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BWWB Approves Operating & Maintenance and Capital Budgets for 2021 *Budget will not result in an increase in customers' rates next year*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (November 19, 2020)- Thursday, The Birmingham Water Works Board approved an Operating & Maintenance (O&M) Budget of \$108,335,378 and a Capital Budget of \$81,484,428 for Fiscal Year 2021. The approval comes weeks after the utility's executive staff presented the proposals before the public at the Board's Virtual Public Hearing earlier this month.

"We're pleased that we were able to present budgets that we feel are essential to effectively and efficiently maintain the operations of this great water utility while keeping our customers at the forefront," says BWWB General Manager Michael Johnson. "Our staff took a close look at everything, department by department."

Notably, included with this approval, The Board of Directors voted to approve budgets that will not result in an increase in customers' water rates for FY 2021 and does not include merit raises for BWWB employees this year.

"COVID-19 has really put many of our customers in a financial strain. Through this measure, our employees truly exemplify that we are in this together, and we hope that not having a rate increase can bring some relief to those who've lost so much this year," Johnson adds.

Also, the utility is yet again aggressively re-investing in its existing water infrastructure in FY 2021 by budgeting \$30 million to replace aging water mains.

The approved budgets go into effect January 1, 2021 and is in accordance with the currently adopted Rates Stabilization and Equalization (RSE) model.

Founded in 1951, the Birmingham Water Works Board serves more than 600,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair, and Walker counties. The BWWB operates four filtration plants, a certified testing laboratory, and has more than 4,000 miles of pipe in its distribution network; it ranked among the top five water systems in the United States. For more information about the Birmingham Water Works Board, media inquiries, or tours of our museum, please call 205-244-4000 or visit www.bwwb.org. ###