



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Winter averaging is now in force for Sachse residents

SACHSE (November 7, 2016) The process the City of Sachse uses to determine wastewater charges for individual accounts, called winter averaging, has begun and will continue until March of next year.

“Utilities across the country have determined that this is a fair and equitable way to set wastewater charges,” said Teresa Savage, Sachse Director of Finance. “There is currently no technology available to capture the exact amount of water that is discharged into drains, toilets, showers, dishwashers and other water-using appliances without requiring a separate irrigation meter.”

Thus, to calculate the charges for sewer service, water utilities, including Sachse’s Water Department, take an average of the amount of water used during the winter months, and uses that average as the basis for wastewater charges for the year. The month with the highest total and the one with the lowest total are not factored into the average. Wastewater and sewer are interchangeable terms.

The reason this is done during the wintertime is because utilities assume that the vast majority of water used during the winter is used primarily inside the home and discharged into the sewer lines. The assumption is that most homes and businesses severely curtail or eliminate their outdoor irrigation during the winter.

The five-month averaging, concluding next March, will determine the wastewater charges for April 2017 through March 2018.

Circumstances that might affect the amount of water used during the winter, and therefore the annual wastewater charge, include the number of people in the home during the winter, a leaking faucet or other water appliance, washing half loads of clothes or dishes, and, of course, running the irrigation system.

“Conserving water during this five-month period will not only save money on your water bill now, but also on the sewer bill for an entire year,” said Savage.

Customers who experience a serious leak or other extraordinary event that affects water usage during the averaging period, should contact Utility Billing at 469-429-4765 or send an email to [cspencer@cityofsachse.com](mailto:cspencer@cityofsachse.com) to request a manual review of their sewer calculation.

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**ABOUT THE CITY OF SACHSE** – Sachse is an emerging city in Collin and Dallas Counties with a population of 20,329 according to the 2010 census. Located about a mile north of the President George Bush Turnpike off State Hwy 78, the City is chartered as a Council-Manager municipality. Founded in 1845 by William Sachse, the City enjoys an eclectic mix of older, established neighborhoods and new residential and commercial developments. Proud of its history, the City is home to a strong historical restoration movement which includes an extensive history museum.