

**TO: SA Chamber Board of Directors**  
**FROM: SA Chamber Public Policy Council**  
**SUBJECT: San Antonio Water System (SAWS)**  
**Rate Advisory Committee Recommendations**



**STATUS: ADOPTED**

**DATE: October 27, 2022**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** The Board of Directors of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce adopts the following statement as policy:

**STATEMENT:** The San Antonio Chamber of Commerce supports the 2023 proposed water and wastewater rates restructure recommended by the SAWS Rate Advisory Committee

**BACKGROUND:** SAWS completes a rate study about every five years to ensure that water and wastewater rates sufficiently recover operating costs, maintain and invest in necessary infrastructure to provide water and wastewater services, equitably allocate costs of service to each customer class, and reflect the values of the community served. The SAWS Rate Advisory Committee (RAC), consisting of 21 members assembled by SAWS, completed the 2022 Rate Study over a span of five months and seven meetings, with a goal to provide fair and equitable water and wastewater rate recommendations.

The Rate Advisory Committee (RAC) is composed of various representatives from different service areas and customers, to include major manufacturers, large and small businesses, multi-family customers, neighborhood associations, representatives of the San Antonio City Council districts within the SAWS service area, customers outside of the San Antonio city limits but within SAWS service areas, recycled water customers, and environmental and community advocacy groups. Throughout the study, the RAC committed to four guiding priorities: affordability, minimized customer impacts, conservation, and revenue stability.

The rate study process includes recommendations that meet the cost of service as determined by customer class, encourage continued conservation for discretionary use, ensure affordability of water for all residential customers, and are revenue neutral in that the restructured rates will not provide SAWS with additional revenue.

The Chamber understands that the restructured rates and rate recommendations include commercial rate increases, and we will diligently monitor the impact to businesses and the business community.

San Antonio has some of the nation's best water conservation programs. The Chamber supports programs that safeguard the City's water infrastructure and policies to improve the region's water resiliency and economic growth.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** We recommend that the San Antonio City Council vote in favor of the proposed 2023 water and sewer rates to be implemented beginning January 2023.