



REQUEST FOR WATER BUDGET INCREASE: DEDICATED IRRIGATION SERVICES

The purchase or transfer of entitlement to a service does not automatically increase the service’s water budget. Before an increase to the water budget will be considered, the site must be inspected by Water Conservation staff to verify that the efficiency standards listed below have been met.

Upon the District’s determination that the service meets the efficiency requirements, the service may be eligible to increase the annual water budget as calculated by staff, but in no case shall the budget exceed the services entitlement.

Customer should contact the **MMWD Water Conservation Department at (415) 945-1520** to discuss the reason for requesting an increase to the service’s water budget and to ensure there is adequate water entitlement to allow an increase to the water budget.

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Efficient Landscape Worksheet	<p>Determines the landscape’s annual water requirement; calculates the Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA) and Estimated Total Water Use (ETWU).</p> <p>PURPOSE: <i>Provides the information necessary in order to calculate an appropriate annual water budget.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrozone Information Table	<p>A table (placed in the irrigation controller) which summarizes, for each zone, the irrigation method used (micro-spray, rotor, bubbler, drip, or other), the gallons per minute, irrigated area in square feet, and the plant water use classification (High, Medium, Low)</p> <p>PURPOSE: <i>Provides summary information for each irrigation zone that can be referenced for scheduling and system troubleshooting.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Mulch	<p>A minimum 3” layer of organic mulch shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except in turf areas or creeping or rooting groundcovers.</p> <p>PURPOSE: <i>To minimize the rate of evaporation. Note: mulch should be kept at least 6” away from the base of the main stem or trunk of all trees and shrubs.</i></p>



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	<p>Note: Visit firesafemarin.org/mulches for important information on selecting mulches.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Rain Sensor	<p>Rain sensors shall be installed for each irrigation controller.</p> <p>PURPOSE: <i>To prevent unnecessary irrigation during a rain event.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Proper Operation	<p>Irrigation system shall be operated and adjusted to minimize runoff or overspray onto non-targeted areas.</p> <p>PURPOSE: <i>To minimize water waste and ensure that the maximum amount of water infiltrates into the soil for use by the plants.</i></p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Backflow Prevention	<p>An approved backflow prevention device shall be installed to District standards which will prevent backflow or backsiphonage into the potable water system.</p> <p>PURPOSE: <i>To protect drinking water systems from possible contamination.</i></p>

Non-Residential Water Bills: An Explanation of Water Entitlements, Water Budgets, and Baselines

MMWD utilizes different rate structures for our residential and non-residential accounts. Residential water bills are calculated using the same tier breakpoints for all sites. Non-residential water use is billed using a more site-specific method.

Every non-residential water service has a **water entitlement** and a **water budget**.

Water entitlement: the maximum amount of water the District is committed to supply any individual service on an annual basis (District Code 11.08.180).

Water budget: the District’s determination of the actual consumption requirement of the service (District Code 11.08.035).



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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. (See “Changes to the Water Entitlement and Water Budget”.)

How Entitlements Are Established

Accounts that were on service prior to 1991

The entitlement is based upon the historical water use for that site or the purchased water entitlement, whichever is greater.

New accounts (i.e. where no water meter previously existed for the site)

The entitlement equals the amount purchased through connection fees, which are based on water budget calculations performed by the district’s Conservation Department as part of the *Landscape Plan Review* requirements.

New dedicated irrigation accounts

The water entitlement purchased through connection fees is based upon a review of the project's landscape plans in accordance with the district's landscape plan review process.

How the Non-Residential Water Bill is Calculated

The billing structure for non-residential meters is tied to the meter’s water budget.

The water budget is divided into six bi-monthly allocations referred to as **baselines**. For example, if a site has a water budget of 600 CCF it may be allocated over the six billing periods as follows:

<u>Water</u> <u>Budget</u>	=	<u>Baselines (CCF)</u>					
		<u>FEB</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>JUN</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>DEC</u>
600 CCF		100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: CCF = one-hundred cubic feet = 748 gallons

Although the table above shows the baselines allocated evenly over the year, this is not a requirement. In some cases, there are advantages to allocating more baseline water in the summer months (i.e. dedicated irrigation meters or commercial meters with both indoor use and irrigation).

The baselines directly impact how much water is available to the site at the lowest water rate (Tier 1) during each billing period. When the water meter is read, the water use is compared to the baseline for that billing period and the tier breakpoints are calculated as follows:

Business, Institutional and Irrigation Customers

Tier	Rate per CCF*	(% of Baseline)
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1	\$4.09	0-85%
2	\$10.99	86-150%
3	\$16.46	Over 150%

(*Rates effective July 1, 2019; one CCF, or hundred cubic feet, is 748 gallons.)

For example, if a baseline was set at 100 CCF (as shown above) the site would receive the first 85 CCFs of water used at Tier 1 (85% x 100 CCF). Tier 2 rates would apply to any water use over 85 CCF and below 150 CCF. Tier 3 rates would apply to all water use over 150 CCFs.

Changes to the Water Entitlement and Water Budget

Entitlements can only be increased through:

- (1) purchasing additional entitlement, **or**
- (2) transferring entitlement from another eligible meter.

Water budgets can only be increased if:

- (1) the water budget is less than the entitlement **and**
- (2) the site meets minimum efficiency requirements as stated in the District Code.

Requests to change an entitlement are handled through the district's [Engineering Services Department](#) (415) 945-1530, while requests to change a water budget or reallocate billing baselines are handled through the [Water Conservation Department](#) (415) 945-1520.