scrape food bits from plates and pots into the trash before washing.
- Pour used cooking oil into a sealed container and toss it in the trash.

Keep your drains (and the city's sewers) clog-free this holiday season and #CanTheGrease!

