



Press Release

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Tuesday, July 11, 2017

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY BOARD APPROVES \$51M BUDGET, NO RATE INCREASE

Sweetwater Authority (Authority) customers will not see a rate increase in the new fiscal year. The Authority's Governing Board (Board) approved the budget on June 14, 2017. In order to achieve a zero percent rate increase, the Authority used a variety of strategies, including absorbing increased chemical and energy costs, not funding some personnel positions and deferring capital projects in the short-term. The budget also reflects return on the investment from expansion of the Richard A. Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility, from 5 million gallons per day to 10 million gallons per day, and installation of 3,276 ground-mounted solar PV panels and 264 roof-mounted solar PV panels.

"The Board worked closely with staff to develop a budget that was equitable to Authority rate payers while preserving the financial health of the agency and the quality of our performance," said Board Chair, Teresa "Terry" Thomas.

Customers will see a slight increase in the San Diego County Water Authority pass-through rates, effective January 1, 2018. The charges will be reflected on the water bill.

Detailed rate charts and the budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18 are available at the Authority's website at www.sweetwater.org.

Sweetwater Authority, a joint powers public agency, provides public water service to approximately 189,000 people residing in National City and the South Bay Irrigation District (which includes portions of Chula Vista and most of Bonita).

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