# Lehigh County Authority - Financial Review - COVID-19 Impact - April-June 2020

Revenue at Risk (Collections Related)	<u>S</u>	<u>uburban</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Penalty Revenue Lost (Penalties Waived April-June 2020)				
Past Due (5%)	\$	22,238	\$ 78,853	\$ 101,091
Warning (5%)	\$	10,749	\$ 52,352	\$ 63,101
Monthly Interest (1.5%)	\$	5,825	\$ 20,874	\$ 26,699
Total Penalty Revenue Lost	\$	38,812	\$ 152,079	\$ 190,891
Total Past-Due Receivables - June 30, 2020	\$	281,090	\$ 1,138,594	\$ 1,419,685
Total Past-Due Receivables - February 29, 2020	\$	245,073	\$ 775,432	\$ 1,020,505
Average Past-Due Receivables - 2019	\$	278,634	\$ 753,667	\$ 1,032,301
Total Revenue at Risk (collections related)*	\$	41,268	\$ 537,006	\$ 578,275
* Penalties revenue lost plus above-normal past-due amounts.				

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Collections Performance	<u>Suburban</u>	<u>City</u>	TOTAL
# of Customers w/ Balance > \$100 (eligible for shutoff) - 2019 Average	132	2,167	2,299
% of Total Customer Base			4.17%
Average balance past due per customer (eligible for shutoff)	\$223	\$261	\$259
Average balance past due total (eligible for shutoff)	\$29,406	\$566,194	\$595,599
# of Customers w/ Balance > \$100 (eligible for shutoff) - (April-June 2020)	154	2,199	2,353
% of Total Customer Base			4.27%
Average balance past due per customer (eligible for shutoff)	\$250	\$299	\$295
Average balance past due total (eligible for shutoff)	\$38,529	\$656,489	\$695,019
Total Bills Issued (April - June 2020)	22,579	35,266	57,845
Not Paid by Due Date	3,399	8,590	11,989
% of Customers Paying by Due Date (April - June 2020)	84.9%	75.6%	79.3%
% of Customers Paying by Due Date (2019 Performance)	84.6%	76.0%	79.3%

### **Collections Summary:**

- Real revenue loss due to penalty waivers = \$190,891
- Increased past-due balance can be collected in the future = \$400,000
- No significant change in customer payment habits
  - Customers who normally pay on time are still paying on time (thank you!)
  - Customers who always have difficulty paying continue to have trouble paying (about 2300 customers)
  - Past-due balances subject to service termination have increased by about \$100,000

# Lehigh County Authority Water Sales - COVID-19 Impact - April-June 2020

						Α	djusted for	% Change after
	Ар	ril - June 2019	Αŗ	oril - June 2020	% Change (Revenue		5% Rate	Adjustment
Suburban Water		Revenues		Revenues	Change)		Change	(est. Volume Change)
Large Industrial	\$	275,741	\$	309,784	12.3%	\$	295,032	7.0%
Other Industrial/Commercial	\$	878,761	\$	920,601	4.8%	\$	876,763	-0.2%
Residential	\$	918,487	\$	1,027,540	11.9%	\$	978,609	6.5%
Penalties	\$	30,092	\$	2,724	-90.9%	\$	2,595	-91.4%
Private Fire Service	\$	211,761	\$	218,441	3.2%	\$	208,039	-1.8%
	\$	2,314,842	\$	2,479,090	7.1%	\$	2,361,038	2.0%

						Α	djusted for	% Change after
	Apr	il - June 2019	Аp	oril - June 2020	% Change (Revenue	4	4.1% Rate	Adjustment
City Water		Revenues		Revenues	Change)	Change (est		(est. Volume Change)
Large Industrial	\$	-	\$	-	n/a	\$	-	n/a
Other Industrial/Commercial	\$	995,119	\$	763,805	-23.2%	\$	733,723	-26.3%
Residential	\$	2,825,278	\$	2,975,113	5.3%	\$	2,857,938	1.2%
Penalties	\$	110,342	\$	19,995	-81.9%	\$	19,207	-82.6%
Private Fire Service	\$	15,787	\$	14,004	-11.3%	\$	13,453	-14.8%
	\$	3,946,525	\$	3,772,917	-4.4%	\$	3,624,320	-8.2%

								% Change after
	Ар	ril - June 2019	Αŗ	oril - June 2020	% Change (Revenue	Α	djusted for	Adjustment
Total LCA Water	Revenues		Revenues		Change)	Rate Changes		(est. Volume Change)
Large Industrial	\$	275,741	\$	309,784	12.3%	\$	295,032	7.0%
Other Industrial/Commercial	\$	1,873,880	\$	1,684,407	-10.1%	\$	1,610,486	-14.1%
Residential	\$	3,743,764	\$	4,002,653	6.9%	\$	3,836,547	2.5%
Penalties	\$	140,434	\$	22,719	-83.8%	\$	21,802	-84.5%
Private Fire Service	\$	227,548	\$	232,445	2.2%	\$	221,492	-2.7%
	\$	6,261,367	\$	6,252,008	-0.1%	\$	5,985,359	-4.4%

COVID-19 Expenses - <u>Diverted from other budgets</u>	
Salaries (planning work, team meetings, employee meetings)	\$ 100,536
Benefits (associated with salaries, estimated)	\$ 42,641
TOTAL EXPENSES YTD - Diverted from other budgets	\$ 143,176

COVID-19 Expenses - <u>NEW Expenses not budgeted</u>	
Overtime (due to schedule changes)	\$ 135,679
Off-Time & Adjustments (extra time off granted or time paid to convert to new schedules)	\$ 58,279
Benefits (associated with overtime, off-time & adjustments, estimated)	\$ 82,264
Legal	\$ 4,128
Purchases & Services (PPE, technology, cleaning supplies, etc.)	\$ 34,064
Hazard Pay (paid 3/28/2020 - 6/26/2020; program discontinued)	\$ 139,665
TOTAL EXPENSES YTD - NEW Expenses not budgeted	\$ 454,080

\$ 597,257 Total COVID-19 Expenses to Date

Offsets / Expense Reductions - Operating Budget	
Hiring Freeze (4 new positions, 3 vacancies not filled - 6 month hiring freeze, may extend)	\$ 212,625
Deferred Special Projects (strategic planning, other special studies)	\$ 105,000
Education & Training (reduction in conferences & travel - shift to online training)	\$ 125,000
TOTAL EXPENSE OFFSETS / REDUCTIONS - Operating Budget	\$ 442,625

Offsets / Expense Reductions - Capital Budget	
LCA Operations Center - Office Construction (potential project elimination)	\$ 343,370
Water Meter Reading Equipment / Installation (deferral to 2021)	\$ 629,889
TOTAL EXPENSE OFFSETS / REDUCTIONS - Capital Budget	\$ 973,259

\$ 1,415,884 Total Expense Reductions / Deferrals

### Summary of COVID-19 Impacts to Lehigh County Authority (as of July 27, 2020):

- This is an evolving situation, and full-year impacts are difficult to predict
- To date, many customers are keeping up with utility bill payments, which helps tremendously
- Loss of revenue expected due to lowered Commercial water sales & suspension of late fees especially in City Division
- Larger uncollected / past-due receivables is problematic, but will be collected over time
- Grant programs or other customer assistance programs may help, in addition to reinstating water service terminations
- Timing of reinstating water service terminations will be determined based on guidance from state and availability of grants
- Expenses to LCA are primarily personnel related and can be managed
- Initial round of expense reductions / deferrals have been effective in offsetting expenses
- Ongoing monitoring will be needed to determine full impact & remedies
- Potential for long-term savings / efficiencies if we take a Lessons Learned approach post-pandemic!
- Debt service reductions in 2020 due to Lease Bond refinancing may provide relief needed for all of the above!