



ENTITLEMENTS AND WATER BUDGETS

In response to the 1988-1991 drought, the district began assigning water budgets to new commercial services. In September of 1991, the Board of Directors passed Ordinance 327, amending district code to include the assessment of both water entitlements and water budgets for all new and existing non-residential services. In January 2011, the Board of Directors passed Ordinance 421, amending district code to require specific indoor and outdoor efficiency requirements be met before an increase to the water budget will be considered.

Water Entitlements

A water entitlement is defined as, “the maximum amount of water the district is committed to supply any individual service on an annual basis,” (District Code 11.08.180).

Entitlement Increase

Prior to considering an increase to your entitlement, every effort should be made to reduce the water use at the site through efficiency improvements; this is often the most cost-effective method of reducing the water bill. If, however, it is deemed necessary to increase the entitlement, two options are available:

- Purchasing additional entitlement
- Transferring entitlement from another eligible meter under certain conditions

Note: An increase in the water entitlement for a service, either from transfer or purchase, does not automatically result in an increase in the water budget. Specific efficiency requirements must be met and verified by Marin Water as set forth in the district’s Water Conservation Code before the district will consider granting an increase to the annual water budget. Please see [Request for Water Budget Increase](#) for more information.

If your annual water use is exceeding your water budget, and if your water budget is less than your entitlement, you may request to have your water budget re-evaluated.

For mixed-use meters, a site inspection will be required to ensure the interior plumbing fixtures meet the efficiency requirements of the district's Water Conservation Code and the irrigation system and landscaped area meet specific efficiency criteria.

For dedicated irrigation meters, a landscape planting plan and irrigation design plan must be submitted for review in accordance with the landscape plan review process.

Entitlement Purchase

Entitlement purchases are handled through our Engineering Department. It is a one-time fee and can be either paid in full at the time of purchase, or, in some instances, a payment schedule can be arranged.

Entitlements may be transferable when meeting certain district requirements, which differ depending on if the entitlement to be transferred was originally purchased or was based on historic water use.

To begin the process to purchase or transfer water entitlement, see our [Water Service Checklist](#).

For questions regarding water entitlements, contact our Engineering Department at 415.945.1530.

Water Budget

The water budget is representative of a service's actual water needs and is defined as, "the district's determination of the actual consumption requirement of the service," (District Code 11.08.035). The water budget may be less than or equal to the water entitlement, but may never exceed the entitlement. As a result, if the district calculates a site's water budget at a level higher than the site's entitlement, an increase to the entitlement will be required before the water budget will be increased.

Baseline

For billing purposes, the water budget is divided over the billing periods, either monthly or bi-monthly. These monthly or bi-monthly allocations are referred to as the account's baseline. The water use for each billing period is compared to the account's baseline for the same period and is billed accordingly. Please see [How Does the Water Entitlement Affect My Water Bill?](#) for further explanation of how water use is billed.

For questions regarding water budgets or billing baselines, contact our Water Efficiency Department at 415.945.1520.

Quick Guide to Water Entitlement Purchase

1. Complete the [Project Information Form](#) online
2. Marin Water will provide all necessary forms and fee information for your project
3. Submit your Water Service Application Package to the Engineering Department
4. Marin Water will contact you to confirm approval of your application and provide you with copies of all relevant documents. Our records will be updated to reflect the updated water entitlement.