



Control Number: 54565



Item Number: 399

RATEPAYER COMMENTS/REQUESTS TO INTERVENE

RECEIVED

If you wish to PROTEST the proposed rate change, you must complete this form and file it electronically using the PUC Interchange Filer (<http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/filing/PUCFilingInstructions.pdf>) or mail the original to:

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

**Filing Clerk
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326**

No hearing will be held and the rates will be effective as proposed unless protests are received from at least 10% of ratepayers or from any affected municipality, or the Commission Staff requests a hearing.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION (please provide all of the requested information)

First Name: NICHOLAS Last Name: RATH

Phone Number: 830-947-3014 Fax Number: _____

Email Address: nrath1949@gmail.com

Address, City, State: 234 HICKORY RUN, LAVERNA TX 78121

Location where service is received: SAME
(if different from the mailing address)

Please select the applicable : 1

I wish to PROTEST the following proposed rate action/s:

☐ I wish to be a COMMENTER. I understand that: I am NOT a party to this case; my comments are not considered evidence in this case; and I have no further obligation to participate in the proceeding. Public comments may help inform the PUCT of the public concerns and identify issues to be explored. Please provide comments below. Attach a separate page, if necessary.

☐ **I am requesting to INTERVENE in this proceeding.** As an INTERVENOR, I understand that: I am a party to the case; I am required to respond to all discovery requests from other parties; I may be required to attend hearings, and if I file testimony, I may be cross-examined in the hearing; if I file any documents in the case, I must provide a copy to every other party in the case; and I acknowledge that I am bound by the Procedural Rules of the PUCT and the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).

Signature of Ratepayer: [Signature] Date: 2/8/23

Si desea informacion en Espanol, puede llamar al
1-888-782-8477

Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones may contact the PUCT's Customer Assistance Hotline
at
512-936-7136

February 8, 20923

Filing Clerk
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 North Congress Avenue
PO Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

RE: PUC Docket 54565

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing in response to the proposed increased by CSWR Texas of our water rates. Their proposal not only represents a 90% increase over current rates, but appears completely out of line with other water services.

To support this claim I submit the following. My wife and I live in a 2600 square foot home. Our average monthly water usage last year was approximately 1500 gallons per month. CSWR proposes to charge us \$81.68 for this.

SS Water Supply, 2 miles away would charge \$38.95
East Central Utility District (8 miles away) \$49.60
San Antonio Water System \$34.21, and includes sewage (we are on septic system) and trash pickup.

Copies of their rate structure are enclosed in this petition.

As senior citizens living on fixed income, we hope you take all of this in to consideration before allowing CSWR this virtual doubling of our water expense.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nick & Martha Rath
234 Hickory Run
La Vernia TX 78121-5853
830-947-3014 (home)
210-744-9163 (cell/text)
nrath1949@gmail.com

S. S. WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

10393 US HWY 87 W, La Vernia, TX 78121

August 2022

Important Water Rate Information

S.S. Water Supply Corporation celebrated its 50th year of providing water service to the community in 2021, and we hope to celebrate many additional anniversaries going forward. Despite the tumultuousness of the last two years, the explosive growth our community has seen over the last several years continues nearly unabated with an additional “serving” of inflation on the side. These two factors and their effects on our corporation have been challenging, but S.S. Water’s desire to provide reliable, potable water service to our Members and customers in areas that encompass Sutherland Springs, La Vernia, Adkins, Floresville, and Bexar County is unwavering.

Meeting Today’s Needs While Looking to the Future

S.S. Water has diligently planned over the last 12 years to build out the water distribution system needed to handle the kind of growth we are seeing in our area. However, to enact those plans we must ensure the corporation is best positioned to whether the seemingly never-ending price increases for pretty much everything nowadays. As a private, Member-owned corporation, most of the corporation’s revenue comes from retail water sales to our Members. We last adjusted our water rates two years ago on 1 October 2020, but inflation levels up to and surpassing 10 percent across the full spectrum of industries and services we rely on to bring reliable and potable water to our Membership have forced us to revisit our water rates. To meet these challenges, the S.S. Water Board of Directors—a group of nine dedicated individuals who all live on the system—voted for and accepted a proposed water rate increase at the 11 June 2022 Board meeting. This rate increase is scheduled to be formally voted on and adopted at the 12 September 2022 Board meeting, with the new rates entering effect on **1 October 2022**.

S.S. Water supplies over 6,700 accounts that serve over 20,000 customers across Wilson County. We maintain nearly 400 miles of water mains, 16 water distribution facilities, nine active wells, and a state-of-the-art Advanced Metering Infrastructure that provides near-real time water use data saving tens of millions of gallons of water a year. Additionally, numerous state and federal regulations require public water systems to maintain certain water storage, water testing, back-up power generation capabilities, and service provision standards. This extensive regulation regime, coupled with the day-to-day expense of running and maintaining a capital-intensive business like a water utility while also saving for future capital improvements, require us to ensure that we have sufficient operating revenues to meet our current and future financial obligations. Most of the corporation’s revenue comes from retail water sales.

Here are tables showing current v. proposed rates. The proposed increase for the Base Rate is seven (7) percent, with the largest gallonage charge increase being nine (9) percent (seen below):

<u>Monthly Service Charge/Base Rate</u>	<u>Current Rate</u>	<u>Proposed Rate</u>
Standard 3/4" Meter	\$31.88	\$34.05
1" Meter	\$79.70	\$85.28
1 1/2" Meter	\$159.40	\$170.56
2" Meter	\$318.80	\$341.12

<u>Gallon Usage (First 2K gals. included in Base Rate)</u>	<u>Current Gallonage Charge per 1K Gallons</u>	<u>Proposed Gallonage Charge per 1K Gallons</u>
2,001 - 15,000	\$3.31	\$3.31 (No change)
15,001 - 30,000	\$4.96	\$4.96 (No change)
30,001 - 50,000	\$6.45	\$7.04 (9% increase)

As of this writing, S.S. Water Supply Corporation remains one of very, very few utilities in the State of Texas that is completely debt-free. This means that all the capital improvements we have done over the last two years – to include purchases of a new 530,000-gallon storage tank and 10 back-up diesel power generators totaling over \$1.5M – were all paid for in full. This is a testament to the judicious and effective stewardship of your Member dollars to fund current and future projects, but saving and spending prudently are not enough given the ever-rising cost of materials, land, capital, and business expenditures. An important part of prudent financial planning is forecasting what the system’s financial needs will be during normal times and emergent situations, and the trials we have all gone through over the last two years certainly qualify as emergent. That is why we seek regular, incremental rate increases instead of larger ones over longer periods of time.

On the next page there is a table showing sample bills under our new rate structure, and what those bills would be using the published rates of neighboring water utilities:

Standard 3/4" Meter		Water Rate Comparison Chart					
Gallons Used	SSWSC Current Rates	SSWSC Proposed Rates	East Central	Crystal Clear	Springs Hill	Oak Hills	Sunko
3,000	\$35.37	\$37.37	\$61.26	\$61.01	\$53.32	\$27.20	\$41.50
11,000	\$59.17	\$63.87	\$121.81	\$109.45	\$92.02	\$42.40	\$64.50
15,000	\$71.23	\$73.77	\$128.50	\$138.21	\$111.62	\$50.40	\$76.50

Even with the proposed rate increase, our rates remain very competitive with those of neighboring water utilities.

This proposed rate increase will fund/continue funding:

- New/replacement wells (two new wells to be commissioned in 2022 alone at \$1,000,000+ each)
- Planned water main replacements/upgrades
- Plant improvements
- Land acquisition for additional wells and plant improvements
- New water storage tanks
- Customer service + office workflow improvements
- Continued funding of iron filtration fund
- Additional regulatory compliance (enhanced or additional water testing and unfunded mandates).

***** Opportunities to Voice Your Opinion to the Board of Directors *****

- Monthly Board meetings on 8 August and 12 September 2022 at 7:00pm at our offices at 10393US Highway 87 West
- Customer service email: csr@sswater.net
- Office telephone: (830) 779-2837
- Mailing address: 10393 US HWY 87 W, La Vernia, TX 78121

This proposal will ensure our ability to provide potable water service to our served population now and into the future, while continuing to meet or exceed all regulatory requirements. We thank you very much for your continued support!!

Office Phone: (830) 779-2837

Facsimile: (830) 779-5122

csr@sswater.net

www.sswater.net



Committed to Providing Clean, Safe Water for All Our Residents

Rates & Policies

Listed below, you will find our current rates and policies. If you do not find the information you need, please contact our office and we will provide it for you.

Standard Residential Service Rates (ECSUD)

Based on ¹³⁴ 7500 ~~7500~~ cuft
gall.

Monthly Minimum:	\$38.00
Tier (tier)	Usage Charge/100 cuft:
0 to 1100 cuft = 146 gal	\$5.80
1200 to 2200 cuft	\$6.67
2300 to 3300 cuft	\$7.38
3400 to 4400 cuft	\$7.82
4500 over cuft	\$8.80

Our community's water meters are read each month. Please contact our office for any additional information.

Relevant Documents

📄 Notice of Requirement to Comply with Subdivision (PDF / 95 KB)

📄 Operating Policies (PDF / 1,543 KB)

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1500 \text{ gal} = 201 \text{ cuft} = 11.60 \\
 + 38.00 \\
 \hline
 \$ 49.60
 \end{array}$$

San Antonio Water System
2023 Residential Water and Sewer Rates

Handwritten signature

Service

Pay Your Bill

ConnectH2O

Start-Stop

Service

Contact Us

Affordability

Programs

Customer Self-

Service

FAQs

2023 Residential Water and Sewer Rates

The approved rate structure for 2023 consists of a two-tier fixed charge and a five-tier volumetric rate.

- 83 percent of residential customers will see a reduction in their water bills, and 100 percent of residential customers will see a reduction in their wastewater bills.
- The combined water and wastewater bill for residential essential use (6,275 gallons water usage and 5,062 gallons sewer usage per month) will decrease by 8.4 percent.
- Fixed charges will decrease by more than 20 percent for most residential customers.

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San Antonio

Repairs

New Customers

Water & Sewer
Rates

Residential Water & Sewer Rates

Residential
Rate Calculator

Affordability

Program Water
& Wastewater
Rates (Uplift
Assistance
Program)

Water Supply
Fee

General Class
Water Service
and Sewer
Rates

Landscape

Irrigation

Service Rates

Wholesale

Water Service

Residential Water Rates

Effective for Consumption on or about January 1, 2023

The Service Availability Charge (**minimum bill**) assessed for all residential water service furnished through meters of the following sizes together with the Monthly Volume Charge measured per 100 gallons of water usage in every instance of service for each month or fraction thereof shall be as follows:

MONTHLY SERVICE AVAILABILITY CHARGE			
METER SIZE	INSIDE CITY LIMITS		OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS
	2023		2023
5/8"	\$9.00		\$11.70
3/4"	11.93		15.51
1"	17.79		23.13
1 1/2"	32.44		42.18
2"	50.02		65.03
3"	96.90		125.97
4"	149.64		194.54
6"	296.14		384.99
8"	471.94		613.53
10"	589.14		765.89
12"	823.54		1,070.61
Water Service Availability Charge shall be increased by \$2.00 if usage exceeds 4,000 gallons.		Water Service Availability Charge shall be increased by \$2.60 if usage exceeds 4,000 gallons.	

	Usage Gallon Block Threshold	RATE PER 1,000 GALLONS 2023	RATE PER 1,000 GALLONS 2023
Water Service	4,000	\$0.907	\$1.180
Stormwater	7,000	1.678	2.182
Fee	12,000	3.039	3.951
Edwards	20,000	3.991	5.189
Aquifer	Over 20,000	5.669	7.370
Authority			
Permit Fee			
TCEQ Pass- Through Fee			
Special Services Fees			
Plumbing Backed Up?			
Locates Service			

Uplift Assistance Program Fee

Uplift Assistance Program Fee helps fund bill payment assistance for neighbors in need who qualify for the SAWS Uplift Affordability Discount Program.

UPLIFT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FEE	
RATE PER 1,000 GALLONS	
	APPROVED 2023
Water	\$0.159

Residential Sewer Rates

Effective for consumption on or about January 1, 2023.

Sewer service charges for all metered residential water connections shall be the sum of the appropriate **Sewer Service Availability Charge** and the application of the **Sewer Monthly Volume Charges** to average monthly water usage for 90 days during three consecutive billing periods beginning after November 15 and ending on or about March 15 of each year and are billed according to the schedule below.