**RESOLUTION NO.: 2025-2407** 

Adopted Date: October 15, 2025 Effective Date: December 1, 2025

## WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

<u>Subject</u>: A RESOLUTION adopting a temporary regulation creating an Emergency Customer Relief Fund.

WHEREAS, the Commission is authorized by the Maryland Annotated Code, Public Utilities Article ("PUA") §17-403 to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of Division II of the PUA and any other laws, the enforcement and administration of which are vested in the Commission; and

WHEREAS the Commission is authorized by PUA § 25-501.1 to establish a Customer Assistance Program, to establish income eligibility standards for customers to receive financial assistance under the Program, and to fund the Program from Commission revenues; and

WHEREAS, due to the current economic conditions, there are many customers in WSSC's service area who are in need of financial assistance with delinquent bills; and

WHEREAS there are currently 74,315 delinquent residential water and sewer accounts; and

WHEREAS, while the Get Current Program authorized by Commission Resolution 2025-2391 has assisted 6.752 customers, there is still a need for additional financial assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, while the Water Fund administered by the Salvation Army has assisted more than 31,000 customers since its inception in 1994, there is still a need for additional financial assistance programs

WHEREAS, 2.4 million dollars can be allocated to assist customers with reducing their delinquent balances; and

WHEREAS, given the ongoing economic uncertainty, WSSC wishes to create a temporary Emergency Customer Relief Fund to further assist customers; and

WHEREAS, under the Emergency Customer Relief Fund, a qualifying customer may receive a one-time bill credit of up to \$750 depending on their income level; and

WHEREAS, under the Emergency Customer Relief Fund, qualifying customers who are experiencing financial hardship may receive a one-time bill credit of up to \$750; and

WHEREAS, the rules for the Emergency Customer Relief Fund, including eligibility requirements, are set forth in the attached regulation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this 15th day of October 2025, that the Commission hereby adopts the Emergency Customer Relief Fund regulation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Emergency Customer Relief Fund regulation shall be effective on December 1, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice of this regulation shall be published in at least one (1) newspaper published in each county of the Washington Suburban Sanitary District at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in accordance with Section IV (b) of the regulation, the General Manager may allocate additional funds to the Emergency Customer Relief Fund upon written notice to the Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Emergency Customer Relief Fund regulation shall be null and void on December 31, 2026, with no further action required of the Commissioners, however, if the General Manager/CEO exercises the discretion as set forth Section IV (c) of the regulation to extend the Emergency Customer Assistance Fund, then this regulation, with no further action required of the Commission, shall be null and void on March 31, 2027.

A True Copy.

Attest:

Julianne M. Montes De Oca

Corporate Secretary