

#### Proposed FY 2025 and FY 2026 Rates, Charges and Fees Presentation to Retail Rates Committee, February 27th, 2024

**District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority** 







- Seek Committee's recommendation to the Board on the:
  - Multi-year Rate Proposal for FY 2025 and FY 2026
    - Water and Sewer Rates, Charges & Fees
    - Retail Groundwater Sanitary Sewer Service Rate
    - High Flow Filter Backwash Sewer Rate
  - FY 2024 FY 2033 Financial Plan
    - Projected residential water and sewer rates
    - Projected average residential customer bills
    - 10-year CIP disbursement budget





# **Budget & Rates Adoption Calendar**

Timeline	Activity	Status
January 4	Budget Workshop with Board of Directors	$\checkmark$
January 12	Wholesale Customer Briefing	$\checkmark$
January 19	Office of People's Counsel Briefing	$\checkmark$
	Committee Discussions & Reviews	
January 18	Environmental Quality & Operations	$\checkmark$
January 23	Joint DC Retail Water & Sewer Rates and Finance & Budget Committee	$\checkmark$
February I	Board Meeting (No Board Action Required)	
	Committee Reviews, Recommendations & Actions	
February 15	Environmental Quality & Operations	$\checkmark$
February 22	Finance & Budget	$\checkmark$
	Finance & Budget DC Retail Water & Sewer Rates	$\checkmark$
February 22		$\checkmark$
February 22 February 27	DC Retail Water & Sewer Rates	
February 22 February 27 March 7	DC Retail Water & Sewer Rates Board Adoption of Budgets	
February 22 February 27 March 7 April	DC Retail Water & Sewer Rates Board Adoption of Budgets Submit Budget via the District to U.S. Congress	
February 22 February 27 <b>March 7</b> April April – June	DC Retail Water & Sewer Rates <b>Board Adoption of Budgets</b> Submit Budget via the District to U.S. Congress Rates Public Outreach & Town Halls & Public Hearing on May 9	



### Board Policy in Setting Rates Resolution #11-10

- DC Water strives to achieve the following, per Board policy:
  - Cover current costs and meet or exceed all bond and other financial requirements as well as goals set by the Board
  - Yield a reliable and predictable stream of revenues
  - Are based on annually updated forecasts or operating and capital budgets
  - A rate structure that is legally defensible, based on objective criteria, and transparently designed
  - A rate structures that customers can understand and DC Water can implement efficiently
  - Rate increases that are implemented transparently and predictably
- To the extent annual revenues exceed costs, the Board will utilize all available options to mitigate future customer impacts and annual rate increases, including transferring excess funds to the Rate Stabilization Fund







- The Board of Directors approves the Budget and the Financial Plan that determines the revenue requirements to operate and maintain water and sewer infrastructure, upgrade our facilities, and improve the environment.
- The Board of Directors approves DC Water's proposed rates, charges and fees after:
  - Presentation of Operating and Capital Costs for the applicable rate period to the Environmental Quality and Operations, Finance and Budget, and DC Retail Water and Sewer Rates Committee;
  - ✓ Presentation of the Cost of Service Study and publication on DC Water's website;
  - Presentation of the Independent Review of Rates and Budget by Consultant and publication on DC Water's website;
  - ✓ Submittal of Cost of Service Study and Independent Review of Rates and Budget to Mayor and Council;
  - ✓ Publication of the rate proposal in the D.C. Register for public comment;
  - ✓ Holding a Public Hearing to receive comments on the rate proposal, held not less than 45 days after publication of the rate proposal in the D.C. Register;
  - Review of comments received during the public comment period and during the Public Hearing and DC
     Water's response to comments, and publication of both on DC Water's website; and
  - ✓ Recommendation from the DC Retail Water and Sewer Rates Committee and General Manager



- Proposed rate changes:
  - Water and sewer rates increase by 8.0% for FY 2025 and 6.0% for FY 2026
  - Proposed CRIAC of \$21.23 per ERU in FY 2025 and \$24.23 per ERU in FY 2026
  - Right-of-Way Fee at \$0.19 per Ccf for FY 2025 and \$0.20 per Ccf for FY 2026
  - PILOT Fee at \$0.61 per Ccf for FY 2025 and \$0.62 per Ccf for FY 2026
  - Proposed Groundwater Rate of \$3.50 for FY 2025 and \$3.76 for FY 2026
  - Proposed High Flow Filter Backwash Sewer Rate of \$3.32 for FY 2025 and \$3.54 for FY 2026
- Rates and charges that remain the same:
  - Customer Metering Fee remains at \$7.75 for 5/8" meters
  - Water System Replacement Fee (WSRF) at \$6.30 for 5/8" meters

- Cost of Service Study aligned with rate proposal
- Combined rate increases lower than last year's forecast

Change in Average	Fiscal	Year
Household Charge	2025	2026
Recommendation	4.8%	6.5%
Previous Forecast	7.0%	6.8%

Reflects updated changes based on cost of service study completed



### **Multi-Year Rate Proposal**

- Proposed rates are for FY 2025 and FY 2026
- Multi-year rates provide many benefits:
  - Revenue certainty
  - Budget discipline
  - Expenditures better aligned with revenues
  - Favorable credit rating agency treatment
  - Better predictability for our ratepayers
- Potential risks / considerations:
  - Reduced financial flexibility
  - Limited ability to modify approved rate increases, if necessary
  - Conservatism in financial projections





- Tap Water is the affordable choice.
  - Bottled water is 6,000% more expensive than tap water
  - One gallon of bottled water costs \$1.23 per gallon on average\*
  - One gallon of DC Water costs \$0.02 per gallon



OR



\*Source: International Bottled Water Association



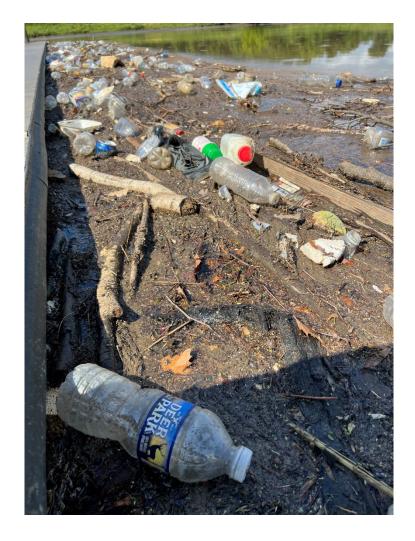
# Value of Water

### Tap Water is the environmental choice

- Americans purchase about 50 billion plastic water bottled per year
- Bottled water production and transportation requires tremendous energy and natural resources
- About 86% of empty plastic water bottles end up in the trash instead of being recycled
- Anacostia Riverkeeper says more than half of the trash floating in Anacostia River is from plastic water bottles
- New study found massive amounts of microscopic plastic in bottled water



Researchers from Columbia University and Rutgers University found roughly 240,000 detectable plastic fragments a typical liter of bottled water. Jody Amiet/AFP via Getty Images hide caption





# **Caring for Our Customers**

• DC Water offers some of the nation's most financially supportive customer assistance programs:

#### Lifeline Rate

 Provides a discount to residential customers on the first 2,992 gallons used each month

#### CAP

 Provides monthly discounts to residential customers with household incomes less than \$152,100 (family of four)



Seniors with incomes up to \$106,450 can qualify for discounts (single family household)

#### **One-Time Assistance**

- SPLASH provides one-time emergency assistance to customers
- New programs for residential and multi-family customers

#### Payment Terms

• DC Water provides flexible payment terms for customers to get back on track



### Proposed



#### Leak Assessment Program

CAP

WSRF waiver

\$91,250 (family of 4)

Discount on the first 400

cubic ft. of water and sewer

services + 75% reduction in

the monthly CRIAC fee +

\$95/month discount

60% SMI

**CAP+** 20% AMI

2076 AIVII

\$30,430 (family of 4)

Discount on the first 600 cubic ft. of water and sewer services + 75% reduction in the monthly CRIAC fee + WSRF waiver

\$122/month discount

CAP2

80% AMI

\$121,700 (family of 4)

Discount on the first 300 cubic ft. of water and sewer services + 50% reduction in the monthly CRIAC fee

\$62/month discount

**CAP3** 

\$152,100 (family of 4)

Discount of 75% off the monthly CRIAC fee

\$16/month discount

### CRIAC Non-Profit Relief

District-funded program to assist Nonprofit organizations with Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC)

\* These CAP amounts are for FY 2025

#### Residential Assistance

- Up to \$2,000 per household
- DC Water Funded

#### Payment Plan Incentive Program

•Help eligible customers with aged balance of 60 days or greater and totals \$500 or more

•Adjust 40% of total payments (includes current charges and payment plan installment)

#### Homeowners Assistance Fund

- Provide assistance with water utility bills
- Federally Funded

#### Low-Income Household Water Assistance (LIHWAP)

- Provides funds to assist Households with water and sewer bills
- Federally Funded



# **Public Rates Outreach**

- DC Water will hold Town Hall Meetings in April, in advance of the rates public hearing, to:
  - Inform customers about the Proposed FY 2025 and FY 2026 rates
  - Discuss the Capital Improvement Program, and
  - Promote all the existing and new customer assistance programs
- The meetings will be widely publicized through numerous channels, including:
  - Councilmember Offices
  - Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs)
  - DCWater.com website
  - X.com (*Twitter*), Facebook and Instagram
  - Nextdoor
  - Paid digital and print advertising

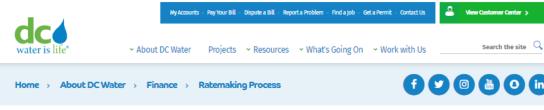






## **Public Communication**

Complete Budget Briefing available online at https://www.dcwater.com/budget-and-rate-review-documents-0



#### **Ratemaking Process**

The Board's Strategic Plan and 10-year financial plan provide the framework for the formulation, prioritization, implementation and monitoring of the annual budget process.

The annual budget process typically begins with planning in June and official kickoff in July of each year for the Operating and Capital Budgets. Plans and budgets are prepared at an appropriate level of detail for each management level. Assumptions inherent in the plans and budgets reflect the entity's historical experience, current conditions and Executive Team's directives. Once decisions are finalized for the operating and capital budgets, management develops the financial plan and rate model including various scenarios to ensure a balanced budget for recovery of costs. Further review is undertaken with independent consultants including benchmarking our proposed rates with peers in the industry. DC Water develops two-year rate proposals. The benefits of multi-year rates include greater revenue certainty, increased budget discipline and better alignment between revenues and expenditures.

The proposed budgets are finalized during the fall of each year, and introduced to the Board during the Budget Workshop typically in January. The Committees then submit their recommendations to the full Board for adoption and DC Water's adopted budget is included in the District of Columbia's budget submission to U.S. Congress.

DC Water's adopted budget and proposed rates are communicated via various news and media outlets as well as town hall meetings in each ward and a public hearing to provide customers the opportunity to comment on the changes. Once the budgets are appropriated by Congress and the final rates approved by the Board, they become effective on October 1st of each year.

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#### FY 2025 Proposed Budget & Two-Year Rates FY 2024 Approved Budget FY 2023 and FY 2024 Approved Rates Budget and Rate Review Documents

**OTHER LINKS & DOCUMENTS** 

#### **Online Tools**

IN THIS SECTION

- Rate Comparison Tool
- Impervious Area Calculator

#### FY 2023 & FY 2024 Approved Rate Documents

- Responses to Comments and Recommendations on
- Proposed Rates FY 2023 & FY 2024 Proposed Rates Presentation -RRC February 22, 2022
- Independent Review of Proposed Rates for FY 2023 and FY 2024 - Report
- Independent Review of Proposed FY 2023 & FY 2024 Rates, Charges & Fees Presentation - RRC February 22, 2022

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#### **Budget and Rate Review Documents**

#### **Budget Review Documents**

Date	Title
January 23, 2024	Joint DC Retail Water & Sewer Rates and Finance & Budget Committees FY 2025 Proposed Budget
January 19, 2024	Office of People's Counsel Briefing FY 2025 Proposed Budget & Two-Year Rates
January 18, 2024	Environmental Quality and Operations Committee Proposed FY 2024 - FY 2033 Capital Improvement Program
January 12, 2024	Wholesale Customer Briefing DC Water's Proposed FY 2025 Budget
January 4, 2024	Budget Workshop with the Board FY 2025 Proposed Budget & Two-Year Rates





READ MORE

Board of Directors meetings are held the first Thursday of every month and are open to the public. Join us in-person or watch online

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# **Rate Proposal**

- DC Water recovers only the funds necessary to fund the Operating and Capital Budgets through rates
- One of the fastest growing expenditure category is debt service for the capital program, which has grown an average of 6.2% a year since 2016
- As part of the budget, DC Water presents the rates required to support the CIP and forecasted operating expenditures
  - Rates are reviewed and approved by the DC Water Board every two years
  - The financial plan, including the forecast of rates, is proposed to the Board for consideration
- Customer Assistance Programs provide discounts for residential customers
  - Income requirements for those programs change every year
  - In FY 2021 the discount was increased for customers in the CAP program to ensure that rates comprised a lower portion of household income
  - Proposed new programs for FY 2025; CAP+, Payment Incentive, Leak Assessments





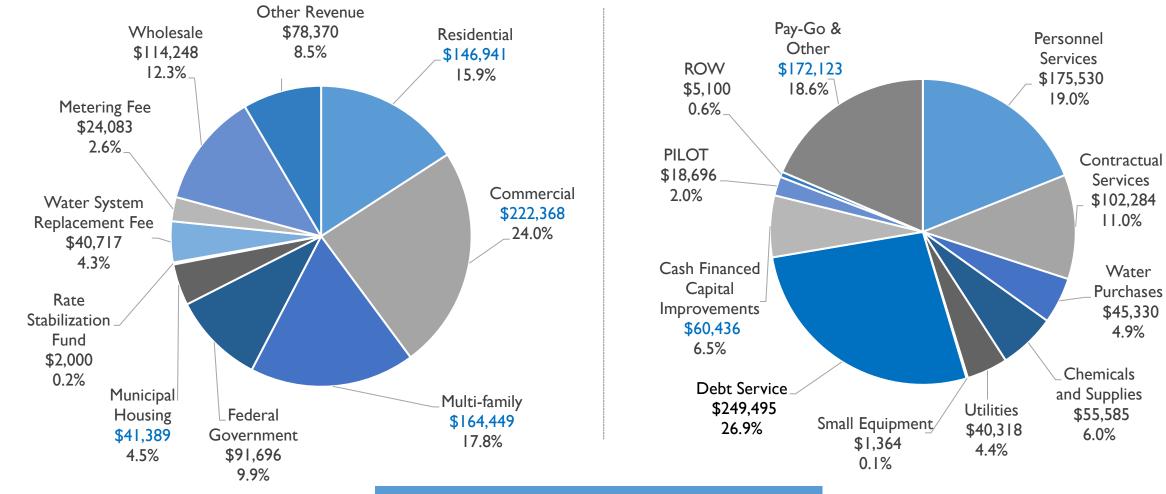


# FY 2025 Operating: Sources and Uses of Funds

\$ in thousands

### Sources - \$926.3 Million

#### Uses - \$926.3 Million



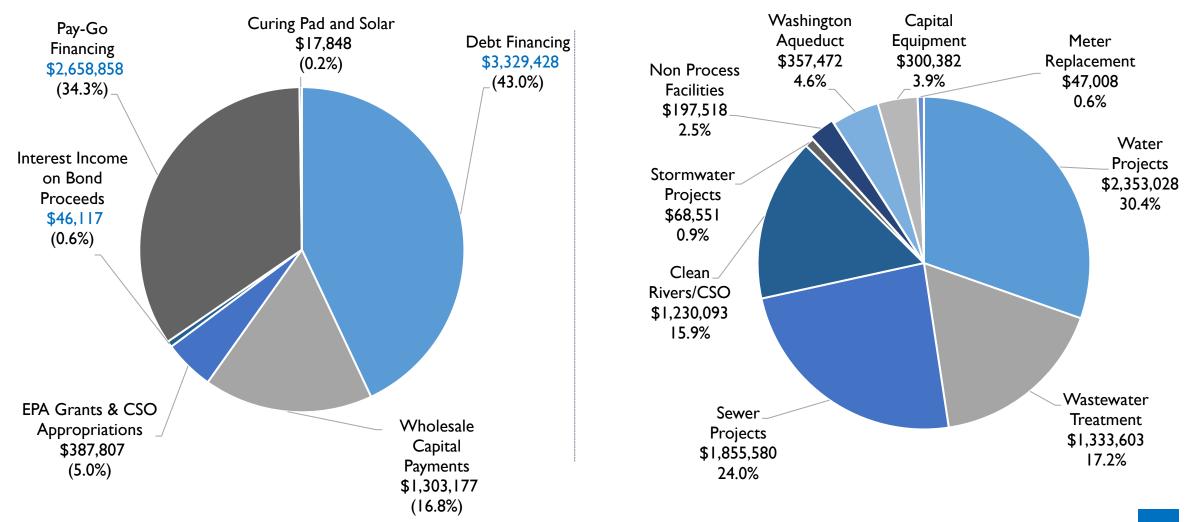


# Ten Year CIP: Sources and Uses of Funds

#### \$ in thousands

#### **Sources - \$7.74 Billion**

#### Uses - \$7.74 Billion





# **The Capital Improvement Program**

- The **proposed ten-year CIP budget of \$7.74 billion** includes annual spending estimates for capital construction, capital equipment and DC Water's share of the Aqueduct's capital projects
  - This is a \$792 million increase over the Board-approved CIP for the ten-year period
- The **proposed lifetime budget is \$16.1 billion** and covers total commitments, including labor, for active projects prior to, during, and beyond the ten-year window

Cash Disbursements (\$ in dollars)									Ľ	FY 2024 - F	Y 2	2033 Disbu	rse	ment Plan								Lifetime
	F	Y 2024	F	Y 2025	F	FY 2026	F	Y 2027	(	FY 2028	F	FY 2029		Y 2030	F	FY 2031	F	Y 2032	Y 2033	I	0-yr Total	Budget
NON PROCESS FACILITIES	\$	13,074	\$	19,900	\$	25,190	\$	27,461	\$	17,775	\$	35,413	\$	23,100	\$	13,283	\$	14,977	\$ 7,345	\$	197,518	\$ 362,044
WASTEWATER TREATMENT		65,150		103,291		133,487		146,143		164,601		194,637		185,233		174,807		91,587	74,666		1,333,603	3,348,779
COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW		123,793		213,408		231,323		216,615		193,750		154,800		92,363		4,041		-	-		1,230,093	3,430,748
STORMWATER		7,293		13,565		7,958		3,804		4,532		3,268		6,697		9,432		6,772	5,231		68,55 l	157,075
SANITARY SEWER		80,599		92,235		123,854		118,639		169,037		287,816		249,471		227,771		269,312	236,846		1,855,580	2,897,505
WATER		158,736		222,494		252,395		250,278		266,256		268,591		279,184		207,235		219,880	227,979		2,353,028	4,738,104
CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$	448,646	\$	664,893	\$	774,206	\$	762,940	\$	815,951	\$	944,526	\$	836,048	\$	636,568	\$	602,528	\$ 552,067	\$	7,038,373	\$ 14,934,255
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT		30,535		31,477		31,839		30,523		37,169		37,169		37,169		37,169		37,169	37,169		347,390	347,390
WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT		35,546		35,770		35,770		35,770		35,770		35,770		35,770		35,770		35,770	35,770		357,472	357,472
ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$	66,08I	\$	67,246	\$	67,609	\$	66,293	\$	72,939	\$	72,939	\$	72,939	\$	72,939	\$	72,939	\$ 72,939	\$	704,863	\$ 704,863
LABOR																						\$443,166
TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGETS	\$	514,727	\$	732,139	\$	841,815	\$	829,232	\$	888,890	\$	1,017,465	\$	908,987	\$	709,507	\$	675,467	\$ 625,006	\$	7,743,235	\$ 16,082,284

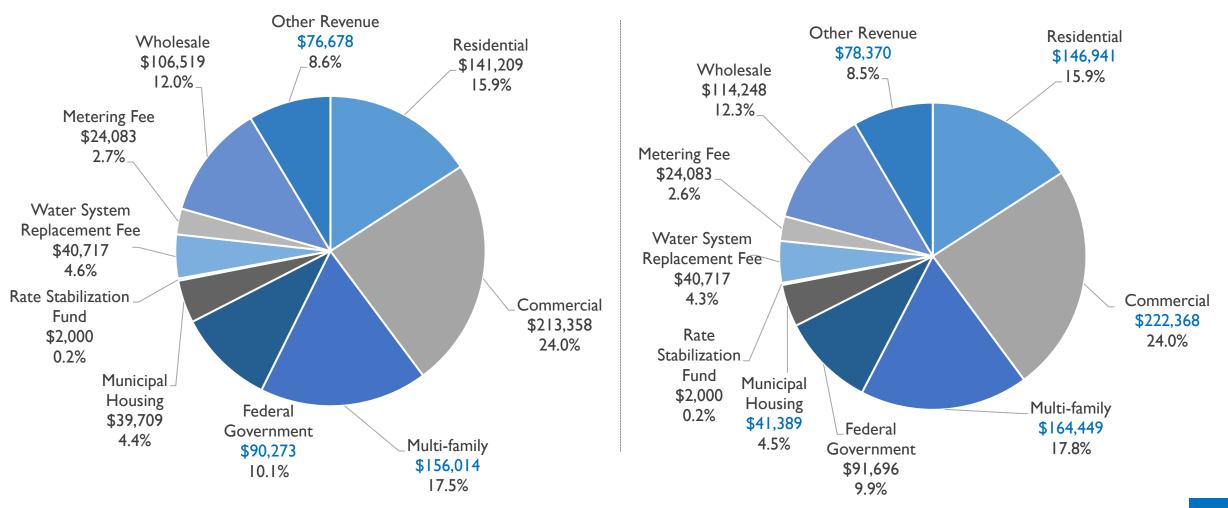


# FY 2024 vs. FY 2025 Operating Revenues

\$ in thousands

### Revised FY 2024 \$890.6 million

#### Proposed FY 2025 \$926.3 million





- Total revenue is projected to increase by \$35.7 million or 4.0% for FY 2025 and \$51.2 million or 5.5% for FY 2026 mainly due to rate increase
  - Retail Revenue Increase by \$26.3 million or 3.7% in FY 2025 and \$43.5 million or 5.9% in FY 2026
  - Wholesale Revenue Increase by \$7.7 million or 7.3% in FY 2025 and \$6.7 million or 5.8% for FY 2026 due to operations and maintenance expense projection. Revenue estimates are based on most recent flow data

\$ in thousands	Revised	Proposed	Proposed	FY 2025 FY 202		FY 2026 vs FY 2025			
	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Incr/(D	ecr)	Incr/(D	Decr)		
				\$	%	\$	%		
Retail Revenue	\$705,362	\$731,643	\$775,094	\$26,281	3.7%	\$43,451	5.9%		
Wholesale Revenue									
Potomac Interceptor (PI)	3,547	3,547	3,547	-	0.0%	-	0.0%		
Loudoun County Sanitation Authority (LCSA)	9,539	10,450	11,045	911	9.6%	595	5.7%		
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)	74,959	79,591	84,441	4,632	6.2%	4,850	6.1%		
Fairfax County	18,475	20,660	21,872	2,185	11.8%	1,212	5.9%		
Total Wholesale Revenue	\$106,520	\$114,248	\$120,905	\$7,728	7.3%	6,657	5.8%		
Other Revenue	76,678	78,370	81,456	1,692	2.2%	3,086	<b>3.9</b> %		
Rate Stabilization Fund (RSF)	2,000	2,000	-	-	0.0%	(2,000)	-100.0%		
Total Revenues	\$890,560	\$926,261	\$977,455	\$35,701	4.0%	\$51,194	5.5%		



# Proposed FY 2025 & FY 2026 Rates, Charges & Fees

	Units	Current	Proposed	Proposed	Incr. /	(Decr.)	Incr. /	(Decr.)
		FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY	2025	FY 2	2026
					\$	%	\$	%
DC Water Retail Rates – Water:								
Residential – Lifeline (0- 4 Ccf)	Ccf	\$4.38	\$5.21	\$5.78	\$0.83	I 8.9%	\$0.57	10.9%
Residential – (> 4 Ccf)	Ccf	5.70	6.81	7.60	1.11	19.5	0.79	11.6
Multi-family	Ccf	5.00	5.82	6.47	0.82	16.4	0.65	11.2
Non-Residential	Ccf	5.89	7.03	7.84	1.14	19.4	0.81	11.5
DC Water Retail Rates – Sewer	Ccf	11.70	12.07	12.52	0.37	3.2	0.45	3.7
DC Water Clean Rivers IAC	ERU	21.86	21.23	24.23	-0.63	-2.9	3.00	14.1
DC Water Customer Metering	5/8"	7.75	7.75	7.75	-	-	-	-
DC Water System Replacement	5/8"	6.30	6.30	6.30	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia PILOT Fee	Ccf	0.61	0.61	0.62	-	-	0.01	1.6
District of Columbia Right of Way	Ccf	0.19	0.19	0.20	-	-	0.01	5.3
District of Columbia Stormwater	ERU	2.67	2.67	2.67	-	-	-	-

\*Rate impact in FY2025 is 8.0% and 6.0% in FY2026 and that has bill impact of 4.8% in FY2025 and 6.5% in FY2026. The shift in the balance between water and sewer rates has been determined by the recent cost of service study.



	Units	urrent Y 2024	oposed Y 2025	roposed Y 2026
DC Water Water and Sewer Retail Rates <sup>(1)</sup>	Ccf	\$ 89.03	\$ 95.93	\$ 101.77
DC Water Clean Rivers IAC (2)	ERU	21.86	21.23	24.23
DC Water Customer Metering Fee	5/8"	7.75	7.75	7.75
DC Water Water System Replacement Fee (4)	5/8"	6.30	6.30	6.30
Subtotal DC Water Rates & Charges		\$ 124.94	\$ 131.21	\$ 140.05
Increase / Decrease		\$ 6.68	\$ 6.27	\$ 8.84
District of Columbia PILOT Fee <sup>(1)</sup>	Ccf	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.31	\$ 3.36
District of Columbia Right-of-Way Fee <sup>(1)</sup>	Ccf	1.03	1.03	1.08
District of Columbia Stormwater Fee <sup>(3)</sup>	ERU	2.67	2.67	2.67
Subtotal District of Columbia Charges		\$ 7.01	\$ 7.01	\$ 7.11
Total Amount Appearing on DC Water Bill		\$ 131.95	\$ 138.22	\$ 147.16
Increase / Decrease Over Prior Year		\$ 6.79	\$ 6.27	\$ 8.94
Percent Increase in Total Bill		5.4%	4.8%	6.5%

(1) Assumes average monthly consumption of 5.42 Ccf, or (4,054 gallons)

(2) Assumes average I Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)

(3) District Department of the Environment stormwater fee of \$2.67 effective November 1, 2010

(4) DC Water "Water System Replacement Fee" of \$6.30 for 5/8" meter size effective October 1, 2015



# Average CAP Customer Monthly Bill

		C	Current	Pr	oposed	Р	oposed
	Units	F	Y 2024	F	Y 2025	F	Y 2026
DC Water Water and Sewer Retail Rates <sup>(1)</sup>	Ccf	\$	89.03	\$	95.93	\$	101.77
DC Water Clean Rivers IAC <sup>(5)</sup>	ERU		21.86		21.23		24.23
DC Water Customer Metering Fee	5/8"		7.75		7.75		7.75
DC Water Water System Replacement Fee (3)	5/8"		6.30		6.30		6.30
Subtotal DC Water Rates & Charges		\$	124.94	\$	131.21	\$	140.05
Increase / Decrease		\$	6.68	\$	6.27	\$	8.84
District of Columbia PILOT Fee <sup>(2)</sup>	Ccf	\$	3.31	\$	3.31	\$	3.36
District of Columbia Right-of-Way Fee <sup>(2)</sup>	Ccf		1.03		1.03		1.08
District of Columbia Stormwater Fee <sup>(4)</sup>	ERU		2.67		2.67		2.67
Subtotal District of Columbia Charges		\$	7.01	\$	7.01	\$	7.11
Total Amount		\$	131.95	\$	138.22	\$	147.16
Less: CAP Discount (4Ccf per month)			(67.52)		(72.32)		(76.48)
CAP Discount (100% WSRF per month)			(6.30)		(6.30)		(6.30)
CAP Discount (50% CRIAC per month)			(16.40)		(15.92)		(18.17)
Total CAP Discount			(90.22)		(94.54)		(100.95)
Total Amount Appearing on DC Water Bill		\$	41.73	\$	43.68	\$	46.21
Increase / Decrease Over Prior Year		\$	1.76	\$	1.95	\$	2.53
CAP Customer Discount as a Percent of Total Bill			-68.37%		-68.40%		-68.60%

(1) Assumes average monthly consumption of 5.42 Ccf, or (4,054 gallons)

(2) Expansion of CAP program in FY2009 assumes discount to first 4 Ccf of water, sewer, and further expansion in FY2011 assumes discount to first 4 Ccf of

PILOT and ROW fee

(3) Assumes 100 percent discount for Water System Replacement Fee (WSRF) to CAP customers effective October 1, 2015

(4) District Department of the Environment stormwater fee of \$2.67 effective November 1, 2010

(5) Assumes 75% discount for the Clean Rivers IAC effective October 1, 2020



### CAP+, CAP, CAP2, and CAP3 Discounts and Income Thresholds

### CAP+, CAP, CAP2 and CAP3 discounts and income thresholds

Program	Income Treshhold <sup>6</sup>	Charges (Discounts)	Current FY2024	l	Proposed FY2025	Proposed FY2026
		Total Amount before Discounts <sup>1</sup>	\$ -	\$	138.22	\$ 147.16
CAP+ <sup>2</sup>	\$30,430 (20% SMI)	Discounts	_		(122.49)	(130.68)
		Total Amount Appearing on DC Water Bill	\$ -	\$	15.73	\$ 16.48

		Total Amount before Discounts <sup>1</sup>	\$ 131.95	\$ 138.22	\$ 147.16
CAP <sup>3</sup>	\$91,250 (60% SMI)	Discounts	(90.22)	(94.54)	(100.95)
		Total Amount Appearing on DC Water Bill	\$ 41.73	\$ 43.68	\$ 46.21

		Total Amount before Discounts <sup>1</sup>	\$ 131.95	\$ 138.22	\$ 147.16
CAP2 <sup>4</sup>	\$121,700 (80% AMI)	Discounts	(59.17)	(62.46)	(67.02)
		Total Amount Appearing on DC Water Bill	\$ 72.78	\$ 75.76	\$ 80.14

		Total Amount before Discounts <sup>1</sup>	\$ 131.95	\$ 138.22	\$ 147.16
CAP3 <sup>5</sup>	\$152,100 (100% AMI)	Discounts	(16.40)	(15.92)	(18.17)
		Total Amount Appearing on DC Water Bill	\$ 115.55	\$ 122.30	\$ 128.99

(1) Assumes average monthly consumption of 5.42 Ccf, or (4,054 gallons)

(2) CAP+ provides a discount on the first 600 cubic feet (4,488 gallons) of water, sewer, PILOT and ROW fee, 75 percent reduction in the monthly CRIAC fee and WSRF waiver

(3) CAP provides a discount on the first 400 cubic feet (2,992 gallons) of water, sewer, PILOT and ROW fee, 75 percent reduction in the monthly CRIAC fee and WSRF waiver

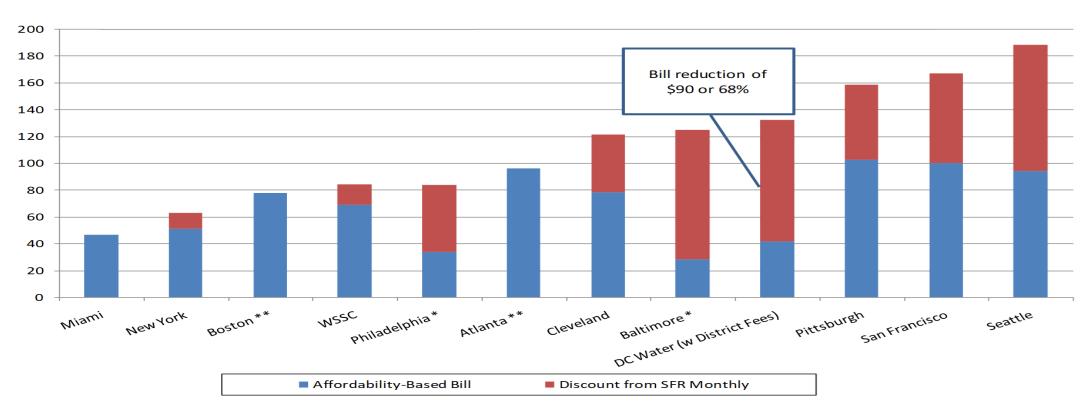
(4) CAP2 provides a discount on the first 300 cubic feet (2,244 gallons) of water and sewer services (with the exception of PILOT and ROW fees) and a 50 percent reduction in the monthly CRIAC fee

(5) CAP3 provides a discount of 75 percent of the monthly CRIAC

(6) Income Thresholds are based on a family of four



# SFR Monthly Bills – Comparison of Charges with & without Income – Based Affordability Programs



\* Amount of discounts Philadelphia provides depend on income. Chart above uses estimated average discount for 2023. Baltimore also has a program that links amount of assistance to income. Chart above illustrates discount based on average estimated household income in program participants as of February 2023.

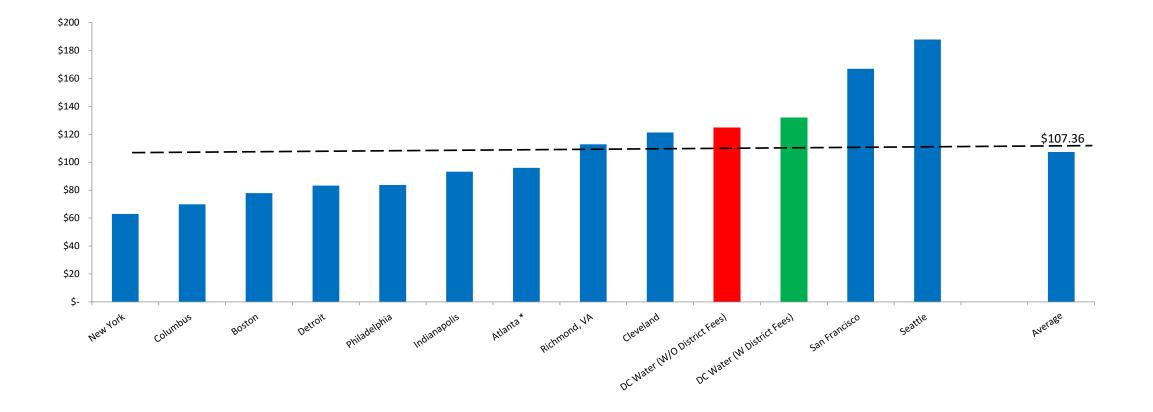
\*\* Boston provides a 30% discount on water & sewer bills for senior citizens or fully disabled customers with no income eligibility requirement. Atlanta provides a 30% discount on water & sewer bills for seniors citizens who meet income eligibility requirement.

Note: The assistance programs have become increasing complex with savings that vary depending upon customer characteristics such as income (as they do for DC Water) and that our presentation shows representative savings but not all saving scenarios.

Assumes average residential consumption of 5.42 Ccf, or 4,054 gallons, per month. Ccf = hundred cubic feet, or 748 gallons.
 Note: Reflects rates and fees in place as of November 1, 2023.

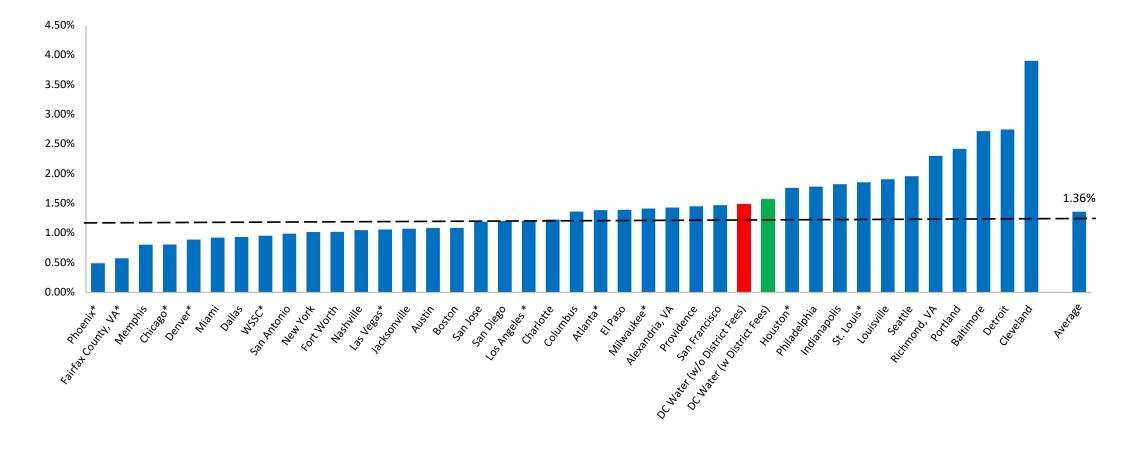


# **DC Water Compared to CSO Communities**



- Assumes average residential consumption of 5.42 Ccf, or 4,054 gallons, per month. Ccf = hundred cubic feet, or 748 gallons.
- Reflects rates and fees in place as of November 1, 2023. Some cities use property tax revenue or other revenues to pay for part of the cost of water, wastewater, or stormwater services, as indicated by \* in the graph above. In such situations, the user charge will not reflect the full cost of water, wastewater or stormwater services.

### Comparative User Charges as % of Median HH Income – Large National & Regional Utilities



Assumes average residential consumption of 5.42 Ccf, or 4,054 gallons, per month. Ccf = hundred cubic feet, or 748 gallons. Median household income from U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

Note: Reflects rates and fees in place as of November 1, 2023. Some cities use property tax revenue or other revenues to pay for part of the cost of water, wastewater, or stormwater services, as indicated by \* in the graph above. In such situations, the user charge will not reflect the full cost of water, wastewater or stormwater services.



# **Financial Plan**



- OC Water's 10-year financial plan serves as the fiscal roadmap to achieve the Board's strategic plan
- It is one of management's key tools to monitor progress in meeting financial goals and targets
- It also ensures meeting or exceeding all debt-related legal and policy requirements, as well as maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet all current financial obligations

### • DC Water's financial plan objectives focus on:

- Minimizing rate increases while meeting all financial obligations;
- Satisfying all indenture requirements and Board policies; and
- Maintaining DC Water's current credit ratings of AAA/Aa1/AA+



- Maintain Debt Service as a percentage of revenue equal to 33.0 percent or less
- Maintain combined coverage of 160 percent
- Maintain 250 days of cash excluding Rate Stabilization Fund. The Board established a goal of increasing the target days cash on hand to 350 days
- FY 2023 actual consumption declined by 1.4 percent. Assumed 7.0 percent decline in consumption in Commercial category in FY 2024 and 1.0 percent conservation each year for all other categories for FY 2025 and onwards
- FY 2023 Debt Service was lower as compared to budget due to deferring bond issuance and a credit released from the 1998 Debt Service Reserve Fund in excess of the requirement.



# Historical and Projected Combined Rate Increases

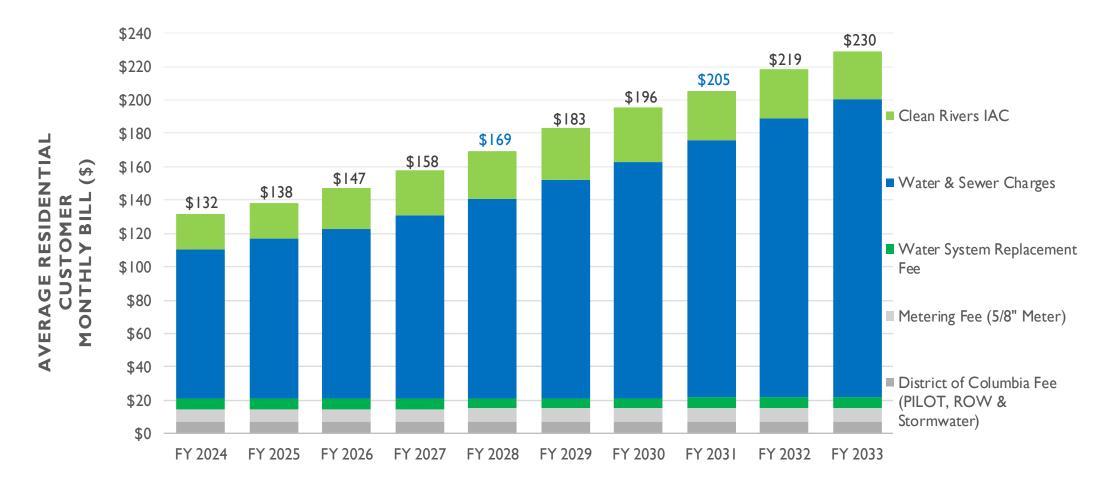
- FY 2025 and FY 2026 are proposed rates, which are slightly lower than previously estimated because of increase in projected revenues mainly due to higher consumption forecast
- In FY 2027 and beyond, forecasted rates are slightly higher than previously estimated due to higher costs





# **Projected Average Residential Customer Bill**

 Projected average monthly residential customer bill ranges from \$132 in FY 2024 to \$230 in FY 2033



<sup>\*</sup> Assumes average residential consumption of 5.42 Ccf, or 4,054 gallons, per month. Ccf = hundred cubic feet, or 748 gallons



# **Customer Impacts**

• Approved rates for FY 2024 and proposed rates for FY 2025 and FY 2026

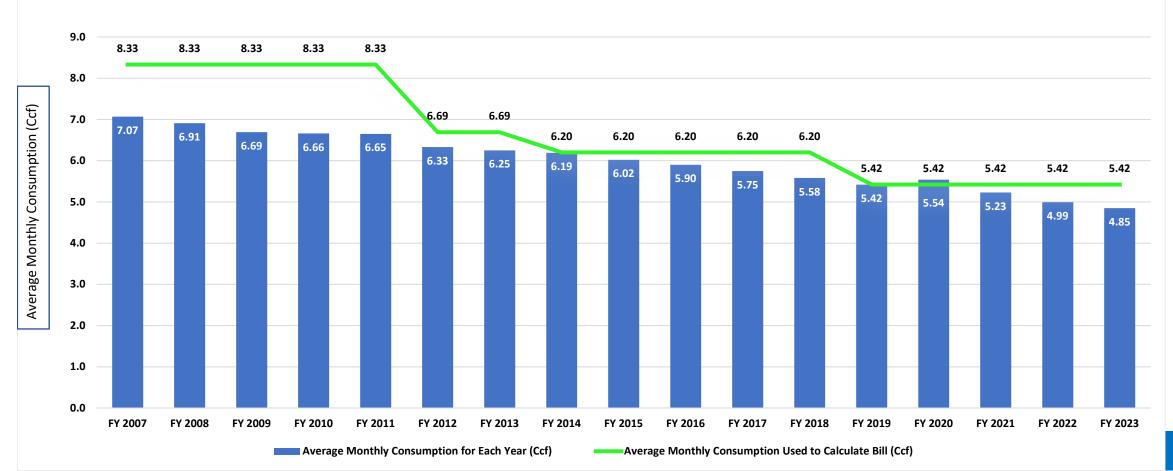
#### • Customer Impacts

Residential	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	203 I	2032	2033
Avg. Ccf 5.42, ERU I										
Water & Sewer Rate (%)	3.3%	8.00%	6.00%	8.00%	9.00%	9.00%	8.50%	9.00%	8.50%	6.50%
CRICAC (\$/ERU)	\$21.86	\$21.23	\$24.23	\$26.99	\$28.28	\$31.13	\$32.73	\$29.37	\$29.40	\$29.4I
Avg. Customer Bill (\$)	\$131.95	\$138.22	\$147.16	\$158.10	\$169.35	\$183.11	\$195.89	\$205.32	\$218.54	\$229.50
Average Customer (%)	5.4%	4.8%	6.5%	7.4%	7.1%	8.1%	7.0%	4.8%	6.4%	5.0%
Multi-family										
Avg. Ccf 90.65,	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	203 I	2032	2033
ERU 6.91										
Water & Sewer Rate (%)	3.3%	8.00%	6.00%	8.00%	9.00%	9.00%	8.50%	9.00%	8.50%	6.50%
CRIAC (\$/ERU)	\$21.86	\$21.23	\$24.23	\$26.99	\$28.28	\$31.13	\$32.73	\$29.37	\$29.40	\$29.4I
Avg. Customer Bill (\$)	\$1,854.77	\$1,958.29	\$2,080.54	\$2,238.31	\$2,415.83	\$2,620.46	\$2,820.97	\$3,014.42	\$3,238.52	\$3,423.51
Average Customer (%)	4.3%	5.6%	6.2%	7.6%	7.9%	8.5%	7.7%	6.9%	7.4%	5.7%
Commercial										
Avg. Ccf 103.88,	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	203 I	2032	2033
ERU 14.51										
Water & Sewer Rate (%)	3.3%	8.00%	6.00%	8.00%	9.00%	9.00%	8.50%	9.00%	8.50%	6.50%
CRIAC (\$/ERU)	\$21.86	\$21.23	\$24.23	\$26.99	\$28.28	\$31.13	\$32.73	\$29.37	\$29.40	\$29.41
Avg. Customer Bill (\$)	\$2,365.18	\$2,512.90	\$2,689.40	\$2,899.79	\$3,125.23	\$3,393.04	\$3,648.95	\$3,866.13	\$4,140.81	\$4,368.45
Average Customer (%)	5.0%	6.2%	7.0%	7.8%	7.8%	8.6%	7.5%	6.0%	7.1%	5.5%

\*Category-wise average consumption is based on FY 2023 average.

# **Average Residential Consumption Comparison**

- The current average residential usage in FY 2023 is about 4.85 Ccf, which is less than 5.42 Ccf that DC Water has used since FY 2019
- Since FY 2009, average household water use has declined by 28 percent





• DC Water's Financial Metrics come from the Indenture, Board Policy and Management

Metrics	Indenture Requirement	Board Policy	Management Target	Financial Plan
Days of Cash on Hand (excluding RSF)	60 days	250 Days	—	267 - 267 Days
Combined Coverage Ratio	_	I.6X	_	1.81X – 2.13X
Senior Coverage	I.2X	_	_	5.79X – 8.18X
Subordinate Coverage	1.0X	_	_	2.15X – 2.52X
Debt Service as a % of Revenue	_	_	33% of Revenue or Less	25.2% - 33.0%
Rate Stabilization Fund (RSF)		_	_	_

\* Board of Directors added to the cash balance at the end of FY2023 to reach 267 Days of Cash



### **Ten-Year Financial Plan**

\$ in thousands

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY

FY 2024 - FY 2033 FINANCIAL PLAN

OPERATING	FY	2024	FY	2025	FY	2026	F١	( 2027	F١	Y 2028	F١	Y 2029	FY 2030	FY	( 2031	FY	2032	FY 20	033
Retail		728,792		755,456		799,250		854,603		911,660		980,556	1,043,786		1,090,013		1,154,059	1	1,204,514
Wholesale		106,519		114,248		120,905		125,741		130,771		136,001	141,441		147,099		152,983		159,102
Other		53,249		54,557		57,301		62,364		67,922		70,592	69,584		70,092		65,216		64,505
RSF		2,000		2,000		-		-		-		-	-		-		-		-
Operating Receipts <sup>(1)</sup>	\$	890,560	\$	926,261	\$	977,455	\$	1,042,708	\$	1,110,352	\$	1,187,149 \$	1,254,812	\$	1,307,204	\$	1,372,258	<b>\$</b> 1	1,428,121
Operating Expenses		425,383		444,207		464,947		482,959		501,685		521,151	541,388		562,427		584,299		607,038
Debt Service		221,635		249,495		277,000		307,289		340,180		372,492	402,816		425,524		446,587		462,941
Cash Financed Capital Improvement	\$	58,575	\$	60,436	\$	71,932	\$	76,914	\$	82,049	\$	88,250 <b>\$</b>	93,941	\$	98,101	\$	103,865	\$	108,406
Net Revenues After Debt Service	\$	184,967	\$	172,123	\$	163,576	\$	175,546	\$	186,439	\$	205,256 \$	216,667	\$	221,152	\$	237,507	\$	249,736
Operating Reserve-Beg Balance		286,889		296,600		309,600		324,600		337,600		351,600	365,600		380,600		395,600		411,600
Other Misc (Disbursements)/Receipts																			
Wholesale/Federal True Up		(15,256)		(21,513)		(15,100)		-		-		-	-		-		-		-
Project Billing Refunds		(2,000)		(2,000)		-		-		-		-	-		-		-		-
Transfers to RSF				(		(		(		(		(	()		()		()		(
Pay-Go Financing		(158,000)		(135,609)		(133,476)		(162,546)		(172,439)		(191,256)	(201,667)		(206,152)		(221,507)		(233,736)
Operating Reserve - Ending Balance	\$	296,600	\$	309,600	\$	324,600	\$	337,600	\$	351,600	\$	365,600 \$	380,600	\$	395,600	\$	411,600	\$	427,600
Rate Stabilization Fund Balance RSF <sup>(2)</sup>	\$	33,644	\$	31,644	\$	31,644	\$	31,644	\$	31,644	\$	31,644 \$	31,644	\$	31,644	\$	31,644	\$	31,644
Senior Debt Service Coverage		818%		753%		651%		607%		635%		628%	589%		616%		591%		579%
Combined Debt Service Coverage		213%		193%		188%		190%		186%		186%	183%		181%		182%		183%
Actual/Projected Water/Sewer Rate Increases Operating Receipts \$ Increase/Decrease		3.25%		8.00%		6.00%		8.00%		9.00%		9.00%	8.50%		9.00%		8.50%		6.50%
Retail		26,565		26,664		43,794		55,353		57,057		68,896	63,230		46,227		64,047		50,455
Wholesale		1,269		7,729		6,657		4,836		5,030		5,231	5,440		5,658		5,884		6,119
Operating Receipts % Increase/Decrease																			
Retail		3.8%		3.7%		5.8%		6.9%		6.7%		7.6%	6.4%		4.4%		5.9%		4.4%
Wholesale		1.2%		7.3%		5.8%		4.0%		4.0%		4.0%	4.0%		4.0%		4.0%		4.0%

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes interest earnings on senior lien revenue bonds' debt service reserve fund

(2) \$2.0 million withdrawal from Rate Stabilization Fund in FY 2024 for new Payment Plan Incentive Program, leaving a balance of \$33.644 million

(2) FY 2025 planned transfer of \$0.0 million to Rate Stabilization Fund and \$2.0 million utilization will keep the total fund balance at \$31.644 million.



# Recommendations

- Recommend to the full Board the adoption of the proposed FY 2025 and FY 2026 rates, charges and fees and begin the public hearing process
  - Water and Sewer Rates:
    - 8.0% increase in FY 2025
    - 6.0% increase in FY 2026

#### • Clean River IAC:

- \$0.63 decrease to \$21.23 per ERU in FY 2025
- \$3.00 increase to \$24.23 per ERU in FY 2026

#### • Groundwater Rate:

- No increase in FY 2025
- 7.4% increase in FY 2026

#### • High Flow Filter Backwash Sewer Rate:

- 0.6% increase in FY 2025
- 6.6% increase in FY 2026

- Recommend to the full Board the adoption of the proposed FY 2024 – FY 2033 Financial Plan
  - 10-year CIP disbursement budget
  - Projected water and sewer rate increases
  - Financial Plan for FY 2024 FY 2033 including the revenue requirement to support the operating and capital budgets.



# Next Steps



#### Committee Reviews, Recommendations & Actions – January & February

	Environmental Quality & Operations	DC Retail Water & Sewer Rates	Finance & Budget
FY 2024 - FY 2033 Capital Budget (Disbursements & Lifetime)	Action Required		Action Required
FY 2025 Operating Budget			Action Required
ntent to Reimburse Capital Expenditures with roceeds of a Borrowing			Action Required
Y 2025 and 2026 Rates, Charges & Fees		Action Required	
FY 2024 – FY 2033 Financial Plan		Action Required	Action Required

• Board Adoption – March 7



# **Committee Workplan Timelines**

DC Retail Water & Sewer Rates Committee Reviews, Recommendations, and Actions	Dates
Update Committee on Proposed FY 2025 & FY 2026 Rates	January 23, 2024
Committee Recommendation on Proposed FY 2025 & FY 2026 Rates	February 27, 2024
Independent Review of Proposed FY 2025 & FY 2026 Rates and Budget by Consultant	February 27, 2024
Board approval of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) for Proposed FY 2025 & FY 2026 Rates	March 7, 2024
Public Hearing	May 9, 2024
Committee Recommendation on Final FY 2025 & FY 2026 Rates	June 25, 2024
Board approval of Notice of Final Rulemaking (NOFR) for Proposed FY 2025 & FY 2026 Rates	July 3, 2024
Rates go-live	October I, 2024 (FY 2025) October I, 2025 (FY 2026)

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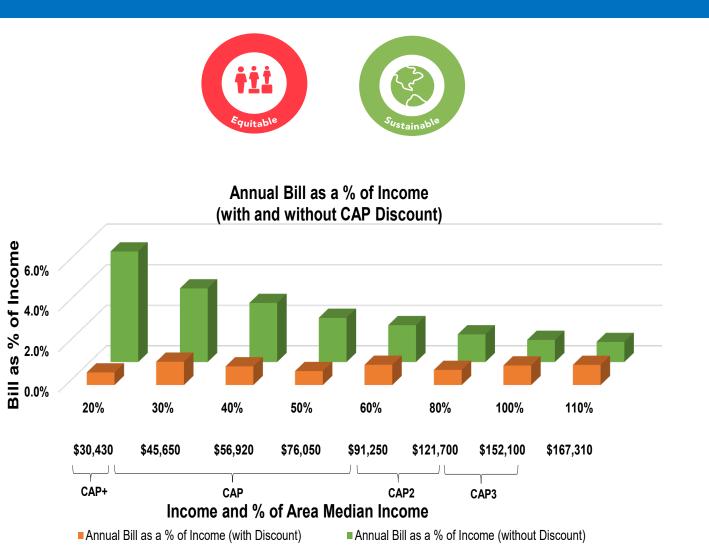


# Appendix



# **The Proposed Budget**

- The average residential customer bill as a percentage of median household income (MHI at 60%) is about 1.8%, an affordability metric
- For residential customers with incomes below MHI, DC Water offers robust assistance programs
- This budget expands our Customer Assistance Programs:
  - I) New CAP+ for 20% AMI
  - 2) Household Leak program will help CAP customers with leaks identify issues
  - Creates new principal forgiveness program for customers who adhere to their payment plans





# **Customer Programs Recognized by EPA**

Bill Discount	<ul> <li>DC Water offers programs with incomes up to 100% AMI</li> <li>NEW – CAP+ program offers even more robust assistance to households with up to 20% MHI</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>DC Water offers payment plans</li> </ul>
Flexible Terms	• NEW – Payment Plan Incentive Program - Customers who meet the terms of their payment plans will have a credit to their arrears
	Lifeline Rate provides a discount for the first four Ccfs of water
Lifeline Rate	<ul> <li>Customers can save money a month if they can conserve water</li> </ul>
<b>–</b>	• SPLASH program, paid for with customer, employee, and Board member contributions
Temporary Assistance	• The new <b>Payment Plan Incentive Program</b> will provide a credit toward past-due balances for customers who meet terms of Payment Plans; paid for with the Rate Stabilization Fund
	• NEW – \$500,000 Leak Assessment program will provide water audits to help customers
Water Efficiency	identify the source of leaks and high bills



- The primary source of funding is Retail Rates and Wholesale Customer participation
- Growing the capital plan would increase customer rates higher than the Proposed CIP

Projected FY 2024 – 2033	Proposed	Additional Investment	Full Asset Management
Size of Capital Plan	\$7.7 billion	\$8.3 billion	\$9.1 billion
Wholesale Contributions	\$1.3 billion	\$1.4 billion	\$1.4 billion
New debt anticipated to be issued	\$3.3 billion	\$3.6 billion	\$3.8 billion
FY 2033 Debt Service Costs	\$462.9 million	\$484.5 million	\$504.4 million
Average Rate Growth for Average Household	6.3%	6.8%	7.4%
FY 2033 Average Household Charge	\$229.50	\$241.52	\$253.26
Average Annual Bill Increase	\$10.43	\$11.64	\$12.81
10-year Cumulative Water Rate Increase	75.75%	82.75%	89.75%