

October 14th Public Hearing on Rate Study

On Monday, October 14th, SSWD will hold a public hearing to consider the findings from the 2024 Comprehensive Rate Study (Study). The Study, conducted by an independent consulting firm, reviewed SSWD's finances, including current revenues, costs, and future investments in infrastructure.

The Study found that SSWD's current income and expenses are well managed and balanced, but recommends a series of annual rate increases over the next five years to address inflation, rising construction and operational costs, and investments in infrastructure improvements to ensure our water supplies remain safe and reliable.

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Working Behind the Scenes | How SSWD Plans It's Infrastructure Improvements

Sacramento Suburban Water District operates a vast water distribution system consisting of 694 miles of pipeline, 11,357 valves, 6,500 fire hydrants, 72 groundwater wells, and 48 interties with neighboring water systems. SSWD invests millions of dollars each year to update and enhance the water system's reliability.

In 2024, SSWD allocated \$29,710,000 for Capital Improvement Projects, including:

- 💰 \$1,650,000 for distribution main replacement
- 💰 \$16,502,000 for groundwater well replacement
- 💰 \$4,723,000 for well rehabilitation

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SSWD-DPMWD Combination Talks

This past September, SSWD and Del Paso Manor Water District (DPMWD) held a public workshop at Mission Avenue Elementary to update customers from both water providers on their exploration of combining.

A combination could offer DPMWD financial stability and access to grant funding for infrastructure upgrades. SSWD is well-positioned to integrate DPMWD customers and staff without exposing existing SSWD customers to financial risk.

If you're interested in learning more, please visit <https://www.sswd.org/about/dpmwd-sswd-2x2-committee>.

You are also invited to attend the SSWD and DPMWD Joint Board meetings. Agendas and schedules are at: <https://www.sswd.org/about/meeting-agendas-packets-minutes>.

[sswd.org](https://www.sswd.org)

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Hours: M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CALIFORNIA WATER PROFESSIONALS APPRECIATION WEEK

October 5-13, 2024

Water Professionals Appreciation Week

In 2017, the California Legislature designated the first week in October as California Water Professionals Appreciation Week as a way to highlight the critical role water industry professionals and local public water agencies play in providing safe and reliable water service in California.

We are honored and proud of our remarkable team at SSWD, from the customer service department to engineering, field operations, conservation, accounting, environmental compliance, and inventory control; all our employees are dedicated to ensuring that high-quality water is always available whenever you need it.

Inquiring Minds | Why Doesn't the Grass to Garden Cover Replacing All of My Lawn With Gravel or Artificial Turf?

SSWD's Grass to Garden rebate, funded by the Department of Water Resources through the Urban Drought Relief Grant, is designed to help you reduce outdoor water use and encourage the planting of native and low-water use plants. To qualify for the rebate, a minimum of 25 percent of the area converted must include these types of plants.

An ideal water-wise yard features native and low-water-use plants, with mulch applied around the new plantings. Mulch helps regulate the soil temperature so that it doesn't get too hot or cold, reduces evaporation, and adds nutrients to the soil as it breaks down.

Conversely, rocks and gravel capture the sun's heat, raising the soil's temperature, and continue to radiate heat long after the sun sets.

A 2021 study found that artificial turf is hotter than asphalt during the summertime. Research showed that synthetic turf in Palm Springs and Redlands was over 40 degrees warmer than the air temperature, reaching over 150 degrees. Artificial turf also sheds microplastics, cannot be recycled, breeds bacteria from animal waste, and damages the soil underneath it. Consequently, the Grass to Garden rebate does not cover artificial turf installation.

Visit [sswd.org/rebates](https://www.sswd.org/rebates) to find out how to apply and other rebate program requirements.



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The proposed rate increases are:

- ▶ 5% in 2025 and 2026
- ▶ 4% annually from 2027 to 2029

If approved, these adjustments would start on January 1, 2025.

The Public Hearing will take place at 6:00 p.m. in the SSWD Boardroom at 3701 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95821.

Visit [sswd.org](https://www.sswd.org) to review the Study and learn more.

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Working with a consultant, SSWD's Engineering Department developed a series of Asset Management Plans (Plans), which help guide annual discussions with the Board about capital improvement budgets and priorities.

The Plans provide a detailed summary and inventory of each system component, including Buildings and Structures, Distribution Mains, Groundwater Wells, Transmission Systems, and Water Meters. The Plans list important factors like quantity, age, estimated replacement rate, and recommended upgrades.

For example, the Groundwater Well Asset Management Plan lists drilling dates, current conditions, performance levels, essential components, and expected lifespan. The Distribution Main Asset Management Plan describes the material used to create the various mains, its percentage of the system, and the rate for replacement.

The Plans enable SSWD to prioritize the system's components based on risk, condition assessments, and alignment with the budget and strategic goals, helping to ensure efficient use of the District's resources.