



CHESTER WATER AUTHORITY

P. O. Box 467, Chester, PA 19016

Chester Water Authority

February 13, 2018

Chester Water Authority to Invest \$11.6 Million in Capital Improvements in 2018

Part of plan to make \$40 million in capital investments over next three years

CHESTER, PA – The Chester Water Authority’s Board of Directors has approved a capital budget that will invest \$11.6 million in capital improvements in 2018 as part of its ongoing commitment to enhance its infrastructure and deliver excellent quality drinking water to its customers. The investment in the coming months is part of a three-year capital improvement plan that allocates more \$40 million for projects to improve the authority’s transmission and distribution system, enhance its treated water storage and tank system, make upgrades to its pumping and treatment infrastructure, and support customer-focused modernization efforts.

The Chester Water Authority is a regional municipal water authority that provides service to more than 200,000 residents and business owners spanning 33 municipalities, including communities in western Delaware County, southern Chester County, and the City of Chester. CWA also provides water to a large private water company that services customers in northern portion of the State of Delaware.

“The Chester Water Authority’s primary mission is to deliver high quality drinking water to our more than 43,500 customers,” said Cynthia F. Leitzell, Chair of the Chester Water Authority’s Board of Directors. “As a result we place a heavy emphasis on maintaining and investing in both the infrastructure and the organization needed to purify, pump, store, and deliver water to our household, commercial, and community customers. These investments in the infrastructure of our water system reflect our commitment to provide our customers with quality water in a safe and reliable manner.”

A major element of the 2018 capital budget is a \$4.1 million investment in water main rehabilitation projects. Other investments the CWA plans to make in 2018 include \$1.5 million in water storage tank improvements, \$1 million in water treatment plant improvements, and \$2 million in Automated Meter Infrastructure improvements. The authority will also be making various upgrades to some of its booster stations, which are located at intervals along transmission lines and mains to boost water pressure.

“As a municipal water authority, CWA does not have shareholders that it has to keep happy by using the revenues from our customers to pay stock dividends,” said Paul Andriole, Vice Chair of the Chester Water Authority’s Board of Directors. “That allows us to keep rates low and invest in our infrastructure without imposing added surcharges for capital improvements on our

customers. Our primary focus – the people we answer to – are our customers and that is evident in our day-to-day operations, as well as our low rates.”

The Chester Water Authority is proud of its ability to make these significant but necessary capital investments while working to keep customer rates low. In fact, the CWA’s water rates have not increased since 2010, giving it some of the lowest rates in the region. For example, a CWA residential customer that consumes a conservative 6,000 gallons of water per month can expect to save between \$375 and \$475 per year compared to an Aqua Pennsylvania customer consuming the same amount of water.

Those customer savings include a 5 percent surcharge that Aqua imposes on each customers’ water bill to pay for capital improvements. That fee, called a Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC), was doubled by Aqua from 2.5 percent in October 2017 to 5 percent, effective January 1, 2018. The CWA does not impose this fee on customers, as funding for capital improvement is already accounted for in its existing rate structure.

The 2018 capital improvement budget is part of the CWA’s three-year, \$40 million capital plan that includes investments of \$13.8 million in its water transmission and distribution system, \$7.8 million in its water storage infrastructure, \$7.8 million in pumping and treatment, \$6.1 million in water meter improvements, and more than \$4 million in other investments.

About the Chester Water Authority:

The Chester Water Authority is a regional municipal water authority that provides potable water to more than 43,500 customers in a service area that spans 33 municipalities, including the City of Chester and communities in Delaware and Chester Counties. As a municipal authority, the CWA is able to provide water at customer rates that are lower than those of private utility companies. The CWA takes pride in the fact that it directs a high percentage of funds into its infrastructure for capital projects and proactive maintenance. That investment in water treatment and distribution infrastructure enables the CWA to deliver quality, service, and value to the community. To learn more about Chester Water Authority, please visit www.chesterwater.com.

Contact: Pete Peterson
Cell: 215-990-8928
Email: ppeterson@bellevuepr.com