



WHAT'S ON TAP?

NEWS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

AMENDED CONSENT DECREE APPROVED FOR SMART SEWER PROGRAM



Green infrastructure helps our community manage stormwater the way nature intended by capturing and utilizing rainwater where it falls. The Rachel Morado project, located in south Kansas City, absorbs and filters 500,000 gallons of stormwater from approximately 82 acres in the Middle Blue River Watershed Basin.

Welcome news for KC Water customers concerned with years of escalating wastewater rates. A federal judge recently signed the long-negotiated Third Amended Consent Decree agreed upon by the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Justice, which focuses on reducing wet weather overflows from the City's sewer systems. The original Consent Decree dates back to 2010 and required Kansas City to reduce the volume and frequency of wet weather sewer overflows into the environment. It was originally planned as a 25-year, \$4.5 billion - \$5 billion program that resulted in dozens of important improvement projects, but it also started several years of double-digit

wastewater rate increases for KC Water customers.

"We recognize the financial impact the Smart Sewer program has had on our customers and we don't take that lightly," said KC Water Director Terry Leeds.

The Amendment allows the City to use newer technology to reduce overflows from the sewer system. The City also has more opportunities to use green infrastructure to deliver a high level of wet weather control and multiple community benefits at a similar cost. This reduces our dependency on large gray infrastructure and reduces the cost of the program.

Future wastewater increases are expected to remain moderate. KC Water intends to raise rates 6 percent

or less annually to fund its wastewater system improvements to comply with the modified decree and maintain our current infrastructure.

"We were able to show the EPA that Kansas City's median household income didn't keep up with projections which resulted in a high financial burden on many of our customers," Leeds said.

The modification eliminates the requirement for the very expensive projects, such as underground storage tunnels through 2035, and extends the final compliance date from 2035 to 2040. 💧

MORE INFORMATION

www.kcsmartsewer.us/approach/third-amended-consent-decree

CELEBRATE DRINKING WATER WEEK

KC Water celebrates this year's Drinking Water Week with the theme, "There When You Need It." From May 2nd – May 8th, KC Water, the American Water Works Association (AWWA), and communities across the country celebrate Drinking Water Week by recognizing the vital role tap water plays in our daily lives, the infrastructure required to deliver it to your tap, and the critical work water professionals accomplish around the clock.

KC Water takes pride in providing life's most precious resource to customers. KC Water produces an average of 90 million gallons of safe drinking water each day which,

supports daily hygiene needs during the coronavirus pandemic. KC Water thanks our customers for the opportunity to serve you each and every day. We invite you to learn more about the importance of water and water infrastructure, especially in times of crisis. 💧



MORE INFORMATION

www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Drinking-Water-Week

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE

Need help paying for utilities or rent? Funds and resources are available now at www.kcwater.us. Please select the Financial Assistance Resources icon on the home page for a list of current rent and utility resources. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't wait. If you are behind on your KC Water bill, please call 311 or 816-513-1313 (option 1) immediately so we can work with you towards a solution. 💧

THE WATER QUALITY REPORT IS AVAILABLE

KC Water is proud to provide high-quality and great-tasting drinking water to your tap. The 2020 Water Quality Report gives a detailed overview of the quality of the drinking water we provide and what we're doing to keep your water safe. Also included is information

about the source of your water, water hardness, seasonal changes, and other topics.

To ensure product quality and protect public health, KC Water draws tens of thousands of water samples each year to check for nearly 300 constituents,

far more than required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Water Quality Report can be found online at www.kcwater.us/wqr. If you'd like to receive a copy of the report in the mail, please call 816-513-1313 (option 1). 💧



DOING OUTDOOR LESSONS WITH A SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY GROUP?

Schedule a Lesson with Our Team
water.education@kcmo.org

KC Water's Education and Outreach team is excited to promote outdoor learning.

Check out our spring and summer activities at www.kcwater.us/education under Education Resources.



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CUSTOMER SUPPORT: (816) 513-1313 (Option 1) or 311 • www.kcwater.us

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