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# waternews

Your source for all things water



## 2019 Rates Aim To Enhance Infrastructure Citywide

Water and sewer projects lead the list of reasons San Antonio Water System's budget includes a rate adjustment for 2019, helping ensure dependable water service to all customers for decades to come.

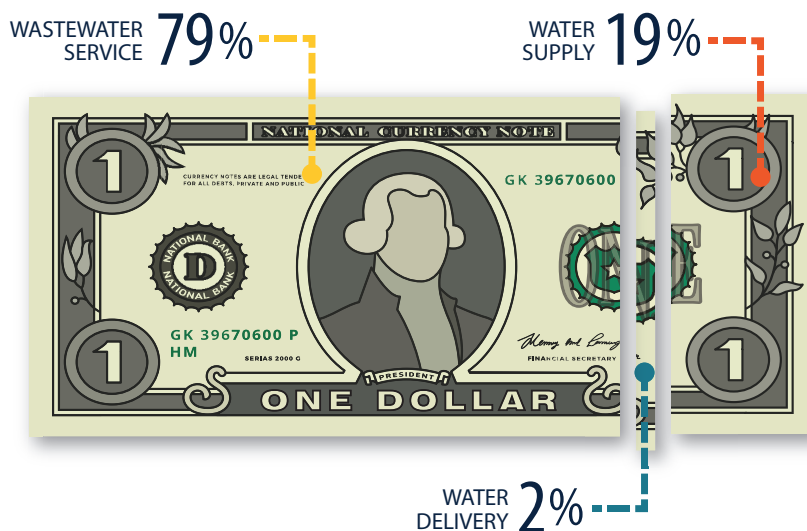
The 4.7 percent rate adjustment was approved by San Antonio City Council in December 2017 and will change the average monthly residential bill (excluding regulatory pass-through fees) in 2019 from \$62.89 to \$65.83 — a difference of \$2.94.

The additional revenue will enable SAWS to replace aging critical systems throughout the city, as well as support SAWS improvements being made in connection with street projects funded by the

city's 2017 bond program.

The adjustment will also allow multiyear water and sewer projects to move forward, in addition to major technology upgrades such as possible wireless meter reading.

The new rates will take effect Jan. 1, 2019, and appear on February bills.



### KEEPING WASTEWATER IN THE SEWERS WHERE IT BELONGS

Our wastewater system is mostly out of sight, out of mind — until there's a stinky, messy problem. SAWS is investing more than \$1 billion to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements, repairing and replacing aging sewers and facilities systemwide.



### SECURING PLENTIFUL, SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLIES

Soon the Alamo City will boast 16 water projects from nine sources. From desalination to the Carrizo Aquifer, SAWS is securing sustainable supplies for generations to come, and building state-of-the-art infrastructure to distribute that water throughout the city.



### ENSURING DEPENDABLE WATER DELIVERY 24/7/365

Aging water infrastructure is a challenge nationwide. San Antonio is addressing this need sooner rather than later to save money, upgrading wells, pump stations, storage tanks and miles of water mains.

## Record Rains = No Lawn Watering Required

If you thought last month was a little rainier than usual, it wasn't your imagination. It was San Antonio's wettest September ever, putting an end to drought restrictions that started in May.

That's great news for your landscape. In fact, your lawn probably won't need watering again until Halloween — or even later if we get more rain in October.

Mother Nature's gift of green grass can also save you buckets of money on your fall water bills if you do this: turn off your automatic irrigation system. Too much watering is also tough on your lawn and can cause fungal diseases such as Brown Patch.

So be water wise and save some green. Turn off your sprinklers. Your lawn will thank you.

Join the MySAWS Conversation:



**Become a citizen scientist!** Learn to identify and report invasive plants, Saturday, Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Encino Branch Library, 2515 Evans Road. Sign up now at [bit.ly/invasivesTX](http://bit.ly/invasivesTX). Workshop is WaterSaver Rewards eligible.

## Event Calendar

### Bird Tour

**Nov. 4**

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

### Luminaria Contemporary Arts Festival

**Nov. 10-11**

Hemisfair  
434 S. Alamo St  
[luminaria.org](http://luminaria.org)

### Native Plant Walk

**Nov. 16**

San Antonio Botanical Garden  
555 Funston Place  
[sabot.org](http://sabot.org)

### Ford Holiday River Parade

**Nov. 23**

Arneson River Theater  
418 Villita St.  
[thesanantonioriverwalk.com](http://thesanantonioriverwalk.com)

### International Peace Market

**Nov. 23-25**

Esperanza Peace and Justice Center  
922 San Pedro Ave.  
[esperanzacenter.org](http://esperanzacenter.org)

### Customer Service and 24-hour Emergency

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

## 50 More Reasons To Love WaterSaver Coupons

Still on the fence about redeeming your WaterSaver Coupons? Here are 50 extra incentives: SAWS will throw in a \$50 mulch coupon when you use your Landscape or Patioscape coupons to transform your yard!

- Apply for your WaterSaver Landscape or Patioscape coupons by Oct. 15.
- Use your coupons by Nov. 11.

- Receive an email with a link to attach photos of your completed project.
- Get your \$50 mulch coupon via email.
- Redeem it from your mobile device.

All mulch coupons expire Nov. 25.

Mulch is a fantastic way to encourage root growth and reduce water requirements. It's also a great way to spruce up your landscape for the holidays.



## Reap Rewards for Saving Water

Got water-wise ways? Sign up for WaterSaver Rewards and get a little something extra!

Earn points every time you participate in a SAWS-approved conservation event or program. (The invasive plant workshop mentioned above is worth two points!) Then cash them in for coupons to use toward water-saving materials like plants,

mulch, compost and the ever-popular rain barrels. But you have to sign up first. Residential water customers can register online at [GardenStyleSA.com/rewards](http://GardenStyleSA.com/rewards).

After you've signed up, check out the [GardenStyleSA.com](http://GardenStyleSA.com) calendar for points-earning, green family fun including wildlife workshops, nature walks, plant sales, gardening activities and much more.

## Switch Off Your Sprinklers and Save Money in 2019

Here's yet another reason to nix the lawn watering this season: It will save you money throughout 2019.

Because SAWS sewer charges are based on your average winter water use, watering your landscape less now can add up to big savings all year long.

It's called winter averaging and it monitors the amount of water you use during three complete billing cycles from mid-November to mid-March to calculate your sewer fee for the whole year.

So the less you water your lawn this winter, the less you'll pay for sewer service all year long. That's a deal too good to pass up!

Your billing cycle can be found on the front of your monthly statement just below the account number.

*\*Dates are approximate.*

| Billing Cycle | Winter Averaging Starts* | Winter Averaging Ends* | Month Billed |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 16            | Nov. 12                  | Feb. 21                | March        |
| 17            | Nov. 13                  | Feb. 22                | March        |
| 18            | Nov. 14                  | Feb. 25                | March        |
| 19            | Nov. 15                  | Feb. 26                | March        |
| 20            | Nov. 16                  | Feb. 27                | March        |
| 21            | Nov. 19                  | Feb. 28                | April        |
| 1             | Nov. 20                  | March 1                | April        |
| 2             | Nov. 21                  | March 4                | April        |
| 3             | Nov. 26                  | March 5                | April        |
| 4             | Nov. 27                  | March 6                | April        |
| 5             | Nov. 28                  | March 7                | April        |
| 6             | Nov. 29                  | March 8                | April        |
| 7             | Nov. 30                  | March 11               | April        |
| 8             | Dec. 3                   | March 12               | April        |
| 9             | Dec. 4                   | March 13               | April        |
| 10            | Dec. 5                   | March 14               | April        |
| 11            | Dec. 6                   | March 15               | April        |
| 12            | Dec. 7                   | March 18               | April        |
| 13            | Dec. 10                  | March 19               | April        |
| 14            | Dec. 11                  | March 20               | April        |
| 15            | Dec. 12                  | March 21               | April        |