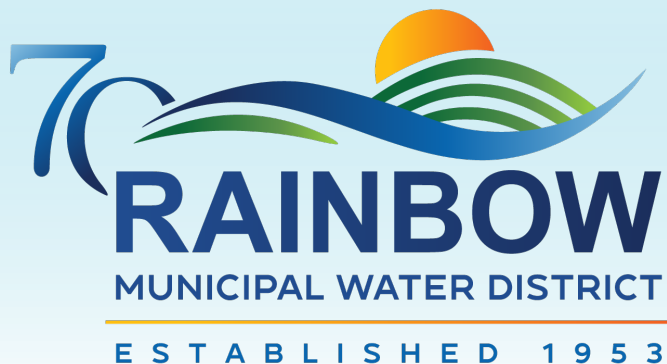


# Meter Policy Overview

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Board of Directors Meeting – Item 10.H  
December 09, 2025



# Resolution Background

The District's capacity charges and meter classifications were developed by Wildan and Raftelis (July 2017) through a system-wide analysis of maximum monthly water usage by capacity class.

Capacity Class	Meter Size	Max Month, ccf	Max Flow, gpm	Ratio
B	3/4"	50	30	1.00
C	1"	80	50	1.67
D	1.5"	130	100	3.33
E	2"	300	160	5.33
F	3"	600	300	10.00
G	4"	1000	500	16.67

If water usage exceeds these limits, the meters can decouple and under-register water use, which results in a loss of District revenue. Requires District replacement, with costs borne by all ratepayers.



# Resolution Background

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To protect the system from potential overuse relative to meter capacity, the accompanying Resolution in July 2017 (currently No. 2024-08) established the lot size threshold **requiring parcels 0.50 acres or larger to maintain a minimum 1-inch meter.**



# Resolution Background

- Established two different classes of SFR as it relates to meter size/capacity class: small lot and large lot.



# Resolution Background

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- **Established the fire flow provision for Single Family Residential**
  - Jan 1, 2011 – all new one and two-family homes must have fire sprinklers, forcing 1” meters on all new/redeveloped properties to accommodate CBC flow requirement (> 30gpm)
  - Provision: If a property would normally qualify for a ¾” meter (<0.50 ac lot) then, regardless of the 1” meter install, customer is responsible for ¾” capacity fee and monthly O&M charges plus a “standby fire charge”, which is currently \$10/month.

# Meter Downsize Process

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Customers must fill out a meter downsize application, return it with proof of ownership, and pay the downsize deposit.

After the downsizing is completed, if the customer's monthly water usage exceeds the maximum allowable use, they will receive one written notice. If a second exceedance occurs within a two-year period, the customer will be required to upsize the meter and pay applicable charges.

# AMR Meter limitations

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Our current AMR meters (Automated Meter Reading) cannot remotely monitor the real-time flow.

The only way to determine hourly usage or GPM is to visit the property and perform a data log, which extracts the meter's hourly water usage.

Data logs can only extract the previous 90 days of water usage data.

If a meter is exceeding the max GPM flow, we have no way of knowing until the meter breaks, then we would replace it.

# Potential Adjustments – Hardship Case

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## Establish a low-income water rate assistance program

- Decouples the hardship variance case from the meter sizing/meter charges issue

How could it be done?

- Establish a portion of non-rate revenue to fund the program starting in FY 26/27
- Utilize SDGE CARE program participation to establish low-income eligibility

# Potential Adjustments

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## Remove/Amend the minimum acreage requirement.

- Currently 2,439 “larger lot” 1-inch meters
- These 2,439 customers would be eligible to downsize their 1” meter to a  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” meter based on their water usage alone, which would reduce their monthly fixed charge from \$157.20 to \$96.76 on the SFR rate (\$60.44 difference)
- \$147,413 revenue loss per month or \$1.7 million per year
- Would require ~4% rate increase on all customers

# Potential Adjustments

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## Meld Capacity Classes to phase out ¾" meters

- To establish revenue neutral fixed O&M charge
  - ¾" customers – increase from \$97 to \$123/month
  - 1" customers – decrease from \$157 to \$123/month
- Would require update to the Cost of Service Study and Prop 218 hearing/noticing requirements
- Majority of ¾" customers are also sewer connections

# Ag Meters

Currently follow the same downsizing policy as Residential.

Max Month established for downsizing is more suited for Residential users and does not represent the high variability of Agricultural use.

Capacity Class	Meter Size	Max Month, ccf	Max Flow, gpm	Ratio
B	3/4"	50	30	1.00
C	1"	80	50	1.67
D	1.5"	130	100	3.33
E	2"	300	160	5.33
F	3"	600	300	10.00
G	4"	1000	500	16.67

Most applicable metric to Ag, but data not readily available - Requires data log during peak seasonal use

# Staff Recommendations

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1. Begin development of a low-income rate assistance program for discussion and potential implementation as part of the FY 25/26 Budget.
2. Maintain Policies on Residential Downsizing (water use + lot size) to ensure balance between mostly indoor use housing (small lot, duplex, etc.) and large lots with potential for expanded outdoor use.
3. Establish a more appropriate meter sizing program for Ag properties.
  - Verify instantaneous use (field verify or peak season data log)
  - Establish proper sizing and equip for ongoing monitoring



Questions?