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Via E-Filing

September 30, 2021

Aida Camacho-Welch
Secretary of the Board
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625-0350

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES'
RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
BPU DOCKET NO. AO20060471**

Dear Secretary Camacho-Welch,

SUEZ Water New Jersey Inc. is filing this letter in response to the Board's order in the above referenced matter, dated September 14, 2021, effective September 21, 2021. In that order the Board required utilities under its jurisdiction to "file a formal plan within 10 days from the effective date of this Order outlining how the additional time afforded by this Order will be used in meeting the Regulatory Asset Period Deadline."

As stated in the Company's letter to the Board in support of PSE&G motion to extend the regulatory asset period deadline, SWNJ will continue to work with customers in setting up payment plans and providing assistance where available however, water utilities do not have the funding assistance that the electric and gas companies have that comes from the Federal Government or its customers. SUEZ only has at this time SUEZ Cares which was established by the stockholders in order to help those in need. There are ongoing discussions about establishing a Federal program called LIHWAP which would be similar to the LIHEAP program for electric customers. DCA has submitted its plan to the Federal department of HHS and was approved. The water utilities met recently with Board Staff, Rate Counsel and DCA and resolved the confidentiality concern that water companies have. Therefore, the LIHWAP program should be able to provide assistance in 2022.

Additionally, SWNJ is also working with Staff and DCA to develop a program and process by which customers can receive assistance of federal funds provided under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (Public Law 116-260) and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. While these brand new programs are being developed, the provisions of those plans are not established and to set up and begin these programs will have costs which could be significant.



Regarding to the Company's arrearages, the Company will begin sending out collection notices and disconnect notices in accordance with the Board's rules. The Company will also discuss with customers assistance that is available and the establishment of deferred payment plans.

The Company will continue to file its monthly and quarterly reports and add additional information as needed. One of the big unknowns at this time is programming costs in the customer billing system. Water Companies do not currently have the programs that electric and gas have like LIHEAP, therefore the water companies will incur cost in computer programing to set up these programs.

The Company appreciates everyone's efforts to help those in need and the companies concerns over collecting arrearages and costs.

Very truly yours,



Gary S. Prettyman
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cc: James Cagle
Alan Weland
Michael Kammer
Brian Lipman
Stacy Peterson
Bob Brabston