

## WATER RATE INCREASE ON HOLD UNTIL JULY 2021



*Planned water rate increases have been put on hold to provide relief to the community at this critical time.*

The City will not be moving forward with a planned water rate increase in the current fiscal year. Recent updates to the Water System Infrastructure Plan have reduced the pressure on water rates and made it possible to provide relief to the community at this critical time. Although the Water Fund experienced declining revenue as a result of COVID-19's impact on commercial water demand, staff was able to offset this drop in revenue by deferring or curtailing all non-essential spending in anticipation of revenue-related impacts from COVID-19. In instances where expenditures exceed revenues, the Water Fund has contingency reserves to support operations and ensure that the community continues to receive a high level of service.

The City's rate consultant is recommending that the City resume annual rate increases in July 2021 to sufficiently fund the cost of operations and maintenance, capital improvements, mandated standards of treatment, debt obligations, contributions to reserves, and other financial obligations. Continued investment in the water treatment and distribution system is essential to providing safe, reliable drinking water to our customers.

In the winter and spring of 2021, staff will be making public presentations on proposed rates to the City's Water Commission and Finance Committee, with a public hearing before City Council scheduled for June 2021. Public meetings will be noticed on the City's website at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting start time. For more information on water rates please visit [SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterRates](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/WaterRates).

## LA CASA DE LA RAZA DESIGNATED HISTORIC LANDMARK



*La Casa de la Raza was recently named a historical landmark.*

The City Council unanimously designated La Casa de la Raza a historic Landmark. Located at 601 East Montecito Street, La Casa de la Raza, is the first designated Landmark representing the rich culture of the Latinx Community in Santa Barbara. Completed in 1931 in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, the building is significant for its architecture with its unique octagonal tower overseeing Santa Barbara's eastside community. Since 1970, the building has been a center for the Latinx community of Santa Barbara that features murals of the internationally recognized Chicano artist, Manuel Unzueta.

## HOW TO REDUCE WASTE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



*Help reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill this holiday season.*

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, the amount of household waste generated across the country between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is 25% higher than any other time of year. That's 25% more trash being sent to the landfill and the EPA

estimates that 80% of the extra waste could be repurposed or recycled instead. In the spirit of celebrating more sustainably, we've put together a few tips to help you reduce your environmental impact this Holiday Season!

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the City's  
COVID-19 Efforts  
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# HOW TO REDUCE WASTE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON (CONTINUED)

## Décor

- **Buy outdoor light strands that are wired in parallel.** If one bulb goes bad, the others still work, so you won't be throwing away "bad" strands.
- **Avoid tinsel and flocking** so that your tree can be mulched after it's taken down.

## Gift & Food Shopping

- **Buy locally** - avoid shipping altogether, save money, and support local businesses.
- **Combine shipping orders** - selected shipping options that will combine multiple orders into one box, reducing packaging materials.
- **Give the gift of an experience:** music lessons, lessons for a new hobby, a massage, a trip to a state park, or tickets to a sporting event or play. This is perfect for friends who want to try something new but aren't willing to spend the money on themselves. Plus, you don't have to wrap the gift.
- **Switch to rechargeable batteries** for your electronics. About 40% of all battery sales occur during the Holiday Season.
- **Bring reusable shopping bags** and avoid taking plastic bags.

## Gifting

- **Make the wrapping functional** - put cookies in a flower pot or hide jewelry in a new pair of gloves or socks.
- **Get creative** with your wrapping paper by reusing things like maps, reusable fabric, the Sunday comics, newspaper, or even try cutting up a brown paper bag and decorating it!
- **Avoid wrapping paper that's very metallic, glittery, or plastic coated** wrapping paper as it's not recyclable.
- **Reuse** packaging cartons and shipping materials.
- **Exchange or donate** unwanted and duplicated gifts.
- **Recycle** greeting cards, paper gift bags, cardboard boxes, and simple wrapping paper (no cellophane, plastic coated, metallic, or heavily glittered).

## Food

- **Prepare only as much as you need.**
- **Make a plan for storing leftovers** so they remain fresh for lunches or dinners in the following days.
- **Set up a "Bottles and Cans Only" recycling bin** in order to keep glass and aluminum clean and separate from potential food contamination.

- **Smaller plates** - provide guests with smaller plates and encourage seconds or thirds if they want more food. Most of the food that ends up in the trash at dinner parties actually comes off of people's plates, because they overload and can't finish everything they choose.
- **Choose canned or glass goods over cartons**, as cartons are no longer recyclable in Santa Barbara.
- **Use reusable plates and utensils whenever possible.** Plastic plates and cups that are wet and food contaminated are not recyclable.
- **Opt for fabric napkins and dish cloths** instead of paper products. They can be easily tossed into the washer after the festivities.
- **Choose sustainable foods** - like sustainably sourced seafood and locally grown fruits and vegetables.
- **Backyard compost any food prep scraps** and send leftovers home with guests.

## Christmas Tree Mulching and Other Services

- **Recycle E-waste** - electronics cannot go in the trash and much be dropped off at the downtown recycling center or county transfer station. You can also schedule an extra e-waste pickup from MarBorg.
- **Recycle Batteries** - place small batteries in a sealed plastic bag and leave them on top of your blue bin on your normal pickup day.
- **Extra waste pickup** - customers can put out up to 95 gallons of extra Trash, Greenwaste, and Recyclables on their regular collection days for the two weeks following Christmas, and it will be picked up for free. All extra items should be bagged or bundled, and no bulky waste is allowed.
- **Christmas tree mulching** - trees will be collected free of charge after the holidays. To have your tree recycled please bring it to the curbside on your greenwaste collection day. If you do not have greenwaste service, bring your tree to the curbside on your trash collection day.
- **Easy tree drop-off** - Christmas trees can also be dropped off for free at MarBorg's facility located at 119 North Quarantina Street in Santa Barbara or at the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station (free through January 12th), located at 4430 Calle Real in Santa Barbara.

\*\*\*Please remove all tree stands, lights, tinsel and ornaments, and cut trees that are over 6 feet in length so they will fit in the service trucks.\*\*\*

**Need recycling advice? Give us a call at (805) 564-5631.**  
**For questions about your service or if you need to request any extra pickups**  
**please call MarBorg at (805) 963-1852.**