

# Irvine Ranch Water District.

## OPA Transition to Allocation-Based Rates.



### State Mandates IRWD to Reduce Water use by 16%

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order directing the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to impose water restrictions to achieve an aggregate statewide 25% reduction in potable urban water use. On May 5, 2015 the SWRCB adopted a regulation mandating that IRWD reduce potable water use by 16%. In order to implement this mandate, all IRWD customers will be required to limit their outdoor water use.

### What Does the 16% Reduction Mean to OPA

Your July water bill will be calculated using the IRWD Allocation-Based Conservation rate structure. This structure provides you with a monthly indoor and outdoor water allocation.

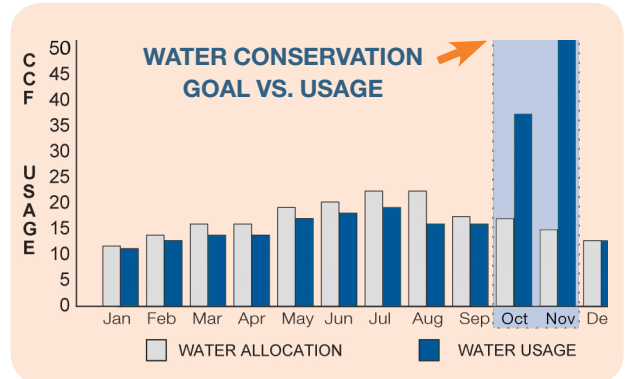
**Indoor Water Allocation:** is based on the default number of residents in a home and is 50 gallons per person per day. The default number of residents is also based on the type of home.

**Outdoor Water Allocation:** Due to the Governor's mandate, IRWD will be reducing the outdoor water allocation. It will be based on drought tolerant landscaping irrigated with drip or a high efficiency irrigation system. For OPA, your landscape allocation is based on the irrigated area from aerial imagery (not a default), the actual daily weather and how much water your plants need to stay healthy (referred to as the evapotranspiration rate or ET). IRWD water use efficiency experts are available to assist you with free home checkups to help you reduce your outdoor water use. Please call us at 949-453-5494 or email [aws@irwd.com](mailto:aws@irwd.com).

#### Variances from Standard Water Allocation

You may request an increase in your water allocation by asking for a variance. Variances are available if you have additional residents, medical needs, operate a licensed care facility in your home or have livestock. In preparation for July 1, please take a moment and review the attached variance form. If you would like to request a variance:

- Mail form to IRWD Customer Service
- Email form to [customerservice@irwd.com](mailto:customerservice@irwd.com)
- Complete online variance form at <http://www.irwd.com/request-a-variance>



#### Your Bill Shows Allocation vs. Usage

Your water bill amount will vary depending on your monthly allocation and how much water you use. The graph above, found on your water bill, shows you when your usage exceeds allocation

IRVINE RANCH RATE AREA		
Proposed rates based on Cost of Water July 2015 through June 2016		
TIER	ALLOCATION	COST PER CCF*
Low Volume	0-40%	\$1.11
Base Rate	41-100%	\$1.62
Inefficient	101-130%	\$3.92
Wasteful	131% +	\$14.53

\*A ccf, or one hundred cubic feet, is the basic measurement of water use. One ccf equals approximately 748 gallons.

#### Rates and Charges

The chart above provides an overview of your residential water rates. Charges in the Inefficient or Wasteful tiers indicate that you are using more water than your allocation.

### What You Can Do Right Now to Save Water

- **Turn Down your Irrigation Use:** Reduce your outdoor watering.
- **Check your Sprinkler Timer:** Are you over watering your yard?
- **Remove Water-Thirsty Turf:** Rebates are available at [irwd.com](http://irwd.com).
- **Fix Water Leaks:** Checking for leaks is easy and effective.

Check the IRWD website at [www.rightscapenow.com](http://www.rightscapenow.com) for more information and additional ideas.

## How Your Water Rates are Calculated

The IRWD Allocation-Based Conservation Rate Structure has **two basic components** that make up your water bill:

### Cost of Water Calculation

- The amount of water used - inside & outside your home
- Calculated using cost of local & imported water

Your cost of water is based on how much water you actually used and whether you stayed within your monthly allocation for that billing period.

### Service Charge Calculation

- Infrastructure costs
- Operation & maintenance costs

Daily operation and maintenance costs are funded mainly through user service charges.

## Sample Bill Comparison

The two samples below show how using water efficiently can impact your bill and save you money. Each of these examples for single family customers takes the actual water used per month determined by the meter reading and then applies it using the tier rate percentage allocation. These sample bills are based on proposed rates for FY 2015/16.

### Bill # 1 – The Inefficient Customer



Dates of Service 7/10/15 - 8/09/15	Meter Reading 1255	1312	Units Used 57 CCF
USAGE – LOW VOLUME	16	\$ 1.11	\$17.76
USAGE – BASE RATE	25	\$ 1.62	\$40.50
USAGE – INEFFICIENT	11	\$ 3.92	\$43.12
USAGE – WASTEFUL	5	\$14.53	\$72.65
WATER SERVICE CHARGE			\$10.30
YOUR ALLOCATION FOR THIS BILL			41 CCF BILL
CALCULATION BASED ON			.31 ACRES
TO AVOID LATE CHARGE PAY BEFORE 9/07/15			\$184.33

### Bill # 2 – The Efficient Customer



Dates of Service 7/10/15 - 8/09/15	Meter Reading 1255	1296	Units Used 41 CCF
USAGE – LOW VOLUME	16	\$ 1.11	\$17.76
USAGE – BASE RATE	25	\$ 1.62	\$40.50
WATER SERVICE CHARGE			\$10.30
YOUR ALLOCATION FOR THIS BILL			41 CCF BILL
CALCULATION BASED ON			.31 ACRES
TO AVOID LATE CHARGE PAY BEFORE 9/07/15			\$68.56

## Proposed Changes for Water Service Charges:

Fixed monthly charge based on meter size for the operation and maintenance of the water system.

Residential - homes, condos, apartments			
5/8" x 3/4"	\$10.30/meter	1 1/2" meter	\$51.50/meter
3/4" disc meter	\$15.45/meter	2" disc meter	\$82.40/meter
1" disc meter	\$25.75/meter	2" turbo meter	\$108.15/meter
Residential master meter (shared) - apartments and condominiums			
5/8 x 3/4"	\$10.30/meter		

For meters 1-inch and larger, there is a graduated schedule of monthly charges on a per-meter basis, ranging from \$25.75 for a 1-inch meter to \$108.15 for a 2"turbo meter. The current amount for your meter size appears on your bill.

## What Happens Next?

- Watch your mail for an official notice from IRWD of proposed rates and charges.
- In June 2015, you will receive additional information on how to read your bill and how to sign up for online payments, etc.
- Soon, an online rate calculator will be available on [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) so that you can easily determine how the new rate structure and water allocation will affect your bill.
- After July 2015, we will continue to provide you with information, rebates workshops and other ways to save water.
- In May & June 2015, we will continue to collect water allocation variance forms and work with OPA customers to reduce your outdoor water use.
- For up to date information on the transition visit [www.irwd.com/OPArates](http://www.irwd.com/OPArates). If you have questions please call us at 949-453-5494 or email [aws@irwd.com](mailto:aws@irwd.com).