Purpose of Today’s Workshop

• Provide an overview of the draft Wastewater Arrearages Program guidelines, and
• Allow interested parties to provide feedback to staff and ask questions.
• This workshop is for informational purposes only and no formal action will be taken today.

All information provided during this Workshop will be available at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/arrearage_payment_program/
Meeting Logistics

• This workshop is being recorded and webcasted.
• Questions will be answered to the best of staff’s ability.
• This PowerPoint Presentation and the audio recording will be provided on the State Water Board Water’s Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program webpage.

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/arrearage_payment_program/
Meeting Participation Options

This meeting is being provided in two formats:

CalEPA webcast at https://video.calepa.ca.gov/
   Email questions or comments to: wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov.

Interactive Zoom Meeting
   For Technical Support with Zoom, please contact: wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov

   Subject line: “Technical Support”
Questions & Comments

Participation via Zoom

1. Raise virtual hand to verbally ask a question or provide a comment; or
2. Type question or feedback in “Chat box”
   Staff will read your question or comment

3. Staff will answer questions and listen to your feedback accordingly

Participation via Webcast

Email questions or comments to: wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov
Agenda

Program Background

Overview of Draft Wastewater Arrearage Program Guidelines

BREAK

Questions & Comments

Next Steps
Program Background

**Arrearage**: money owed to a water/wastewater system from nonpayment of residential and commercial accounts that accrued from completed billing periods during the COVID-19 pandemic bill relief period (March 4, 2020-June 15, 2021).

- **$985 million** allocated to State Water Board for drinking water and wastewater arrearages program.
- **$350 million** allocated for unpaid water bills.
- **$600-$700 million** leftover for unpaid wastewater utilities.
Drinking Water Arrearage Program

21 Sep. 2021
Adopted Drinking Water Arrearage Program Guidelines

Deadline to submit application for drinking water arrearage
6 Dec. 2021

7 Dec. 2021
Adopted Amendments to Drinking Water Arrearage Program Guidelines
Wastewater Arrearage Program

17 Dec. 2021
Release of Amended Guidelines to add Wastewater Arrearage Program

4 Jan. 2022
Public Workshop on Draft Amendments to Guidelines

5 Jan. 2022
End of comment period

Early Feb. 2022
Tentative staff application webinar

19 Jan. 2022
Board meeting for consideration of adoption of Draft Amendments to the Guidelines
Proposed Wastewater Arrearage Program Guidelines
Program Eligibility

- **Wastewater Treatment Provider** - city, county, special district, or joint powers authority that provides wastewater collection, treatment or disposal services through a publicly owned treatment works (POTW).

- **Wastewater Billing Entity** - a local government entity (city, county, or special district) that is the designated billing entity for a wastewater treatment provider.
  - Property Tax Rolls

- Includes above-mentioned entities that utilized customer assistance programs or have transferred arrearage debt to 3rd-party entity.
Period of Eligibility

Accrued residential and commercial customer arrearages during COVID-19 pandemic bill relief period.

March 4, 2020

June 15, 2021

January 4, 2022
What is Covered Under Arrearages Program?

- Residential customer debt
- Commercial customer debt
- Administrative costs (max 3%), or up to $1 million
- Late fees
- Interest

• Commercial customers that include:
  - Industrial, agriculture irrigation, and landscape irrigation
Wastewater Arrearage Program Requirements

- Waiver late fees and interest
- Allocate bill credits to customer accounts within 60 days of receiving payment
- Notify customers of credited amount
- Comply with terms and conditions of payment
- Report on expenditures and customer credits
Supporting Documentation for Applications

The following forms will be provided by the State Water Board during the online application process:

• Record of customer accounts in arrears
• Disbursement Request Form
• Conditions of Payment Form
• Tax ID Request Form
Allocation of Funds to Customers

- Direct credit to customer account within 60 days of receiving payment

- Debt transferred to 3rd-party entities
  - Direct payment to 3rd-party entity to eliminate/reduce debt
  - Refund credited amount to customer
  - Create positive balance for customers to apply toward future wastewater bills
Unallocated Funds

Approved applicants must remit any funds not credited to customers back to the State Water Board within 6 months of receiving payment.
Consumer Debt Reporting

Approved applicants must agree to not furnish information regarding arrearages for which credits have been provided to customers, to any consumer reporting agency.

- Already furnished information: Within 30 days of receiving payment, approved applicants shall instruct consumer reporting agency to delete information AND cease further furnishing of information
Questions & Comments

Participation via Zoom
1. Raise virtual hand to verbally ask a question or provide a comment; or
2. Type question or feedback in “Chat box”
   Staff will read your question or comment
3. Staff will answer questions and listen to your feedback accordingly

Participation via Webcast
Email questions or comments to: wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov
Break

We will resume the Question and Comments session of today’s workshop following the break.

We will resume at 1:40 p.m.

If you are participating via webcast, please email questions or comments to wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov.

If you are participating via Zoom, questions and comments can be asked following break.
Questions & Comments

Participation via **Zoom**
1. Raise virtual hand to verbally ask a question or provide a comment; or
2. Type question or feedback in “Chat box”
   Staff will read your question or comment
3. Staff will answer questions and listen to your feedback accordingly

Participation via **Webcast**

Email questions or comments to: [wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov)
Next Steps

• Submit comments on draft Wastewater Arrearages Program by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on January 5, 2022.

• Consideration of Board adoption during the January 19, 2022 Board meeting.
Proposed Timeline Following Adoption

- 1 Feb. 2022: Application Period Open
- 1 Mar. 2022: Begin disbursement of funds to approved applicants
- 30 Mar. 2022: Application Period Closes
Additional Information

California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program Webpage

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/arrearage_payment_program/

State Water Resources Control Board Email Lists

Subscribe to the Arrearage Payment Program (COVID Relief) email list. See the “Drinking Water Topics" section and select “Arrearage Payment Program (COVID Relief)". 
Contact

Email:
wwarrearages@waterboards.ca.gov