



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, July 6, 2022

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State Program for Overdue Wastewater Accounts Will Benefit Thousands *Over 11,700 wastewater customers to receive credits by August 6*

STOCKTON, Calif. – Residential and commercial customers with overdue wastewater (sewer) bills will soon benefit from a State Water Resources Control Board program that covers the past-due amounts on bills that were accumulated in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, from March 4, 2020, to June 15, 2021.

The Stockton City Council approved applying for funding under the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program in March 2022, which required the City to provide a list of all eligible wastewater accounts that meet the program criteria and to waive late fees for the program period. The City will automatically apply credits to each eligible wastewater account by August 6, 2022. Customers receiving credits will be mailed a separate notice via U.S. Mail, indicating the credit amount that will be applied to their City utility bills.

“This program was established by the State to provide relief for customers that experienced financial hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said City Manager Harry Black. “Customers do not need to apply individually. The City applied for and received \$1.6 million in funding for our residential and commercial water accounts in February. In April, the City identified and applied for \$2.2 million in funding for overdue residential and commercial wastewater accounts, a program that will provide credits for over 11,700 customers. This

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program will help a lot of our customers catch-up on overdue amounts and recover from the hardships experienced over the last two years.”

Credits will be applied to eligible accounts, even if the accounts are no longer active, and the City will waive late fees for the program period, March 4, 2020, to June 15, 2021. Customers who received credits under other State programs for this same time period will not receive duplicate funding for the same months; however, they may receive credit for overdue amounts that were not covered by another State-funded program. To benefit from the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program, customers who receive a “Notice of Credit to Wastewater Utility Bill” may contact the City to enroll in a payment plan for any additional overdue amounts within 30 days.

For additional information and links to additional information and funding opportunities, please visit www.stocktonca.gov/UtilityBilling or call (209) 937-8295.

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