



Water Bill Upgrades

In February of 2017 the City completed a Water System Master Plan that identified over 26,000 feet of water main in need of replacement. Old leaking pipes some dating back to the 1930's have required over 400 leak repairs per year resulting in up to 29% water loss in the system. Since January of 2018, the City has replaced over 5,000 feet of water main and is in the process of replacing another 8,000 feet. The goal is to replace just under 1 mile of pipe each year and dramatically reduce leaks and unaccounted water loss.

Residents will notice the next water bill will have a new look. The City recently adopted new water rates with several goals:

- 1. Simplify the water bill.**
- 2. Ensure funding to meet operational and maintenance costs.**
- 3. Ensure sufficient funding for capital replacement needs.**
- 4. Develop acceptable reserve fund targets.**

The previous water rate structure had a Meter Fixed Charge, 4 tiers, water allocations for each property and a water use surcharge.

The recently adopted rates have a Water Service Fixed charge to cover operations and maintenance, 2 tiers to cover the cost of producing both groundwater and Imported water and an infrastructure charge to replace aging pipes and other infrastructure.

There has always been an infrastructure component to the water bill however in the past it was part of the meter charge.

For transparency, the infrastructure component is now itemized on the water bill. The infrastructure charge was increased in the most recent rate adjustment. This portion of the bill goes directly to replacing old leaking water pipes.

The infrastructure charge will allow the Water Department to embark on the most aggressive capital improvement effort in decades. Council has approved 1.2 to 1.4 million dollars per year, for five years, to go towards replacing the most dilapidated water mains.

The new water rates including the infrastructure charge were subject to the Proposition 218 process. Every property address received notification of the proposed rate changes with an opportunity to protest at the public hearing.



The new rates will remain in effect for the next 5 years or until the City conducts a future water rate assessment.

Meter Size	FYE 2019 Recommended Infrastructure Charge
3/4" or less	\$38.07
1"	\$63.58
1 1/2"	\$126.77
2"	202.91
3"	444.28
4"	\$799.47

Please direct questions to:

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