

CITY OF SONOMA

RESOLUTION NO. 56 – 2014

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SONOMA,
ADOPTING A PROGRAM OF WATER RATE AND FEE INCREASES FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2014-15 THROUGH 2018-19 AND SETTING WATER RATES
AND CONNECTION FEES TO BE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015 AND EACH
JANUARY 1ST THEREAFTER TO JANUARY 1, 2019

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that certain changes in water rates and connection fees charged to customers of the City of Sonoma Water Utility are required to fund expenses incurred by the Water Utility, based on a report entitled, "City of Sonoma 2014 Water Rate Study;" and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Proposition 218, a notice of the public hearing to be held on November 17, 2014 was mailed on October 3, 2014 to all affected utility account holders and property owners; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2014 the City Council conducted a public hearing and gave every interested person an opportunity to make a written protest to the scheduled connection fee and rate changes as recommended in the City of Sonoma 2014 Water Rate Study, and the City Council has considered each protest; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that a majority written protest against the connection fee and rate changes as recommended and listed in the City of Sonoma 2014 Water Rate Study does not exist; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds, based upon all evidence in the record, including without limitation the City of Sonoma 2014 Water Rate Study, that the proposed water rates and charges do not exceed the estimated amount required to provide water service to properties served by the Water Utility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Sonoma as follows:

Section 1. City of Sonoma 2014 Water Rate Study

The City of Sonoma 2014 Water Rate Study, including the recommended rate schedule and fees for Fiscal Years 2014-15 through 2018-19 prepared by Spillman and Associates and dated November 17, 2014, a copy of which is on file in the Office of the City Clerk, is hereby adopted.

Section 2. Water Rates and Charges

Pursuant to the authority granted in Section 13.04.120 and Sections 13.24.150 through 13.24.190 of the Municipal Code, the rates and charges set forth below are hereby adopted effective for meter usage reads for utility bills or development permit approvals issued after the specified date:

(A) SERVICE CHARGE – Monthly billing period

	1/1/2015	1/1/2016	1/1/2017	1/1/2018	1/1/2019	Annually Beginning 1/1/2020	
Meter Size							
5/8" or 3/4"	\$ 17.10	\$ 17.33	\$ 19.79	\$ 20.28	\$ 20.75	All Rates tied to CPI Adjustments	
5/8", 3/4" or 1"	\$ 17.10	\$ 17.33	\$ 19.79	\$ 20.28	\$ 20.75		
1 1/2"	\$ 26.09	\$ 26.43	\$ 30.18	\$ 30.94	\$ 31.66		
2"	\$ 32.60	\$ 33.03	\$ 37.72	\$ 38.67	\$ 39.57		
3"	\$ 48.90	\$ 49.55	\$ 56.58	\$ 58.01	\$ 59.35		
4"	\$ 81.50	\$ 82.58	\$ 94.30	\$ 96.68	\$ 98.92		
5"	\$ 60.05	\$ 60.83	\$ 69.47	\$ 71.22	\$ 72.87		
6"	\$ 130.52	\$ 132.24	\$ 151.02	\$ 154.82	\$ 158.41		
Fire Line Meter Size							
2"	\$ 5.87	\$ 5.95	\$ 6.80	\$ 6.97	\$ 7.13		
4"	\$ 11.74	\$ 11.89	\$ 13.58	\$ 13.92	\$ 14.24		
6"	\$ 23.48	\$ 23.78	\$ 27.16	\$ 27.85	\$ 28.49		
8"	\$ 35.22	\$ 35.68	\$ 40.75	\$ 41.77	\$ 42.74		
10"	\$ 46.95	\$ 47.57	\$ 54.32	\$ 55.69	\$ 56.98		

(B) WATER USE RATES – Monthly billing period

1. Base Water Use Rate:

	1/1/2015	1/1/2016	1/1/2017	1/1/2018	1/1/2019	Annually Beginning 1/1/2020
Base charge For all Users - Adjusted by Use Factor	\$ 5.23	\$ 5.43	\$ 5.74	\$ 6.07	\$ 6.33	All Rates tied to CPI Adjustments

Use Factors

Residential	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Multi-Family	0.85	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Commercial	1.05	1.10	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15
Municipal	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Irrigation, Fire & Hydrant	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32

2. Single Family Residential Detached Dwellings and Second Units (Water Use Rate per Unit of Use per Monthly Billing Period - 1 Unit = 1,000 gallons):

	1/1/2015	1/1/2016	1/1/2017	1/1/2018	1/1/2019	Annually Beginning 1/1/2020

Single Family Residential Detached Dwellings & Second Units Conservation Tiers and Rates - Amount of Monthly Water Use

1	1-6 Kg	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.73	\$ 3.94	\$ 4.17	\$ 4.35	All Rates tied to CPI Adjustments
2	7 - 12 Kg	\$ 6.30	\$ 6.55	\$ 6.91	\$ 7.31	\$ 7.63	
3	13 - 18 Kg	\$ 7.07	\$ 7.35	\$ 7.76	\$ 8.21	\$ 8.56	
4	19+ Kg	\$10.21	\$10.62	\$11.22	\$11.86	\$12.38	

3. Multi-family Residential Dwellings (apartment, condominium/townhouse, mobile home, duplex, triplex, fourplex, live/work) Water Use Rate per Unit of Use per Monthly Billing Period - 1 Unit = 1,000 gallons):

1/1/2015	1/1/2016	1/1/2017	1/1/2018	1/1/2019	Annually Beginning 1/1/2020
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Multi-Family Conservation Tiers and Rates - Amount of Monthly Water Use

1	1 - 26 Kg	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.04	\$ 4.27	\$ 4.52	\$ 4.71	All Rates tied to CPI Adjustments
2	27 - 78 Kg	\$ 4.71	\$ 4.61	\$ 4.87	\$ 5.15	\$ 5.37	
3	79+ Kg	\$ 4.96	\$ 4.85	\$ 5.12	\$ 5.42	\$ 5.65	

4. Commercial – All Commercial, Institutional and Industrial

1/1/2015	1/1/2016	1/1/2017	1/1/2018	1/1/2019	Annually Beginning 1/1/2020
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Commercial Conservation Tiers and Rates - Amount of Monthly Water Use

1	1 - 25 Kg	\$ 5.21	\$ 5.68	\$ 6.27	\$ 6.63	\$ 6.92	All Rates tied to CPI Adjustments
2	26 - 61 Kg	\$ 5.49	\$ 5.98	\$ 6.60	\$ 6.98	\$ 7.28	
3	62+ Kg	\$ 5.99	\$ 6.53	\$ 7.21	\$ 7.63	\$ 7.96	

5. Other Customer Groups - Municipal - governments, institutional and certain non-profits; Irrigation Service (separately metered); Fire Service (separately metered) & Hydrant (temporary meter permits) – Monthly billing period

**Municipal
Irrigation
Fire & Hydrant**

1/1/2015	1/1/2016	1/1/2017	1/1/2018	1/1/2019	Annually Beginning 1/1/2020
\$ 5.23	\$ 5.43	\$ 5.74	\$ 6.07	\$ 6.33	All Rates tied to CPI Adjustments
\$ 6.90	\$ 7.17	\$ 7.57	\$ 8.01	\$ 8.36	
\$ 6.90	\$ 7.17	\$ 7.57	\$ 8.01	\$ 8.36	

6. Other Charges:

- For all accounts outside of the City of Sonoma city limits 15% will be added to Service and Water Use rates listed above.
- Water Use rates may be adjusted annually in accordance with Government Code Section 53756 to provide for a pass through of any increase in the cost of wholesale water purchased from another agency (such as the Sonoma County Water agency) that is in excess of those projected in the adopted 2014 Water Rate Study.
- Beginning on January 1, 2020, the Service and Water Use rates may be adjusted annually to provide for the increase, if any, in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Consumer Price Index over the latest available prior 12-month period following notice and a public hearing in accordance with applicable law.

(C) CONNECTION CHARGES

The connection charge for a new service connection shall be the sum of: the front foot charge, meter charge and capacity charge. The front foot charge does not apply in cases where a main extension is required. All applicants must also provide a service lateral (pipe from main to meter) as noted in the City's Water Rate and Fee Schedule.

1. Front Foot Charge

The front foot charge shall be \$ 60 per linear foot of frontage on the existing main located in the street. If the lot is bounded by more than one street with mains then, the front footage shall be the sum of the front foot distances on each main divided by the number of streets with mains. If the lot is an irregular lot, such as a flag lot or inner lot the minimum front foot distance shall be 100 feet.

The minimum front footage upon which the front foot charge is based shall be 100 feet.

This rate shall be adjusted annually as specified in section 4.e below.

2. Meter and Lateral Installation Charges

The lateral is the pipeline extending from the main to the meter. The size and materials used shall be approved by the City. The lateral shall terminate in a meter box at a location approved by the City Water Department. The lateral shall be installed to meet City standards. The applicant shall hire or make arrangements for an underground contractor licensed by the State of California to install the lateral and meter box and other appurtenant and required equipment and devices (such as a backflow prevention device if deemed necessary by City).

The meter, however, shall be furnished and installed by the City. Applicant shall pay a meter charge for the meter and installation cost of materials, labor and equipment plus 20% administration charge as determined by the City at the time of installation.

3. Fire Service Only

In cases where required design fire flow for a given application for consumptive water service exceeds 1,000 gallons per minute (with 20 psi residual), the Capacity Charge shall be increased by \$ 2,202 per 100 gallons per minute of such excess.

In the cases where the applicant is only being provided fire flow and is not requesting water for consumptive purposes, the Capacity Charge shall be \$ 2,202 per 100 gallons per minute of design fire flow provided.

This rate shall be adjusted annually as specified in section 4.e below.

4. Capacity Charge

The capacity charge shall be calculated in terms of the demand of an equivalent single-family dwelling (ESD). An ESD is defined as the water demand for the average day of the maximum month for a typical single family detached home served by the City. The value of an ESD has been determined by the City to be 561 gallons per day. Capacity

charges for residential customers and commercial, institutional and industrial customers are calculated as shown below. Note, if at any time a customer's use exceeds the estimate used in determining the capacity charge, the City may require that the customer pay an additional capacity charge at the rate then in effect for each ESD of such excess. For connections made prior to June 6, 1999, base use shall be determined by the City from examination of historic water use records.

- a. The Base Capacity Charge per ESD is \$ 9,796 effective January 1, 2015 and adjusted annually as specified in section e below.
- b. Residential Accounts - For residential customers, the capacity charge is calculated by multiplying the Base Capacity Charge by the factor in the following table times the number of equivalent dwelling units (ESDs) in that category.

If the area of a residential dwelling is larger than 4,000 square feet or if the area to be irrigated (excluding drip irrigation area) is greater than 2,500 square feet, the capacity charge shall be calculated as set forth in section d below

Type of Residential Dwelling

Use Category	Capacity Charge Unit of Measurement	ESD Factor applied per unit of measurement to ESD Base Capacity Rate
Single family detached dwellings	Dwelling Unit	1.00
Townhouses/condominiums, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes	Dwelling Unit	0.80
Mobile home	Dwelling Unit	0.51
Apartment houses (5 or more dwelling units)	Dwelling Unit	0.47
Second/accessory dwellings (dwelling on a parcel in undivided ownership)	Dwelling Unit	0.47

- c. Non-Residential and Separately Metered Irrigation accounts

Commercial, institutional and industrial capacity charges shall be based on the following Equivalent Single Family Dwelling Unit ESD factors. The ESD rating for each application shall be computed by multiplying the applicable measurement units by the ESD factor(s). The capacity charge shall then be calculated by multiplying the total ESDs by the Base Capacity Charge per ESD.

If a single service connection serves both a residential and a non-residential use, or more than one non-residential use, the connection fees for each use shall be additive.

The minimum ESD for each separate non-residential water service connection shall be 1.0.

Other Uses

Use Category	Capacity Charge Unit of Measurement	ESD Factor applied per unit of measurement to ESD Base Capacity Rate
Commercial	Connections	1.00
Auto dealers	Service bays	0.20
Bars and taverns	Design occupancy	0.04
Business and Professional Offices	1,000 sq. ft.	1.00
Car washes (self service)	Stalls	1.00
Car washes (except self service)	Each 561 gpd of estimated water use during peak month	1.00
Churches, halls and lodges	Connections	1.00
Dental offices	1,000 sq. ft.	1.00
Dry Cleaners	1,000 sq. ft.	1.50
Garages	Service bays	0.50
Hospitals - Convalescent	Beds	0.30
Hospitals - General	Beds	0.30
Hotels/motels	Sleeping rooms	0.50
	Kitchen facilities	0.50
	Manager's living quarters	1.00
	Washing machines (laundry)	1.00
	Other facilities	TBD – Section d
Laundromats	Washing machines	1.00
Other laundries	Each 561 gpd of estimated water use during peak month	1.00
Medical offices	1,000 sq. ft.	1.00
Restaurants - Dine-in	Design seating occupancy	0.20
Restaurants - Take-out	1,000 sq. ft.	2.50
Rest homes	Beds	0.30
Service stations	Gas pumps	0.50
	Service bays	0.20
Storage (self service)	1,000 sq. ft.	0.20
Theaters	Seats	0.05
Warehouse	1,000 sq. ft.	0.20
Other business and commercial development	1,000 sq. ft.	1.00
All industrial uses	Each 561 gpd estimated water use during peak month or 1,000 sq. ft. whichever is greater.	1.00
All other uses not specified above	By determining use during average day of peak month and dividing by 561 gpd.	TBD – Section d

- d. For ESD factors not specified above to be applied to the Base Capacity Charge, the ESD factor shall be determined by the City Manager or Designated Representative.
- e. The Front Footage, Fire Service and Capacity Charges shall be adjusted annually effective each January 1st by the Engineering News Record (ENR) Construction Cost Index for the San Francisco Bay area annual percent change from July to July averaged over the three prior years.

(D) BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICE INSPECTION CHARGES

In cases where a backflow prevention device is determined by the City to be required, applicant shall hire a qualified contractor and be responsible for installing same. An inspection fee shall be charged at the current hourly rate for Public Works Inspection to each such device (typical inspection time of one hour).

A backflow prevention device is required where there is a well on the property to be served and for irrigation services and certain commercial uses. Applicant shall verify with the City Manager or Designated Representative.

(E) REPLACEMENT OF BROKEN METER BOXES

Charges to replace meter box (broken by contractor) including, if required, removal and replacement of surrounding concrete structures if present, shall be cost of materials, labor and equipment plus 20% administrative charges at the time of the breakage and repair.

(F) NEW RENTAL ACCOUNT DEPOSIT

A deposit of \$150 will be charged to all new accounts, residential or non-residential, when the person responsible for paying the water bill (applicant) is not the property owner. Said \$150 deposit shall be refunded if no final shutoff notices have been issued by the City for 24 months.

(G) CHANGED OR EXPANDED USE

Whenever new "development" as defined in California Government Code Section 65927 (residential or non-residential) occurs on a premise with an existing water service connection, additional connection fees shall be charged as applicable under this resolution.

Whenever an expansion or change in use (non-residential) occurs on a premise with an existing water service connection, which expansion or change in use substantially increases the amount of water used through said connection as determined by the City Manager or Designated Representative, additional connection fees shall be charged to account for said higher usage. Said additional connection fees shall be based on applicable ESD factors as provided in this resolution.

(H) PENALTIES

1. Late charge

Water bills are due 20 days from the date mailed.

A Water Service Delinquent Notice (2nd Notice) Fee shall apply when a customer's bill is not paid within 39 days of mailing of the original bill. This fee shall be as specified in the City of Sonoma Fee Schedule.

If a customer's bill is not paid within 47 days of mailing, the water service may be turned off. A "Water Service Turn Off" fee shall apply.

2. Unauthorized use of City water

Unauthorized use of the City water at a meter will result in a penalty charge of \$75; other unauthorized uses of City water will result in a penalty charge of \$200. These penalty charges are in addition to the cost of water used and replacement of any damaged equipment.

Section 3 All Other Charges

All other rates, charges, fees, penalties, etc. not provided for herein which are presently charged in connection with operation of the City of Sonoma Water Utility shall remain unchanged.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Sonoma at its regular meeting held on November 17, 2014 by the following vote:

Ayes: Barbose, Cook, Rouse, Brown, Gallian
Noes: None
Absent: None



Tom Rouse, Mayor

ATTEST:


Gay Johann
Assistant City Manager / City Clerk