

# News Release



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## **Alameda County Water District Board of Directors Votes to Forgo Water Rate Increase Proposal**

Fremont, Calif. – In recognition of the financial impact to many residents and businesses during the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, the ACWD Board of Directors voted during its December 10 meeting to forgo a proposed water rate increase. ACWD staff, and its financial consultant, recommended a two-year water rate increase, proposing 2% on March 1, 2021, and 2% on March 1, 2022.

“The ACWD Board recognizes the effects the pandemic has on our customers, and our community, during these unprecedented times,” said ACWD Board President Aziz Akbari. “We felt the right thing to do, at this time, is to hold off on a rate increase. It’s a way to express to our community that we truly are in this together,” he added.

ACWD held four financial workshops in 2020 – two focused on budget and two focused on rates and charges. ACWD staff proposed water rate increases based on discussions during the workshops.

While the proposed rate increase will not proceed, ACWD remains committed to the 24/7 delivery of high-quality drinking water.

ACWD has suspended water shutoffs and late fees during the COVID-19 pandemic while billing for service continues.

For low-income residents who have difficulty paying their water bills, ACWD’s customer assistance program, Help on Tap, provides relief. The Board recently increased the bimonthly bill credit to \$35 for income-qualified customers. To learn more, visit [www.acwd.org/HOT](http://www.acwd.org/HOT).

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