



## Belize Water Services

### Public Notice

#### **BWSL ANNUAL REVIEW PROCEEDING SUBMISSION**

On May 3, 2022, Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL) made its submission to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), following its announcement that it intended to request a review of the Decision made in its 2019|2020 Full Tariff Review Proceeding, based on Exceptional Circumstances as defined in the Public Utilities Commission Act.

If approved by the PUC, it would provide for additional funding for much needed improvement to the safety and reliability of Belize's water and sanitation systems and for the protection of the most vulnerable customers.

In 2019, BWSL submitted a Full Five-Year Business Plan (FFBP) for the current FTP to the PUC as part of the regulated review requirement for the FTP review. The business plan included a financial model and projections based on planned future activity and the expected financial results. That submission was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In consideration of the financial hardships faced by our customers, particularly small businesses and residential consumers, BWS is proposing a minimal rate increase, in some cases, in order to make the necessary capital investments to expand its operations and maintain the usual customer service levels.

During the remainder of the FTP, BWS is planning to expend approximately BZD \$95 million of capital improvements including sewer collection and treatment systems, water expansion projects, water supply projects, meter replacement, capital renewal and replacement, and similar projects. These projects are funded from a blend of tariff revenue, available reserves, additional debt, and Government of Belize (GOB) assistance.

The new submission proposes, among other things, to implement a rate structure that will differentiate between residential and non-residential properties and will introduce a customer assistance programme for senior citizens.

**BWSL proposes to keep rates the same or even lower for residential and low consumption non-residential customers.** However, some increases are requested for non-residential customers. These are expected to provide an increase of 5% in overall revenue to help the utility maintain operations and perform some level of capital investment for the remaining three years of this Full Tariff Period.

Rate payers will have an opportunity to participate in the PUC's review of the submission, in the coming weeks, when the PUC will conduct public consultations.

The submission can be seen at the PUC's and BWS's offices and websites.

For more information regarding this or any other BWS  
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