

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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ECWA TO MANAGE WATER DISTRICTS 1, 4, AND 8 IN TOWN OF ORCHARD PARK

ORCHARD PARK, NY – The Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) and the Town of Orchard Park have reached an agreement for the ECWA to manage town water districts 1, 4 and 8 effective November 8, 2004. With the addition of these water districts, the entire town will officially be a lease-managed customer of the ECWA.

Under the agreement, the ECWA will be responsible for providing water service to 1,600 new customers in the town's northern section. The ECWA will manage all system operations within the water districts, including customer service, billing and maintenance.

"This system consolidation is a real benefit to the Town of Orchard Park, and is the result of the hard work and cooperation of the ECWA and Supervisor Cudney and her staff," said ECWA Executive Director Robert A. Mendez. "It further proves that the ECWA's efforts to consolidate water service throughout the region are benefiting ratepayers with more efficient service at significantly lower costs."

According to Mendez, average annual savings per customer will range from \$60.00 in water district 8 extension 3, to \$219.00 in water district 1, where customers currently pay \$5.00 per thousand gallons versus the ECWA's rate of \$2.51 per thousand gallons.

"These ratepayers have waited a long time to join the ECWA's system," Mendez said. "They deserve the savings and we look forward to serving them."

Supervisor Toni Cudney said, "This system turnover marks the finalization of the town-wide water improvement project, which will provide better fire flows and water pressure to residents. In addition to saving on the cost of water, the town is able to downsize its staff by 2.75 employees resulting in annual operational savings estimated at \$125,000."

The management contract between the ECWA and the town is for ten years. The town will retain ownership of the water system's assets and be responsible for future infrastructure upgrades.

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The Erie County Water Authority is an independent, public benefit corporation made up of dedicated professionals who strive to continuously provide customers a plentiful supply of safe, clean drinking water at an affordable rate. The ECWA serves more than 550,000 customers in 33 municipalities throughout Western New York and is the second largest regional water authority in New York State.



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