



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2017

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Charleston Water System Named a Best Place to Work in South Carolina For Seventh Consecutive Year

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Charleston Water System (CWS) ranked as one of the Best Places to Work in South Carolina for the seventh consecutive year in a program offered by SC Biz News, South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and Best Companies Group. Awards and final rankings for each of the 70 honorees will be presented at a banquet August 3 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, South Carolina.

“Our most valuable resource is our people,” said Kin Hill, CEO at CWS. “I’m so gratified to work with such a committed and passionate team dedicated to our mission to protect public health and the environment by providing clean water services of exceptional quality and value.”

CWS offers a competitive benefits package including health and dental coverage, generous vacation time and sick leave, short and long-term disability coverage, an optional vision plan, pre-tax medical and child care flex spending accounts, and supplementary health insurance plans. They also offer prescription drug coverage, tax deferred compensation programs, life insurance and participation in the South Carolina Retirement System.

CWS salaries and hourly pay are market-based and very competitive. Employees are offered college tuition reimbursement, training and professional development through Trident Technical College, the opportunity to earn a water or wastewater operator's license, and a Team Incentive Program that rewards the successful completion of special projects throughout the year. CWS also encourages its staff to join professional associations such as the American Water Works Association, Water Environment Federation, Government Finance Officers Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, and many others.

“This award reflects the quality of the programs and services we offer to our employees, and it helps us recruit talented people seeking a workplace where they can flourish while feeling genuinely appreciated by their employer,” said John Atkinson, HR Director at CWS. “We’re a great big family here, and we’re very proud to employ people who genuinely care for our customers, the product they produce, and each other.”

Founded in 1917 and celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2017, CWS is as a public water and wastewater utility that provides water service to more than 400,000 people in the greater Charleston area, sewer service to more than 180,000 people, and currently employs more than 400 associates. If you’re looking to make a difference in the community while helping protect public health and the environment, view open positions and submit an application at their secure online job application system at www.charlestonwater.com/354/Join-Our-Team.

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2017

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No Pesticides or Herbicides Found in Charleston Water System Water

Third-party SCDHEC-certified lab tests yield more than 1,000 data points on organic compounds including pesticides and herbicides

CHARLESTON, S.C. – Recent Charleston Water System (CWS) tests match at least 20 years of South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) sampling data indicating no pesticides or herbicides in its drinking water. Five water samples, including both raw and treated water, were analyzed for more than 200 analytes, which includes pesticides, herbicides and other organic compounds.

“Every decision we make begins with public health in mind and we are committed to providing clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our customers,” said Kin Hill, CEO at CWS. “We responded immediately to this situation out of an abundance of caution and because we wanted to assure the community that there are no pesticides or herbicides in our drinking water.”

CWS will participate in a community meeting to discuss test results at 6:30 p.m. July 24 at the Mount Pleasant Waterworks’ Operations Center located at 1619 Rifle Range Road, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464. Complete CWS test results are available at www.charlestonwater.com. This complete absence of pesticides and herbicides mirrors Mount Pleasant Waterworks and DHEC test results available at www.mountpleasantwaterworks.com and <http://scdhec.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/MtPleasantWaterworks/>

CWS voluntarily expanded tests to its water system in response to community concern. These concerns originated from non-certified water screening test kits utilized by homeowners that appeared to indicate the presence of pesticides in Mount Pleasant drinking water, a portion of which is supplied by CWS.

CWS water samples were collected at five sites July 12 and July 14. They included:

- Raw water from the Bushy Park Reservoir and the Edisto River as they enter the Hanahan Water Treatment Plant.
- Treated water as it exited the Hanahan Water Treatment Plant, which supplies the entire 460 square mile CWS service area.
- Treated water at the CWS feed point into Mount Pleasant at I-526.
- Treated water at the CWS feed point into Mount Pleasant at Highway 41, which serves the general area of the Rivertowne, Park West and Dunes West communities where recent concerns were concentrated.

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, the only lab certified by SCDHEC to test for this extensive battery of pesticides and herbicides, analyzed CWS samples at its South Bend, Indiana facility. Because the samples were collected over

two days, official Eurofins results were delivered to CWS in two separate reports July 19 and July 20, which were then evaluated by the utility. All samples tested negative for pesticides and herbicides.

Eurofins results included the presence of three Trihalomethane (THM) analytes, which are not pesticides or herbicides. Rather, they are very common chloramine/chlorine disinfection by-products consistently found in water systems that source their product from surface water. The CWS total THM (TTHM) level was 12.3 ppb (parts per billion), far below the DHEC and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory limit of 80 ppb locational running annual average.

“We’re a highly regulated public utility that complies with, meets, and exceeds all water industry standards set by DHEC and the EPA to assure our water is safe for public consumption,” said Hill. “We take that responsibility very seriously every day.”

Founded in 1917 and celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2017, CWS is a public water and wastewater utility that provides water service to more than 400,000 people in the greater Charleston area and sewer service to more than 180,000.

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 12, 2017

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*Full-res image available upon request.

Charleston Water System Places Historical Marker On Marion Square To Commemorate Area's Original Well and Utility's 100th Year Of Service

CHARLESTON, South Carolina – The Charleston Water System (CWS) placed a South Carolina Historical Marker on Marion Square in downtown Charleston October 12 to commemorate the nearby 6-inch diameter, 1,970-foot deep artesian well that became Charleston's first public water supply in 1879 and served as the primary water source for 24 years. The marker, as well as other commemorative events and dedications, coincide with the utility's 100th year of service. Founded in 1917, CWS is an independent utility governed by an elected Board of Commissioners that provides drinking water to more than 400,000 people in the greater Charleston area and sewer service to more than 180,000 people.

The marker, part of the South Carolina Historical Marker Program, is located along Calhoun Street, near its intersection with King Street. Its design mirrors the other markers in Marion Square, rising seven feet tall and featuring double-sided text referencing the benefits of the well that yielded 700,000 gallons of artesian water per day, which was considered a very impressive amount in its day.

"We're proud to honor this engineering marvel created by our forefathers who knew that a safe, reliable drinking water source was crucial to the health and prosperity of the Charleston area," said Kin Hill, CEO at CWS. "Our centenary is a fitting occasion to highlight the importance of this historical structure and the value of water, as well as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to public health and our mission."

The artesian well was excavated, capped and secured in a permanently-accessible vault September 27.

"Continuous access to the well allows entities such as the United States Geological Survey, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to study aquifer water levels and other parameters that may be of interest in the future," said Hill.

CWS also embedded a plaque in the sidewalk on Broad Street, near its intersection with Orange Street to commemorate its adjacent Golden Hydrant, which is one of the CWS's oldest hydrants still in active service. The Golden Hydrant is meant to illustrate CWS longevity and the utility's role in Charleston's growth and fire protection services.

"To be part of this community for 100 years is extremely gratifying and humbling," said Hill. "We are also thankful for a century of unwavering support from the City, its community members, and our Commissioners."

That support drives our passionate team and will help us provide clean water services of exceptional quality and value for the next 100 years.”

Historical marker text:

Charleston Public Water System

In 1823, after learning of London’s success with artesian wells, City Council agreed that deep artesian wells would be feasible for the city and its growing population. Several pilot projects followed and in 1879 a 1,970-foot deep well was drilled near this site. With an impressive 700,000 gallons per day yield, it is reported to be the first successful artesian supply in the region.

The artesian supply was Charleston’s primary water source until 1903 when a franchise was granted to Charleston Light and Water Co. to take over the city system and construct a new plant and reservoir by damming Goose Creek. In 1917, the city acquired the plant and properties, forming the Commissioners of Public Works, now Charleston Water System, to manage and operate the city water system.

Golden Hydrant plaque text:

This hydrant commemorates the 100th Year Anniversary of the existence of the Commissioners of Public Works (CPW) of the City of Charleston (a public water and wastewater utility) and its duration of service to customers and communities throughout the surrounding tri-county areas.

The “Golden Hydrant” is one of the oldest hydrants in the Water Distribution System that is still in “active” service today and stands ready to provide protection to the residence and historical structures located along the Broad Street Corridor, which borders multiple districts (South of Broad, Harleston Village and the French Quarter) of the Lower Charleston Peninsula.

This particular hydrant was chosen not only to serve as a visual depiction of CPW’s longevity in support of this great city and its people, but more importantly, to represent CPW’s overall commitment to provide continued services of exceptional quality and value in the interest of protecting public health and the environment.

Charleston Water System Mission:

Our mission is to protect public health and the environment of our service community by providing clean water services of exceptional quality and value.

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 19, 2017

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Charleston Water System Earns Triple-A Ratings from Moody's, Standard & Poor's

Top ratings lower borrowing costs for new infrastructure

CHARLESTON, South Carolina – Charleston Water System (CWS) once again earned the highest possible bond credit ratings from Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) at Aaa and Standard & Poor's S&P Global Ratings (S&P) at AAA. Both Triple-A ratings apply to CWS's \$40.7 million Waterworks and Sewer System Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2017. In addition, both research agencies also maintain their Triple-A rating on the system's \$567.7 million existing revenue bonds. CWS is the only water and wastewater utility in South Carolina to hold a Triple-A rating from Moody's.

These ratings reflect CWS's sizeable, regionally important service area that is projected to experience continual growth, as well as low risk operations and strong operational and fiscal management. High liquidity also played an important role in the top ratings.

"These stellar ratings reflect our utility's hard work, strategic planning, and financial integrity," said Kin Hill, CEO at CWS. "We are very grateful to have an outstanding Board of Commissioners whose commitment, diligence, and support help us excel in all areas, with a particular emphasis on financial management."

Strong bond ratings help utilities secure low interest rates and market their bonds at the lowest interest rates possible, which both help to minimize water and sewer rate increases needed to repay debt. CWS operations are funded through water and sewer rates and fees, new development impact fees, and interest income.

"We exist to serve our customers and we're dedicated to providing outstanding service at the lowest possible cost, so saving money is always a top priority," said Wesley Ropp, CFO at CWS. "The substantial savings we receive from Triple-A ratings allows us to keep market rates low and invest in capital projects critical to system-wide infrastructure improvement."

The CWS current Capital Improvement Program consists of critical water and sewer infrastructure projects including:

- West Ashley Sewer Tunnel Replacement Project to allow greater capacity of wastewater to travel from West Ashley to the Plum Island Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Ashley River Waterline Project will establish a third connection across or under the Ashley River
- Peninsula Water Main Rehabilitation – Phase 2
- New facilities at the Plum Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, including pre-treatment, primary clarifiers, and final settling tanks
- Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Rehabilitation

- Johns Island Wastewater Interceptor System: Phase 2
- Red Top Interceptor Wastewater Interceptor System: Phase 2
- Rehabilitation of the gravity sewer trunk mains that serve the Highway 61 corridor and Johns Island
- Replacement of a 110-year-old settling basin at the Hanahan Water Treatment Plant.

About Charleston Water System

Charleston Water System is a public water and wastewater utility that provides water service to more than 400,000 people in the Greater Charleston area and sewer service to some 180,000 people, primarily in the City of Charleston. Learn more at www.charlestonwater.com.

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 16, 2017

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**Charleston Water System Earns GFOA Certificate of Achievement
for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 29th Consecutive Year**

Award is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

CHARLESTON, South Carolina – The Charleston Water System’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year 2016 was awarded Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for a 29th consecutive year. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government entity must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report that satisfies generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

“We continue to be hyper-vigilant stewards of rate payer funds and this award reflects our unwavering commitment to transparency,” said Kin Hill, CEO at CWS. “Our finance team is highly effective and efficient in everything they do, all of which directly benefits our customers.”

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. CWS believes that its current comprehensive annual financial report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement program’s requirements, and the utility plans to submit its fiscal year 2017 documentation to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Certificate next year.

“We’re very proud that our dedication to quality continues to be recognized by the GFOA,” said Wesley Ropp, CFO at CWS. “Our CAFR communicates the data that drives our coveted Triple-A bond ratings from Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s, so I’m very glad to see the exceptional work of our Finance department celebrated with this award.”

About Charleston Water System

Charleston Water System is a public water and wastewater utility that provides water service to more than 400,000 people in the greater Charleston area and sewer service to 180,000 people, primarily in the City of Charleston. Learn more at www.charlestonwater.com.

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2017

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Charleston Water System's 2018 Budget Approved

Customers in city of Charleston to see \$0.09 per day total increase for water and sewer service.

CHARLESTON, South Carolina – Charleston Water System's (CWS) Board of Commissioners approved the utility's 2018 fiscal year budget at its regular meeting November 30. The budget includes a rate increase that will vary between three and three and a half percent for combined water and sewer customers, depending on water use. For average-use customers in the city of Charleston, this equates to a \$0.09 per day total increase for water and sewer service. The budget of \$140,919,600 is effective January 1, 2018 through the end of the year.

"Controlling costs is our top priority and our Board is careful only to raise rates when absolutely necessary," said Kin Hill, CEO at CWS. "Our efficiencies and strong fiscal management allowed us to avoid a large rate increase. Infrastructure maintenance and new construction to accommodate growth in the greater Charleston area demands a small amount of additional funding at this time."

About Charleston Water System

Charleston Water System is a public water and wastewater utility that provides water service to more than 400,000 people in the greater Charleston area and sewer service to 180,000 people, primarily in the city of Charleston. Learn more at www.charlestonwater.com.

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