

From: [Office of the General Manager](#)
To: dotdyck@cox.net
Subject: RE: Provide financial relief for ratepayers
Date: Monday, September 14, 2020 4:14:00 PM

Dear Ms. Dyck,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's budget and water rates. As you are probably aware, Metropolitan provides more than half of all the water consumed in its service area that includes Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties.

Metropolitan fully recognizes the changing economic conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to Southern California.

Working closely with our member agencies and taking steps to contain our own expenditures Metropolitan reduced its planned rate increase to 3%, a change that will not go into effect until 2021. Because the water Metropolitan delivers to you comes from up to 500 miles away, we must continue to maintain our critical water transportation infrastructure and paying for the power to move that water. Metropolitan has taken actions to cut spending in many areas by curtailing hiring, deferring projects, eliminating non-essential travel and using cash reserves. This month, staff is recommending to the Board a series of additional budget cuts for consideration and action, and we will continue to monitor our expenditures and revenue going forward.

Providing safe and reliable water to 19 million Southern Californians is Metropolitan's mission and is essential to the welfare of our people, businesses, hospitals and communities. Please work with your local water provider on what we can all do together to save water and lower costs. We appreciate your interest and continued support.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kightlinger
General Manager

From: dotdyck@cox.net <dotdyck@cox.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 10:24 PM
To: Board Executive Secretary <BoardExecutiveSecretary@mwdh2o.com>
Subject: Provide financial relief for ratepayers

Dear MWD Board –

Given the financial challenges created by the recession and the COVID-19 pandemic across

MWD's service area, I'm asking you to reduce the costs of water supply and transportation services for 2021. This fall, you have an opportunity to help water agencies and ratepayers across Southern California weather this unprecedented storm.

Many water agencies across the region are facing significant financial pressure due to unpaid bills by residents and their own efforts to provide rate relief. They have taken steps such as freezing hiring, delaying or deferring projects, and reducing travel and training.

One approach that would benefit all MWD member agencies would be to reduce MWD's transportation rates (System Access and System Power) by \$15 per acre-foot. This would require a 1.3 percent reduction in MWD's almost \$2 billion budget, or about \$24 million. It would reduce the planned untreated water rate increase and benefit all MWD member agencies.

I also support other ways that MWD can trim costs without materially impacting services while offering rate relief to all Southern California ratepayers.

Thank you for your consideration of this and other steps that can be taken to support residents and businesses during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Dorothy L Dyck

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