

Columbus Water Works

FY 2022-23 Public Forum

November 8, 2022



Agenda

South Columbus Water Reclamation Facility

Purpose

Review of 2022

Rate Drivers

Recommended 2023 Rates

Customer Assistance Options



Our Purpose is Personal

- We protect our neighbors by providing essential water- the fuel of life.
- Serve 250,000+ people in Columbus area
- Provide essential drinking water and wastewater treatment services
- Protect the environment for our water supply and quality of life
- We live, work and play here too!



2021-2022 Key Accomplishments

- GAWP* Platinum Distribution System of the Year
- GAWP Platinum Collection System of the Year
- GAWP Plant of the Year Awards (2) – Camp Darby Well & Leyte Range Well
- GAWP Platinum Compliance Awards – 11 wells
- GAWP Platinum Compliance Awards – 2 water treatment plants
- GAWP Plant of the Year Safety Award
- GAWP Gold Laboratory QA/QC Wastewater
- GAWP Gold Laboratory QA/QC Water

A Day Without Water



Investing in infrastructure is a critical part of CWW's operation

- Our system will not work without people, and we focus on training and retaining our excellent employees



Factors that impact our service



Delivering safe/clean water to customers and returning clean water to the river



Great people, who are experts in their field



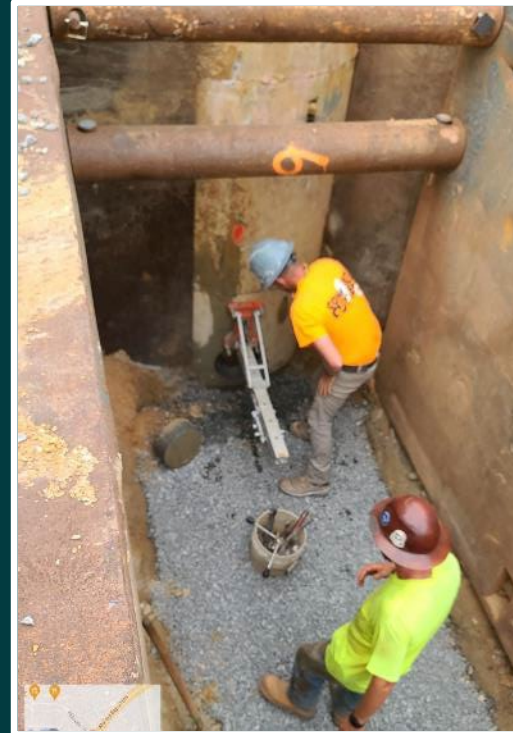
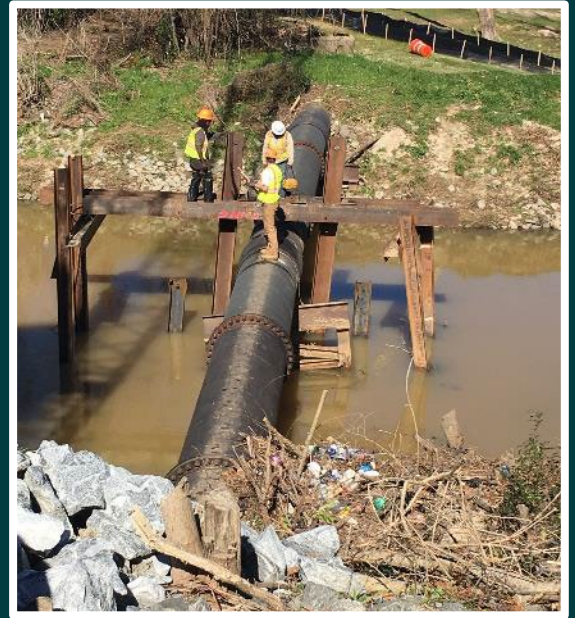
Infrastructure maintenance and improvements



Regulatory Compliance



Cost increases driven by inflation affect every aspect



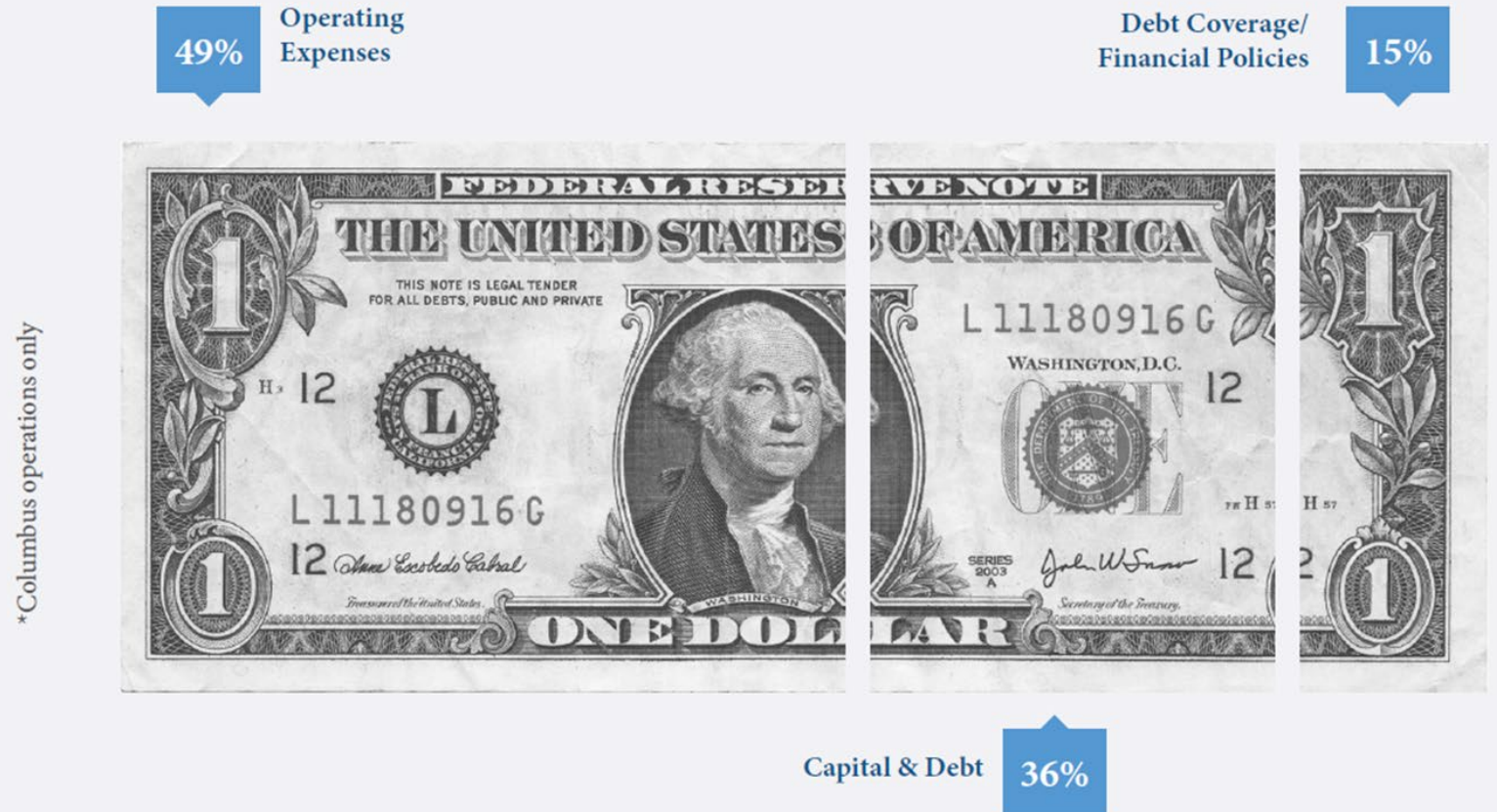
2023 Financial Overview



How our funds are distributed

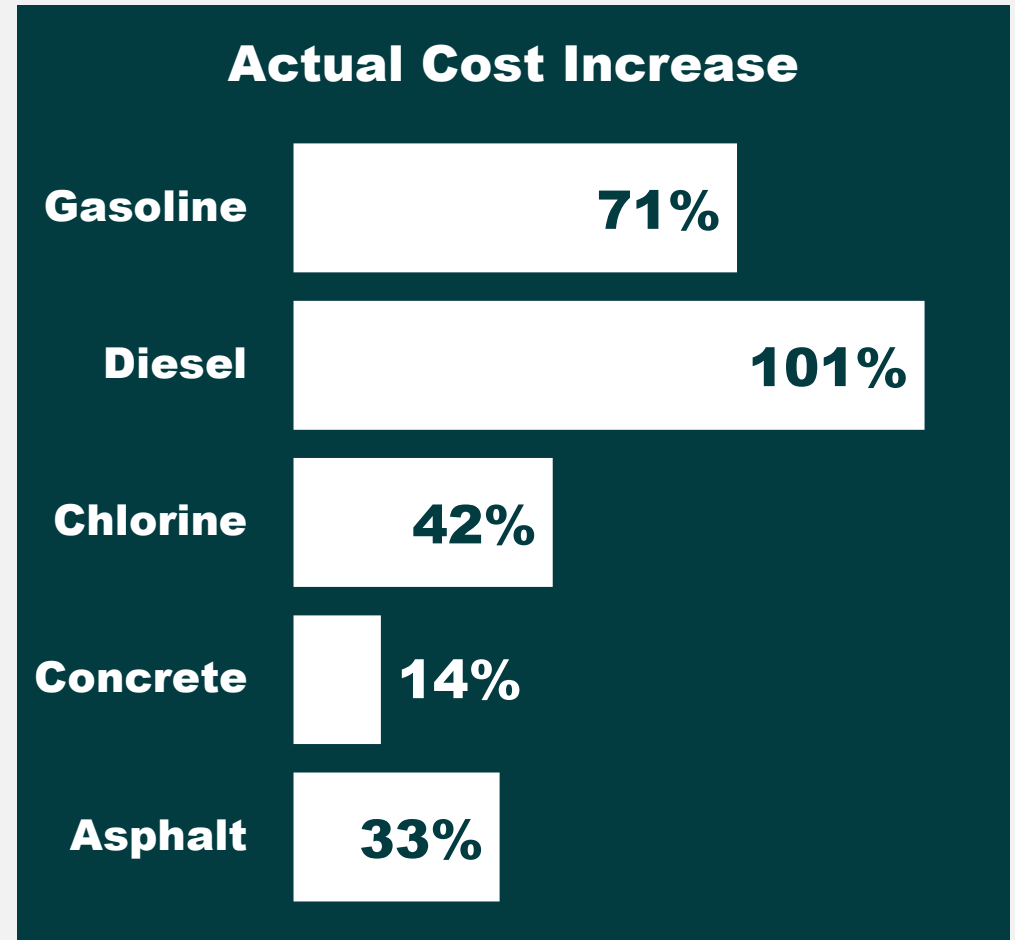
- Rate Drivers

- › Materials, supplies, and other operating costs
- › Capital renewal
- › Financial policies

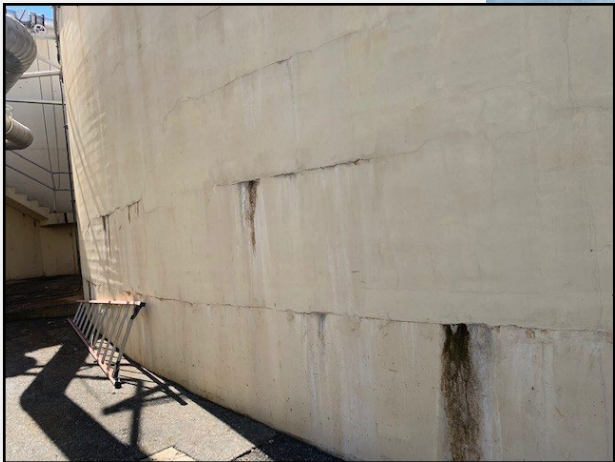
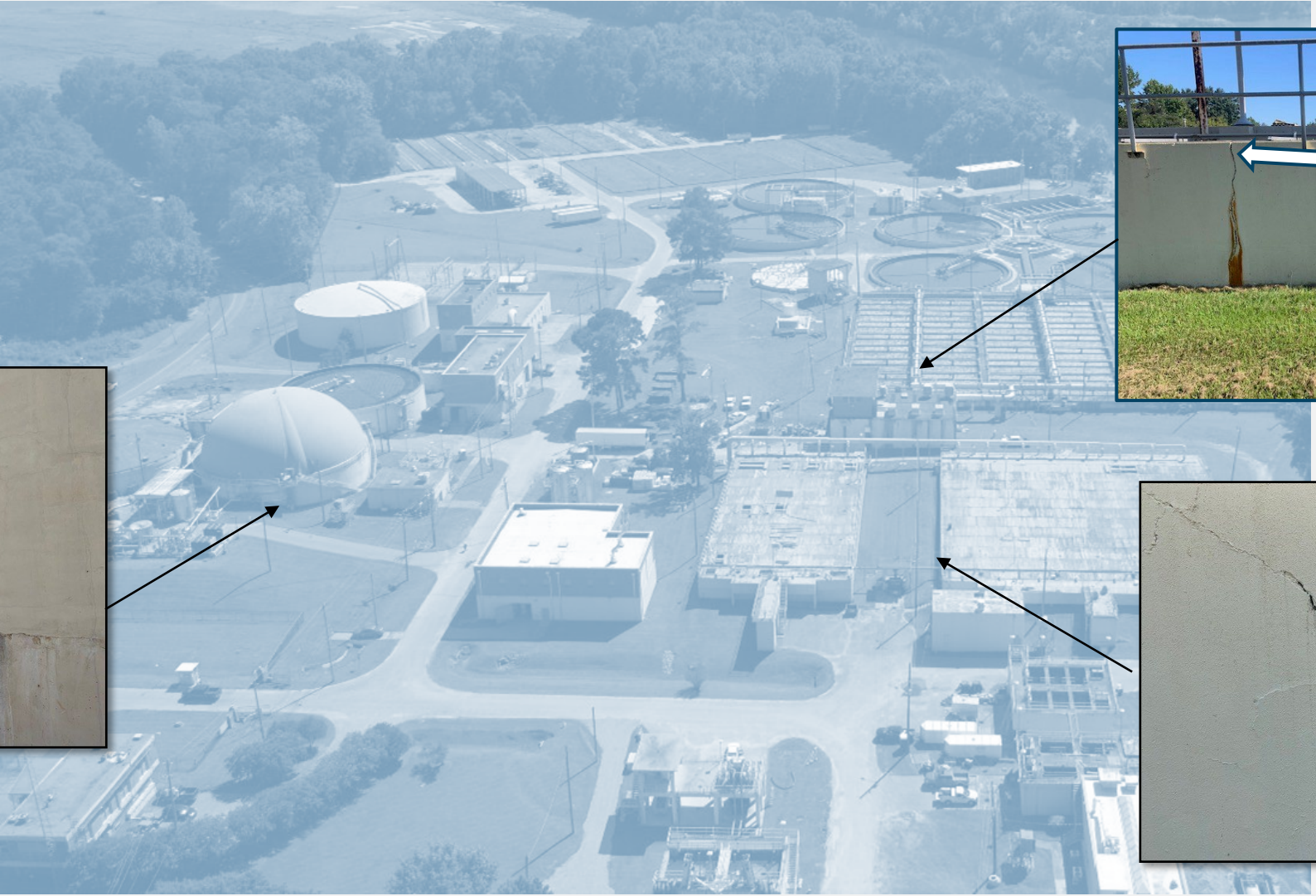


Rising Operating Costs

- Historically, **2.3% annual O&M** increase over last 5 years
 - › Operating cost increases due to inflation and higher supplier prices
- Year-over-year increases:
 - 9.0%** Consumer Price Index
 - 12.2%** Municipal Cost Index
 - 8.8%** Construction Cost Index
 - 23.6%** Producer Price Index



Capital spending focused on renewal of aging infrastructure and regulatory compliance



Ways that CWW drives cost efficiency

- Drive cost efficiency throughout CWW culture
 - › Obtains competitive pricing
 - › Utilizes qualified consultants
- Proactive 5-year cycles of Facilities Master Planning and prioritized infrastructure projects
 - › Ensure financial performance
- Seek most cost-effective debt financing
 - › Example 0.13% interest on current program

Customer Assistance Options

- Existing Low Income Credit program provides \$8.50 monthly credit
 - › 275 customers enrolled (\$28,000 annual benefit)
- Federal Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)
 - › Temporary assistance administered by Enrichment Services
 - › 1,728 customers have received a total of \$552,000 in benefit



Recommended 2023 Rates

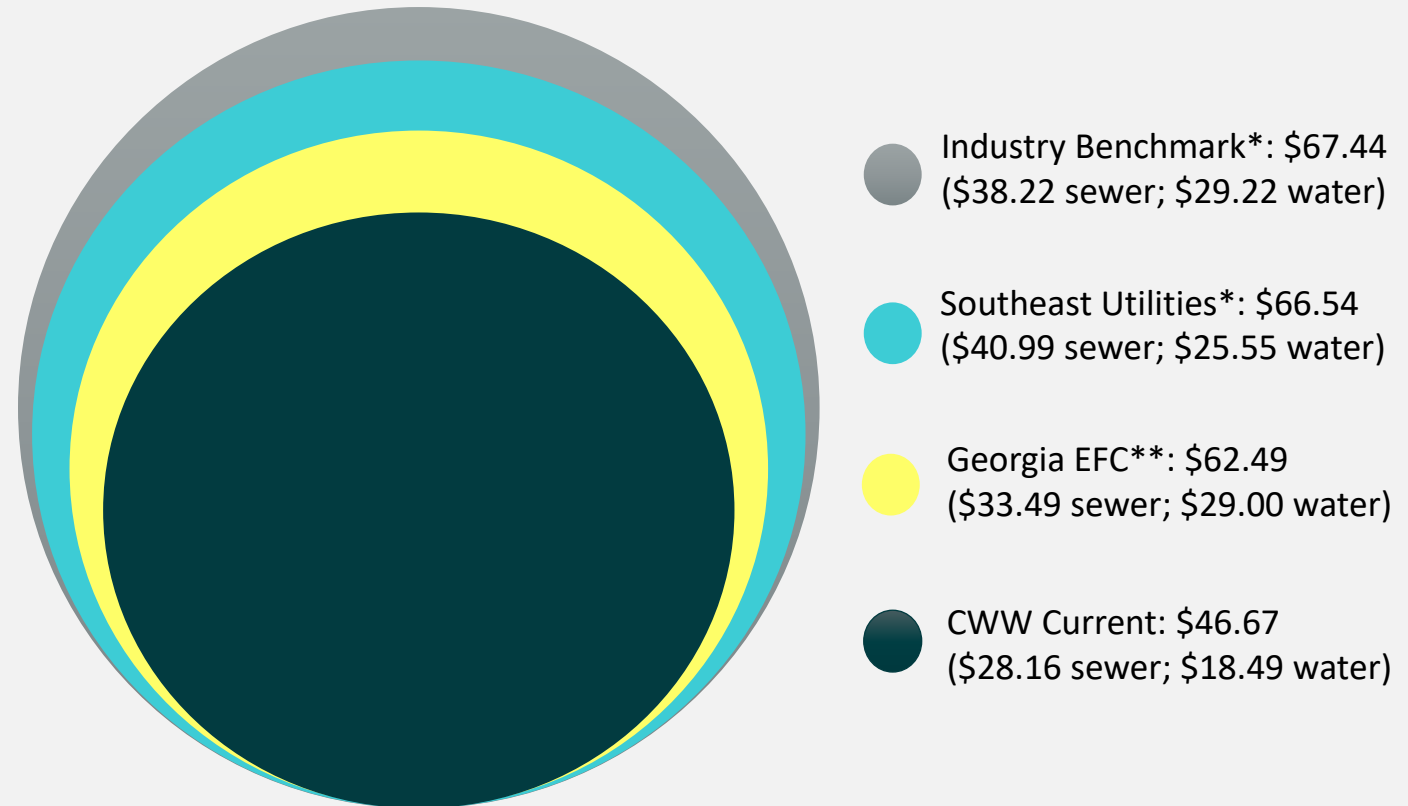


Historic Rates and Benchmarks

- CWW customers pay \$15-20 less per month compared with regional and national averages
- According to industry benchmarks, annual rate increases since 2012 have been over 5.25%
- CWW rate increases (including this year) have been historically closer to 3.9%

Customer Bill Benchmarks

5 ccf or 3,750 gallons



* Based on 2021 data from approx. 600 utilities collected by Raftelis.

** Georgia rates based on 2022 data from 376 utilities collected by UNC Environmental Finance Center.

CWW service is roughly 1¢ per gallon!

Proposed Rate Changes

- Proposed 4.95% rate increase needed to provide safe and reliable drinking water
- Increase will add approximately \$2.31 to most customers monthly bill and less than \$3.14 to over 80% of customers bills

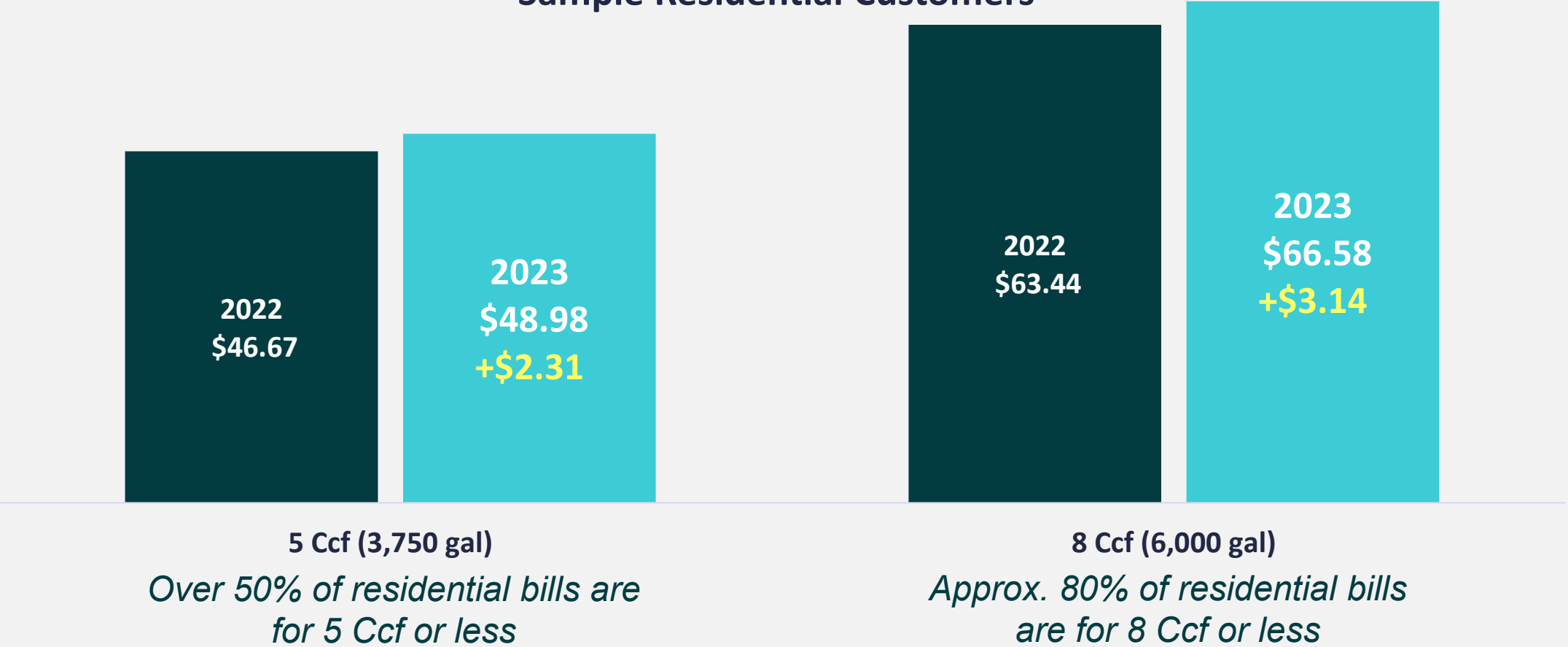


Monthly Residential Customer Bills

Water, Sewer, and CSO

Less than a \$3.14 per month increase to over 80% of customers

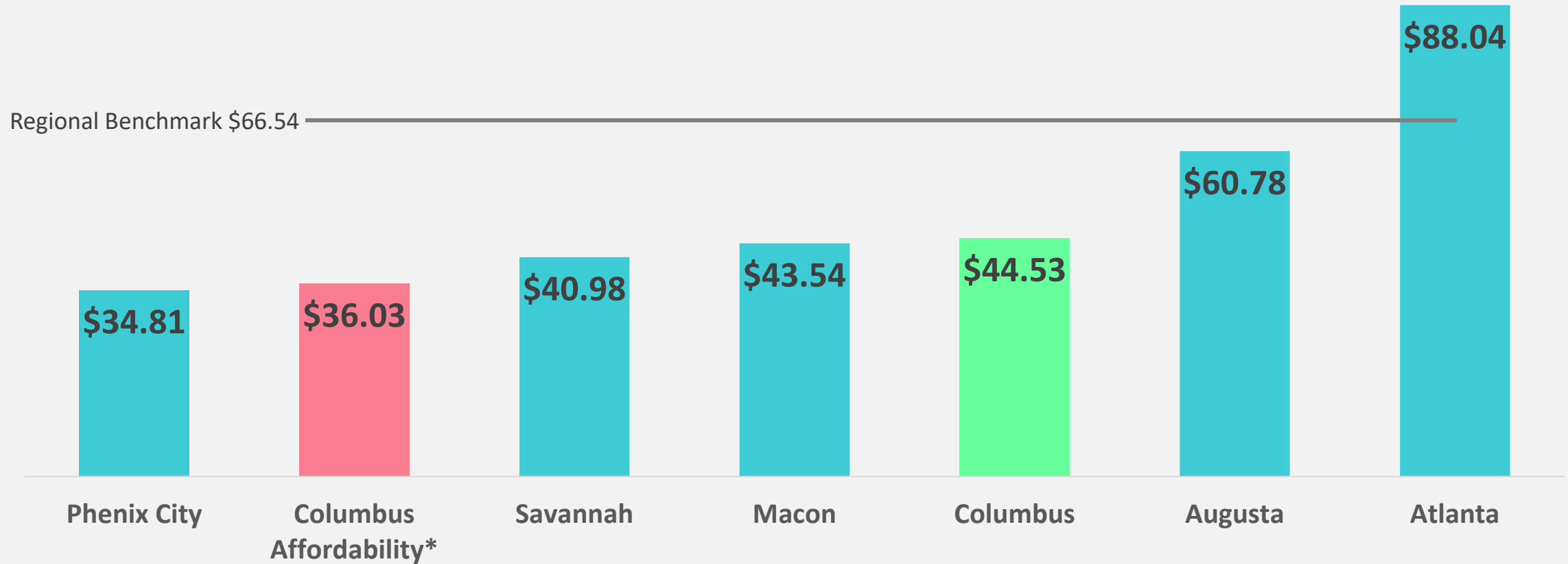
Sample Residential Customers



Customer Bill Comparison

Water and Sewer

*5 Ccf or 3,750 gallons residential bill
Proposed CWW Rates*



Note: Rates for comparison communities are current as of September 2022, but do not include increases they may implement in 2023.

* The Low-Income Credit Program provides a monthly \$8.50 credit for qualifying residential customers

2023 Water Base Charges & Volume Rates

Bills Rendered as of January 1, 2023

Meter Size	Current Charge	Proposed Charge
5/8"	\$ 8.94	\$ 9.39
3/4"	\$ 8.94	\$ 9.39
1"	\$ 15.64	\$ 16.41
1-1/2"	\$ 26.79	\$ 28.11
2"	\$ 40.17	\$ 42.16
3"	\$ 75.86	\$ 79.62
4"	\$ 116.01	\$ 121.76
6"	\$ 227.54	\$ 238.81
8"	\$ 361.38	\$ 379.27
10"	\$ 517.53	\$ 543.14

Block	Current Rate (per CCF)	Proposed Rate (per CCF)
Non-Industrial		
1 (to 15 CCF)	\$1.91	\$2.00
2 (> 15 CCF)	\$2.12	\$2.22
Industrial		
1 (to 15 CCF)	\$1.91	\$2.00
2 (> 15 CCF)	\$1.84	\$1.93

2023 Wastewater & CSO Charges

Bills Rendered as of January 1, 2023

Current Base Charge	Proposed Base Charge
\$ 5.54	\$ 5.81

Block	Current Rate (per ccf)	Proposed Rate (per ccf)
1 (to 15 ccf)	\$3.68	\$3.87
2 (> 15 ccf)	\$ 2.98	\$ 3.13

CSO Block	Current Charge	Proposed Charge
0 to 4 ccf	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
5-15 ccf	\$ 4.22	\$ 4.43
16-204 ccf	\$ 8.46	\$ 8.87
205-1004 ccf	\$ 84.49	\$ 88.68
Over 1004 ccf	\$ 241.46	\$ 253.41

Summary of Changes Ahead for Your Water Bill

- We are proposing a 4.95% rate increase which will take effect January 1, 2023
- Increase will add approximately \$2.31 to most customers monthly bill and less than \$3.14 to over 80% of customers bills.
- We offer customer assistance for eligible customers. Information can be found at: www.cwwga.org

Q&A