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waternews

Your source for all things water

# City Council approves SAWS rates

## *4-year plan balances affordable bills with reliable service*

After more than a year of public outreach and prudent financial planning, San Antonio Water System has secured funding to begin its $2.6 billion "Water Forward" infrastructure improvement plan.

San Antonio City Council voted Oct. 8 to approve yearly rate adjustments through 2030 to finance needed repairs and upgrades to our city's water and wastewater systems.

The rates are designed to balance three main priorities: Maintaining customer affordability, preserving SAWS' financial strength, and funding the infrastructure needed to provide reliable water and wastewater services and regulatory compliance.

"Maintaining affordable rates requires making responsible investments now to avoid greater costs and risks in the future," said Cecilia Velasquez, SAWS chief financial officer.

The new rates will raise the average monthly residential bill by $3.91 in 2027, with similar increases each year through 2030. Because nearly 70% of SAWS customers used less than the average amount of water, most will see an even smaller increase.

"Even with the 2027 adjustment, SAWS' average residential bill will remain among the lowest compared with the major Texas cities," Velasquez said.

The rates will be used to upgrade essential systems across the city — from replacing aging water and sewer pipes to modernizing treatment plants to adding emergency backup power systems and more.

Commercial customers will see similar increases over the 4-year period, along with adjustments to various special service fees.

To help protect our most vulnerable citizens, rates will remain unchanged for those enrolled in SAWS' Uplift bill payment assistance program, while doubling the number of customers who qualify.

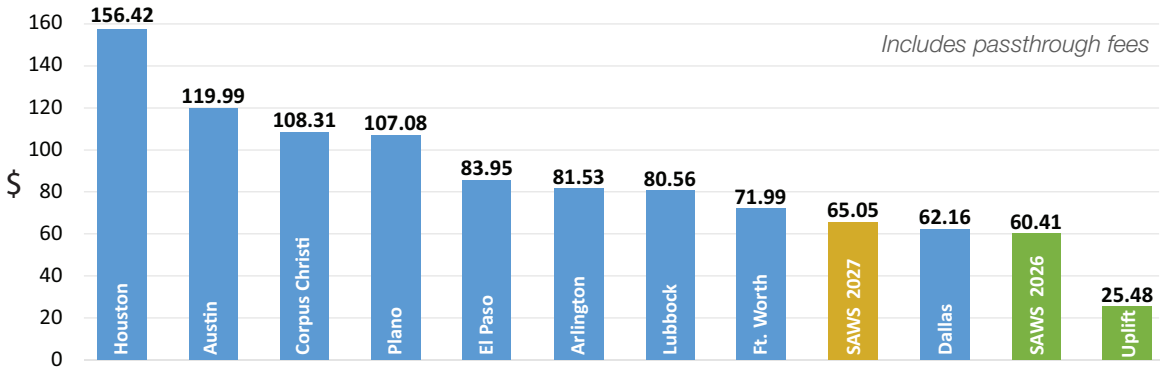
The new rates will take effect Jan. 1, 2027, with charges appearing on February bills.

Want to know exactly how the new 2027 rates will affect you? Use our residential rate calculator at **saws.org/calculator**.

Learn more at **saws.org/rates2027**.

MORE RATES INFO INSIDE

## SAWS water and sewer rates remain among the lowest in Texas




## Plan ahead: New pipes coming to Hildebrand

Roadway construction is never convenient, but it is necessary to improve infrastructure around our city.

Over the next six months, portions of Hildebrand Avenue between Highway 281 and McCullough will be closed in both directions so SAWS crews can replace nearly a mile of aging water pipes to reduce leaks and improve reliability.




Construction will occur in phases, with full road closures 24 hours a day for several weeks at a time.

Traffic patterns and detours will change throughout the project.

For detailed project schedules and traffic updates, visit **saws.org/NewPipes** or call 210-233-3500.

# Advisory of New Water, Wastewater, Irrigation and Recycled Water Rates

San Antonio Water System
PO Box 2449, San Antonio, TX 78298 • 210-704-SAWS • www.saws.org/rates2027

San Antonio Water System is required by law to publish a new rate schedule for water, wastewater, irrigation and recycled water. These new rates will be effective for consumption on or about Jan. 1, 2027. If you would like more information or assistance on estimating your bill, contact SAWS at 210-704-SAWS. An online calculator for SAWS rates is also available at saws.org/calculator. Additional information regarding this new rate structure, including the ordinance and supporting documentation, can be found at the City Clerk's office located at 100 Military Plaza, 1st Floor, San Antonio, Texas 78205.

## New Recycled Class Water Rates - 2027

| Meter Size | Monthly Service Availability Charge |
|---|---|
| 5/8" | $24.77 |
| 3/4" | $32.21 |
| 1" | $42.01 |
| 1-1/2" | $66.72 |
| 2" | $97.54 |
| 3" | $259.45 |
| 4" | $385.64 |
| 6" | $735.62 |
| 8" | $1,108.87 |
| 10" | $1,520.50 |
| 12" | $1,876.04 |

**Volume Charges per 1,000 Gallons**

| Edwards Exchange | Standard Rates | Seasonal Rates |
|---|---|---|
| Transferred amount | $0.653 | $0.653 |
| All in excess of transferred amount | 2.445 | 2.597 |
| **Non-Edwards Exchg.** | **Standard Rates** | **Seasonal Rates** |
| First 748,000 | $2.615 | $2.813 |
| Over 748,000 | 2.675 | 2.836 |

## New Wholesale Class Water Rates - 2027

| Meter Size | Monthly Service Availability Charge |
|---|---|
| 6" | $425.44 |
| 8" | $678.54 |
| 10" | $847.27 |
| 12" | $1,184.74 |
| **Volume Charges per 1,000 Gallons** | |
| Base* | $2.445 |
| Over Base | $4.918 |

* Base is defined as 100% of the Annual Average Consumption or as agreed to by the wholesale customer and approved by the SAWS Board of Trustees.

## New Irrigation Class Water Rates - 2027

**Monthly Service Availability Charge**

| Meter Size | Inside City | Outside City |
|---|---|---|
| 5/8" | $14.24 | $17.86 |
| 3/4" | $19.57 | $24.44 |
| 1" | $30.21 | $37.61 |
| 1-1/2" | $56.80 | $70.53 |
| 2" | $88.71 | $110.04 |
| 3" | $173.81 | $215.39 |
| 4" | $269.55 | $333.91 |
| 6" | $535.50 | $663.14 |
| 8" | $854.64 | $1,058.21 |
| 10" | $1,067.40 | $1,321.59 |
| 12" | $1,492.92 | $1,848.35 |

**Volume Charges per 1,000 Gallons Standard Rates**

| | Inside City | Outside City |
|---|---|---|
| Block 1: 8,000 Gallons | $3.809 | $4.952 |
| Block 2: 18,000 Gallons | $5.332 | $6.932 |
| Block 3: 160,000 Gallons | $6.855 | $8.913 |
| Block 4: Over 160,000 Gallons | $8.760 | $11.389 |

### Rate Table Definitions

**General Class:** Includes Commercial, Industrial and Apartment Customers. **Irrigation Class:** Customers that use water for landscaping, either through a separate meter or through a pro-rated amount of monthly water use. New business service accounts that are installing an in-ground landscape irrigation system are required to install a separate landscape irrigation meter. **Wholesale Class:** Customers who have entered into contracts for wholesale water and/or sewer service with SAWS. **Recycled Water Class:** Customers that use recycled water produced by SAWS for non-potable applications through a separate recycled water meter. **Seasonal Rates:** Recycled water rates applied to all billings beginning on or about May 1 and ending after five complete billing months on or about September 30 of each year. **Standard Rates:** Recycled water rates applied to all billings beginning on or about October 1 and ending after seven complete billing months on or about April 30 of each year. **Base Consumption:** 100% of average monthly consumption of prior year. **Inside City:** Rates charged for customers living inside City of San Antonio City Limits. **Outside City:** Rates charged for customers living outside City of San Antonio City Limits. **Winter Average Consumption:** The fee for sewer service is based on the average monthly consumption of water during three complete consecutive billing periods beginning on or after November 15 of each year and ending on or after three full billing cycles in March. **Wastewater Customers of Other Cities:** A different rate may apply to customers being billed by SAWS for wastewater for other municipal bodies.



## Keeping water affordable for our most vulnerable citizens

UPLIFT
Helping Neighbors in Need

No one should ever have to be without water service because they can't pay their bill. SAWS Uplift offers income-based assistance to support our neighbors in need.

**Water and sewer rates will remain unchanged in 2027 for those enrolled in Uplift.** In addition, new income guidelines will help many more families and individuals qualify for Uplift assistance starting in 2027.

Learn more and apply online at **saws.org/uplift** or call **210-233-CARE (2273)**.

## New Residential Class Water Rates - 2027

**Monthly Service Availability Charge***

| Meter Size | Inside City | Outside City |
|---|---|---|
| 5/8” | $9.85 | $12.81 |
| 3/4” | $14.07 | $18.29 |
| 1” | $22.51 | $29.25 |
| 1-1/2” | $43.60 | $56.68 |
| 2” | $68.91 | $89.58 |
| 3” | $136.40 | $177.32 |
| 4” | $212.33 | $276.03 |
| 6” | $421.82 | $548.18 |
| 8” | $673.21 | $874.76 |
| 10” | $840.80 | $1,092.48 |
| 12” | $1,175.98 | $1,527.92 |

* Inside City Water Service Availability Charge shall be increased by $2.20 if usage exceeds 4,000 gallons; Outside City Water Service Availability Charge shall be increased by $2.86 if usage exceeds 4,000 gallons.

**Volume Charges per 1,000 Gallons**

| Block Threshold | Inside City | Outside City |
|---|---|---|
| Block 1: 4,000 Gallons | $1.063 | $1.383 |
| Block 2: 7,000 Gallons | $1.966 | $2.556 |
| Block 3: 12,000 Gallons | $3.561 | $4.629 |
| Block 4: 20,000 Gallons | $4.676 | $6.080 |
| Block 5: Over 20,000 Gallons | $6.642 | $8.635 |

## New General Class Wastewater Rates - 2027

**Monthly Service Availability Charge**

| Meter Size | Inside City | Outside City |
|---|---|---|
| 5/8” | $10.42 | $12.51 |
| 3/4” | $14.30 | $17.16 |
| 1” | $22.05 | $26.46 |
| 1-1/2” | $41.43 | $49.72 |
| 2” | $64.69 | $77.64 |
| 3” | $126.71 | $152.07 |
| 4” | $196.49 | $235.79 |
| 6” | $390.31 | $468.38 |
| 8” | $622.90 | $747.49 |
| 10” | $777.96 | $933.56 |
| 12” | $1,088.08 | $1,305.70 |

Customers with no SAWS water meter will be charged the Sewer Monthly Service Availability Charge based on a 2” meter.

**Volume Charges per 1,000 Gallons**

| Block Threshold | Inside City | Outside City |
|---|---|---|
| All Usage | $4.527 | $5.433 |

## New Wholesale Class Wastewater Rates - 2027

| | |
|---|---|
| Monthly Service Availability Charge | $ 391.17 |
| Volume Charge per 1,000 gallons | $ 4.489 |

## New Residential Class Wastewater Rates - 2027

**Monthly Service Availability Charge**

| Meter Size | Inside City | Outside City |
|---|---|---|
| 5/8” | $10.42 | $12.51 |
| 3/4” | $14.30 | $17.16 |
| 1” | $22.05 | $26.46 |
| 1-1/2” | $41.43 | $49.72 |
| 2” | $64.69 | $77.64 |
| 3” | $126.71 | $152.07 |
| 4” | $196.49 | $235.79 |
| 6” | $390.31 | $468.38 |
| 8” | $622.90 | $747.49 |
| 10” | $777.96 | $933.56 |
| 12” | $1,088.08 | $1,305.70 |

Customers with no SAWS water meter will be charged the Sewer Monthly Service Availability Charge based on a 5/8” meter.

**Volume Charges per 1,000 Gallons***

| Block Threshold | Inside City | Outside City |
|---|---|---|
| Block 1: 4,000 Gallons | $2.742 | $3.291 |
| Block 2: Over 4,000 Gallons | $4.799 | $5.760 |

* Determined by Winter Average Consumption; customers who do not have a record of winter water usage will be billed an interim average for sewer service assuming 5,985 gallons monthly sewer usage.

## New General Class Water Rates - 2027

**Monthly Service Availability Charge**

| Meter Size | Inside City | Outside City |
|---|---|---|
| 5/8” | $14.24 | $17.86 |
| 3/4” | $19.57 | $24.44 |
| 1” | $30.21 | $37.61 |
| 1-1/2” | $56.80 | $70.53 |
| 2” | $88.71 | $110.04 |
| 3” | $173.81 | $215.39 |
| 4” | $269.55 | $333.91 |
| 6” | $535.50 | $663.14 |
| 8” | $854.64 | $1,058.21 |
| 10” | $1,067.40 | $1,321.59 |
| 12” | $1,492.92 | $1,848.35 |

**Volume Charges per 1,000 Gallons**

| | Inside City | Outside City |
|---|---|---|
| Base* | $2.188 | $2.845 |
| >100-125% of Base | $2.516 | $3.271 |
| >125-175% of Base | $3.281 | $4.267 |
| >175% of Base | $3.829 | $4.978 |

* Base equals 100% of the Annual Average Consumption

For a new general class water customer who does not have a record of prior-year consumption history in order to establish a base use, a default base amount shall be assigned using the average monthly consumption for the prior calendar year for the average apartment, general or industrial account (as applicable) having the same meter size and sub-classification as the customer.

San Antonio Water System

Get expert guidance in tree-trimming techniques during Winter Tree Pruning for Homeowners Saturday, Dec. 12 at Eco Centro. Register at ecocentro.eventbrite.com.

# Event Calendar

### Tree Lighting Ceremony
**Dec. 7**
Leon Valley Community Center
6427 Evers Road
**leonvalleytexas.gov/relations**

### Family Night at Illuminate
**Dec. 11**
San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
**sabgtx.org/calendar**

### River of Lights
**Dec. 12**
San Antonio River Museum Reach
550 Brooklyn Ave.
**sariverauthority.org/events**

### Christmas Campfire Story and S'mores
**Dec. 19**
Government Canyon State Natural Area
12861 Galm Road
**tpwd.texas.gov/calendar**

### Guided Bird Tour
**Dec. 20**
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
10750 Pleasanton Road
**mitchelllake.audubon.org/events**

### Celebrate SA: NYE Party & Countdown
**Dec. 31**
Hemisfair
434 South Alamo St.
**saparks.org/events**

**Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency**
**210-704-SAWS (7297)**
**saws.org/waternews**

## Install a shut-off valve, get a rebate

Planning holiday travel? Make it easier to protect your home from leaks while you're away with a new residential water shut-off valve — and SAWS will give you a $100 rebate toward the installation.



Our winters are usually mild, but the rare deep freezes can wreak havoc on unprepared pipes and fixtures. A properly installed shut-off valve is a convenient way to turn off your water before you leave town, to protect your home from leaking water softeners and other devices while you're away.

Prepare now, travel with greater peace of mind, and help keep winter weather from dampening the holiday season.

For details and to apply online, visit **GardenStyleSA.com/valve**.

## Autumn is for planting trees

Few things add value to a home like a tree. As the seasons shift, remember that October and November are the best months to plant trees and shrubs in South Central Texas.



Planting in fall gives woody plants the next six months to deal with transplant shock before our most difficult season: summer.

Regardless of the weather, all plants struggle a bit after going from pot to ground. Getting through this crucial period is made much easier by cooler temperatures and shorter days.

If a freeze is forecasted shortly after planting, don't panic. Just soak the root zone to insulate it from freezing temps. Also, make sure the location you choose can accommodate the tree when it reaches full size.

Need help deciding what trees to plant? Visit **GardenstyleSA.com/plants**.

## Fallen leaves = free fertilizer and mulch

As leaves fall from the trees and into your yard, your first instinct may be to scoop them right into the green bin. But before you pull out the rake, take a moment to consider how those leaves can help your landscape — and save you money.



Leave the leaves where they fall to help boost soil health or rake them up to distribute in landscape beds as mulch and fertilizer.

While you're at it, delay pruning bare stems and old flower heads until spring. A cozy corner of fallen leaves and twigs helps shelter insects and wildlife through winter, including many butterfly species. And faded flower seedheads become energy-packed snacks for birds.

