



# CALIFORNIA WATER & WASTEWATER ARREARAGE PAYMENT PROGRAM

## Extended Arrearage Program Fact Sheet

### Background

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) previously implemented the \$985 million California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program: Water Arrearages Program and Wastewater Arrearages Program (Water and Wastewater Arrearages Programs) to provide relief to customers of water and wastewater systems for unpaid water bills incurred between March 4, 2020 and June 15, 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Water and Wastewater Arrearages Programs disbursed \$385 million to eligible entities with water and wastewater debt accrued by residential and commercial customers.

### What is the Extended Program

The State Water Board is now implementing the California Extended Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program (Extended Arrearage Program), which expands the arrearage period to encompass water and wastewater debt accrued between March 4, 2020 and December 31, 2022. As with the Water and Wastewater Arrearages Programs, the Extended Arrearage Program will not disburse funds directly to customers for overdue accounts. All funds disbursed will be paid directly to the eligible community water systems, wastewater treatment providers, and wastewater billing entities for bill credits to be applied to eligible customer accounts. Program Guidelines containing the program's full requirements are posted on the Extended Arrearage Program website.

### Funding

The State Water Board has received \$600 million appropriated by the Budget Act of 2021 (Senate Bill 129) and the Budget Act of 2023 (Assembly Bill 102) from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, for the Extended Arrearage Program. These dollars are the remaining funds after implementation of the original Water and Wastewater Arrearages Programs.

### How does the program work?

1. Beginning November 2023, community water systems, wastewater treatment providers, and wastewater billing entities can apply for funding during the 60-day application period. Entities can apply after the 60-day application period through January 31, 2024; however, late applicants are not guaranteed funding. Program Guidelines containing the eligibility requirements are posted on the Extended Arrearage Program website.



2. Funding is available for debt accrued from March 4, 2020 through December 31, 2022. However, entities cannot receive funding from this Extended Arrearages Program for arrearages between March 4, 2020 and June 15, 2021 if they previously received funding through the Water or Wastewater Arrearages Programs.
3. The State Water Board will begin disbursing funds to eligible entities that submitted applications within the 60-day application period by February 2024.
4. Upon receiving funds, entities have 60 days to credit customer accounts and let customers know in writing that the debt has been cleared or reduced.
5. Community water systems, specifically, must offer to enroll customers with remaining debt into a payment plan, unless the customer currently is enrolled in a payment plan that can be carried forward after the bill credit is provided.
6. Within six months of receiving the funds, entities must return any unused funds back to the State Water Board and provide certification that the Extended Arrearage Program Funds were applied as bill credits.

#### Additional Resources

More information on this Program can be found on the following website:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/arrearage\\_payment\\_program/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/arrearage_payment_program/)

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