



Your source for all things water

## SAWS proposes rates review by utility’s Board and City Council

*Plan focuses on sewage plants and other aging infrastructure*

After nearly a year of belt tightening and budget scrutiny, SAWS leaders are presenting a proposed rate plan to the utility’s Board of Trustees and San Antonio City Council.

Public meetings have been taking place since January to gather community feedback.

While SAWS has been ahead of the nation on securing the city’s water supply for the next fifty years and completing sewer upgrades mandated by federal regulators, the proposed rate plan focuses on citywide infrastructure — mainly at aging wastewater recycling centers.

SAWS is currently operating with essential systems dating back as far as the early 1900s. Other cities have shown that delaying repairs

can lead to much higher costs and even cause environmental disasters that extend beyond the communities they serve.



To meet these challenges, SAWS is introducing a transparent, four-year rate plan with the most timely, cost-efficient strategy in mind: an adjustment of less than \$5 a month over each of the next four years for the average residential customer.

Even with these changes, SAWS rates will remain among the lowest in Texas. And our Uplift financial assistance program will expand to protect even more of our most vulnerable neighbors.

This investment makes sure that as our city grows, our water system stays ahead of the curve rather than falling behind.

### Proposed four-year rate schedule

	Current	2026	2027	2028	2029
<b>Total Bill*</b>	\$56.68	\$61.15	\$65.81	\$70.46	\$75.19
<b>\$ Increase</b>		\$4.47	\$4.66	\$4.65	\$4.73
<b>% Increase</b>		7.9%	7.6%	7.1%	6.7%

*\*Based on average residential bill, 6,275 gallons of water and 5,052 gallons of wastewater excluding fees. If the rate adjustment is approved, the SAWS Uplift assistance program will expand eligibility from 125% to 150% of the federal poverty line to help more people.*

### SAWS rate proposal FAQs

**Why is SAWS raising our rates again? Seems like they do that every year.**

This proposal is SAWS’ first residential water and sewer rate increase since 2020. In fact, SAWS lowered bills for most residential customers in 2023 after restructuring rates to make services more affordable for our most vulnerable citizens.

**How was the amount of the rate adjustment determined?**

In 2025, SAWS hired a national utility consultant to conduct a cost-of-service study. The aim was to determine how much customer revenue was needed to continue meeting SAWS’ financial obligations. SAWS staff used the results to create a rate plan to meet those needs.

**How much of this increase will go to the proposed downtown Sports and Entertainment District and Spurs arena?**

None. Since SAWS’ district cooling business operates as a completely separate utility, no water or sewer rates are used to fund it — now or in the future. If a decision is later made to expand the SAWS cooling plant on East Commerce Street, all costs would be paid either by developers or new customers for that service.

**When would the new SAWS rates show up on my bill?**

If approved in June, the 2026 rates would take effect in July and appear on August bills.

For additional FAQs, a customized rate calculator and more details, visit [saws.org/rates2026](https://saws.org/rates2026).





Build your own bug and hunt for insects while you **Celebrate Bugs** at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, Saturday, May 23. Learn more at [sabgtx.org/calendar](http://sabgtx.org/calendar).

## Event Calendar

### Cinema on Will's Plaza: Clueless

May 9

Tobin Center  
100 Auditorium Circle  
[tobincenter.org/events](http://tobincenter.org/events)

### Native Plants for Pollinators

May 12

Eco Centro  
1802 N. Main Ave.  
[ecocentro.eventbrite.com](http://ecocentro.eventbrite.com)

### The Hot Wells Hotel and Spa

May 21

Eco Centro  
1802 N. Main Ave.  
[ecocentro.eventbrite.com](http://ecocentro.eventbrite.com)

### Guided Bird Tour

May 24

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center  
10750 Pleasanton Road  
[mitchelllake.audubon.org/events](http://mitchelllake.audubon.org/events)

### McNay Family Day

June 7

McNay Art Museum  
6000 N. New Braunfels Ave.  
[mcnayart.org/events](http://mcnayart.org/events)

### Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

**210-704-SAWS (7297)**  
[saws.org/waternews](http://saws.org/waternews)

## Stage 3 rules remain as irrigation season begins

Even with a few cooler days and occasional spring showers, San Antonio is still very much in drought. Edwards Aquifer levels remain lower than normal, which means we all need to stay mindful of how we're using water day to day — especially since Stage 3 watering rules are still in effect.

Outdoor watering is the biggest demand, so sticking to once-a-week watering and avoiding irrigation during the heat of the day really helps. It's also a good time to check your sprinkler system for water-wasting leaks, overspray or broken heads.

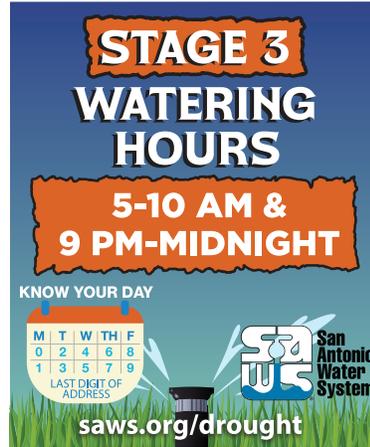
SAWS offers a variety of conservation programs and rebates, including WaterSaver Landscape Coupons, for drought-tolerant plants that look great and use far

less water than a traditional lawn. Get details at [GardenStyleSA.com/coupons](http://GardenStyleSA.com/coupons).

Need inspiration? Our newly updated Landscape Care Guide at [GardenStyleSA.com/guide](http://GardenStyleSA.com/guide) can help you create a drought-hardy oasis without sacrificing comfort or curb appeal.

As the drought continues, every bit of conservation helps protect our shared water supply — to keep San Antonio

resilient through the hot months ahead.



## Support your lawn — naturally!

Healthy lawns can thrive without the addition of synthetic fertilizers. Here are a few simple practices that provide nutrients your lawn needs while improving soil health.

**Leave grass clippings on the lawn** to allow nutrients to return to the soil naturally.

**Mow regularly** and make sure each mowing only removes about 1/3 of the grass blade. In summer, raise mowing height to reduce

moisture loss and encourage deep root growth.

**Apply a thin layer of compost in early spring or late fall** over the entire lawn and use a shovel to distribute compost.

**Leave leaves or mow them into the lawn.** They'll help fertilize your grass as they break down. Leaves also make excellent mulch for your garden beds.

Sometimes the most sustainable lawn care

practice is to skip synthetic fertilizer and let nature take its course.



## Mark your calendars: Festival of Flowers is May 30

Plant lovers and gardening enthusiasts: get ready for a must-visit event next month — the annual Festival of Flowers happens May 30!

From herb cooking demonstrations to Texas' largest plant exchange to a dedicated kids' zone, the festival has something for

26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

everyone! Plus the first 1,000 visitors get free wildflower seeds, courtesy of SAWS!



It all happens May 30, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the San Antonio Shrine Auditorium, 901 North Loop 1604 West. Admission is \$13.54 for adults and free for children 10 and younger. Get tickets at [FestivalOfFlowersSA.com](http://FestivalOfFlowersSA.com).

**Saturday**  
May 30, 2026  
9AM - 5PM