



CALIFORNIA ARREARAGE PAYMENT PROGRAM AND THE CALIFORNIA WATER AND WASTEWATER ARREARAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Riverside Public Utilities

Board of Public Utilities
September 13, 2021

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LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

1. In July 2021, the State Legislature passed nearly \$2 Billion in funding to address statewide energy, water, and wastewater utility arrearages.
2. On July 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 135, which created the California Arrearage Payment Program (CAPP) to administer funding for electric utility customer arrearages.
 - a. There is \$993.5 million in the program, \$298.5 million for publicly owned utilities.
 - b. The California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) is administering this program.
 - c. Additional information can be found at <https://www.csd.ca.gov/Pages/CAPP.aspx>.
3. On July 22, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 148, which created the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program (CWWAPP) to administer funding for water/wastewater utility customer arrearages.
 - a. There is \$985 million in the program.
 - b. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is administering this program, working with community water systems, and if funding is available, wastewater treatment providers.
 - c. Additional information can be found at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/arrearage_payment_program/.

2



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DISCUSSION

1. Utility customers do not need to apply to receive assistance under CAPP or CWWAPP.
2. RPU is applying for CAPP and CWWAPP assistance on behalf of customers who incurred a past due balance of 60 days or more on their energy, water, and sewer charges during the COVID-19 pandemic relief period covering March 4, 2020 through June 15, 2021.
3. The funding priority for both programs is for Residential customers first and if funding is available for Commercial customers.



3

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CUSTOMER COMMUNICATIONS

1. All customers will receive letters with information on which programs and amounts, if any, RPU has submitted for them for past due amounts for CAPP and CWWAPP funding.
2. The letters are expected to be mailed to customers in late September 2021.



4

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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Participation in the CAPP and CWWAPP programs meet contribute to Envision Riverside 2025 Strategic Plan Goal 6.3 - Identify and pursue new and unique funding opportunities to develop, operate, maintain, and renew infrastructure and programs that meet the community's needs.



5

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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Participation in the CAPP and CWWAPP programs aligns with all five Cross-Cutting Threads:

1. Community Trust –The City's participation to submit unpaid service charges to the CAPP and CWWAPP programs serve the public interest for greater public good.
2. Equity –The CAPP and CWWAPP definitions include access to the community to equitably share the benefits of each payment arrearage program.
3. Fiscal Responsibility –Riverside's participation in the CAPP and CWWAPP provide direct financial benefits to the City's customers and the utility funds.
4. Innovation – The programs are intended to ease the burden of the COVID-19 pandemic community burden and is expected to facilitate the changing needs of the community.
5. Sustainability & Resiliency – The programs further Riverside's commitment to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City's capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during good and difficult times alike.



6

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board of Public Utilities recommend that the City Council:

1. Adopt a Resolution to authorize the City to participate in the CAPP and the CWWAPP to request funding for past due customer accounts with electric, water, and wastewater service charges provided during the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. Allow the City to accept CAPP and CWWAPP funding on behalf of customers to be applied to their unpaid bills for services provided during the COVID-19 pandemic; and
3. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all documentation needed to facilitate participation in the CAPP and the CWWAPP.



7

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