

Water Rates Remain Steady for 2006-07!

For the second straight year, BexarMet water rates will not increase thanks to the balanced budget approved by the BexarMet Board on May 2, 2006. The Board approved a \$30 million capital improvements budget and a \$57 million operating budget for the District. After the budget was approved, BexarMet Board President Victor Villarreal said, "In today's business environment, with prices soaring at every retail store and every business, I think the staff and Board needs to be applauded for their ability to conduct business in a better fashion and still provide it at a zero percent rate increase." Information on the new budget is available on the BexarMet website at www.bexarmet.org.



In This Month's Issue...

-  **ePay and eBill Options Now Available for BexarMet Customers**
-  **Conserve Water Outdoors!**
-  **In Depth Focus: Water-Saving Rebate Programs (Page 2)**



Automatic debit, or ePay is now available for BexarMet customers as an added convenience. To sign up for this optional service, please go to the BexarMet website and register in the online payments area. Customers will be able to schedule payments via a credit card, checking account, or savings account. BexarMet customers must have an email account to use this new service and be registered in our online payments area at <https://secure.bexarmet.org>. Payments scheduled using a credit or debit card will be subject to the \$2.00 Convenience Fee. Customers who sign up for the BexarMet ePay service will receive their water bill notification via email and will stop receiving paper bills. Email confirmations will be sent when ePay payments are approved by the bank or credit card company. Customers may also opt to receive their water bill via email through our eBill Service and choose to pay it via online payment, at a Pay Station, HEB, via the regular mail, or by paying through Customer Service. Bills received via the eBill service cannot be scheduled through ePay.

Conserve water outdoors wherever possible! Aquifer restrictions on outdoor water use are in place or soon will be and we all must do our part to use water efficiently and wisely! Do not overwater your lawn or use potable water to wash driveways, sidewalks or homes. Wash your car at a commercial car wash and do not water during the restricted period. Water waste will not be tolerated and BexarMet Code Enforcement personnel will be looking for water waste violations. For more information on wise outdoor water use, drought restrictions, or to report water waste, please call the BexarMet Water Efficiency Department at (210) 357-5705 or (210) 354-6532. Water waste violations may also be reported by email to waterwasters@bexarmet.org.



In Depth Focus:

Water-Saving Rebate Programs



BexarMet offers rebate programs for installing a variety of water-saving appliances in and around your home as well as modifying your landscape. Once approved, rebates are applied as credits to your BexarMet account. Let's take a closer look at what is available:

💧 **Wash Right Rebate:** A \$100 rebate for replacing an old clothes washer with a new, high efficiency model. A list of approved models is posted on the BexarMet website or can be requested through BexarMet customer service at (210) 354-6500.

💧 **Switch & Save Toilet Rebate:** Get a \$75 rebate for replacing an old, wasteful toilet with a new, 1.6 gallon or less per flush toilet. This rebate may be used for up to 2 toilets per household.

💧 **No-Wait Rebate:** A \$150 rebate for installing an approved hot water circulating pump system in your home. Wait only 2 or 3 seconds for hot water at your faucet instead of 1 or 2 minutes watching cold water go down the drain. Save 10,000 to 15,000 gallons of cold water per year!

💧 **Rain Sense Rebate:** A \$25 rebate for installing a rain sensor on your automatic sprinkler system. A rain sensor will prevent the system from running during or for approximately 48 hours after a rainfall event at your home. Rain sensors are required by the BexarMet and City of San Antonio Water Rules.

💧 **Sprinkler Saver Rebate:** Have your automatic sprinkler system checked annually by a state-licensed irrigator and receive a \$15 rebate! You may apply for this rebate each year.

💧 **Green for Green Rebate:** Replace at least 20% of your grass with low water use plants or other landscaping! BexarMet will compare your water use during June, July and August after the replacement with previous years to determine the percentage of water saved. For each percent of water saved, you earn \$10 up to a maximum of \$300 (for 30% water savings). The minimum rebate is \$100. A before and after photo of the landscape and original receipts for plants is required with the application.

Unless otherwise noted, original receipts for purchase and installation of appliances are required to be submitted with the rebate application. Some installations require inspection by a BexarMet After approval, all rebates are applied as a credit to your water bill. Rebate applications are available from the BexarMet website at www.bexarmet.org/water_eff/rebates.htm or by calling (210) 357-5705 or (210) 354-6532.