

## PRESS RELEASE

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Steve Castaneda, Chair Hector Martinez, Vice Chair Josie Calderon-Scott Jerry Cano José F. Cerda Jose Preciado Alejandra Sotelo-Solis Thursday, June 25, 2020 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Sweetwater Authority Board approves \$64M budget for fiscal year 2020-21, no rate increase

The Sweetwater Authority (Authority) Governing Board approved the budget for fiscal year 2020-21 at its June 24, 2020 meeting. The budget does not increase water rates for customers and reflects more than \$13M in reductions over last fiscal year. To achieve these savings, the Board worked closely with Authority staff to produce a balanced budget that minimizes the financial impact to customers.

Budget highlights include a comprehensive analysis of new water resources, systematic flushing to improve water quality throughout the region, and continued water system maintenance and improvements.

"I commend the Governing Board for their hard work and dedication to our rate payers as we navigated through our annual budget process," said Governing Board Chair Steve Castaneda. "These challenging times dictate that public agencies control costs and maximize their assets. This year, we will not increase rates and the Board is seriously looking at ways to bring more value to our customers through potentially mining sand at Sweetwater Reservoir and developing business relationships with regional agencies."

Sweetwater Authority is a public water agency providing safe, reliable water to National City, Chula Vista and Bonita.

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