

## Exemption from Marin Water Fire Flow Fee

***Please note: There is no exemption from the fire flow fee for seniors.***

You may qualify for an exemption to the annual \$75 fire flow fee if one of the following applies:

- 1) The value of your parcel is less than \$10,000
- 2) If you have multiple contiguous parcels that have been combined by the County Assessor's Office into one parcel, you may qualify for an exemption on all but the one combined parcel.

To request an Assessor Parcel Combination, please contact the County Assessor's Office.

To find out if your property is exempt, please contact Marin Water's Finance Department at [CHowlett@MarinWater.org](mailto:CHowlett@MarinWater.org) or 415.945.1404. Please have your parcel number available. If you are exempt, Marin Water will notify the county, and they will send you a revised property tax bill.

You can also write to:  
Marin Water Finance Department  
220 Nellen Ave.  
Corte Madera, CA 94925

## Fire Flow Program

Fire-flow is the term firefighters use to describe how much water can be delivered by a water system through one or more hydrants to fight a fire at a specific location or to state the optimum amount (standard) of water flow firefighters require for a theoretical fire at a specific location. The former is determined by a pipe's size, pressure and internal condition and the latter is based on standards developed over years of experience. To meet fire-flow standards, a water-distribution system must deliver large amounts of water in a short period of time, whereas for daily use, water systems provide small amounts of water on a continuing basis.

A first-ever master plan for making fire-flow improvements in central and southern Marin was begun following voter approval in 1996. Voters agreed to pay an annual \$75 parcel fee for the next 15 years to raise \$62 million as part of a \$77 million effort to provide additional water flow for fighting fires and to help ensure the integrity of our water transmission system following a major earthquake.

In 2012 the Marin Water Board of Directors approved extending the \$75 annual fire flow fee for an additional 19 years (2012-2031). The fee will fund such water system improvements as the replacement of approximately 52 miles of inadequate pipe and seismic stabilization/retrofits at pump stations and pipe bridges.

We've been working to implement this plan with the help of fire officials, city managers, and public works directors. This team reports regularly to city and county elected officials, whose joint efforts led to development of the plan.

In addition to improving our ability to fight fires, we also have an aggressive fire prevention program on the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed.