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Steve Castaneda, Chair Jose Preciado, Vice Chair Josie Calderon-Scott Jerry Cano José F. Cerda Hector Martinez Alejandra Sotelo-Solis Friday, September 27, 2019 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sweetwater Authority's Governing Board Approves Cost-Saving Measure for Customers

Chula Vista, CA – On Wednesday, September 25, the Sweetwater Authority (Authority) Governing Board voted unanimously to approve measures to maintain water affordability and share operational savings with its customers. As a result, the average customer will actually see their bill go down in the future.

The Governing Board, as part of its Strategic Work Plan effort for the year, voted to reduce its Wholesale Water Purchase Rate to offset other increases so that the average Authority customer will see a slight decrease in their water bill next year. The Authority's new rate structure will go into effect on January 1, 2020.

Governing Board Chair Castaneda was proud of the board collaboration and said, "It takes vision and courage to question the assumption that rates need to be raised every year. I'm honored to serve with a Board that is always focused on providing excellent value for our ratepayers. Through careful consideration, we examined our expenses and revenues and determined that we could keep rates stable without an increase."

Detailed water rate charts are available at <u>www.sweetwater.org</u>.

Sweetwater Authority, a joint powers public agency, provides public water service to approximately 190,000 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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