

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Dennis J. Campa, Director, Department of Community Initiatives

SUBJECT: Approving the calendar year (CY) 2005 Project AGUA Plan and accepting \$120,341 from the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to administer the Affordability Discount Program (ADP) during CY 2005

DATE: January 13, 2005

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. This ordinance approves the CY 2005 Project AGUA Plan and accepts utility assistance credits in the projected amount of \$65,319 for the period of January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005.
- B. This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of \$120,341 from SAWS to administer the Affordability Discount Program (ADP) for CY 2005, establishes a budget, and approves a personnel complement for administration of the program.

Staff recommends approval of these ordinances.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project AGUA

The City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) have developed programs to address the need of SAWS ratepayers requiring assistance with their utility bills and related expenses.

Project AGUA is a utility assistance program developed by the City and SAWS. The project was implemented in January 2003 and will be continued on an annual basis under the terms outlined in the yearly Project AGUA Plan. The Project AGUA trust account is funded by SAWS and through private and corporate donations. The actual amount available each year for assistance credits is dependent on contributions and investment returns from the trust. Funds in the corpus of the trust are not used to provide assistance.

Project AGUA credits are available to SAWS residential customers. Priority consideration is given to ratepayers with incomes at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (e.g. \$23,563 for a family of four) and who meet at least one of the following criteria: age 60 and older, disabled, require continuous water service for life-sustaining medical equipment in the home, or have children age three years and younger. Attachment A summarizes the 2004 Federal Poverty Guidelines. The maximum assistance credited to the ratepayer's account is \$50

and applicants may only receive assistance once per year. Ratepayers are required to make a minimum \$5 co-payment to SAWS. Attachment B lists 2004 Agua recipients by Council District.

Affordability Discount Program

Ordinance No. 92752, passed and approved on October 19, 2000, established the Water Meter Discount Affordability Program and Ordinance No. 93597, passed on March 15, 2001, approved the Inter-Jurisdictional Agreement implementing the program with the City and SAWS as partners. The Water Meter Discount Affordability Program, recently renamed the Affordability Discount Program (ADP), provides a sliding fee discount (from \$3.00 to \$8.00) on the monthly water meter charge to low-income SAWS ratepayers whose total household income is at or below 125% of the FPL. Attachment C outlines SAWS discount levels by household income.

While this program is available to all low-income SAWS ratepayers, emphasis is placed on enrolling senior households. Efforts to enlist additional ADP participants will be made through the City's 71 Senior Nutrition sites, the Elderly Resource and Referral One Stop Centers and through current delegate agencies. All forty-five delegate agencies are encouraged to include the ADP application as part of their intake process. Current census data indicates that there are potentially 286,517 SAWS residential ratepayers. Once certified as eligible for the program, ratepayers continue to receive the monthly discount for the remainder of the calendar year in which they applied. City staff process re-certification of SAWS ratepayers for the program. Attachment D provides the number of households enrolled in ADP by Council District.

POLICY ANALYSIS

The performance measures for the CY 2005 Project Agua and ADP are as follows:

Project	Assistance Credits	Projected Households Served
AGUA	\$65,319	1,306
ADP	\$1,000,000	14,522
Total	\$1,065,319	15,828

These ordinances continue existing City policy of providing a community safety net to its most vulnerable residents. These ordinances also continue City policy of leveraging the funds of other entities as sources of utility assistance.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no General Fund commitment associated with these programs.

COORDINATION

Coordination has occurred with the City Attorney's Office, Office of Public Utilities and San Antonio Water Systems.

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

Provisions of the City Ethics Ordinance do not apply.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: 2004 Federal Poverty Level Guideline Memo

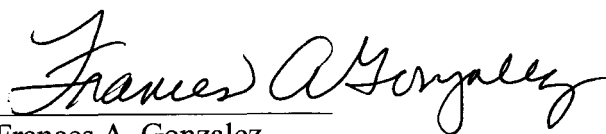
Attachment B: 2004 Agua Recipients by Council District

Attachment C: SAWS Current and Increased Discount Levels

Attachment D: Number of Households Enrolled in ADP by Council District



Dennis J. Campa, Director
Department of Community Initiatives



Frances A. Gonzalez
Assistant City Manager



J. Rolando Bono
Interim City Manager

**2004 Income Poverty Guidelines
125% of Poverty**

Family Size	2004 Poverty Guidelines 125%
1	\$11,638
2	\$15,613
3	\$19,588
4	\$23,563
5	\$27,538
6	\$31,513
7	\$35,488
8	\$39,463

For households with more than eight members, add \$3,975 for each additional family member.

**Project Agua
CY 2004**

Council District	Households	Monthly Assistance
1	77	6,883.00
2	132	12,298.00
3	54	5,062.00
4	82	8,130.00
5	99	8,146.00
6	83	7,602.00
7	73	6,294.00
8	14	1,165.00
9	13	1,128.00
10	14	1,278.00
Other	10	1,138.00
Totals	651	\$59,124

Note: Numbers as of November 17, 2004

Affordability Discount

Sliding Scale Discount

- Cutting Edge Program
- Based on need
- Continued certification
- Projected at \$1.125 million for CY 2005

Poverty Scale	Current Discount Water & Sewer	Proposed Discount
0% - 50%	\$7.25	\$8.00
51% - 75%	\$5.00	\$5.50
76% - 100%	\$3.25	\$3.60
101% - 125%	\$2.89	\$3.00

**Affordability Discount Program
CY 2004**

Council District	Households	Monthly Assistance Estimate
1	1,353	6,921
2	1,931	10,203
3	802	4,175
4	763	4,112
5	2,222	11,419
6	1,090	5,791
7	1,035	5,480
8	187	1,024
9	197	1,027
10	325	1,700
Totals	9,905	\$51,852

Note: Numbers as of November 17, 2004