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GRACE PERIOD ON UNPAID WATER BILLING HAS ENDED

Dear Property Owner or Water Billing Payer,

You are receiving this letter because our records indicate there is a balance on your account for WATER charges, as of the date of listed above. If you believe you have already addressed this balance, please contact us immediately to review your account.

Please be informed, that the Governor has ended the grace period on unpaid utility billing as of March 15, 2022. Therefore, the Edison Water Utility can start charging interest effective March 16th 2022, as well as applying enforcement procedures to any unpaid water bills. However, the Edison Water Utility would like to extend the opportunity to pay without interest until 4/15/2022.

Governor lifted grace period on Utility Charges starting March 16, 2022.

Pay Water Billing balances by April 15th 2022 to AVOID interest being charged.

Please pay by 4/15/2022 to avoid interest being charged. Payments received after 4/16/2022 will be charged interest of 18% annual as set up by resolution and ordinance.

See Notice in the Back of this Letter: COVID-19 RATEPAYER RELIEF MEASURES

Enclosure: Water Reminder Notice

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: COVID-19 RATEPAYER RELIEF MEASURES

This notice announces relief measures for residential ratepayers experiencing economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review this message in its entirety.

INSTALLMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY

BE ADVISED that State law requires residential customers to be offered an installment plan for any **water** arrearages accruing between March 9, 2020 and March 15, 2022. To maintain the installment plan, a residential customer must make timely payments on all current charges. More information contact billing@edisonwaterutility.org. Sewer liens that were sold before January 1, 2022 cannot be included in the installment plan.

LATE FEES, CHARGES AND PENALTIES

BE ADVISED that P.L. 2021, c. 317 prohibits local governments from charging residential customers interest, fees, or charges for late payment of **water** charges accruing between March 9, 2020 and March 15, 2022 until after March 15, 2022 at which time interest and penalties may begin to accrue. This prohibition does not apply to sewer liens that were sold before January 1, 2022. Late interest, fees or charges may be enforced against arrearages accruing before March 9, 2020 and after March 15, 2022.

BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

The application period for the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs' Low Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is now open. This federally funded program will provide financial assistance to low-income households to reduce the balances on their residential water and sewer bills. LIHWAP will provide benefits directly to water and sewer service providers on behalf of residential customers. The assistance can be used, in order of priority, to:

- restore services where services have been terminated and pay reconnection fees and other charges accrued due to a disconnection;
- avoid service disruption for those residential customers who are in danger of disconnection (i.e., received shut off notices or have past due balances) and to help them afford bill payment going forward; and
- support those household customers who are current in their bills but might be in danger of falling behind in the near future.

Priority will also be given to families with elderly or disabled household members and/or with children under the age of five, no matter which category they fall into.

To be eligible for LIHWAP assistance, applicants must be **water** bill holders who are responsible for paying their **water** bills directly to the **water** provider. Also, applicants' total gross household income must be at or below 60% of the state median Income (\$6,439 a month for a family of four). The LIHWAP frequently asked questions webpage, available at <https://njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/lihwapfaq> has additional information about maximum income limits and other items.

Participants in the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are automatically eligible for LIHWAP assistance so long as they are **water** bill holders.

People can apply online through the DCAid application portal at <https://njdca-housing.dynamics365portals.us/en-US/dcaid-services/>.

Those without computer or internet access can call 1-800-510-3102 to be directed to one of the community action agencies to assist them with starting, completing, and submitting an application online.