



February 2009

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT WATER RATE CHANGES*

In April 2009, EMWD will be implementing a water budget-based tiered rate structure. Water budget-based rate structures promote fairness for customers who use water efficiently and discourage customers who waste water.

The new rate structure will be implemented in two phases. Phase I will establish generalized water budgets with tiered rates. Generalized water budgets will provide a typical household with enough water to meet indoor and outdoor needs, and will be adjusted according to weather conditions and lot size. **The indoor water budget is based on three people per single family home and two people per multi-family residence, with each person using 60 gallons per day. The outdoor water budget is determined by weather information, which could vary each month, and the estimated irrigated square footage of your landscape, which we've calculated based on County parcel data and GIS data.** (Please see below for your estimated area.)

Phase II will refine individualized water budgets with indoor and outdoor water allocations determined for each account based on actual household size, landscape area, and weather conditions.

Under the new rate structure, if you stay within your budgeted amount, you will pay the base rates associated with indoor and outdoor use. If you use more than your budgeted amount, you will pay higher rates for excess and wasteful usage. The chart below shows what your current bill would be under the new rate structure.

Your current water use = **27** billing units
Your current water use charges = **\$65.78**

NEW Water Budget-Based Rate Structure (effective March 2009 usage/April 2009 bill)

Your water budget for **January 2009 = 15** billing units
Estimated irrigated area of your landscape = **3,000** square feet

Water Charges	Period/Quantity	Rate/Unit	Amount (\$)
Water Service	31 day(s)	\$0.346/day	\$10.73
Indoor Use	Budget 7 billing units (BU)	\$1.301/BU	\$9.11
Outdoor Use	tiers 8 BU	\$2.381/BU	\$19.05
Excessive	8 BU	\$4.267/BU	\$34.14
Wasteful	4 BU	\$7.805/BU	\$31.22
Total Water Charges	27 billing units		\$104.25

Customers will see their budget and estimated irrigated area.

DO NOT PAY THIS AMOUNT

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Based on your current usage, you would have exceeded your total water budget (indoor use and outdoor use combined) by 12 billing units, which would cost you an additional \$65.36. Each billing unit represents 748 gallons of water. There are several rebate programs available to help you make your home and landscape more water-efficient. For more information on these water-saving options, visit www.usewaterwisely.org or call (951) 928-3777.

Customers may apply for a variance to their water budget to adjust the number of household members, landscape area, or for other special circumstances such as a home day care facility. Variance forms will be available to download at www.emwd.org. Customers may also call (951) 928-3777 to request a form be mailed to them.

Implementing water budget-based tiered rates is an important step in maximizing water-use efficiency for all EMWD customers.

If you have any questions on your bill, please feel free to call (951) 928-3777, press option 4.

Sincerely,



A.J. Pack
General Manager
Eastern Municipal Water District

* Si usted desea obtener esta información en español, visítenos en www.emwd.org y seleccione "EMWD en Español" o llame al teléfono (951) 928-3777 y oprima el número 1.