



# City of Atwater Promoting "Positive Progress"

## UTILITY CUSTOMER NEWSLETTER

August 2020

### CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### Mayor:

Paul Creighton  
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#### Council Members:

Brian Raymond  
District 4  
(209) 676-0671  
[braymond@atwater.org](mailto:braymond@atwater.org)

Cindy Vierra  
District 2  
(209) 201-2463  
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Danny Ambriz  
District 3  
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John Cale  
District 1  
(209) 261-7770  
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City of Atwater  
750 Bellevue Road  
Atwater, CA 95301

### MONTHLY MEETINGS SCHEDULE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

City Council & Fire Protection District  
2nd & 4th Monday of the month at 6:00 PM

City of Atwater Planning Commission  
3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM

Merced County Supervisor, District 3  
Daron McDaniel - (209) 495-7086  
[dmcdaniel@co.merced.ca.us](mailto:dmcdaniel@co.merced.ca.us)  
4th Thursday of each month from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM at City Hall.

### HOURS & CONTACTS FOR CITY OFFICES

City Manager's Office  
Monday – Friday 8 AM – 5 PM  
(209) 357-6300

Mark your Calendars

September 7, 2020

City offices will be Closed

#### Finance Department

Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
(209) 357-6310



Report issues related to Utility Billing, Replacement of Trash Cans and additional pickups, etc.

#### Community Development Department

Monday - Friday 8 AM – 4:00 PM  
Closed for lunch 12:00-1:00 PM  
*Building Division (Permits)*  
(209) 357-6343  
*Planning Division*  
(209) 357-6342 or (209) 357-6349  
*Engineering Division*  
(209) 357-6367

#### HR Department

Monday – Friday 8 AM – 5 PM  
(209) 357-6204  
City Clerk's office provides Notary Services for \$15 per signature.

#### City Clerk

Monday – Friday 8 AM – 5 PM  
(209) 357-6317

#### Public Works

Monday – Friday 6:30 AM – 3:30 PM  
(209) 357-6370  
Report issues related to Water, Sewer, Parks, City Trees, Street Lights, and Traffic Signal, etc.

After hour emergencies for public works, please call (209) 357-6396 to report the problem.

#### Police Non-Emergency

Monday – Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
(209) 357-6396  
(209) 357-6384 (Records)  
(209) 769-8250 Neighborhood Watch

#### Recreation Department

Monday – Friday (209) 357-6320

### MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

#### MERCED COUNTY, CITIES ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO "MASK UP"



Due to a rapid increase of COVID-19 cases, Merced County and its six cities are encouraging residents to wear face coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19 and reopen the economy.

The campaign, known as "Mask-Up", is intended to educate the public on the importance of face

coverings and will include public education efforts, materials promoting mask wearing, and mask distribution in various locations.

The use of face coverings is now mandated by the State and County. Wear a face covering whenever you're out in public—it's the safe thing to do, it's the courteous thing to do, and it's the right thing to do. Face coverings are required to be worn:

- Inside of, or in line to enter any indoor public space;
- When obtaining healthcare services;
- Waiting for or riding on public transportation or while in any private or ride-sharing vehicle including operators of the transportation;
- When at the workplace or performing work off-site;
- While outdoors in public spaces when physical distancing is not feasible.

The City continues to support the business owner's rights to be socially responsible and maintain effective social distancing and health protocols as outlined by the governor and the health officer while keeping their business open.

### BUSINESSES PRECAUTIONS CAMPAIGN EXERCISE WITH COVID-19 READY2OPEN



In an effort to protect customers and employees amidst increasing COVID-19 infections, Merced County and its six cities are working with local businesses on a self-certification safety process.

Branded as "Ready2Open," the process allows local businesses to complete an online checklist to verify that they've taken steps to ensure the safety of customers and employees. Steps include safety signage, employee training, employee health screening, physical distancing measures, and routine sanitation.

Once a business verifies its information through the [www.reopenmercedcounty.com/ready2open](http://www.reopenmercedcounty.com/ready2open) site, they'll receive an emblem to display near the entrance of their store attesting to their self-certification.

While face coverings are a critically important aspect of reducing the infection rate in Merced County, it should be combined with other protective measures such as:

- Social distancing of six feet or more;
- Avoiding large group gatherings;
- Washing your hands often with soap and water;

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Staying home if you're sick;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

For more information visit:  
<https://www.co.merced.ca.us/3350/Coronavirus-Disease-2019>

### WINTON WAY RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

The City of Atwater Winton Way Reconstruction Project broke ground on February 24, 2020 and was completed July 2020. Work completed includes recycling the existing pavement in place and constructing new pavement over it, and replacing existing sidewalks, curbs, driveways, and ramps to ensure accessibility all along the corridor. Flashing beacons will soon be erected to provide additional safety at selected pedestrian crossings. In coordination with the pavement reconstruction, the City undertook improvements to utility systems and coordinated the schedule of other capital improvements, such as traffic signal construction and synchronization, in order to ensure that the new pavement need not be disturbed in the near future, thereby maximizing its potential longevity. The City managed and coordinated the combined efforts of the project activities to be completed in a timely manner to prevent traffic congestion and delays.

Project benefits include:

- Improved vehicular ride quality
- Added accessibility for all citizens along pedestrian paths

The Winton Way Reconstruction Project is a transformative project for our community and region, a result of the productive and cooperative partnership between the City Council, the Merced County Association of Governments, and their respective staff.

### ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 2020

This year's November 3, 2020 election will be an all-vote-by-mail county-wide election. Merced County currently has about 107,136 registered voters and about 32,833 inactive voters. To register to vote in the November election, use the link <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. The Deadline to register to vote is Monday, October 19, 2020.

If you would like to stop receiving your State or County Voter Information Guide by mail, you simply need to fill out the form provided on the site with the link provided and return it to Merced County Registrar of Voters. Your State or County Voter Information Guide will be available online 30

days before each election. The law allows a voter who has opted out of receiving their material by mail to change their mind at any time. No changes will be made unless you request it.

<https://www.co.merced.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/16417/Go-Green?bidId=>

### TEMPORARY WATER RATE DECREASE EFFECTIVE AUGUST 1, 2020 TO NOVEMBER 31.

At the July 13, 2020 City Council Meeting, the City Council voted to "temporarily suspend" the water rate increases that became effective July 1, 2020 under Resolution No. 3067-19. The temporary suspension of the water rate increases will be in effect for a four-month period, August 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020.

Residential water users can expect to see the water portion of their utility billing be decreased back to the pre-July 1, 2020 rate structure. For most residential water rate plans, they will see a decrease of \$4.00 to \$5.00 per month on the fixed charged portion of their water billing depending upon size of water service/meter for the next four monthly billing cycles. Commercial water customers will see their base water rate reverted back to the pre-July 1, 2020 water rate structure.

This action by City Council is intended to assist local residents and businesses during this difficult time due to COVID-19 and to help ease any additional financial impacts by placing a temporary stay and/or suspension on the July 1, 2020 scheduled water rate increase for the time period of August 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020.

Please refer to the City of Atwater's website for a complete copy of the Comprehensive Water and Wastewater Utility Rates Study adopted by City Council Resolution No. 3067-19 on January 28, 2019.

### WATERING DAYS

Even numbered addresses are assigned watering days on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 12:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

Odd numbered addresses are assigned watering days on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

### POTHOLE, TREE ISSUE, ETC.

Please visit the City of Atwater website: [www.atwater.org](http://www.atwater.org) to report Potholes, tree issues in your community. This is a user-friendly tool once you visit the city website on the top right corner click the button (Report an Issue) <https://www.atwater.org/report-issue/> and fill out the information. If you would like you are also able to contact Public Works directly at 209-357-6370 or [publicworks@atwater.org](mailto:publicworks@atwater.org)

### WATER METERS

The City of Atwater is required to install meters on all unmetered service connections by January 1, 2025. In most cases, meter installation is a simple procedure that requires an hour or less and water services will be briefly interrupted during installation.

If you receive notification that Public Works is scheduled to install a meter at your location, please clear the area where the meter will be located. Since the water meters are located outside of the home you will not need to be home for the meter installation. If your meter is not accessible, you have any questions, or if you have special needs, please contact the City of Atwater at 209-357-6370.

### TIPS FOR TALKING WITH CHILDREN ABOUT COVID-19, AS STATED BY THE CDC

- **Remain calm.** Remember that children will react to both what you say and how you say it. They will pick up cues from the conversations you have with them and with others.
- **Reassure children** that they are safe. Let them know it is okay if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress so that they can learn how to cope from you.
- **Make yourself available to listen and to talk.** Let children know they can come to you when they have questions.
- **Avoid language that might blame others** and [lead to stigma](#).
- **Pay attention to what children see or hear** on television, radio, or online. Consider reducing the amount of screen time focused on COVID-19. Too much information on one topic can lead to anxiety.
- **Provide information that is truthful and appropriate** for the age and developmental level of the child. Talk to children about how some stories on COVID-19 on the Internet and social media may be based on rumors and inaccurate information. Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand.
- **Teach children everyday actions** to reduce the spread of germs. Remind children to wash their hands frequently and stay away from people who are coughing or sneezing or sick. Also, remind them to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their elbow, then throw the tissue into the trash.
- **If school is open, discuss any new actions that may be taken at school to help protect children and school staff.**