

NEW YORK CITY WATER BOARD

**New York City Public Hearings - 5/25/22
(Daytime)**

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[START RECORDING]

MR. ALFONSO L. CARNEY JR.: Miquel
[phonetic], this floor is yours.

MS. MIQUEL ADGATE: Thank you, Chair. And
thank you to everyone who is joining us this
afternoon to hear the presentation, as well as
to those of you who will be providing testimony,
whether verbal or written. This is a public
hearing of the New York City Water Board on
wholesale water rates to take effect July 1st,
2022. We are holding this meeting pursuant to
state executive order permitting virtual public
meetings—

AUTOMATED VOICE: [Interposing] This meeting
is being recorded and/or transcribed.

MS. ADGATE: Place your phones on mute in
order to limit the background noise.

MR. CARNEY: Thank you.

MS. ADGATE: I have placed several documents
in the official record, including a notice
appointing me as the hearing officer, verified
copies of the public notices placed in the
newspapers, a draft of the rate schedule listing
the rates and billable policies for the coming

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1 year, a public information booklet describing
2 the proposed rates, and copies of the written
3 testimony received by the board so far. The
4 draft rate schedule and the public information
5 booklet are also available on the board's
6 website, as is a copy of the presentation you
7 will be hearing today. As noted, this meeting
8 is being recorded and once prepared, an audio
9 recording and transcript of the meeting will be
10 made available on the board's website at
11 nyc.gov/nycwaterboard. Again, that's
12 nyc.gov/Nycwaterboard. For members of the
13 public who may have difficulty hearing, there is
14 a real-time text captioning feature available to
15 follow up with the meeting. You can link to the
16 captioning service from the public hearing
17 notice under the meetings tab of the board's
18 website. The program for today includes two
19 sections. First, the Department of
20 Environmental Protection will make a
21 presentation explaining proposed water rates for
22 the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 2022 as well
23 as billing policy modifications. Once again,
24 we're going to ask that everyone place their
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1 phone on mute. Second, members of the public
2 will have an opportunity to make a statement. I
3 have a list of preregistered speakers, and when
4 we get to that section of the hearing, I am
5 going to start by calling the preregistered
6 speakers by name. When you hear your name,
7 please unmute your phone, and you will have up
8 to five minutes to speak. After I have called
9 all of the preregistered speakers, I am going to
10 ask if anyone else would like to speak. And I
11 will try to mediate between people speaking at
12 the same time as fairly as I can. As mentioned,
13 we do have members of the Water Board with us
14 today, including Chairman Alfonso Carney,
15 Jonathan Goldin, and Dan Zarrilli. Thank you
16 all for being here. We are also joined by DEP's
17 Commissioner Rohit Aggarwala, DEP's Chief
18 Financial Officer Joseph Murin, and the Water
19 Board's Treasurer Omar Nazem, as well as staff
20 members from the Department Of Environmental
21 Protection. Before we get started, Chairman
22 Carney, would you like to make any opening
23 remarks?
24

25 MR. CARNEY: I was on mute; forgive me.

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1 Thank you very much, Miquel. Several comments,
2 the first is to thank the members who are
3 present for being here. It's wonderful to have
4 board representation for this particular hearing
5 and one we're going to have the end of the week.
6 Thank you very much for being here. The board
7 members, for the avoidance of doubt and for
8 clarity and for the record, the board has had an
9 opportunity as a board to see this presentation.
10 We have not spoken of it. There have been no
11 meetings in which the presentation has been
12 discussed. The reason for that is that it is
13 absolutely essential that this board and its
14 members maintain open minds about where we're
15 headed. And that can only happen with public
16 comment. And that's why this meeting is open to
17 the public, so that we can hear what the public
18 has to say. That's an essential part of the
19 decision-making process, and we're very, very
20 grateful to have people who are on this call.
21 The meeting may not be perfect, but the end
22 product will work. The testimony is testimony
23 we want to hear and we will hear gratefully, and
24 we're here in order to have our own discussions
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1 about the proposal. Are there other board
2 members on the call who want to offer comments?
3 Hearing none, Miquel, please, run with it.
4

5 MS. ADGATE: Thank you, Chair. Now you're
6 going to hear a presentation from Commissioner
7 Aggarwala and Chief Financial Officer Joe Murin.
8 Commissioner?

9 MR. ROHIT AGGARWALA: Thank you, Miquel, and
10 good afternoon everybody. Thanks to Chairman
11 Carney and the other board members and everybody
12 from the public who has joined us this
13 afternoon. We have a presentation. It is
14 available to you all, and so we will walk
15 through it. The starting point of course, and
16 the most important reason for this meeting, is
17 that DEP is requesting that the Water Board
18 undertake a 4.9% rate increase on the water
19 rate. We'll walk through in this presentation
20 the overall state of the agency and the
21 rationale for why that rate we think is
22 necessary, how we think it is neither too high
23 nor too low, and what it includes in terms of
24 funds to help cushion the impact of rate hikes
25 on lower-income New Yorkers. First of all, I'll

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1 say over the last year or two years of the
2 pandemic, DEP has done a tremendous job of
3 maintaining operations and keeping the state of
4 our infrastructure and our service at a high
5 quality. At no point did the pandemic
6 materially affect either the water supply system
7 or the sewer system. And of course we had no
8 service disruptions related to the pandemic.
9 There have been some ongoing effects on the
10 system operations of the pandemic, including a
11 reduced head count caused by the difficulty in
12 hiring during the pandemic. Our current head
13 count is measurably below the personnel levels.
14 You should know that along with other city
15 agencies, DEP returned to a traditional five-
16 day-per-week-in-the-office work format in
17 September of 2021, although a number of the
18 digital and productivity innovations that we
19 introduced during the pandemic are remaining as
20 part of DEP's workflow. Among our priority
21 areas for this year and next are recruiting,
22 hiring and training with a goal of getting us
23 back towards budgeted staffing levels. There
24 have been a number of projects that we've made
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1 significant progress on over the last year.
2 Perhaps the most significant is that in
3 September of '21, right during the midst of the
4 pandemic, our Bureau of Customer Service
5 launched a new billing system, the UMAX
6 Microsoft Dynamics Billing system that serves as
7 the core water billing tool for the agency.
8 This was the largest financial software upgrade
9 undertaken by the agency in 25 years and was a
10 significant internal effort. It will yield
11 major dividends to the public through better,
12 fully accurate, easier-to-read bills and give us
13 the ability to understand our consumer behavior
14 much better with a goal of serving the public
15 better. We are making progress on major capital
16 projects. Perhaps the most important is the
17 Delaware Aqueduct Bypass Tunnel. This is the
18 largest repair project in the history of the
19 city, and we are currently working to coordinate
20 the last stage of this project and its timetable
21 with the affected municipalities outside the
22 city and our regulatory oversight entities,
23 particularly DEC, to ensure as our top priority
24 a completely uninterrupted supply of safe and
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1 clean drinking water to all New York City
2 residents and our upstate customers. A number
3 of other projects worth noting, we've completed
4 work on \$148 million worth of new sewer
5 construction in Canarsie and East New York.
6 We've done a nearly \$16 million package of
7 improvements to the Jerome Park Reservoir.
8 We've commenced work on \$29 million worth of
9 upgrades at 19 NYCHA properties, focused on
10 green infrastructure with a view towards
11 mitigating storm water. We've completed an
12 \$18.4 million project in partnership with the
13 New York City Department of Transportation at
14 Montefiore Square in Harlem. We've commenced
15 work on a nearly \$7 million drainage upgrade in
16 Westerly on Staten Island, including both storm
17 sewers and catch basins and water main and
18 hydrant upgrades. And we've continued
19 significant work in southeast Queens, including
20 a number of projects completed in Hollis and
21 Queens Village. And now let me turn it over to
22 our chief financial officer to run through the
23 financial update.
24

25 MR. JOSEPH P. MURIN: Thank you,

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1 Commissioner. Good afternoon, everyone. This
2 is Joseph Murin. I'm the CFO of the Department
3 Of Environmental Protection as well as the
4 executive director for the Water Board. I will
5 start with slide six, which is DEP's capital
6 construction program, and it remains robust and
7 well-funded. What we have here is a chart
8 showing the comparison between the capital plan,
9 ten-year plan from April 2019 which was the
10 fiscal years '19 through '28, compared to the
11 most recent capital plan for fiscal years '22
12 through '31, showing it went from 20.7 billion
13 up to 25.1 billion, an increase of 21.4%, which
14 most significantly was changes in the water
15 distribution and sewers, which is going to show
16 our continued investment in sewer improvements
17 and water transmission improvements, with also
18 increases in the other areas such as water
19 pollution control increasing by 5% from there.
20 Going to the next slide, we are also then
21 looking at other factors that are going into how
22 we came up with the 4.9% rate. And we wanted to
23 go through, interest rates are rising which will
24 increase systems borrowing costs. Market

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1 interest rates begin to trend upward during the
2 fourth quarter of calendar year 2021 and have
3 continued to rise through May 2022. The
4 increase in U.S. Treasury rates have been
5 accompanied by an increase in municipal bond
6 rates. Despite recent increases in interest
7 rates, the system can borrow at rates comparable
8 to long-term average borrowing rates. Together
9 with higher rates of price inflation, higher
10 borrowing costs are likely to increase the
11 system's cost. Credit ratings on water bonds
12 remain high based on the board's authority and
13 willingness to raise rates that meet the
14 system's funding requirements. And what we see
15 here, to those following along on the charts in
16 the presentation on the website, is showing that
17 the increase in the interest rates over from '17
18 up through April of '22 and comparable rates has
19 changed from March of '22 from a year
20 previously. And while these rates have been
21 going up, they're still manageable, but we are
22 keeping a very tight eye on this and our
23 partners with the Municipal Water Finance
24 Authority to ensure that we have the adequate
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1 rate, the adequate revenue to make sure that
2 we're going to meet our bonding requirements.
3 Next on slide eight, DEP and the board
4 maintained billing and collection activities in
5 fiscal year 2022 while facing challenges from
6 customers' delinquencies and lower water
7 consumption. Billing and collection activities
8 by DEP and the board faced the headwinds of
9 customer payments deferral and lower water rate
10 consumption during fiscal year 2022. Through
11 May 23 of 2022, revenues were \$3.35 billion,
12 which was an increase of 4.3% compared to the
13 same time in fiscal year 2021 above the 2.76%
14 rate increase that was implemented for fiscal
15 year 2022. So that was heartening that we're at
16 least a little bit ahead of schedule and ahead
17 of projections for the past fiscal year.
18 Financial headwinds faced by DEP and the board
19 include A, the balance of overdue customer
20 bills, which is higher than before the pandemic,
21 B, water consumption levels below the quantity
22 of water used prior to the pandemic, and C,
23 limitations on the availability of collection
24 tools, including reauthorization of the ability
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1 to sell liens secured by overdue water bills.
2 We're continuing to monitor all three of these
3 elements to see how we can deal with them, and
4 they are factored into the rate that we're
5 considering now. During the pandemic,
6 residential and commercial customers faced with
7 loss of income deferred paying their water bills
8 and sewer bills. As recovery progresses, we are
9 seeing signs of customers who fell behind on the
10 water and sewer bills starting to make payments
11 to restore balances to good standing. So again,
12 this is a very concerning area in terms of our
13 delinquency rates and the impact on revenues.
14 But we have been seeing some uptick in the last
15 few months of people, those ratepayers paying
16 more timely. I'm going to move now to slide
17 nine. Water consumption by metered accounts
18 remains below the pre-pandemic level with recent
19 consumption data showing an upward trend. And
20 we have here a graph showing the meter billed
21 percent change in demand from July 2018 through
22 March of 2022 versus the baseline. And you have
23 a combination of both the residential and non-
24 residential here, with a much steeper fall in
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1 the non-residential, which reflects the decrease
2 in commercial activity, particularly of those
3 people that were going into office settings in
4 Manhattan and a slight uptick of the residential
5 consumption, which would reflect more people
6 staying home with the work-at-home environment
7 that we worked through most of the pandemic.
8 And just to be, to make it clear, that the
9 residential consumption is about 80% of our base
10 of water consumption. So that's where it's
11 offset for the most part the decline, but not
12 totally that we've seen in the commercial water
13 usage. Next we're going to go onto slide 11,
14 talking about the proposed rate and billing
15 policies for fiscal year 2023. So as the
16 commissioner opened with, we are proposing a
17 4.9% rate increase for customers in New York
18 City. We also have \$30 million to propose
19 customer affordability programs funds, which
20 preserves the 50% increase authorized in fiscal
21 year 2022 into a second program year. No budget
22 rental payment to the city for fiscal year 2023
23 is being requested at this time. Note so that
24 the rate increase will ensure revenue sufficient
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1 to fund the system's robust capital construction
2 program, support high rating from bond rating
3 agencies, help mitigate the system from the risk
4 of rising interest rates and inflation, and
5 support hiring retention initiatives to return
6 head count to budget levels, and support
7 expanded analytical capabilities, including
8 analysis of customer data enabled by the new
9 billing system. I'm going to move to slide 12.
10 Residential customers with normal levels of
11 water use will see a small increase in their
12 monthly bills. What we have here is the chart
13 showing the comparison of the rate as it was in
14 effect last year for the average single-family
15 home, which was 9\$94 on an annual basis. With
16 the proposed rate increase, that will go to for
17 fiscal year 2023, up to \$1,041, which roughly
18 approximates a \$4, slightly less than a \$4
19 increase on a monthly basis. For the average
20 multi-family meter charge, the increase, which
21 is apartment dwellers, the increase is going
22 from \$738 to \$773 on an annual basis, an
23 increase of approximately less than \$3. Multi-
24 family conservation program per residential unit
25

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1 will go from \$1,081 to a \$1,134, increase of
2 slightly over \$4 a month. And the minimum
3 charge we're pleased to say will remain the
4 same, again at a rate of \$464 a year, so no
5 increase for those people that qualify, mainly
6 seniors, for the minimum charge on properties.
7 Moving onto slide 13, as I stated earlier, we
8 are, DEP continues to recommend to the board a
9 continuation of \$30 million of affordability
10 programs, which would extend it for a second
11 year. This is comprised of what we increased
12 from last year into this year, multi-family
13 water assistance program at \$12 million a year,
14 the homeowner water assistance program at \$14
15 million a year, the leak forgiveness program,
16 which equates to approximately \$4 million a
17 year, thus for a total affordability programs of
18 \$30 million a year. On the next slide, slide
19 14, we detail historical trends on residential
20 use charges, which will remain lower than in
21 other large cities. So going back to 2016 up
22 through 2023, well we don't have the 2023 rates
23 numbers yet, but through 2022, New York City's
24 water rates have remained below the 30 large
25

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1 city average, at a rate of less than, 21% below
2 other cities, so we continue to keep the rate
3 of, while it's increasing, it's still less than
4 most other large cities and at an affordable
5 rate. Moving onto slide 15, here we have the
6 financial output for the Water Board budget.
7 And this slide is a summarization of the cash
8 flow statement that is also on the board's
9 website, which is much more detailed, but it
10 collapses it down into the major area of
11 expenditures. So starting from the top, we have
12 the DEP operations and maintenance which is
13 those costs that are necessary to support the
14 personnel and the operations of the system such
15 as parts, equipment, chemicals, fuel, leases,
16 all the other operation costs of delivering
17 water and treating sewage, and the conveyance
18 and distribution every day. So this is going
19 from a 1,657,000,000 to a 1,824,000,000. I'll
20 go on the next slide into a little more details
21 of what was driving those factors up. Then we
22 have debt service costs in water and sewer debt,
23 which is 1.487 billion forecasted for fiscal
24 year '22 and is at 1.643 billion for fiscal year
25

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1 '23. I will point out that this is consistent
2 with these past years in that we had lower costs
3 than originally targeted on the debt service
4 portion due to continued lower interest rates
5 than were budgeted. We still are conservatively
6 modeling what interest rates may be for fiscal
7 year '23, but that may be coming closer than we
8 have in years past, so we have to be careful,
9 very watching that closely, since it may not
10 afford us the opportunity to have as much
11 savings as we previously had in interest rates.
12 And that that is supporting the \$25 billion in
13 the capital program that was on the previous
14 slide at the beginning of the financial
15 presentation. The other portion of debt service
16 is funds for cash-financed capital program as
17 well as what's called defeasance, which is where
18 we go, the Municipal Water Finance Authority
19 will go into the market, buy older higher
20 interest rate debt, and issue it at a lower
21 interest rate. Again, that's something that
22 we're watching carefully because we still have
23 opportunities such as that. But as interest
24 rates go up, they do become less available, and
25

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1 that's where we would move more to using cash- -
2 financed debt service. And this is going from
3 \$469 million 'cause there is the expectation
4 that we will be doing defeasance for this count,
5 fiscal year 2022 and that to, down to \$263
6 million in fiscal year 2023. Next we have Water
7 Board and Water Authority combined expenses,
8 which is relatively flat at \$100 million for
9 both. And then there's just a credit that we
10 had gotten for underspending in fiscal year
11 2022, which helps us keep the rates moderate,
12 helps moderate the rate increase. And as noted
13 already, the rental payment is expected to be
14 zero for this upcoming fiscal year. All those
15 inputs come to the total of 3.67 billion for
16 fiscal year '22 and 3.836 billion for fiscal
17 year 2023, which the rate increase is bringing
18 us to. That is slightly less than 4.4%, because
19 we also do factor in other adjustments and the
20 fact that we do expect that there are continued
21 conservation measures that go on as people
22 replace older fixtures with new fixtures. So
23 water consumption has been continuing to go down
24 even separate from the decreases we saw due to
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1 the pandemic-induced consumption. Going to the
2 next slide, 16, we have DEP's O&M budget, invest
3 in core utility activities and customer services
4 while reserving against price inflation. This
5 was a concern that the board expressed in the
6 meeting when we presented the rate as to what we
7 were doing to address the risk that we have out
8 there to the system for inflation, and is the
9 4.9% going to be adequate to be able to help
10 with that. And fiscal year 2023's OMB budget
11 includes additional funds for inflation and cost
12 contingencies. Specifically we have \$42 million
13 in anticipated needs related to higher costs
14 related to energy and chemical purchases. We
15 also have expected, not yet identified
16 contingency of \$49 million for inflation. One
17 thing that we are anticipating or we expect at
18 some point that there may be labor rate
19 increases. There could be increases to fringe
20 benefits. There could be changes to other costs
21 that we haven't anticipated. So we think this
22 is prudent to have this \$49 million to guard
23 against any such inflationary increases out
24 there. This comes to, when you look at this

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1 across the totality of the O&M cost, it's just
2 about a 6% factor related to inflation. And as
3 people know, we've been seeing inflation over
4 the past few months that has been maybe a little
5 higher than our rate. So we think this is
6 perhaps a conservative and prudent number, but
7 we are going to monitor closely and we think
8 that it should be adequate. Next, we also have,
9 there were additional funds covered for needs
10 that the agency has put forth, which is climate
11 resiliency programs, including green
12 infrastructure for \$20 million, equipment
13 upgrades, replacements, and maintenance at \$17
14 million, and funds for additional regulatory and
15 compliance initiatives, such as the filtration
16 avoidance determination that allows us to
17 continue to not have to build a filtration plant
18 for the West of Hudson operations of \$9 million.
19 We're initiating design build programs and
20 regulatory compliance work, including
21 environmental health and safety initiatives,
22 that's \$8 million, and compliance initiatives
23 under the revised federal water quality
24 standards, also known as the lead and copper
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1 rules, which we anticipate is going to cost an
2 additional \$7 million in the upcoming year and
3 then the balance of the increase from the 1.487
4 billion to 1.643 billion on the O&M side with
5 various other adjustments, pluses and minuses.
6 Moving onto slide 17, I'm going to turn over to
7 the board treasurer Omar Nazem, so he'll address
8 these next few slides.
9

10 MR. OMAR NAZEM: Thank you, Joe. So we
11 have, there are three revisions that are
12 proposed to the board's rate schedule. The rate
13 schedule is available on the board's website.
14 There you can find this year's version, the FY22
15 version. You can find archived historical
16 versions, and you can see a draft version of the
17 schedules proposed for FY23 with the changes
18 tracked to draw your attention to the sections
19 that will change. Most of the market is just
20 taking the various unit prices or volumetric
21 prices and increasing them by the 4.9%. There
22 are three other changes we wanted to draw your
23 attention to, and you can see the precise
24 wording in the booklet, but I'll go through in
25 summary form what the three are. The first is

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1 we have a billing program called the cap on
2 metered charges. This is available to
3 residential properties that experience high
4 water consumption and that agreed to undertake a
5 leak or waste inspection to verify whatever it
6 was that caused the leak has been removed or
7 mitigated. The wording change to the rule makes
8 clear that the leak or waste inspection needs to
9 occur contemporaneously with the billing period
10 in which the meter bill cap is being sought or
11 at least very promptly adjacent to it. The
12 issue it's trying to solve is where there's high
13 usage, the usage is addressed, but then an
14 inspection doesn't occur until a year later or
15 two years later. The inspection's got to be
16 during the billing period in question or right
17 next to it for prompt and responsive action in
18 response to the leak. The ideal situation would
19 be where a customer is monitoring their water
20 use, they're enrolled in in the leak
21 notification, the email program we have, they
22 see the use, so they get the email alert. They
23 contact the DEP. Corrective steps are taken;
24 the leak is addressed. Then they write in for

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1 the bill cap. They reached out, and they took
2 action. They've got the contemporaneous
3 inspection, and they get the bill cap, protect
4 themselves from the loss of income they would
5 experience if they had to pay full freight on
6 the bill. So that's what it clarifies. You've
7 got to do the inspection near or in the billing
8 period where the request is being sought.
9 That's number one. Number two, this will be an
10 arcane policy except to a small number of
11 customers, but we have a billing program called
12 the Multi-Family Conservation Program. And the
13 program is available to multi-families that
14 install water efficiency fixtures in a certain
15 number of their units. They have to install a
16 meter as well, but if they make the efficiency
17 improvements and if they install the meter, then
18 they have if they choose, a billing program
19 available to them that is not built on a metered
20 basis. It's about \$1,100 per unit per year.
21 And in the multi-family world, especially in the
22 affordability world, a lot of customers like
23 that. They like that budget predictability, and
24 they like the fact it's a form of insurance
25

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1
2 against if there is excess consumption some year
3 because of something that happens in the
4 building or a change in tenant composition.
5 They know what their water number is going to be
6 no matter what happens up or down. We have a
7 small collection of customers who were enrolled
8 in that program several years ago as we were
9 trying to phase out the old legacy frontage
10 rates. And they went into the program on the
11 understanding that the paperwork, the
12 administrative compliance would be accomplished.
13 If that didn't happen, there's a surcharge
14 they're exposed to. We are going to be waiving
15 the surcharge for fiscal year '23 under the
16 proposed rate schedule for re-visitation next
17 year. We didn't think it's the right time to -
18 - what is ultimately an affordable collection of
19 properties when we're still coming out of the,
20 because of the circumstances around the
21 pandemic. So it extends for another year under
22 the proposal, the waiver of the 10% surcharge on
23 the automatically enrolled MCP properties. The
24 last one is a wording clarification that I think
25 most customers understand, is that the old

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1 legacy frontage rates are not available on
2 properties that are newly constructed/undergo a
3 substantial renovation. The exact wording of
4 substantial renovation is addressed in the rate
5 schedule. But if you weren't on frontage prior
6 to 2012, you certainly can't get into it now.
7 And those are old rate plans that aside from the
8 MCP rate, we're trying to phase out and roll
9 out. And the wording change just makes clear
10 that's the case. We've had a few instances
11 where people tried to enroll new properties that
12 were substantially rebuilt or newly constructed,
13 and we just want to have very clear on the rate
14 schedule you can't do that. This is an old rate
15 plan we're trying to phase out. That's slide
16 17. On slide 18, this is actually not quite a
17 rate-setting or rate proposal topic, but it may
18 be the number one topic of interest to the
19 people who come to Water Board meetings
20 routinely. It does touch on rate-setting
21 topics, so we have an update on it. DEP has
22 been working on for more than a year now, a
23 comprehensive rate study. It's looking a lot of
24 topics. It's looking at fixed fees, it's

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1 looking at storm water, it's looking at tiered
2 rates, it's looking a lot of different things.
3 So we have an update on where the project is and
4 the timeline we think will be in place through
5 the completion of the project. So the working
6 group has completed a comparative rate structure
7 analysis and held several public stakeholder
8 meetings. DEP continues to work with a
9 consultant to complete the remaining portions of
10 the study. It's probably about halfway done
11 now. The upcoming phases include the revenue
12 requirements and the rate options assessment
13 phases of the project. Once those phases are
14 complete, the team is going to then turn to look
15 at the options for implementing different rate
16 ideas as well as looking at how those rate
17 scenarios would impact different categories of
18 customers in light of a change in rate
19 structure, the level of rates overall. The
20 project will finish with the team issuing a
21 final report and a set of recommendations to
22 DEP. And DEP will share those recommendations
23 along with the consultants to the board for
24 potential consideration and inclusion in a
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1
2 future year's rate schedule. The team estimates
3 that the rest of the work will be wrapped up by
4 the first quarter of calendar 2023 and that the
5 final report and recommendations will be made
6 available to the board and the public before the
7 end of calendar year 2023. Then slide 19 is
8 just a, it lays out the remaining events in this
9 season's rate-setting. With these digital
10 meetings, we're not doing the full cycle of in-
11 borough hearings, because everyone in every
12 borough can - - everything if they want to. So
13 we have one more public hearing, which is
14 tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. That's another
15 conference call/digital format meeting. And
16 then the board will be meeting on June 1st,
17 Wednesday next week, to consider the testimony,
18 consider DEP's proposal, and take a vote on the
19 budget and rates for the fiscal year starting
20 July 1st. That is everything from me, Miquel.

21 MS. ADGATE: Thank you, Omar. At this time
22 I'm going to begin the public testimony portion
23 of the hearing. I'm going to go through my list
24 of preregistered speakers, each of whom will
25 have up to five minutes to speak. After we've

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1 gone through the preregistered list, I will see
2 if anyone else would like to speak, and I will
3 try to be as fair as I can while mediating
4 between folks who speak up at the same time. So
5 first we have Katherine Damiani-Brezler from the
6 Office of Queens Borough President Donovan
7 Richards. Kat? Okay, so it seems like Kat may
8 have only submitted written testimony on behalf
9 of the borough president. So at this time I
10 would like to open it up to see if there is
11 anyone else on the call who would like to speak.
12 You can unmute yourself and say your name. So
13 at this point, I'm going to conclude today's
14 hearing. As a reminder, the board will return
15 for another hearing tomorrow evening at 6:00
16 p.m. And after that we'll reconvene on
17 Wednesday, June 1st at 1:00 p.m. to consider and
18 vote on proposed rates and the budget for next
19 year. We thank you all for participating today,
20 and we will either see you tomorrow night or at
21 the board meeting next week.

22
23 MR. CARNEY: Miquel, it's Alfonso. Let me
24 ask whether any of the board members who have
25 joined the call have questions for either the

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2 commissioner or for the Chief Financial Officer
3 and Executive Director Joe Murin or for Omar
4 Nazem.

5 MR. DAN ZARRILLI: Alfonso, this is Dan
6 Zarrilli. One quick thing, I'm just curious if
7 we should have a conversation at some point
8 about either the advertising for these meetings
9 or the format of these meetings. This is two in
10 a row without any public comments, so that's
11 just something on my mind that we should
12 probably bring up at the next board meeting.

13 MR. CARNEY: Happy to do that, Dan. And you
14 and I should talk about it before that board
15 meeting if you agree.

16 MR. ZARRILLI: Yeah, wonderful, let's do
17 that.

18 MR. CARNEY: Okay, terrific. Let me thank
19 the leadership for an excellent presentation
20 today. As I said earlier, public comment and
21 public commentary is essential to this decision-
22 making process. We need to know what folk out
23 there who are the rate-payers are thinking about
24 this proposal. We will hope that the
25 participation tomorrow night will be better and

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keep our fingers crossed. Miquel, I'm finished;
you want to close the meeting>?

MS. ADGATE: Thank you, Chair. With that,
we will close today's public hearing. Have a
good rest of the day.

MR. CARNEY: Thank you all very much.

MR. ZARRILLI: Thank you.

[END RECORDING]

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Anne Edelmann certify that the foregoing transcript of 05.25.2022-NYC-Water-Board-Meeting.mp3 was prepared using standard electronic transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability. I further certify that I am not connected by blood, marriage or employment with any of the parties herein nor interested directly or indirectly in the matter transcribed.

Signature



Date May 31, 2022

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