



Long Beach Water

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Board of Water Commissioners

CHRISTOPHER J. GARNER, General Manager

September 30, 2021 Board Meeting

Subject

Adopt Resolution No. WD-1445 authorizing the General Manager to accept and expend California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program (CWWAPP) funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,429,543.

Executive Summary

In March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Long Beach Water Department (LBWD) along with the City of Long Beach suspended charging late fees for utility customers and terminations (shut-offs) of utilities due to non-payment. Shortly thereafter, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-42-20 that created a state-wide moratorium on water service terminations (shut-offs) due to non-payment. This moratorium is set to expire on September 30, 2021 per Executive Order N-08-21.

Utilities across the state have seen growing amounts of customer arrearages during the past 18 months, surpassing \$1 billion in water and wastewater debt alone. To address this financial impact on water customers, the state of California has established the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Plan (CWWAPP) through the State Budget Act of 2021, designating the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) to allocate \$1 billion to reduce water and wastewater debt. Eligible customers include active and inactive residential and commercial customers (with the exception of industrial and irrigation accounts) that had water bills 60 days or more past due between March 4, 2020 and June 15, 2021. Customers do not need to apply under the CWWAPP program. Funds will be directly allocated to the water agencies who will then credit customer accounts within 60 days of receiving funds. The SWRCB will address water arrearages first, followed by wastewater arrearages with any remaining funds.

LBWD has stayed engaged in this process and has determined approximately 3,174 eligible accounts with water arrearages in the amount of approximately \$1.4 million. LBWD will request this funding allocation from the SWRCB and expects to receive funds in November.

Recommendation

Adopt Resolution No. WD-1445 authorizing the General Manager to accept and expend California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program (CWWAPP) funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,429,543.

Fiscal Impact: LBWD's CWWAPP allocation will provide arrearage relief for LBWD customers. Any awarded funds will increase revenues to the Water Fund.

B. Anatole Falagan
Assistant General Manager

Christopher J. Garner
General Manager