



MONROE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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MCWA Board Ratifies 2009 Water Rates with Zero Rate Increase

At this morning's meeting, the Monroe County Water Authority ratified next year's water rate schedule with no rate increase for 2009.

"Providing our customers with high quality, safe and reliable water is the unwavering daily objective of the two hundred and thirty dedicated employees of the Water Authority. The Water Authority continues to achieve that goal in an economical manner, with performance measures that are amongst the industry's leading benchmarks" said Board Chairman Anthony Quattrone.

Applying innovations in technologies, like automated meter reading and energy management, have helped control costs and improve long-term efficiency.

Edward T. Marianetti, MCWA's Executive Director noted, "This is the third year in a row that the Water Authority has been able to keep rates stable. Over the past ten years the Consumer Price Index has risen by about fifteen-percent more than Water Authority rates have."

At a rate of \$2.50 for one-thousand gallons of water for area residential customers, MCWA water rates will remain below that national average and in the lowest 25% for water suppliers in the Northeast. The average MCWA customer spends about \$20 per month for drinking water and fire protection. Bottled water, which typically costs more than 1,000 times that of water delivered by the Water Authority, does not deliver the same value and is coming under significantly greater pressure to address the environmental problems being created as millions of non-recycled plastic bottles end up in landfills and along roadways.

The Water Authority serves over 600,000 people in Monroe and portions of each of the five surrounding counties with an annual budget of \$55 million.

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