



Scotts Valley Water District

Guidelines for Qualifying for Flat Rate

Approved: May 13, 2010

Commercial, industrial, institutional, and non-single family residential customers may qualify for Scotts Valley Water District's flat water rate by meeting water conservation standards as explained in these guidelines.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

New construction must satisfy all of the following standards to qualify for the flat rate:

- A. Compliance with SVWD water efficient landscape criteria for new development¹,
- B. Compliance with SVWD indoor water efficiency criteria for new development¹, and
- C. Recycled water to be used for all landscaping and other permissible uses if available at the property at the time of construction; or

If recycled water not available, construction to provide for purple irrigation pipe and internal building rough dual plumbing to facilitate future conversion to recycled water.

EXISTING CUSTOMERS

Existing customers must satisfy all of the following standards to qualify for the flat rate, with the exception that existing multi-family residential customers may also qualify for the flat rate through a streamlined process:

- A. Separate meter for landscape unless the total landscaped area is less than 200 square feet,
- B. Compliance with SVWD water efficient landscape criteria for new development¹,
- C. Compliance with SVWD indoor water efficiency criteria for new development¹,
- D. Recycled water, if available, to be used for landscaping and all other permissible and feasible uses at the site,
- E. Customer property subject to on-site water audit to verify conservation compliance, and
- F. Landlord agrees to limit water charges to tenants to the actual costs of providing water to them.

¹ Criteria under development.

Existing multi-family residential customers may qualify for the flat rate through a streamlined process by satisfying all of the following standards:

- A. Average 3,000 gallons or less per occupied unit per month calculated as a running average over the most recent twelve-month period²,
- B. Customer common area property subject to on-site water audit to verify conservation compliance, and
- C. Landlord agrees to limit water charges to tenants to the actual costs of providing water to them.

OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. All customers must receive final approval from the Board of Directors to qualify for the flat rate and agree in writing to specific eligibility requirements, if any, established by the Board as a condition of approval.
2. Non-residential customers may have specialized or customized equipment requiring water audit services from an independent consultant. In any such circumstance, the customer shall pay a deposit to the District in the approximate amount of the consultant's cost, and the District will engage a qualified independent consultant to complete the water audit and verify conservation compliance. Any difference between the amount paid by the customer and the consultant's actual cost shall be reflected in the customer's next water bill, whether or not the customer is ultimately approved by the Board as qualified for the flat rate.
3. Existing customers seeking to qualify for the flat rate may take advantage of SVWD rebate credits for toilets, clothes washers, and landscape improvements and of free distribution of faucet aerators, shower heads, and other water conservation devices with the same limitations as other SVWD customers.
4. Any existing well(s) in use must be metered with consumption data reported to SVWD. Any retired well(s) must be destroyed consistent with state and local standards.
5. If non-compliant with current SVWD technical standards³, an existing customer's water meter service or services shall be modified at the customer's expense as follows unless cost prohibitive or otherwise infeasible:
 - Existing master meters shall be replaced with individual meters to individual premises or, if individual meters are infeasible, with smaller master meters to individual buildings, clusters of premises, or other logical water service clusters,

² Assumes average two person per unit occupancy; criteria to be adjusted if actual occupancy differs.

³ Standard Technical Specifications for Installation of Water Mains and Appurtenances, as amended, or successor document.

- Existing meters shall be upsized if undersized for the current fixture count,
- Existing meters may be downsized depending on the fixture count if the customer's water service is split to limit master metering, provide for separate landscape or recycled water metering, or otherwise meet conservation objectives.
- Backflow preventer devices shall be installed as specified in current SVWD technical standards.

6. No SVWD connection or water replenishment impact fee shall apply when a customer modifies a water meter service to comply with the SVWD's current technical standards, even if the modification results in a greater total meter flow capacity than previously existed. This provision shall not apply if the water meter service was installed after January 1, 2010, or if the customer has made property improvements creating additional water demand after the installation of the water meter service. This provision shall apply equally for customers seeking to qualify for the flat rate and all other SVWD customers.

CONTINUING VERIFICATION

1. Flat rate customers may be subject to annual audits to verify continued compliance with these guidelines.
2. In the future, if a flat rate customer fails to meet the conditions of the Board's approval, falls out of compliance with SVWD's flat rate standards, or is in violation of SVWD's Rates, Rules and Regulations⁴, the customer will be billed at regular rates until the condition of non-compliance or violation is remedied. In such a circumstance, the customer may also be held responsible for additional billing charges for the period of non-compliance or violation, with the additional charges calculated as the difference between usage charged at regular rates less usage charged at the flat rate.

⁴ Ordinance 119-96, as amended, or successor document.