

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board Memorandum

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

SHARE and ERAP Program Participation through Fiscal Year 2020/2021

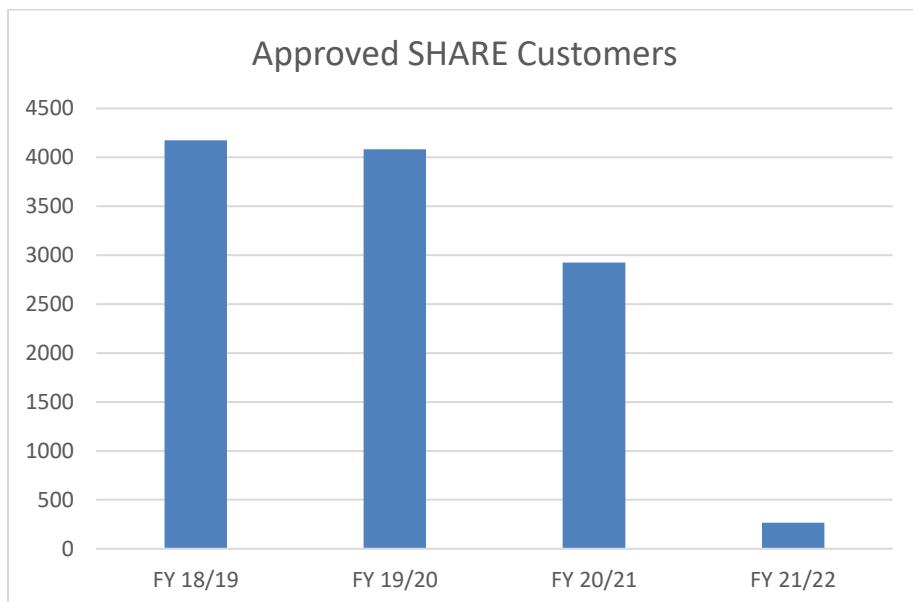
SHARE Program

The SHARE program provided assistance to over 2,900 electric customers and over 1,000 water customers for fiscal-year 20/21.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the delinquency process was put on hold until further notice. Effective, July 16, 2020 the SHARE program guidelines were updated to allow an urgent notice to qualify customers for the \$150 emergency assistance. Once the COVID-19 state emergency ceases to exist, we will revert back to our current program guidelines upon management approval.

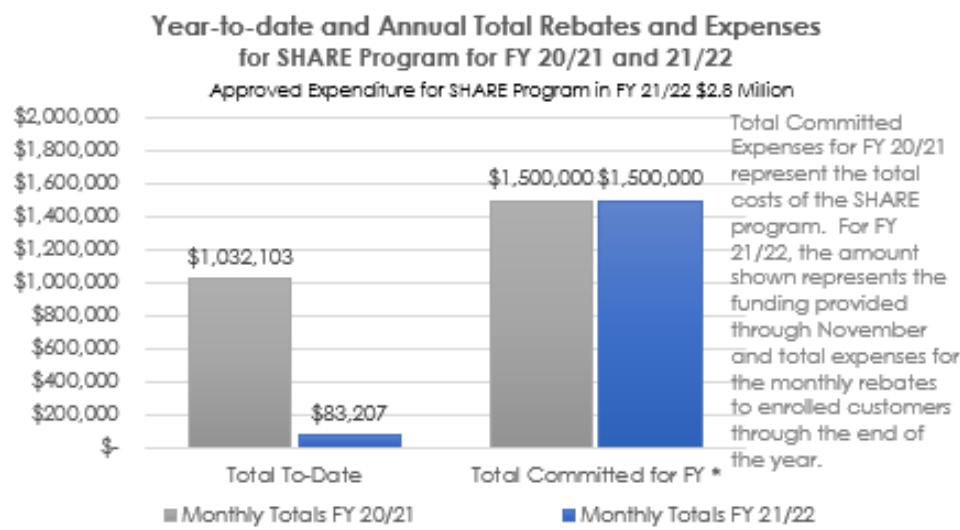
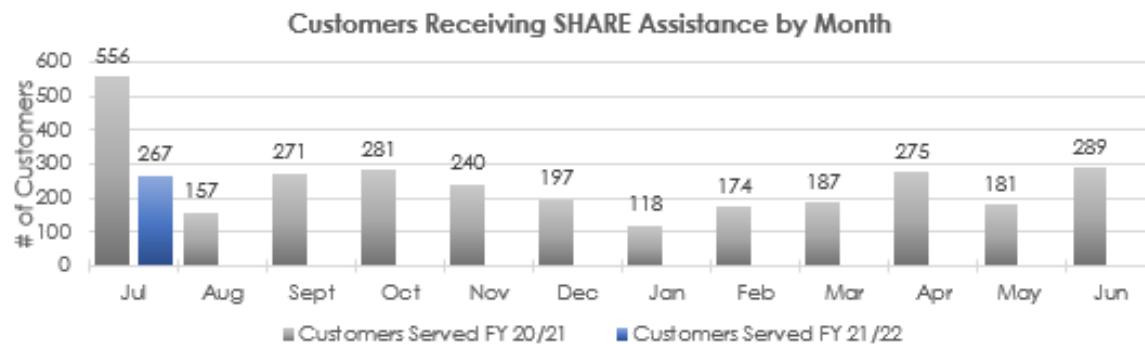
On March 23, 2021, the City Council approved an increase to the emergency/deposit assistance from \$150 to \$250. Approximately, 1,548 customers that received the \$150 from March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 retroactively received the additional \$100 credit.

On August 3, 2021 the City Council approved the third SHARE monthly electric increase from \$15.00 to \$15.50 and the monthly water increase from \$2.75 to \$3.00

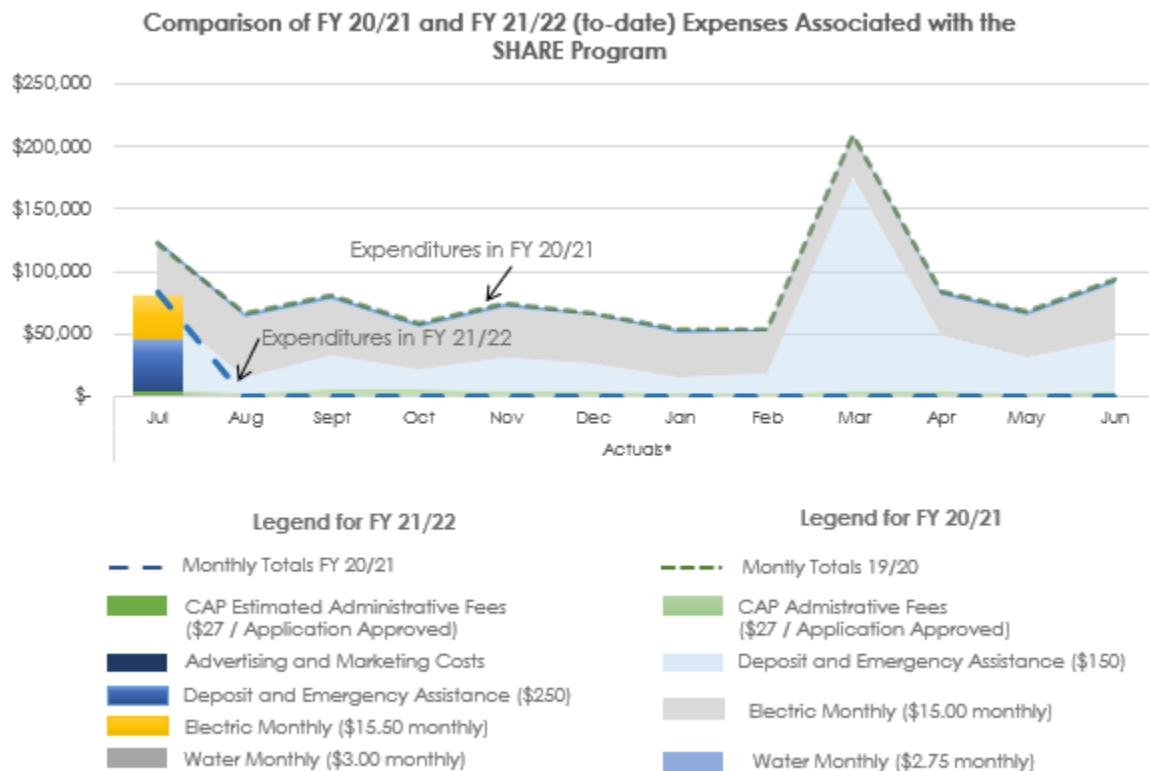


Over the third year of the enhanced program, the total number of customers approved for SHARE assistance was 2,926. This represented a year-over-year decrease of 29% when compared to 4,084 customers served between July 2019 and June 2020. Staff understands that this is due to the current economic conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the halt of the delinquency process.

Expenses associated with the rebates per customer are spread throughout the year as customer receive their monthly rebates. The amount expended per customer as of the end of FY 20/21 was \$166.84 (the amount includes monthly payments for enrolled customers through the end of the current fiscal year). Through July, the amount expended per customer is \$156.93.



The chart on the next page provides detail on the history and current progress of the SHARE program participants, expenditures, overhead costs and program goals. CAP administrative expenses are shown in green with the lighter color representing FY 20/21. In July 2021, there was a 16 percent difference in costs between the monthly electric rebate and the flat emergency/deposit assistance (shown as light blue for FY 20/21 and darker blue for FY 21/22). This reflects the monthly payments (shown in yellow) increasing as participation increases throughout the year.



* CAP Administrative Fee for FY 21/22 is Estimated based on Approved Applications.

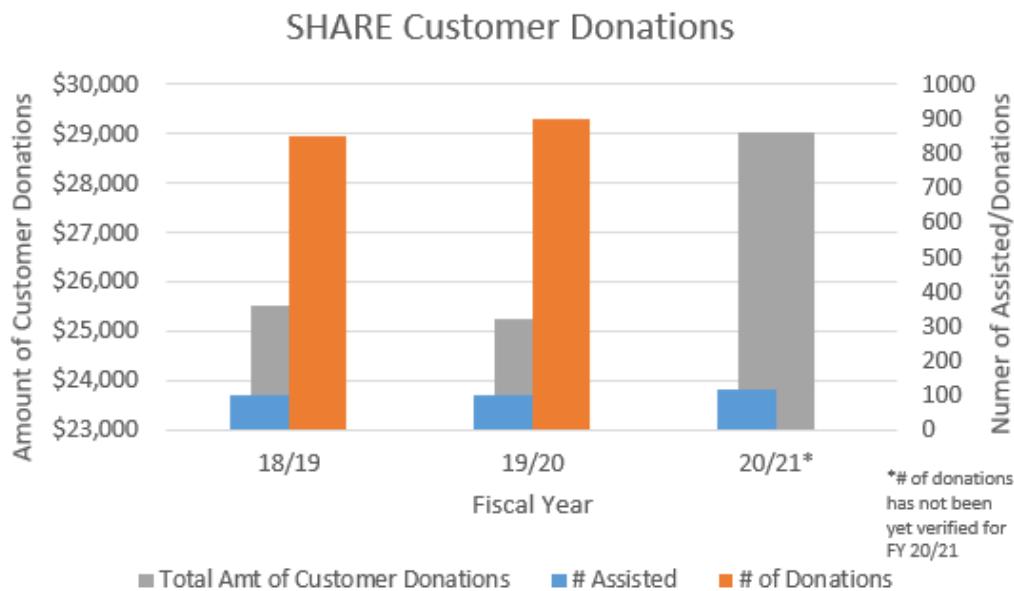
SHARE Customer Donations

RPU customers can donate to the SHARE program through one of three options:

1. One-time donation with bill payment
2. Recurring monthly donation with bill payment
3. Round up the cents of the balance due monthly and automatically donate the difference to the SHARE fund

Since July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 customers have donated a total of \$29,043 and have provided emergency/deposit assistance to 109 customers.

The chart below references 3-year data of the total dollar amount of customer donations (gray), the number of customers that have received assistance from customer donations (blue) and the number of customers that have donated (orange).



Fiscal Year 2020/21 is from July 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021.

The average customer donation is \$28.00 per year. Customer donations are promoted through back of utility bill, social media and customer outreach.

Casa Blanca Customer Resource Center

In July, approved SHARE applications increased by 48% from July in the previous year (Last July, 387 customers retroactively received the additional \$100 emergency credit increase)

Community Outreach

Staff has begun working with community groups and is scheduled to participate in local events in the coming months. We are using social media, mailings, emails, back of bill and the website to reach customers.

Energy Savings Assistance Program

The agreement for the Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESAP) in partnership with the Southern California Gas Company is currently under review and pending Board and City Council approval.

Emergency Recovery Assistance Program

The Emergency Recovery Assistance Program (ERAP) was created to assist electric residential customers who have been unemployed, furloughed or experienced a reduction in work hours due to COVID-19. ERAP soft launched on May 20, 2020. Applications are processed and the \$250 bill credit is posted to the customer's account in less than 48 hours from the date the application was received. Effective October 7, 2020, the ERAP bill credit increase amount was approved by City Council and increased to \$400.

ERAP has been promoted monthly through social media and email to increase program awareness and participation.

May 2020 through June 2021, over 4,800 applications have been approved over \$1.9 million has been expended.

The number of participants has continued to decrease due to the reopening of businesses and the decrease in unemployment.

Staff will explore possible program enhancement to further assist more customers.

