

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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WOODLAND EASES WATER USERS INTO METERED RATES WITH SAMPLE BILLS DESIGNED TO TRACK  
WATER USE

*Starting in November 2010, water bills for customers with meters will be based on new metered rate*

WOODLAND, CA – Residential water customers with water meters should watch their mailboxes this week for their first-ever Sample Bill, a tool to compare their current monthly water service flat rate to a new metered rate that will take effect in November 2010. Sample Bills will be sent to more than 3,000 metered customers for the next six months to help with the transition to new billing rates.

“For many customers, there may be little difference in the cost between their flat rate and the yearly average of their metered rate,” said Doug Baxter, Principal Civil Engineer in the City’s Public Works Department. “By monitoring monthly water use, metered customers can have some control over their monthly water bills, even as water rates increase to pay for critical infrastructure improvements.”

The switch to metered rates is required under state law. In November 2009, the City adopted a new metered rate that is based on two components: 1) a monthly base charge, and 2) a water consumption charge (actual water use). Water use is measured on consumption in units, with each unit equaling 748 gallons of water. Customers who monitor their water use closely and use less water each month will pay less for water service than customers who use more.

According to Baxter, reducing excess water use and eliminating leaks can lead to savings on monthly bills once metered rates take effect. For that reason, customers with meters are encouraged to review their Sample Bill carefully. More than 50 percent of residential water is used for irrigation. Sprinkler systems should be checked for leaks and timers should be adjusted at least once per month. Fixing leaky faucets and toilets, taking shorter showers, and only running clothes washers and dish washers when they are full can also save water and money.

Customers who have questions about their Sample Bill should call the City’s Finance Department at (530) 661-5831. For more information about water conservation, please visit the City’s website [www.cityofwoodland.org/waterconservation](http://www.cityofwoodland.org/waterconservation), or call (530) 406-5117.

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