California Wastewater Arrearages Payment Program

March 29, 2022
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CALIFORNIA WATER AND WASTEWATER ARREARAGE PAYMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

• FEDERAL DOLLARS CREATED UNDER THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021 (ARPA)
• THE GOAL: HELP OUT THE WATER AND WASTEWATER CUSTOMER.
• PROVIDES FUNDS TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE THE ARREARAGE OR CUSTOMER DEBT
WHAT IS STATE WATER BOARD’S ROLE?

Provide as much outreach and financial relief as possible for California water and wastewater customers who incurred debt during Covid, especially small, disadvantaged communities.
CALIFORNIA WATER AND WASTEWATER ARREARAGE PAYMENT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**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).
Period of Eligibility

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

March 4, 2020

June 15, 2021

Today
What is Covered Under Wastewater Arrearages Program?

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

- Industrial, agriculture irrigation, and landscape irrigation
- Late fees
- Interest
General Eligibility

Wastewater treatment providers or billing entities that accrued residential and commercial customer arrearages during the COVID-19 pandemic bill relief period (March 4, 2020 through June 15, 2021).

• Wastewater treatment providers or billing entities that collect customer revenue through property tax rolls and can directly credit customers’ accounts.

• Wastewater treatment providers or billing entities that transferred arrearage debt to a 3rd-party such as the local county or debt collection entity.
General program requirements

- **Waive**
  - Customer late fees and interest for any arrearages accrued

- **Notify**
  - Customer of amount credited

- **Allow**
  - Customer the option to enroll in a payment plan

- **Report**
  - Expenditures and customer credits
$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.
Where Are We Now?

- **01 Feb. 2022**: Application Portal Open
- **01 Mar. 2022**: Begin Disbursing Funds to Approved Applications
- **01 Apr. 2022**: Application Portal Close
- **22 Apr. 2022**: Application Portal Close for Late Applications
- **Mid-May 2022**: Complete Disbursement of Funds
Where Are We Now?

- Partial Applications: 110
- Submitted Applications: 150
- Total Requested: 95 Million
California Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program

Wastewater Systems | California State Water Resources Control Board
Contact

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Questions

When you're up to your neck in Arrearage applications.........

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