

SAWS Board approves revised rate, infrastructure improvement plan

Proposal now heads to City Council for consideration in October

San Antonio Water System's proposed "Water Forward" plan is moving ahead once again — in a slightly different form — following a unanimous vote by SAWS Trustees Aug. 4.

The multi-billion-dollar infrastructure improvement program aims to upgrade essential systems across the city — from replacing aging public water and sewer pipes to modernizing outdated treatment plants to installing emergency backup power systems and more.

The proposal now goes to San Antonio City Council for final consideration.

City Council was originally scheduled to vote on the plan — and a four-year rate adjustment to fund it — back in June. However, Council decided to delay that decision until October.

The new rates, if approved, would likely go into effect in January 2027 instead of July 2026 as originally planned.

"This updated 'Water Forward' plan ensures we can continue to deliver the reliable and responsible water and sewer services our community expects from SAWS — now, and for decades to come," said Cecilia Velasquez, SAWS chief financial officer.

Velasquez said the revised plan retains the same four-year rate adjustment previously presented to City Council, which would increase the average monthly residential bill by a little less than \$4 per month in 2027, with similar increases each year through 2030.

"So same four-year period, same four-year rates," she said.

"We were able to preserve the bill impact to our customers, so I'm probably most excited about that part," said Jelynnne LeBlanc Jamison, SAWS chairwoman.

At the time of publication, SAWS leaders were expected to present the

revised rate and infrastructure plan to City Council Sept. 30, with a vote on the proposal set for Oct. 8.

Learn more at saws.org/rates2026.



The SAWS "Water Forward" plan includes proactively replacing dozens of miles of water and sewer mains citywide that have reached the end of their expected lifespan.

SAWS nets national award for water stewardship

San Antonio Water System's reputation as a leader in the utility industry continues to grow. The latest example: In August, SAWS was named water supplier Member of the Year by the Alliance for Water Efficiency.

AWE's annual awards celebrate leadership and innovation in water efficiency across North America. SAWS' selection reflects its long-standing commitment to conservation, customer programs, and forward-looking water management that serve as a model for utilities nationwide.

For more than two decades SAWS has consistently demonstrated that large, fast growing cities can reduce per capita water use while strengthening water supply certainty and resilience.



SAWS Conservation Director Martha Wright and Jennifer Granneman, program manager, accept the AWE Member of the Year award Aug. 6 in Chicago.

Event Calendar

Pollinator Tea Party

Oct. 10

Confluence Park
310 W. Mitchell St.
sariverfound.org/events

Wildflower Garden Preparation

Oct. 17

Eco Centro
1802 N. Main Ave.
ecocentro.eventbrite.com

Wildlife Trick or Treat

Oct. 24

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

October Plant Sale

Oct. 24-25

San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
sabgtx.org/calendar

Guided Bird Tour

Nov. 1

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

Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

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

Last chance for fall WaterSaver Coupons

The best planting season of the year is upon us. Fall's shorter days and cooling temperatures make it the perfect time to replace drab, heat-stressed parts of your lawn with colorful, water-saving garden beds.

Getting plants in the ground now gives them fall, winter and spring to establish their roots before next year's summer heat arrives.

SAWS WaterSaver Landscape Coupons can help you level up your landscape glam game! Through Oct. 15, residential water customers can apply for up to four coupons to transform up to 800 square feet of landscape.

Each coupon is worth \$150 toward the purchase of 15 preselected native or well-adapted plants for every 200 square feet of grass transformed.

With more than 100 eligible plants to choose from — from ground covers to small trees — there are plenty of options for creating a beautiful, water-saving landscape.

Coupons must be redeemed at a participating nursery by Nov. 1.

Get all the details and apply today at GardenStyleSA.com/fall.



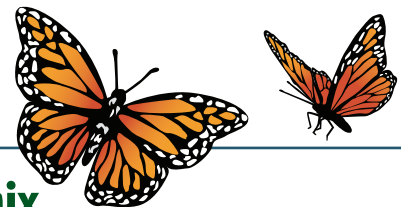
Spread your wings at the Butterfly Festival Oct. 3

Celebrate butterflies, pollinators and the natural world at the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival, Saturday, Oct. 3 at Brackenridge Park.

The free event features a wide range of activities for the whole family. Whether you're adopting a plant, learning something new from over 45 educational partners, or becoming a citizen scientist by participating in the monarch tagging event, you're sure to have a blast.

While you're there, stop by the SAWS Conservation booth to learn more about our programs and how we're supporting local pollinators.

For more information and to reserve tickets, visit bloomingwithbirdie.com/monarchfest.



(Motor) oil and water don't mix

That old saying is especially true when it comes to used motor oil and our local water supplies.

It is estimated that American households improperly dump about 193 million gallons of used motor oil every year. That oil could leak into storm drains and eventually contaminate our rivers, creeks, lakes and aquifers.

Recycling used motor oil reduces this pollution threat.

Did you know that the City of San Antonio operates a permanent drop-off location for recycling used motor oil and other hazardous household chemicals?

For a list of drop-off requirements, please visit sa.gov/swmd.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Center
7030 Culebra Road

Tuesday-Friday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday
8 a.m.-noon

(except holidays)