



REMOVAL OF WATER CONSERVATION SURCHARGE FROM WATER RATE SCHEDULES

Public Utilities - Customer Engagement

Board of Public Utilities
July 8, 2024

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BACKGROUND

May 2004 the Board and City Council approved and established the Water Conservation Surcharge.

- I. Amount:
 - a. 0.5% effective June 1, 2004,
 - b. another 0.5% effective June 1, 2005,
 - c. and a final 0.5% effective June 1, 2006, for a total of 1.5% of total water rates and charges
- II. Effective Date: through May 31, 2014



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BACKGROUND

III. Funds restricted to:

1. Water conservation and reclamation education programs;
2. Water conservation and reclamation programs;
3. Science and technology advancement of water conservation and reclamation research, development and demonstration programs;
4. Water conservation and reclamation assistance for low-income customers in the City; and
5. Other programs consistent with the Board's water conservation and reclamation goals and objectives.³



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BACKGROUND

In March 2014 and April 2014, the Board and City Council respectively renewed the Water Conservation Surcharge.

- I. Amount: 1.5% of total water rates and charges
- II. Effective Date: **through April 22, 2024**
- III. Funds restricted to:
 1. Conservation, education, and water use efficiency programs; and
 2. Research, development, and demonstration programs to advance science and technology with respect to water conservation.



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DISCUSSION

1. On January 22, 2024, the Board conducted a public hearing and approved the renewal of the Water Conservation Charge.
2. Continued from March 19, 2024, on April 16, 2024, City Council voted to discontinue the Water Conservation Surcharge, ending the surcharge collection as of April 22, 2024.



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DISCUSSION

The Water Conservation Program will continue until all funds are exhausted. The funds are strictly designated for water conservation programs through:

1. Conservation, education, and water use efficiency programs; and
2. Research, development, and demonstration programs to advance science and technology with respect to water conservation.

Water Efficiency tips can be found online at <https://riversideca.gov/utilities/residents/our-water/water-efficiency> and Water Efficiency rebates, administered and processed by Metropolitan Water District, can be found online at <https://socialwatersmart.com/en/residential/>



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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT



Strategic Priority 4 – Environmental Stewardship

Goal 4.2 - to sustainably manage local water resources to maximize reliability and advance water reuse to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable water to our community

Cross – Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability &
Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Adopt a resolution establishing the revised Schedules WA-1A, WA-1B, WA-2, WA-4, WA-5, WA-6, WA-7, WA-8, WA-10, WA-11, and WA-12 to remove the Water Conservation Surcharge.

The Board of Public Utilities recommend City Council:

2. Adopt a resolution establishing the revised Schedules WA-1A, WA-1B, WA-2, WA-4, WA-5, WA-6, WA-7, WA-8, WA-10, WA-11, and WA-12 effective upon Council approval to remove the Water Conservation Surcharge.



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