



Your source for all things water

## How to lower your sewer bill in 2024

Wouldn't it be great if you had a say in how much you're charged for sewer service? Wait a minute, you actually do!

That's because SAWS sewer charges are based on your average winter water use. So, the less water you use this winter, the lower your monthly sewer charge will be for the rest of 2024.

Do you run your irrigation system at least once per week during the winter? If so, you're making an expensive mistake.

Watering dormant grass will not make it grow, no matter how much water you apply. Only the roots are active in the winter and usually do just fine on the occasional rainfall we receive. What *will* turn green if you water are the winter weeds.

What if there's no rain? Simple — you can always run your irrigation manually to water once a month.

### How winter averaging works

SAWS averages your water use over three consecutive billing periods between mid-

November and mid-March to calculate the monthly sewer charges for the year.

Why winter? Most winter water use occurs indoors, and therefore leaves your home via the sewer pipes. Since there are no sewer meters to

measure the outgoing flow, winter averaging is a fairly accurate way to estimate your sewer use.

### What else can affect the winter average?

You should avoid draining and refilling your pool or spa during your winter averaging period. Having an unrepaired leak could also cause your winter average to be higher.

Bottom line: Saving water now can add up to big savings throughout 2024.

### Check the schedule

The chart shows the approximate start and end dates of the winter averaging period for each SAWS billing cycle. Your billing cycle

is shown in the blue "Current Bill Summary" section on your bill.

For more ways to save water and money all year long, visit [GardenStyleSA.com](http://GardenStyleSA.com).

Winter Average Period 2023-2024

Billing Cycle	Winter Averaging Starts	Winter Averaging Ends	Month Billed
13	Nov. 15	Feb. 26	March
14	Nov. 16	Feb. 27	March
15	Nov. 17	Feb. 28	March
16	Nov. 20	Feb. 29	March
17	Nov. 21	Mar. 01	March
18	Nov. 22	Mar. 04	March
19	Nov. 27	Mar. 05	March
20	Nov. 28	Mar. 06	March
21	Nov. 29	Mar. 07	April
01	Nov. 29	Mar. 08	April
02	Nov. 30	Mar. 11	April
03	Dec. 01	Mar. 12	April
04	Dec. 04	Mar. 13	April
05	Dec. 05	Mar. 14	April
06	Dec. 06	Mar. 15	April
07	Dec. 07	Mar. 18	April
08	Dec. 08	Mar. 19	April
09	Dec. 11	Mar. 20	April
10	Dec. 12	Mar. 21	April
11	Dec. 13	Mar. 22	April
12	Dec. 14	Mar. 25	April

**Note:** Actual meter reading dates may vary slightly.

## Adopted budget keeps water, sewer rates steady for 2024

For the fourth consecutive year, the SAWS operating budget includes no water or sewer rate increase for 2024. Earlier this year, a restructuring of SAWS rates actually lowered water and sewer charges for nearly every residential customer.

The SAWS Board of Trustees was briefed on the proposal in September and approved the budget on Oct. 3.

The budget includes more than \$567 million in capital spending for infrastructure improvements, in addition to increased operating costs for the installation of electronic meters, enhanced water

leak detection and repair efforts, along with information and physical security.

The budget includes rate adjustments for commercial chilled water and recycled water customers to better align with the cost of operating those highly specialized business units.

You can review the entire adopted budget at [saws.org/budget](http://saws.org/budget).

Bill payment assistance is available to those who qualify. Learn more and apply at [saws.org/uplift](http://saws.org/uplift).

[More rates information inside](#) ▶



# PUBLIC NOTICE

## DECLARATION OF INTENT TO CHANGE RECYCLED WATER RATES AND UPLIFT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FEES



### Implementation of new recycled water rates and fees for the Uplift assistance program effective for consumption on or about Jan. 1, 2024 is hereby declared. Customers will begin receiving bills that reflect the 2024 rates on or about Feb. 1, 2024.

Consistent with the notification procedures of Chapter 13 of the Texas Water Code, Title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code and applicable city regulations, the San Antonio Water System Board of Trustees announces its intent to implement new recycled water rates and fees for the Uplift assistance program.

Also, consistent with §13.187 (i) of the Texas Water Code, the approval by the SAWS Board of Trustees on Oct. 3, 2023, represents the final decision for this rate change. The effective date of this rate change is on or about Jan. 1, 2024. Additional information regarding this rate change can be found at the City Clerk's Office of the City of San Antonio located at 100 W. Houston St., Concourse San Antonio, TX 78205 or at [saws.org/rates](http://saws.org/rates).

Consistent with the Rate Advisory Committee's recommendation for recycled water rates, a five-year rate adjustment plan was approved in the 2023 Budget. The plan included a 15% increase in 2023 and up to 10% increases each year from 2024 to 2027. On Oct. 3, 2023 the SAWS Board of Trustees approved the pre-approved maximum recycled water rate increase of 10% effective for consumption on or about Jan. 1, 2024.

In 2023, SAWS added the cost of the Uplift assistance program as a volumetric pass-through fee for water and sewer usage. This fee is assessed to all general, irrigation and residential customers who are not enrolled in the assistance program. For 2024, based on a lower than anticipated growth rate in the Uplift assistance program, the 2024 program fees will be \$0.24 less for the average residential bill.

The charges in the tables shown represent samples of current and adopted billing amounts for different levels of consumption across various customer classes. More information is available at 210-704-SAWS (7297) or [saws.org/rates](http://saws.org/rates).

**Para información en español, por favor lláme al 210-704-7297.**

### Recycled Water Rates

Class	Adopted Recycled Water Rate Adjustments									
	Consumption in Gallons	Assumed Meter Size	Existing 2023 Rates		Proposed 2024 Rates		Change from 2023			
			Standard	Seasonal	Standard	Seasonal	Standard		Seasonal	
							\$	%	\$	%
Recycled Water - Non-Exchange Customer	5,000	5/8"	\$ 25.85	\$ 26.53	\$ 28.43	\$ 29.18	\$ 2.58	10.0%	\$ 2.65	10.0%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 34.78	\$ 36.13	\$ 38.26	\$ 39.74	\$ 3.48	10.0%	\$ 3.61	10.0%
	1,000,000	6"	\$ 2,298.77	\$ 2,427.47	\$ 2,528.64	\$ 2,670.22	\$ 229.87	10.0%	\$ 242.75	10.0%
Recycled Water - Exchange Customer	5,000	5/8"	\$ 19.15	\$ 19.15	\$ 21.06	\$ 21.06	\$ 1.91	10.0%	\$ 1.91	10.0%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 21.38	\$ 21.38	\$ 23.52	\$ 23.52	\$ 2.14	10.0%	\$ 2.14	10.0%
	1,000,000	6"	\$ 948.44	\$ 948.44	\$ 1,043.28	\$ 1,043.28	\$ 94.84	10.0%	\$ 94.84	10.0%
Recycled Water - Exchange Customer, Excess of Amount Transferred*	5,000	N/A	\$ 8.35	\$ 8.87	\$ 9.19	\$ 9.76	\$ 0.84	10.0%	\$ 0.89	10.0%
	10,000	N/A	\$ 16.70	\$ 17.74	\$ 18.37	\$ 19.51	\$ 1.67	10.0%	\$ 1.77	10.0%
	1,000,000	N/A	\$ 1,670.00	\$ 1,774.00	\$ 1,837.00	\$ 1,951.40	\$ 167.00	10.0%	\$ 177.40	10.0%

\*The Service Availability Charge is not included in the Excess of Amount Transferred monthly charge calculations. The charges shown reflect only the volumetric charges if monthly usage exceeds a customer's base consumption which is equal to the amount of Edwards water rights that were transferred to SAWS.

### Definitions:

**ICL:** Inside City Limits. **OCL:** Outside City Limits. **General Class:** Includes Commercial, Industrial, and Apartment customers.

**Seasonal Period:** Water rates applied to all billings beginning on or about May 1 and ending after five complete billing months on or about Sept. 30 of each year. (Applies only to Recycled Water rates.)

**Standard Period:** Water rates applied to all billings beginning on or about Oct. 1 and ending after seven complete billing months on or about April 30 of each year. (Applies only to Recycled Water rates.)

**Water Rates** (includes TCEQ, EAA and Uplift Assistance Program pass-through fees)

Class	Consumption in Gallons	Adopted Water Rate Adjustments				
		Assumed Meter Size	Existing 2023 Rates	Proposed 2024 Rates	\$ change over 2023	% change over 2023
<i>General ICL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 40.40	\$ 40.25	\$ (0.15)	-0.4%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 67.86	\$ 67.57	\$ (0.29)	-0.4%
<i>General OCL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 46.64	\$ 46.49	\$ (0.15)	-0.3%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 77.04	\$ 76.75	\$ (0.29)	-0.4%
<i>Wholesale</i>	1,000,000	6"	\$ 6,887.55	\$ 6,887.55	\$ -	0.0%

Class	Consumption in Gallons	Adopted Water Rate Adjustments				
		Assumed Meter Size	Existing 2023 Rates	Proposed 2024 Rates	\$ change over 2023	% change over 2023
<i>Residential ICL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 28.36	\$ 28.21	\$ (0.15)	-0.5%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 65.53	\$ 65.24	\$ (0.29)	-0.4%
<i>Residential OCL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 33.25	\$ 33.10	\$ (0.15)	-0.5%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 74.17	\$ 73.88	\$ (0.29)	-0.4%
<i>Uplift Assistance Program Residential ICL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 12.66	\$ 12.66	\$ -	0.0%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 32.70	\$ 32.70	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Uplift Assistance Program Residential OCL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 14.46	\$ 14.46	\$ -	0.0%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 36.60	\$ 36.60	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Irrigation ICL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 51.45	\$ 51.30	\$ (0.15)	-0.3%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 95.99	\$ 95.70	\$ (0.29)	-0.3%
<i>Irrigation OCL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 59.96	\$ 59.81	\$ (0.15)	-0.3%
	10,000	5/8"	\$ 110.55	\$ 110.26	\$ (0.29)	-0.3%

**Sewer Rates** (includes TCEQ and Uplift Assistance Program pass-through fees)

Class	Consumption in Gallons	Adopted Sewer Rate Adjustments				
		Assumed Meter Size	Existing 2023 Rates	Proposed 2024 Rates	\$ change over 2023	% change over 2023
<i>Residential ICL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 25.47	\$ 25.42	\$ (0.05)	-0.2%
<i>Residential OCL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 30.39	\$ 30.34	\$ (0.05)	-0.2%
<i>Uplift Assistance Program Residential ICL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 8.16	\$ 8.16	\$ -	0.0%
<i>Uplift Assistance Program Residential OCL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 9.78	\$ 9.78	\$ -	0.0%
<i>General ICL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 32.71	\$ 32.66	\$ (0.05)	-0.2%
<i>General OCL</i>	5,000	5/8"	\$ 39.08	\$ 39.03	\$ (0.05)	-0.1%
<i>Wholesale</i>	1,000,000	6"	\$ 4,596.13	\$ 4,596.13	\$ -	0.0%

Help local native flora and fauna — and save water — with a pollinator patch or pocket prairie! Learn the basics of designing, installing and maintaining your own pollinator paradise at San Antonio Botanical Garden, Saturday, Jan. 20. Tickets at [sabot.org/events](http://sabot.org/events).

## Event Calendar

### Cinema On Will's Plaza: The Grinch

**Dec. 8**

Tobin Center  
100 Auditorium Circle  
[tobincenter.org/cinema](http://tobincenter.org/cinema)

### Second Saturday Habitat Work Day

**Dec. 9**

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

### Family Gardening Workshop: Candle Making

**Dec. 16**

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

### Meet & Greet Santa

**Dec. 22**

Red Roof Plus Downtown  
1101 E. Houston St.  
[visitsanantonio.com/events](http://visitsanantonio.com/events)



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

## McGee banks on diverse water portfolio for SA's future

by Jeanie Tavitas

For SAWS Board Vice Chairman David McGee, no job is ever too small or insignificant. After all, it was hard work, perseverance and a life-long appreciation for our most precious resource that ultimately led him to serve on the board of this world-renowned utility.

Originally from Wichita, Kansas, McGee grew up in a “typical American family.” His mom worked as a secretary at a small university and his dad was a salesman.

“(Dad) wasn’t home during the week a lot, but when he was, we all sat down and had dinner together,” he recalls.

While they didn’t take big family vacations, McGee says his dad did have one extravagance: a small motorboat.

“He was always home on the weekends, so he would take it out to the lake and we all learned how to ski,” says McGee, adding that he and his brother and sister were all competitive swimmers in high school.

A self-described “water rat,” he says his deep appreciation for water started with those weekend outings.

Fast-forward to the 1970s, when McGee moved to San Antonio, starting his freshman year at Roosevelt High School. He went on to study economics and finance at Baylor University. But not before working every job available to him.

“Our parents expected us to go to college, but there wasn’t a lot of money to put us through college, so I worked,” he says, reminiscing about one of his first jobs in Wichita. “I’d get

up around 3:30 a.m. and throw a couple hundred newspapers, when it snowed, rain or shine, on foot or on my bicycle.”

In San Antonio, McGee got a job at a grocery store, carrying packages, stocking shelves, and cashing checks, which is what first piqued his interest in banking and eventually led him to start Amegy Bank in 2007, where he is president/CEO.

Even while in college he continued to work any job he could get, including in the girls’ dorm cafeteria and driving a school bus. That’s how he paid his own way through Baylor — an accomplishment he’s most proud of.



“I grew up in a family where work was a big deal — work hard, be faithful, and be proud of the work you’re doing, no matter what kind of work it is,” he says.

Serving on the SAWS Board alongside people of different backgrounds, training and perspectives also gives him a deep sense of pride.

“Like the rest of the San Antonio community — we come together

on controversial issues,” he says. “We listen to each other and come up with melded solutions that really do take into account everybody’s needs.”

When it comes to his vision for the future of water, McGee says from a SAWS perspective we’re pretty close with our strong conservation mindset and diverse water portfolio. And as a banker with 42 years under his belt, he believes water — not money, not land — is the currency for growth in a community.

“We need to be guided by those opportunities to see our community grow economically,” he says. “But we also need to do it in a way that’s environmentally responsible.”

## (Motor) oil and water don’t mix

It’s estimated that American households improperly dump about 193 million gallons of used motor oil every year. That oil can wind up in storm drains, eventually contaminating our rivers, creeks, and lakes.

Recycle used motor oil at the City of San Antonio’s permanent drop-off location.

**Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility**  
7030 Culebra Road  
Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon (except holidays)

For a list of drop off requirements, visit [sa.gov/swmd](http://sa.gov/swmd).