Article 160 Water Service - Rules and Regulations

Sec. 160.1 Purpose. The purpose of these rules and regulations is to set forth the terms and conditions under which the District will provide water service to customers. These rules and regulations have been designed to regulate the affairs of the District in such a way as to provide water service to the customers at the lowest possible cost and to provide for an equitable distribution of costs from those benefited. The Board shall have the right to interpret these rules and to rule on any point of contention which is not specifically covered herein.

Sec. 160.2 Water Service Applications.

(a) Meter Requirements

1. All water service provided by the District shall be supplied through a District installed water meter purchased by the Applicant/Owner in accordance with this Article.

2. A separate irrigation meter shall be required for all new commercial, industrial, and institutional developments.

3. A separate water meter shall be required for each unit of a newly constructed multiunit residential structure and each residential unit of a mixed-use residential and commercial structure. The General Manager, or his or her designee, may exempt the following types of structures from this requirement where the applicant demonstrates and submits evidence that compliance would result in undue hardship and excessive expense:

   i. Categories of structures exempt from submetering requirements under applicable law, including, but not limited to, the following:

      a) Low income housing,
      b) Housing at places of education,
      c) Long-term health care facilities,
      d) Time-share property, and
      e) Residential care facilities for the elderly.

   ii. Apartment buildings where the owner installs, maintains, reads, bills, and tests a submeter for each residential unit, in accordance with applicable laws, including, but not limited to, the California Plumbing Code and California Water Code.

   iii. Multiunit residential structures exempted from this requirement would be subject to the Water Serviceability Charge provisions of Section 160.10.

4. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) & Junior Accessory Dwelling Units (JADUs)

   i. ADUs and JADUs being added to a residential lot with an existing single-family structure may utilize the existing water service to the residential lot. However, the property owner shall be responsible for upsizing the water service if the property owner determines that the water service is not adequate for additional units.

   ii. ADUs and JAUs being constructed concurrently with a new single-family structure on a residential lot may be served from one water service adequately sized for the proposed improvements; however, a separate water meter would be required for both dwellings on the residential lot.

   iii. Fire service meters for the ADUs shall be subject to the provision of §160.23.

(b) At the time application for water service is submitted to the District, the applicant shall provide all of the following:

1. Total payment of all costs for and related to meter service connections (Ref. Sections 160.4, 160.12 and 160.20).
2. Proof of ownership of the parcel to be served (Grant Deed or Title Policy) when documents to be recorded by the District are required.
3. Proof of easement that may be utilized by the applicant if the applicant's property does not adjoin the District's right-of-way (grant deed, title policy). A notice indicating the meter is off site and may be relocated (per Section 160.8) will be shown on the application.
4. Service application shall be signed by owner/agent acknowledging conditions of service. If the Applicant is not the owner of record, the Applicant shall provide written consent to act on behalf of the property owner of the parcel subject to the requested water service action.
5. The application shall be considered submitted upon receipt of items 1 & 2 above.

(c) Water Service Applications Shall be Subject to the Following:

1. No application may be approved unless VCMWD facilities are existing or have been conditionally accepted for service.
2. If water pressure at the meter location is expected to be less than 25 psi, or greater than 175 psi, during normal operation, a notice of such pressure will be shown on the application.

Per Ordinance No. 2023-06 Adopted 6/19/23 [Sec. 160.2(a)4.]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-04 Adopted 06/05/23 [Sec. 160.2(b) & (c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-06 Adopted 04/16/18 [Sec. 160.2(b) & (c)]

3. If the District owns legal interest in an applicant's property, a notice will be shown on the application. The applicant will be referred to Underground Service Alert for mark out requests and provided with a copy of the District's Encroachment Permit Policy, Article 270.
4. No application can be approved and the new meter(s) processed for installation until the aforementioned documents have been provided, all requirements met, and the current meter fees and charges paid.
5. If the applicant has not completed all application requirements and obtained District approval within six-months of submitting the application, the application will be closed and returned to the applicant as not approved. The application can be re-submitted with payment of the current meter fees and charges, and signing a new application.

(d) Water Service Installations Shall be Subject to the Following:

1. No water meter may be installed prior to approval of the meter application.
2. Once the application has been approved by the District, the applicant will be provided with a meter stake and instructed to set the stake where the meter will be installed. The District shall have final approval of the meter location.
3. Once the application has been approved, a service order will be forwarded to the meter department and added to the meter installation schedule. Meters are installed on a first come, first served basis without loss of continuity to working schedules. If the meter stake is not set by the applicant, the meter installation will be rescheduled for a later date.
4. Meters can only be set in a District right-of-way. It is District policy to set meters within 40 feet of a service main as meter connection charges have been priced accordingly. Any additional costs incurred to install a service lateral in excess of 40 feet will be charged to the customer on a time and material basis. The District will have final approval of meter location.
5. Installations within heavily trafficked roadways may require third party traffic control. If required, additional charge will apply as specified in 160.4.
6. The installation of a water meter is appurtenant to a specific property. Meters may be relocated pursuant to Section 160.8.

Per Ordinance No. 2023-04 Adopted 06/05/23 [Sec. 160.2 (c) and (d)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 05/16/22 [Sec. 160.2 (c)2. and (d)]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-06 Adopted 04/16/18 [Sec. 160.2 (c) and (d)]

Sec. 160.3 Water Service Charges and Water Rates. The water service charges and rates for filtered and unfiltered water, pumping energy & surcharges and miscellaneous zone charges are as follows and may be changed from time to time as the Board determines.

(a) Monthly Service Charge. All permanent meter installations shall be subject to the Monthly Service Charge, irrespective of water use through the meter. The Monthly Service Charge is a fixed charge established on the basis of the size of the water meter serving the property. The revenue, by Board Policy § 50.2(f), is used to recover at least 60% of the Districts fixed local operating costs, which include, but are not limited to, the costs of operating and maintaining the water system, meter service support and maintenance, the collection of meter reads, billing and collections, customer service, and other related services.

1. Standard Meters:

Meter Size	3/4"	1"	1-1/2"	2"	3"
Monthly Service Charge for Water Availability	$57.06	$76.09	$114.13	$152.18	$228.27

Meter Size	4”	6”	8”
(*Cont’d*)	$304.36	$456.54	$608.72

2. Fire Protection Meters:

Meter Size	3/4"	1"	1-1/2"	2"	3"
Monthly Service Charge for Water Availability	$12.06	$16.31	$24.46	$32.62	$48.93

Meters larger than 3" will be limited to Master Meters serving multiple dwellings such as trailer parks, condominiums and apartments and will require the approval of the District Engineer. The monthly service charge will be based on the following:

A. The size of the meter times the 1" service charge shown above. Compound and fire flow meters will be treated as separate meters for service charges and water billing purposes.

B. Water through a fire flow meter will be charged in accordance with §160.23(d).

Per Ordinance No. 2025-11 Adopted 12/15/25 [Sec. 160.3 (a)1.(a)2.(b)2.]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-13 Adopted 12/16/24 [Sec. 160.3 (a)1.(a)2.]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-01 Adopted 01/02/24 [Sec. 160.3 (a)1.(a)2.]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-01 Adopted 01/03/23 [Sec. 160.3 (a)1.(a)2.]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-11 Adopted 08/01/22 [Sec. 160.3]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-01 Adopted 01/03/22 [Sec. 160.3(a)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-15 Adopted 11/16/20 [Sec. 160.3(a-1)(a-2)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-01 Adopted 01/06/20 [Sec. 160.3(a)(1)]
Per Ordinance No. 2014-03 Adopted 6/2/14 [Sec. 160.3(a)(2)(B)]
Per Ordinance No. 2003-01 Adopted 1/6/2003 [Sec. 160.3(a)(2)

Sec. 160.3 Water Service Charges and Water Rates (Cont'd.)

(b) Water Rates

Water Rates per 100 cubic feet:

Domestic/Commercial	$7.4873
Eligible San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Permanent Special Agricultural Water Rate (PSAWR)	$5.5348

Eligible PSAWR Agricultural/Domestic: First 22 hcf at Domestic/Commercial rate, all over 22 hcf at Certified Agricultural rate.

Construction Water: Potable at Domestic/Commercial rate.

Fire Service: It is the intent of the District to provide water for fire protection at no cost to the customers in the District. However, unauthorized water used through a fire service or fire hydrant will be billed at three (3) times the then domestic/commercial water commodity rate as set forth in this section of the District's Administrative Code. Repeated unauthorized use may result in prosecution by the District under §498 of the California Penal Code.

(c) San Diego County Water Authority Monthly Infrastructure Access Charge. In accordance with §15.3.5 of the SDCWA Act, the Authority will, annually, assess the VCMWD a fixed charge based on the number and size of the active meters within the District. The charge to the District will be based on the following table and the charge will be passed through and collected from active District customers using Authority water. The charge will be shown separately on the customer's water bill and identified as a pass through from the Authority.

Meter Size	Infrastructure Access Monthly Charge
3/4"	$4.55
1"	$7.28
1-1/2"	$13.65
2"	$23.66
3"	$43.68
4"	$74.62
6"	$136.50
8"	$236.60

Per Ordinance No. 2025-11 Adopted 12/15/25 [Sec. 160.3 (b)2]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-13 Adopted 12/16/24 [Sec. 160.3 (b&c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-01 Adopted 01/02/24 [Sec. 160.3 (b&c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-01 Adopted 01/03/23 [Sec. 160.3 (b&c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-11 Adopted 08/01/22 [Sec. 160.3 – REMOVED §160.3 (a-3.)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-01 Adopted 01/03/22 [Sec. 160.3(b&c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-17 Adopted 12/21/20 [Sec. 160.3(b&c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-15 Adopted 11/16/20 [Sec. 160.3(b & c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2017-10 Adopted 11/20/17 [Sec. 160.3(b)]

(d) Classification Definitions. For purposes of rate classifications, the following definitions shall apply:

1. Domestic/Commercial. The use of water for all purposes not qualifying under another classification herein. This is also known as Municipal and Industrial.

2. SDCWA PSAWR. PSAWR water use is defined in and qualified as eligible under provisions in Admin. Code Article 162 "San Diego County Water Authority Permanent Special Agricultural Water Rate Program," §162.7.

   Requires certification by owner or agent that water used on property meets definition stated herein.

3. Eligible PSAWR / Domestic Use. The use of water for the purpose stated in §162.7 with incidental domestic use. Requires certification as stated in §162.7.

4. Commercial Agricultural Full Price (CAFP). Commercial agriculture customers determined to be eligible by VCMWD that are not participating in the SDCWA PSAWR program and paying full price for water.

   Requires an eligibility determination by the District that water used on property meets definition stated in §162.7.

5. Construction Water. The use of potable water from District appurtenances as provided by §160.24 of this Code.

(e) Surcharge on Water Delivered Per Agreement. Those customers receiving water which results in direct additional cost to the District, such as those customers connected to the Yuima line, will be charged a sufficient surcharge on the water consumed to reimburse the District for all additional costs incurred.

Per Ordinance No. 2023-01 Adopted 01/03/23 [Sec. 160.3 (d)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-17 Adopted 12/21/20 [Sec. 160.3(d)2.- 4.]
Per Ordinance No. 2015-13 Adopted 07/06/15 [Sec. 160.3(d)(4)]
Per Ordinance No. 2007-02 Adopted 1/29/07 [Sec. 160.3(d)(1)]
Per Ordinance No. 215 Adopted 2/19/91 [Sec. 160.3(e)]

(f) Pump Zone Charges. All customers will be charged a pumping energy surcharge based on water consumed as follows:

Zone Number	Charges Per 100 Cubic Feet
0	$0.00000
1	$0.19485
2	$0.38961
3	$0.43223
4	$0.64550
5	$0.94677
6	$1.05611
7	$1.11999
8	$1.26938
9	$1.31478
10	$1.74142

The zone is determined by the District's main serving the meter as shown on the map entitled "Pump Zones" available at the District office. This map may be modified as new lines are constructed within the District.

(g) Pass Through of Wholesale Suppliers' Fees and Charges. All San Diego County Water Authority and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California fees and charges for wholesale water and water related services shall be passed through to District customers by action of the Board of Directors.

(h) Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Fixed Charge. The monthly MWD Fixed Charge is established on the basis of the size of the water meter serving the property. The revenue is used to recover the costs of both the Capacity Reservation & Readiness-to-Serve Charges from the MWD. The charge will be based on the following table and will be passed through and collected from District customers that have an active meter. The charge will be shown separately on the customer's water bill.

Meter Size	MWD Fixed Charge
3/4"	$7.50
1"	$10.00
1-1/2"	$15.00
2"	$20.00
3"	$30.00
4"	$40.00
6"	$60.00
8"	$80.00

Per Ordinance No. 2025-11 Adopted 12/15/25 [Sec. 160.3 (f)]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-13 Adopted 12/16/24 [Sec. 160.3 (f) + added Sec. 160.3 (h)]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-01 Adopted 01/02/24 [Sec. 160.3 (f)]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-01 Adopted 01/03/23 [Sec. 160.3 (f)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-01 Adopted 01/03/22 [Sec. 160.3(f)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-01 Adopted 01/06/20 [Sec. 160.3(f)]
Per Ordinance No. 98-03 Adopted 6/1/98 [Sec. 160.3(g)]

(i) San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Fixed Transportation Charge. The monthly SDCWA Fixed Charge is established on the basis of the size of the water meter serving the property. The revenue is used to recover the cost of the Transportation Charges from the SDCWA. The charge will be based on the following table and will be passed through and collected from District customers that have an active meter. The charge will be shown separately on the customer's water bill.

MWD Fixed Charge ($/Meter Size)	
3/4 inch	$4.75
1 inch	$6.34
1-1/2 inch	$9.51
2 inch	$12.68
3 inch	$19.02
4 inch	$25.36
6 inch	$38.04
8 inch	$50.72

(j) Water Capital Improvement Charge. The monthly Water Capital Improvement Charge is established on the basis of the size of the water meter serving the property. The revenue is used to fund the District's capital program. The charge will be based on the following table and will be passed through and collected from District customers that have an active meter. The charge will be shown separately on the customer's water bill.

Proposed Water Capital Improvement Charge ($/Meter Size)

Meter Size	Effective Jan. 1, 2026	Effective Jan. 1, 2028	Effective Jan. 1, 2030
3/4 inch	$5.00	$10.00	$15.00
1 inch	$6.67	$13.33	$20.00
1-1/2 inch	$10.00	$20.00	$30.00
2 inch	$13.34	$26.66	$40.00
3 inch	$20.00	$39.99	$60.00
4 inch	$26.67	$53.32	$80.00
6 inch	$40.00	$79.98	$120.00
8 inch	$53.35	$106.64	$160.00

Per Ordinance No. 2025-11 Adopted 12/15/25 [Sec. 160.3 (i) added]

Sec. 160.4 Connection of Service. The applicant shall be required to pay connection, equipment and capacity fees in full before a service connection will be made. These fees are refundable only if the water service commitment has not been used to obtain a building permit, if no connection to the District system has been made and if the District has not constructed or committed itself to construct facilities because of the application for which the fee was paid.

(a) Connection Charge. The connection charge shall be as follows:

	3/4"	1"	1-1/2"	2"	3"
Service Lateral Charge:	N/A	$8,102	$8,599	$9,574	$10,426

	3/4"	1"	1-1/2"	2"	3"
Drop-In Meter Charge:	$1,146	$902	$1,602	$1,795	$2,172

Applicant shall pay for installation of a service lateral if an adequately sized service lateral or meter manifold has not been previously constructed to provide service to the Applicant's property. Applicants purchasing multiple meters that could be installed at one location may request alternative pricing for a meter manifold installation to reduced lateral costs and minimize connections to the main. Manifold installation quotes would be subject to the Applicant completing and obtaining approval of the meter application within six months of submittal.

Traffic Control (when required): $2,000

	3/4"	1"
Drop-In Fire Service Meter:	$821	$743

Fire Sprinkler Tee Charge (1 inch Residential): $426

1-Inch Residential Fire Sprinkler Meter Tee:

1. 1-inch residential fire sprinkler tee charge is for modifying a 3/4-inch or 1-inch standard meter service to add a 1-inch residential Fire Service Meter. Installation of Fire Meters on larger service laterals would be charged on a time and material basis.
2. 3/4-inch Drop-In Fire Service Meter charge applies to installation of a 3/4-inch tattletale meter on commercial detector check assemblies.
3. 1-inch Drop-In Fire Service Meter charge applies only to 1-inch fire meter installations for residential sprinkler systems that are installed concurrently with the domestic service meters.
4. Service Valve. Upon installation of a water service, a valve will be located on the edge of the customer's property and is there only to assist in making initial connection and emergency shutoffs. The District will use it for turn-offs when necessary. It is required that a valve also be installed in the customer's system for control purposes.

Per Ordinance No. 2026-02 Adopted 04/06/2026/Effective 07/01/2026 [Sec. 160.4(a)]
Per Ordinance No. 2025-03 Adopted 05/19/2025/Effective 07/01/025 [Sec. 160.4(a)]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-04 Adopted 04/01/24/Effective 07/01/24 [Sec. 160.4(a)]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-06 Adopted 06/19/23 [Sec. 160.4(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 05/16/22 [Sec. 160.4(a)]
Per Ordinance No. 2021-02 Adopted 04/19/21 [Sec. 160.4(a)] • Per Ordinance No. 2020-08 Adopted 07/06/20 [Sec. 160.4(a)]

5. Meter Size Limitations. An application for a meter(s), 1-1/2" & larger, will not be approved until after hydraulic evaluation by the District Engineer demonstrates adequate capacity is available at the proposed point(s) of service.

(b) Equipment Charge. The applicant shall be required to pay for any additional equipment that may be needed for the applicant's water service in accordance with the following sections of this Code:

1. Orifice plates (Sec. 160.11)
2. Backflow Prevention Devices (Sec. 160.12)
3. Cla-Valve (Sec. 160.19)
4. Pressure Reducing Valves (Sec. 160.20)

(c) Valley Center Municipal Water District (VCMWD) Meter Capacity Charge. In addition to any other charge provided herein, the applicant requesting new service for any parcel shall be required to pay a VCMWD meter capacity charge for capital improvements to the District's water system as follows:

3/4"(30 GPM)	1"(50 GPM)	1-1/2"(100 GPM)	2"(160 GPM)	3"(350 GPM)
$6,943	$11,572	$23,143	$37,029	$81,002

Plus any Special Benefit Area charges approved by the Board of Directors. The Engineering Department shall maintain a map and list of all approved charges.

The following are exceptions to this Sec. 160.4:

1. VCMWD Meter capacity charges for meters increased or reduced in size shall be in accordance with Section 160.7 hereof.

2. No VCMWD meter capacity charge shall be made for relocating meters of equal size whether or not any VCMWD meter capacity charge was in effect when original meter was obtained.

3. No VCMWD meter capacity charge shall be imposed for a water meter obtained and used solely for fire protection purposes.

Per Ordinance No. 2026-11 Adopted 08/03/26, Effective 09/04/26 [Sec. 160.4(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2025-06 Adopted 07/07/25, Effective 08/06/25 [Sec. 160.4(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-06 Adopted 6/19/23 [Sec. 160.4(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-04 Adopted 06/05/2023 [Sec. 160.4(a)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 05/16/2022 [Sec. 160.4(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-02 Adopted 02/07/2022, Effective 03/14/2022 [Sec. 160.4(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-16 Adopted 12/21/20 [Sec. 160.4(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-04 Adopted 4/16/18 [Sec. 160.4(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 99-06 Adopted 10/4/99 [Sec. 160.4(b)]

4. The imposition of the VCMWD meter capacity charge upon any public school or any state agency (as defined in Government Code Section 54999.1(9)) shall be subject to the provisions of Section 54999.3(b) of the Government Code. Payment by any public school or state agency of the applicable VCMWD meter capacity charge shall be deemed agreement with the District regarding the charge. If any public school or state agency refuses to pay the applicable VCMWD meter capacity charge, the public school or state agency and the District shall enter into negotiations regarding the charge. No VCMWD water meter shall be supplied to the public school or state agency until agreement has been reached regarding the VCMWD meter capacity charge and the agreed upon VCMWD meter capacity charge has been paid.

5. VCMWD meter capacity charges may be waived by the Board of Directors for meters installed in designated developments and subdivisions that pay for comparable offsite improvements of the District.

6. Capacity credits obtained from the downsizing of an existing meter, pursuant to Sec. 160.7 herein, and transferred to the applicant's parcel shall be applied to the purchase of new VCMWD meter capacity. Any capacity credits not used in the purchase of new capacity will be forfeited.

7. For a public agency requesting water meter(s), the VCMWD meter capacity charge can be reduced by the percentage of the VCMWD area that is being served by that public agency, if that public agency does not charge VCMWD fees in its normal course of business. Exemption/reduction would not be applicable to fees associated with special financing districts.

(d) San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Meter Capacity Charge. As required by Section 5.9 of the County Water Authority Act, the District, as a member agency of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), shall collect and remit to SDCWA the SDCWA meter capacity charge.

The ordinance of the SDCWA in effect at the time that a water meter is purchased from the District shall govern the amount of the SDCWA meter capacity charge to be collected, the persons liable therefore, and the procedures to be followed. The District shall not provide a water meter to a water user until the water user has paid to the District the applicable SDCWA meter capacity charge.

(e) VCMWD Meter Capacity Credits. When an existing meter is downsized in accordance with Section 160.7 hereof, and a credit balance remains, a VCMWD Meter Capacity Credit, in the form of an agreement between the District and property owner, may be issued for the amount of capacity represented by the credit balance as follows:

1. Each parcel, including each subdivided lot thereof, originally served by the downsized meter must have a meter.

2. The property owner shall designate, as part of the downsizing transaction, the parcel to which the capacity is to be transferred.

3. The capacity credits may not remain on the parcel, or any subdivided lot thereof, originally served by the downsized meter.

4. Capacity credits not transferred as part of the downsizing transaction will be forfeited.

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5. The parcel(s) to which the capacity credits are transferred must have identical vesting as the parcel served by the downsized meter, with the following exception:

   The applicant shall have and demonstrate ownership interest in the parcels to which the Capacity Credit is to be transferred.

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6. The capacity credit shall be calculated as a ratio of the credit balance to the VCMWD meter capacity charge of a 3/4” meter.

Per Ordinance No. 2026-11 Adopted 8/3/2026 [Sec. 160.4(e)(6)] Effective 09/04/2026
Per Ordinance No. 2018-04 Adopted 4/16/18 [Sec. 160.4(e)(6)]
Per Ordinance No. 2014-03 Adopted 6/2/14 [Sec. 160.4(e)(5)]
Per Ordinance No. 99-06 Adopted 10/4/99 [Sec. 160.4(e)]

e) VCMWD Meter Capacity Credits (Cont'd).

7. The capacity credit may not be sold, or exchanged for cash and may only be used for the purchase of new VCMWD meter capacity by the then current owner of the parcel to which the credit is transferred, in accordance with Sec. 160.4(e)(2).

8. The capacity credit expires ten (10) years from the date of issuance.

9. The capacity credit remains with the parcel to which it is transferred, regardless of subsequent ownership, and may not be re-transferred to another parcel.

10. If the parcel to which the capacity credit is transferred is later subdivided, the owner shall designate the amount of capacity credit allocated to each subdivided lot. If not allocated by the owner, the District shall apply the credit to the first meter(s) purchased to serve any of the subdivided lots.

11. When used to purchase new meter capacity, the amount of the capacity credit would be multiplied by the 3/4" VCMWD meter capacity charge in place at that time. The capacity credit may be applied only to the VCMWD meter capacity charge and to no other charges.

Per Ordinance No. 2025-06 Adopted 07/07/25, Effective 08/06/25 [Sec. 160.4(e)6.]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-06 Adopted 6/19/23 [Sec. 160.4(e)6.]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-02 Adopted 02/07/2022, Effective 03/14/2022 [Sec. 160.4 (e-6.)(e-11.)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-16 Adopted 12/21/20 [Sec. 160.4(e)6.]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-04 Adopted 4/16/18 [Sec. 160.4(e)(6)]
Per Ordinance No. 2014-03 Adopted 6/2/14 [Sec. 160.4(e)(9)]
Per Ordinance No. 99-06 Adopted 10/4/99 [Sec. 160.4(e)]
Per Ordinance No. 2026-11 Adopted 8/3/2026 [Sec. 160.4 (e-11.)] Effective 09/04/2026
Per Ordinance No. 2025-06 Adopted 07/07/25, Effective 08/06/25 [Sec. 160.4(3)11.]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-06 Adopted 6/19/23 [Sec. 160.4(e)11.]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-02 Adopted 02/07/2022, Effective 03/14/2022 [Sec. 160.4 (e-11.)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-16 Adopted 12/21/20 [Sec. 160.4(e)(11)]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-04 Adopted 4/16/18 [Sec. 160.4(e)(11)

Sec.160.5 Billing; Delinquency; Meter Flow Reduction or Termination of Service for Non-payment

(a) Billing and Payment Delinquency

1. District bills for water and wastewater service are issued monthly in two billing cycles, one near the first and the second near the fifteenth of each month to cover the usage and service in the preceding month period.

2. Unpaid bills are considered delinquent 20 days after the date of issuance, are subject to a Delinquency Charge(s) as set forth in Section 160.5(b) and account holders will be so notified by mail in writing of delinquency.

(b) Delinquency Penalty Charges

1. District bills left unpaid 20 days after the date of issue are delinquent and shall incur a 10% Delinquency Penalty Charge.

2. After 30 days of delinquency, accounts shall bear a delinquency interest at a rate of 1-1/2% per month, compounded monthly. For residential customers who demonstrate a household income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, the District will waive interest charges once every 12 months. The District will apply the waiver to any interest charges that are unpaid at the time of the customer's request and demonstration of eligibility. To demonstrate eligibility, the customer must either declare under penalty of perjury that their household's annual income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or provide current documentation that a member of the household is a recipient of CalWORKs, CalFresh, general assistance, Medi-Cal, Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment Program, or California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

(c) Meter Flow Reduction – Residential and Combination Agricultural – Domestic Accounts

1. Bills left unpaid for 40 days after the day of issuance for the billing period are subject to a Meter Flow Reduction, restricting full meter flow while maintaining flow sufficient to meet minimum health and safety needs and requirements.

2. Accounts shall remain subject to flow restriction until all outstanding charges on the account are paid in full, including a Meter Flow Restoration Charge of $100.00 or until a repayment plan requested by the account holder and approved by the District is established with the account holder.

Sec.160.5 Billing; Delinquency; Meter Flow Reduction or Termination of Service for Non-payment (Cont'd)

(c) Meter Flow Reduction – Residential and Combination Agricultural – Domestic Accounts (Cont'd)

3. After payment of all outstanding charges or establishment of repayment plan, unrestricted meter flow will be restored during regular working hours as soon as is operationally possible, but always within three (3) working days of payment or establishment of a repayment plan with the District. Unrestricted Meter Flow will not be re-established on Saturdays, Sundays or on holidays observed by the District.

4. Residential and Combination Agricultural–Domestic Accounts are not subject to termination of water service by meter lock-off for non-payment of District bills.

(d) Termination of Water Service by Meter Lock-off – Agricultural and Commercial Accounts

1. Bills left unpaid for 40 days after the day of issuance for the billing period are subject to termination of water service by meter lock-off.

2. Water service shall remain subject to termination by meter lock-off until all outstanding charges on the account are paid in full, including a Water Service Restoration Charge of $100.00 or until a repayment plan requested by the account holder and approved by the District is established with the account holder.

3. Such accounts will continue to be charged the Monthly Service Charge while locked off.

4. After payment of all outstanding charges or establishment of repayment plan, the meter will be unlocked and water service will be restored during regular working hours as soon as is operationally possible, but always within three (3) working days of payment or establishment of a repayment plan with the District. Meters will not be unlocked to restore water service on Saturdays, Sundays or on holidays observed by the District.

Per Ordinance No. 2022-01 Adopted 01/03/22 [Sec. 160.5(d)3.]
Per Ordinance No. 2019-15 Adopted 12/16/19 [Sec. 160.5]

Sec.160.5 Billing; Delinquency; Meter Flow Reduction or Termination of Service for Non-payment (Cont'd)

(e) Repayment Plan

1. Account holders may establish a repayment plan with the District to resolve outstanding charges from the billing period resulting in the notice of, or actual Meter Flow Reduction or Termination of Water Service by Meter Lock-off. A repayment plan may include a deferred payment or amortization of the outstanding charges.

2. Full repayment of all outstanding charges shall be made over a period not to exceed 90 days.

3. During the repayment period, outstanding account balances shall be subject to application of the Delinquency Interest rate as set forth in Section 160.5(b)2.

4. Each account holder shall be limited to two repayment plans in each calendar year with a minimum of 90-day intervals between the initiation of repayment plans.

5. Failure of the account holder to meet the conditions of repayment plan, as well as keep current charges from all subsequent billing periods during the term of the repayment plan, shall result in initiation of, or resumption of, the Meter Flow Reduction by physical restriction or Termination of Water Service by Lock-off. Meter Flow Reduction or Termination will continue until all outstanding past due and current charges are paid in full and the account will again be subject to an applicable Meter Flow Restoration Charge as set forth in Section 160.5 (c)2, or Water Service Restoration Charge set forth in Section 160.5(d)2.

(f) Responsibility for Unpaid Charges

1. Any unpaid charges are the responsibility of the person in whose name the meter service is held, unless the service account is in the name of a renter or lessee, then the ultimate responsibility for the outstanding charges is that of the legal owner of the property as shown on the County Assessor's tax rolls.

Sec.160.5 Billing; Delinquency; Meter flow Reduction or Termination of Service for Non-payment (Cont'd)

(f) Responsibility for Unpaid Charges (Cont'd)

2. If any outstanding charges remain unpaid for 90 days after Meter Flow Reduction, Termination of Water Service by Lock-off, or the account holder fails to meet the terms of the repayment plan, the District will proceed to collect the amount due from the person or persons it deems responsible for the outstanding balance on the account(s).

3. When an account holder has more than one account, any outstanding amount owing against any one of the account holders existing accounts will be automatically applied to the remaining account(s). In doing so, all meter services will be considered delinquent and shall be subject to Meter Flow Reduction (Residential and Combination Agricultural-Domestic) or Termination by lock-off (Agricultural and Commercial) depending on the account classification and until such time as the entire outstanding amounts are paid.

4. The District will take any and all legal measures at its disposal to collect outstanding charges, up to and including placing a lien on the property or adding the delinquent amount to the property tax rolls in accordance with California Water Code Sections 72100 and 72102.

(g) Contact Information. Account holders may contact the District at (760) 735-4500 for questions or assistance regarding billing or to request a payment plan.

(h) Damages for Wrongful Act. Any person who commits any of the following acts shall be charged as damages three (3) times the amount of the actual loss, or an estimate thereof, suffered by the District with a minimum of $100.00. Subject to the right of appeal as provided by Administrative Code Section 160.6, the decision of the District shall be final. Such person may also be prosecuted under Penal Code Section 498.

1. Divert, or cause to be diverted, District water without authorization or consent of the District.

2. Make, or cause to be made, any connection or reconnection with property owned or used by the District to provide water service without authorization or consent of the District.

Sec.160.5 Billing; Delinquency; Meter flow Reduction or Termination of Service for Non-payment (Cont'd)

(h) Damages for Wrongful Act (Cont'd)

3. Prevent any water meter from accurately performing its measuring functions by tampering or by any other means.

4. Tamper with any property owned or used by the District to provide water service.

5. Use or receive direct benefit from the District's water system with knowledge of, or reason to believe that, the diversion, tampering or unauthorized connection existed at the time of the use, or that the use or receipt was without authorization or consent of the District.

There is a presumption that there is a violation of Section 160.5(h) if, on premises controlled by the customer or by the person using or receiving the direct benefit of District service, there is either, or both, of the following:

6. Any instrument, apparatus or device primarily designed to be used to obtain District service without paying the full lawful charge therefor.

7. Any meter that has been altered, tampered with, or bypassed so as to cause no measurement or inaccurate measurement of District services received.

(i) Protection from Damage. No person shall maliciously, willfully or negligently break, damage, destroy, uncover, deface or tamper with any structure, appurtenance, or equipment which is part of the water works. The District will collect the cost of damages from the responsible party, including adding the damages to the customer's water bill.

Per Ordinance No. 2019-15 Adopted 12/16/19 [Sec. 160.5(h)&(i)]
Per Ordinance No. 2012-04 Adopted 5/21/12 [Sec. 160.5(e)&(f)]

Sec. 160.6 Appeal Procedures for Contesting Water Charges.

(a) Within five (5) days of receipt of a water bill, the customer has the right to initiate a complaint or request an investigation concerning services or charges as shown on the bill.

(b) Upon receipt of a written request for review, a hearing date shall be set before the District Review Manager. After evaluation of the evidence provided by the customer and the information on file with the District concerning the water charges in question, the Review Manager shall render a decision as to the accuracy of the water charges, and shall render a brief written summary of the decision.

1. If water charges are determined to be incorrect, a corrected invoice will be provided and the revised charges are due within ten (10) days after the date of invoice for revised charges. If payment is not received within the prescribed period of time, water service will be terminated, subject to the right of appeal to the Board of Directors, on the working day following the period allowed for payment. Water service will be restored only after outstanding water charges and any and all applicable re-connection charges and deposits are paid in full.

2. If the water charges in question are determined to be correct, the water charges are due at the time the decision of the Review Manager is rendered.

3. If the decision of the Review Manager is not to the satisfaction of the consumer, the customer may, within seven (7) days of the decision, request a hearing before the District Board of Directors at the next regular meeting.

Per Ordinance No. 194 Adopted 12/18/89 [Sec. 160.6]

Sec. 160.6 Appeal Procedures for Contesting Water Charges (Cont'd.)

(c) When a hearing before the Board of Directors is requested, the customer shall, in writing or by personal appearance, present evidence and reasons as to why the water charges in question are not accurate. The Board shall evaluate evidence presented by the consumer, as well as information on file with the District concerning the water charges in question, and render a decision as to the accuracy of said charges.

1. If the Board finds the water charges in question are incorrect, the customer will be re-invoiced for corrected charges and payment of the revised invoice is due within ten (10) days from the date of said invoice. If the revised charges remain unpaid after the prescribed period of time, water service will be terminated on the working day following the period allowed for payment. Service will be restored only after outstanding water charges and any and all applicable reconnection charges and deposits are paid in full.

2. If the Board finds that the water charges in question are correct, the customer will then pay the amount owing. If after the decision of the Board the charges remain unpaid, the water service in question will be disconnected on the next working day. Water service will be restored only after outstanding water charges and any and all applicable reconnection charges and deposits are paid in full.

(d) Recognition of and Allowance for Unusual Circumstances. Situations may occur which are beyond the ability of the customer to control. Because of this, it is necessary for the District to provide for flexibility in the administration of the rules and regulations governing the billing and collection of water consumed by District customers. The General Manager, or his authorized designee, is hereby authorized reasonable latitude in the implementation and administration of Article 160 within the following general guidelines:

1. Delinquent interest may be waived the first time incurred to recognize the customer's lack of knowledge of District policies.

2. Delinquent interest may by waived up to three months to allow time for a customer to pay a water bill in excess of three times the customer's normal bill.

3. The District's markup may be waived for a billing that is three times the normal bill and is clearly the result of a leak or a circumstance beyond the customer's control.

Per Ordinance No. 2000-09 Adopted 6/19/2000 [Sec. 160.6(d)]
Per Ordinance No. 194 Adopted 12/18/89 [Sec. 160.6]

Sec. 160.6 Appeal Procedures for Contesting Water Charges (Cont'd.)

(d) Recognition of and Allowance for Unusual Circumstances (Cont'd.).

4. Estimated bills for a meter that malfunctions for any reason may be computed in accordance with Article 160.5 (b).

5. Customers experiencing leaks in excess of 10 times normal consumption may have the consumption reduced to a maximum of 10 times normal consumption.

Sec. 160.7 Meter Service Exchange

(a) Increasing Meter Size. Customers desiring to increase the size of his/her existing meter to a larger meter size shall comply with the following:

1. All meters increased in size must conform to current District policies; i.e., backflow, additional costs, etc.

2. Size of lateral from the main may not be smaller than the meter size, unless approved by the District Engineer. If required, replacement and upsize of the lateral shall be completed with the new meter installation.

3. The larger size meter shall be in accordance with Sec. 160.4(a)(5), Meter Size Limitations.

4. The charges for the new meter shall be adjusted as follows:

A. The applicant shall pay a connection charge, in accordance with Sec. 160.4(a) hereof, for the larger meter.

B. The applicant shall pay equipment charges, in accordance with Sec. 160.4(b) hereof, for the larger meter. The equipment being replaced may include the meter, double check valve, reduced pressure backflow device and a pressure reducing valve.

C. The applicant shall pay meter capacity charges for the larger meter. The meter capacity charges for the larger meter shall be the difference between the capacity charge determined pursuant to Sec. 160.4(c)&(d) hereof for the new meter and the capacity charge determined pursuant to Sec. 160.4(c)&(d) for the existing meter, whether or not any capacity charges were paid when the existing meter was originally obtained.

Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 05/16/2022 [Sec. 160.7(a)]
Per Ordinance No. 2005-13 Adopted 12/19/05 [Sec. 160.7(a)(1)]
Per Ordinance No. 99-06 Adopted 10/4/99 [Sec. 160.7(a)]

Sec. 160.7 Meter Service Exchange

(b) Reducing Meter Size. Customers desiring to replace an existing meter with one or more meters of a smaller size shall comply with the following:

1. All meters reduced in size must conform to current District policies; i.e., backflow, additional costs, etc.

2. The smaller meter(s) must serve the property or any portion of the property the original meter was installed to serve.

3. The purchase of the smaller meter(s) must be conducted as part of a single transaction at the time the larger meter is downsized.

4. The charges for the new meter shall be adjusted as follows:

   A. The applicant shall pay a connection charge in accordance with Sec. 160.4(a) hereof for each of the smaller meters.

   B. The applicant shall pay equipment charges in accordance with Sec. 160.4(b) hereof for each of the smaller meters. The equipment charges for one meter shall be reduced by the core value of the equipment being replaced. The equipment being replaced may include the meter, double check valve, reduced pressure backflow device, and a pressure reducing valve. The core value shall be as periodically determined by the General Manager.

   C. The applicant shall pay a VCMWD meter capacity charge pursuant to Sec. 160.4(c) hereof for each of the smaller meters less the capacity charge determined, pursuant to Sec. 160.4(c) hereof, for the existing meter, whether or not any capacity charges were paid when the existing meter was originally obtained. If a credit balance is remaining, a capacity credit may be issued pursuant to Sec. 160.4(e).

   D. The applicant shall pay a SDCWA capacity charge pursuant to Sec. 160.4(d) hereof for each of the smaller meters less the capacity charge determined, pursuant to Sec. 160.4(d) hereof, for the existing meter, whether or not any capacity charges were paid when the existing meter was originally obtained. No credit or refund shall be made for any unused credit balance.

Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 5/16/2022 [Sec. 160.7(b)]
Per Ordinance No. 2007-10 Adopted 7/16/2007 [Sec. 160.7(a)(3)]
Per Ordinance No. 2005-13 Adopted 12/19/05 [Sec. 160.7(b)(1)]
Per Ordinance No. 99-06 Adopted 10/4/99 [Sec. 160.7(a)(b)]

Sec. 160.8 Meter Relocation. The installation of a water meter is appurtenant to a specific property. Any relocation of an existing meter is limited to a location to serve the property or any portion of the property the original meter was installed to serve or a property of the same ownership. Unless otherwise approved, the property owner shall be responsible for disconnecting the service lateral at the main for the meter that is relocated.

(a) Customer Request. If the same size meter is only to be relocated, and if a service lateral is available for that parcel, the property owner shall pay the current Meter Relocation Charge of $535. If a service lateral is to be installed by the District, the cost is the same as the current Service Lateral Charge. (Refer to Administrative Code Section 160.4(a)).

The relocated meter installation must conform to current District policies and standards regarding the status of the backflow. The property owner may be subject to additional costs to upgrade backflow device to current standards.

Unless otherwise approved, the service lateral from which the meter is being relocated shall be disconnected from the water main at the customer's expense on a time and materials basis.

(b) VCMWD or Developer Requirement. Parallel private water lines within public facility easements and rights-of-way are not allowed. If need for new public facilities create this situation, responsibility for resolution is as follows:

If the meter must be relocated because of a VCMWD initiated and funded project, VCMWD will bear the cost of relocating the meter and backflow device, including upgrading the backflow device to current standards, if needed, and reconnecting the private water service lines. VCMWD will coordinate the meter relocation and reconnection with the property owner.

If a property owner's meter must be relocated as a requirement of offsite development, the proponent of the development activity shall be responsible for the relocation of the meter and backflow device, including upgrading the backflow device to current standards, and reconnecting the private water service lines, all at no cost to the property owner. The project proponent shall coordinate with the property owner and demonstrate proof of their cooperation and acceptance of the competed relocation as a condition of final acceptance of the facility.

Per Ordinance No. 2024-04 Adopted 04/01/24/Effective 07/01/24 [Sec. 160.8(a)]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-04 Adopted 06/05/23 [Sec. 160.8(a) & (b)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 05/16/22 [Sec. 160.8(a) & (b)]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-06 Adopted 04/16/18 [Sec. 160.8]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-05 Adopted 04/16/18 [Sec. 160.8(a)]
Per Ordinance No. 2005-12 Adopted 11/07/05 [Sec. 160.8(b) & (c)]

Sec. 160.8 Meter Relocation (Cont'd)

(c) Change in Meter Size. If the property owner requests a change in meter size concurrently with the change in location, a downsize will be accomplished at no cost to the property owner. An increase in the meter size will require payment of additional capacity and installation costs by the property owner, as required by applicable sections of the Administrative Code.

Sec. 160.9 One Ownership Per Meter Service. As recommended by the California Department of Public Health, only one ownership can be served per meter service, with the exception of condominium or townhouse developments constructed prior to January 1, 2018 where the homeowners' association is empowered to contract for utilities. Any violation of this section will be allowed 15 days to correct the violation before service is stopped. Multiunit residential structures constructed after January 1, 2018 shall be individually metered in accordance with Section 160.2(a).

Sec. 160.10 Water Serviceability Charge to Mobile Home Parks, Apartments and Other Multiple Units. A water serviceability charge in the amount of $1.00 per unit per month will be charged for all mobile home parks, motels, apartments and other residences classified as additional living units. This unit charge will not be applicable until six months after the opening of the units or when 50 percent occupancy is reached, whichever comes first.

Transient recreational vehicles parked within campgrounds will not be assessed a water serviceability charge. However, any mobile vehicle that maintains a temporary or permanent residency within a campground will be charged the serviceability charge.

Sec. 160.11 Excessive Flow Through Meter Services. When flows exceed the manufacturer's suggested maximums through customer's meters, inaccurate readings and meter breakage may occur. To reduce this flow, orifice plates may be inserted when and where needed. Orifice plates required to reduce customer's water demand below the maximum allowed for the meter installation shall be billed on a time and material basis and collected on the customer's water bill.

Per Ordinance No. 2019-03 Adopted 06/17/19 [Sec. 160.11]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-06 Adopted 04/16/18 [Sec. 160.9]

Sec. 160.12 Backflow Prevention Devices. The State Health Department requires the District to comply with Title 17 of the California Administrative Code to have a Backflow Prevention Program. The District, since 1978, has had an active on-going cross connection control program through field inspections, file audits and a questionnaire filled out when service is initiated or transferred. Approved backflow devices will be installed adjacent to all new meter services by the District. Existing services that do not have the approved backflow device will receive notification from the District requiring them to purchase and install the proper device. The backflow device will be available for purchase at the District office, but it will be the responsibility of the property owner to install the device.

Should an existing customer's use of the meter service connection be changed in such a way as to require installation of a Reduced Pressure Device or an Approved Double Check Device in order to meet the requirements of this section, it is the customer's responsibility to notify the District immediately. Purchase of the required device or parts can be made through the District, but the responsibility of installation is that of the customer. If the changes are not made within 30 days after proper notification, service may be interrupted.

The following approved backflow devices are required under the following conditions:

(a) Approved Double Check Valves. (The District's recognized approved list of devices is available at the District's office.)

1. On all services not requiring an approved Reduced Pressure Device.

2. On all service having a fire protection system. The Double Check Valves required in this section must be installed above ground with the same clearance required for the installation of the Approved Reduced Pressure Backflow Device. These devices shall be tested on an annual basis at the owner's expense.

(b) Approved Reduced Pressure Backflow Device. (The District's recognized approved list of devices is available at the District's office.)

1. Anywhere that fertilizer, livestock, medication or a vaccine, etc. is or may be introduced into the water system.

2. Anywhere a mortuary or commercial laundry facility is operated.

Per Ordinance No. 2018-02 Adopted 2/20/18 [Sec. 160.12(a)&(b)]
Per Ordinance No. 2004-12 Adopted 7/6/04 [Sec. 160.12]
Per Ordinance No. 2004-12 Adopted 7/6/04 [Sec. 160.12(b)(2&3)]

Sec. 160.12 Backflow Prevention Devices (Cont'd)

3. Any chemical processing plants, dairies, dental office, medical office, hospital/medical clinic, parks or campgrounds with dumps for recreational vehicles, nurseries, flower growers, green belt irrigation area, home health care, assisted living facility, strip mall, commercial/industrial building and veterinarian offices, and any property with an auxiliary water system or private well.

4. Anywhere that toxic concentrations of dangerous materials, insecticides, weed killing, etc. are being introduced into the system.

5. Anywhere reclaimed water is used.

(c) Approved Air-Gap Separation. *(This device is not obtainable at the District's office.)*

1. Anywhere a sewage treatment plant is operated unless a reduced pressure backflow device is approved by the District.

(d) Fee Schedule. At the time of installation, inspection and testing by District personnel will be required. All devices will be inspected annually and repaired as necessary by the District and charged to the customer accordingly. The charges for installation, annual inspection and repairs are as follows:

FEE SCHEDULE

Meter Size	Approved Double Check Valve Section 160.12(a)1	Approved Double Check Valve Section 160.12(a)(2)	Approved Reduced Pressure Backflow Preventer §160.12(b)	Approved RP With Domestic Service Tee Section 160.12(b)	Annual Inspection Charge – Backflow for Water Meter	Annual Inspection Charge – Backflow for Fire Meter	Repair Fees
¾"	$470	$642	$1,017	$1,312	$51	$34	$0
1"	$527	$758	$1,163	$1,473	$51	$34	$0
1.5"	$985	$1,386	$1,829	$2,163	$51	$34	$0
2"	$1,076	$1,692	$2,191	$2,553	$51	$34	$0
3"	$1,229	$3,229	$5,109	$5,669	$51	$34	$0

Per Ordinance No. 2026-02 Adopted 04/06/2026/Effective 07/01/2026[Sec. 160.12(d)]
Per Ordinance No. 2025-03 Adopted 05/19/25/Effective 07/01/25 [Sec. 160.12(d)]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-04 Adopted 04/01/24/Effective 07/01/24 [Sec. 160.12(d)]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-04 Adopted 6/5/2023 [Sec. 160.12(d)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-06 Adopted 05/16/2022 [Sec. 160.12(d)]
Per Ordinance No. 2021-04 Adopted 05/03/2021 [Sec. 160.12(d)]
Per Ordinance No. 2021-02 Adopted 04/19/2021 [Sec. 160.12(d)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-08 Adopted 7/6/20 [Sec. 160.12(d)]
Per Ordinance No. 98-01 Adopted 2/2/98 [Sec. 160.12(c)(1)

Sec. 160.13 Detector Check Valve Assembly. Detector check valve assemblies shall be installed by the applicant, at the applicant's sole expense, in accordance with Article 180, Special Project Requirements, and the following:

(a) Application. Each applicant for a detector check valve assembly shall sign an application showing the location of the assemblies and the property for which it is to serve. The applicant will also submit a set of plans showing a proposed location of the assembly, the valving and the required fittings and vaults. The plans shall be approved by the District before ordering of material or installation of the facility.

(b) Installation. Installation of the assembly shall be by and at the expense of the property owner. Installation of the facility to the detector check meter shall be inspected by the District, and the District shall be notified as outlined in other areas under inspection.

(c) Charges. It is the intent of the District to provide water for fire protection at no cost to the customers in the District. However, a detector check meter shall be installed for the purpose of detecting any usage of water other than for fire protection. For the installation of the detector check meter, the applicant shall pay a fee the same as that for the installation of a standard ¾" meter.

Sec. 160.14 Meters Placed on Leased Land. When meters are placed on leased land, the purchaser of the meter service must either agree to leave the meter with the property when the lease expires or must post a reasonable bond as determined by the General Manager to assure payment of the water used. The owner of the property must give written approval of either method and the District, or the General Manager, is not liable if the bond posted is not sufficient to cover the actual bills. If the meter purchaser posts a bond and then requests the meter service to be moved at any later date, he must pay the full relocation cost as shown in Section 160.8.

Sec. 160.15 Responsibility for Unpaid Bill. An unpaid bill is the responsibility of the person in whose name the meter service is held. In the event the service is in the name of a renter or lessee, the ultimate responsibility for the bill is the legal owner of the property as shown on the County Assessor's tax rolls. Change of ownerships is covered under Article 160.17 of this Code.

Sec. 160.16 Collection of Delinquent Accounts.

(a) If a bill remains unpaid, the District will attempt to collect the amount due from the person or persons responsible as shown in the District's records. If the bill remains delinquent for a period of over three (3) months from billing date it will be written off as a bad debt allowance and appropriate measures to make collection will be made. Measures may include placing a lien on the property or adding the delinquent amount to the property tax rolls in accordance with California Water Code Sections 72100 and 72102.

(b) When a customer has more than one meter service, any outstanding amounts owing against any one of the customer's existing accounts will be automatically applied to the remaining account(s). In doing so, all meter services will be considered delinquent and shall be shut off until such time as the entire outstanding amount is paid.

Sec. 160.17 Posting of Security Deposit.

(a) Fixing Amount of Deposit. To insure reasonable collections, any customer desiring service from the District, who has had a service discontinued for nonpayment of a bill, or other justifiable cause, may be required to post a security deposit equal to the highest two (2) months bills during the last twelve (12) months with a minimum of $100.00 before service is restored. The deposit is in addition to the payment of all charges due and any applicable turn-on charges.

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(b) Refund. The security deposit will be returned to the depositor two (2) years after the last lock off for nonpayment or when the account is paid in full at termination of service whichever occurs first.

(c) Form of Deposit. The deposit can be by cash, certificate of deposit, letter of credit or bond or any other comparable guarantee subject to the approval of the District's Finance Director.

Per Ordinance No. 2012-04 Adopted 5/21/12 [Sec. 160.16(a)]
Per Ordinance No. 2012-04 Adopted 5/21/12 [Sec. 160.16(c) removed]
Per Ordinance No. 2000-09 Adopted 6/19/2000 [Sec. 160.17(a)]

Sec. 160.18 Transfer of Meter Service and New Ownerships. A water meter as provided by the District is a service and the actual ownership of the meter remains with the District. Transfer of service to a new tenant or owner shall be in accordance with the following:

(a) When a new owner acquires property upon which a meter is already existing, service from said meter will be provided after transfer of the account has been completed.

If an application for service is not signed by the applicant and received by the District within 30 days of the request for transfer, service may be terminated until the signed application is received and the meter service turn-on charge provided in Section 160.5(e) will apply.

When a renter or lessee requests service, the District will require a signed authorization from the owner of the subject property. In addition, the owner will receive a memo bill monthly. If this authorization is not received within 60 days of the request, the account may be flagged that no future renters will be allowed to establish service on that property and future service will be in the name of the property owner only.

(b) If an account has a credit balance in excess of $10.00 at the time a new owner assumes an existing account, the credit will automatically be forwarded to the person closing the account.

If the credit is less than $10.00, a disbursement will not be forwarded unless requested by the customer.

(c) In addition to any other applicable charges, the charge for transfer of service from one customer to a succeeding customer shall be $10.00 per meter transferred. The charge will not apply to a fire service meter transferred at the same time as the primary meter service.

Sec. 160.19 Cla-Valves. Upon request by water users of the Valley Center Municipal Water District, an adequate Cla-Valve, or approved equal, may be installed in front of the meter as long as the water user pays all expenses including the installation. The District will install the valve and will maintain it as part of the system.

Per Ordinance No. 2012-04 Adopted 5/21/12 [Sec. 160.18(a)(b)
Per Ordinance No. 2004-18 Adopted 12/6/04 [Sec. 160.18(c)]

Sec. 160.20 Pressure Reducing Valves.

(a) Customer Responsibility. The District shall assume no responsibility for water pressure regulation within a customer's service area. The customer shall be responsible for providing adequate safeguard measures for the customer's water system wherever pressure regulation is necessary.

(b) Requirement for Installation in New Construction. Customers making application for water service for new construction for residential, commercial or industrial use shall be required to install an appropriate pressure regulation device for such service in accordance with the California Plumbing Code.

(c) High System Pressure. If water pressure at the meter location is over 175 PSI, a Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) must be installed on the District's side of the meter at the customer's expense.

The District shall install the required Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) for the following cost to the customer:

Meter Size	3/4"	1"	1-1/2"	2"	3"
Cost for PRV[1]	$170	$176	$1,377	$1,618	N/A
Cla-Val[2]	N/A	N/A	$2,893	$3,315	$3,043

[1] Standard PRV
[2] Cla-Val Regulator for Higher Discharge Pressure than Standard PRV

Sec. 160.21 Meter Testing. When a customer advises the District that he feels his meter is registering inaccurately and District personnel have checked the complaint and feel the meter is working properly, the customer may, by making a $55.00 deposit with the District, have his meter tested on the District's calibrated test bench. If the meter is found to be registering at a rate between 100.5% and 103%, the deposit will be returned to the customer and the water bill being disputed shall be adjusted to reflect the percentage over 100%. If the meter is found to be registering accurately (or low), the deposit will be retained by the District to help offset the labor cost of pulling and testing the meter. The deposit noted above may be waived by the District one time per owner at the discretion of the District.

If the meter is registering higher than 103%, an estimated bill shall be determined in the following manner (same as a Stuck Meter - Section 160.5-b).

Per Ordinance No. 2025-03 Adopted 05/19/25/Effective 07/01/25 [Sec. 160.19(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-04 Adopted 04/01/2024/Effective 07/01/24 [Sec. 160.19(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-04 Adopted 06/05/2023 [Sec. 160.19(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 05/16/2022 [Sec. 160.20(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2026-02 Adopted 04/20/26/Effective 07/01/26 [Sec. 160.20(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2021-02 Adopted 04/19/21 [Sec. 160.20(c)] • Per Ordinance No. 2020-08 Adopted 7/6/20 [Sec. 160.20(c)]
Per Ordinance No. 2012-09 Adopted 10/15/12 [Sec. 160.20(a)(b)] • Per Ordinance No. 2009-10 Adopted 7/20/09 [Sec. 160.21]

Sec. 160.21 Meter Testing (Cont'd).

The customer's water usage during the month immediately preceding the billing cycle in which the meter registered incorrectly shall be used in calculating the estimated bill. The District's water usage during that same month shall be compared to its current month's water usage in order to determine the percentage of water increase or decrease that has occurred during the time the meter registered incorrectly. Once the increase or decrease has been established, that percentage shall be added to or subtracted from the customer's water usage for the previous month, thereby constituting an estimated usage for the current month.

NOTE: If the Meter Services Supervisor should find that a meter is registering correctly, but unequivocally determines the water consumption could not have occurred, a recommendation may be submitted to the General Manager requesting an estimated bill be computed.

Sec. 160.22 San Diego County's Agency Clearence and Project Facility Letters. Upon receipt of Project Facility Availability (PFA), Project Facility Commitment (PFC), or Agency Clearence Letters form payment of $193, the District will complete the appropriate information as required for the project.

Sec. 160.23 Residential Fire Service. When the governing fire protection agency requires the applicant to install a residential fire sprinkler system in a new or existing structure, a separate fire service meter shall be required in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

(a) Application – Water Meter for Residential Fire Sprinkler System. Each applicant for a meter for residential fire sprinkler system shall make application in accordance with Article 160, Water Service – Rules and Regulations. Unless otherwise waived in accordance with subsections (e) or (f) below, a separate dedicated water meter for residential fire sprinkler systems shall be required to enhance the protection of life and property. The separate fire service meter is to reduce the risk of 1) service interruption to the residential fire sprinkler system in the event of nonpayment for domestic water, and 2) cross connection with the residential domestic system. District staff will provide the applicant or his/her representative estimated pressure about the water distribution system at the point of service, and information about a typical water meter installation. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant and/or representative to determine the size of the meter and service lateral that is required for this service. A separate District water service lateral ("service lateral") may not be required if the applicant demonstrates that the service lateral for the accompanying residential domestic meter is sufficient for the domestic flow plus the fire sprinkler system flow required by the governing fire protection agency.

Per Ordinance No. 2026-02 Adopted 04/20/26/Effective 07/01/26 [Sec. 160.22]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-04 Adopted 04/01/2024/Effective 07/01/24 [Sec. 160.22]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-04 Adopted 06/05/2023 [Sec. 160.22]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 05/16/2022 [Sec. 160.22]
Per Ordinance No. 2021-02 Adopted 04/19/2021 [Sec. 160.22]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-08 Adopted 7/6/20 [Sec. 160.22]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-03 Adopted 3/19/18 [Sec. 160.23]

Sec. 160.23 Residential Fire Service (Cont'd).

(b) Installation – Water Meter For Residential Fire Sprinkler System. A meter for a residential fire sprinkler system shall be installed, together with the adequate backflow device, for the purpose of detecting any usage of water other than for fire protection. Installation of the meter and backflow shall be made by the District with the backflow inspected annually by the District.

(c) Charges – Water Meter for Residential Fire Sprinkler System. Installation of the meter backflow and service lateral shall be at the expense of the property owner. For the Installation of these facilities, the applicant shall pay fees equal to those charged for the same size meter backflow assembly and service lateral as described in Section 160.4 and 160.12. The District's and the San Diego County Water Authority's (SDCWA) Meter Capacity charges are waived for residential fire sprinkler meters.

The monthly service fee for the residential fire sprinkler meter shall be established as described in Section 160.3. Residential fire sprinkler systems shall be subject to charges for annual testing, necessary repairs and replacement of required backflow prevention devices.

(d) Unauthorized Use of Residential Fire Sprinkler System. It is the intention of the District to provide water for fire protection at no cost to the customers of the District. Unauthorized water used through this meter will be billed to this customer at three (3) times the then domestic/commercial water commodity rate as set forth in Sec. 160.3 of the District's Administrative Code. Repeated unauthorized use may result in prosecution by the District under section 498 of the California Penal Code.

Authorized use of the residential fire sprinkler system shall include water for fire suppression and up to two HCF (Hundred Cubic Foot) units annually (1,496 gallons) for system testing and maintenance.

Per Ordinance No. 2018-03 Adopted 3/19/18 [Sec. 160.23(c & d)]

Sec. 160.23 Residential Fire Service (Cont'd).

(e) Waiver of Fire Service Meter Requirement Under Certain Conditions. The requirement for a separate fire service meter may be waived by the District Engineer for the following conditions:

1. Residences with, or requiring, a Private Booster Pump System. If a private booster pump system is required to provide adequate pressure for either the domestic or fire sprinkler system, the requirement for a separate fire meter may be waived. In this condition, the residence and the residential fire system would be connected to the discharge side of the private pump and only a domestic meter would be required. It is recommended that the private booster pump system consist of a duty and standby pump system with adequate backup emergency power.

2. Residences with Existing Remote Meter Installations. If installation of a separate fire service meter would require the installation of the fire service lateral in excess of 200 feet in length to reach the applicant's property, the requirement for the separate fire service meter may be waived.

3. Existing Fire Sprinkler Systems. If the existing primary residential structure on the applicant's property has an existing fire sprinkler system connected to the domestic service without a fire service meter, the requirement for a separate fire meter may be waived with regard to: (1) expansion of the existing fire sprinkler system as part of an expansion of the existing structure, or (2) construction of a new fire sprinkler system as part of a new secondary residential structure.

4. Other Water Source. If the applicant demonstrates that an alternative water source, acceptable to the governing fire protection agency, is available and will be used for the residential sprinkler system, the requirement for a separate fire service meter may be waived.

5. Non-Occupied Structures. If the applicant demonstrates that the fire sprinkler system is required for a detached structure that is not permitted as a living space (i.e. detached garages, auxiliary structures, etc.), the requirement for a separate fire service meter may be waived.

(f) Waiver by General Manager. The requirement for a separate fire service meter may be waived by the General Manager in his or her reasonable discretion.

Per Ordinance No. 2018-03 Adopted 3/19/18 [Sec. 160.23(e & f)]

Sec. 160.23 Residential Fire Service (Cont'd).

(g) Pre-Requisites for Waiver of Fire Service Meter Requirement. The following pre-requisites shall apply to any application for waiver of the separate fire service meter requirement under this section.

1. Service Lateral Sizing. If the requirement for a separate fire service meter is waived, the applicant shall demonstrate that the existing service (both the District service lateral before the meter and the private service line after the meter, including the meter and backflow device) is properly sized and sufficient for the combined domestic flow and fire sprinkler demand required by the governing fire protection agency.

2. Release and Indemnification. In addition to the general release and indemnification applicable under Section 160.27 (Conditions of Service), the applicant being granted a waiver of the requirement for separate fire service meter shall enter into a Release and Indemnification Agreement with the District recognizing and assuming the increased exposure to loss of life and property associated with not having a separate fire service meter and indemnifying the District from personal loss or future loss by successors and assigns. Said Release and Indemnification Agreement shall be recorded against the property benefitting from the waiver of the fire service meter requirement.

Sec. 160.24 Temporary Water Service. Temporary water service for construction purposes may be provided by this section. Temporary water service is subject to reduction or complete interruption in delivery based upon water supply conditions as determined by the VCMWD, Metropolitan Water District and/or the San Diego County Water Authority.

(a) Construction Meter Service. A "Construction Meter Assembly" shall be a District provided assembly consisting of meter, backflow, and PRV if required. Assembly will be connected to a fire hydrant or blowoff equivalent to a 3 inch meter capacity. Actual flow will be dependent upon hydraulic characteristics of its location. If a larger assembly is required, applicant will be responsible for providing the devices and all associated parts, District costs will be determined on a case by case basis for those applications.

1. Applicant shall pay a refundable deposit of $2,500 for the assembly, in addition to the following applicable charges:

Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 05/16/2022 [Sec. 160.24]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-03 Adopted 03/19/2018 [Sec. 160.23(g)]
Per Ordinance No. 2009-10 Adopted 07/20/2009 [Sec. 160.24(a)]

Sec. 160.24 Temporary Water Service (Cont'd).

(a) Construction Meter Service (Cont'd.).

A. Installation and relocation charge of $272 per occurrence, includes testing Backflow device. Additionally, an annual backflow test will be performed if device has been on site for more than 1 year.

B. Applicant shall be responsible for any damage to the construction meter assembly including theft, and shall pay for repair or replacement costs upon request.

C. Failure to satisfy the request will result in termination of service costs deducted from the deposit.

D. If pressure exceeds 175 PSI a PRV will be installed

2. The following monthly charges will apply:

A. Service and rental charge of $228.27 for potable construction service and devices.

B. Purchase of water as provided by Section 160.3, including applicable pump zone charges.

3. Other Use Conditions:

A. Monthly service and rental charge of $228.27 for potable construction service.

B. Purchase of water as provided by Section 160.3, including applicable pump zone charges.

Per Ordinance No. 2025-11 Adopted 12/15/25 [Sec. 160.24 (a)2 -3]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-13 Adopted 12/16/2024 [Sec. 160.24]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-04 Adopted 04/01/24/Effective 07/01/24 [Sec. 160.24 (a) A.]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-01 Adopted 01/02/24 [Sec. 160.24 (a)2-3]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-01 Adopted 01/03/23 [Sec. 160.24 (a)2.(a)3.]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 05/16/2022 [Sec. 160.24]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-01 Adopted 01/03/22 [Sec. 160.24(a)3.A]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-15 Adopted 11/16/20 [Sec. 160.24(a-3)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-01 Adopted 01/06/20 [Sec. 160.24(a)(3)(A)]

Sec. 160.25 Construction Water Permit. Single day use permits will be issued authorizing the drawing of construction water from a fire hydrant or blow off to a water truck within the District in accordance with the following fee schedule per a 24 hour period.

Used Via a Water Truck With a Capacity of:	2,500 gallons or less:	3,000 gallons:	3,500 gallons:	4,000 gallons:	5,000 gallons:
(Potable)	$465.00	$560.00	$650.00	$745.00	$930.00

The permit must be kept at the job site and available for verification at all times when drawing water, and is valid only on the date(s) listed. The District may require the use of a construction meter.

Sec. 160.26 Bankruptcy of Customer. Pursuant to the Bankruptcy Act (P.L. 95-589, 11 U.S.C., Section 366), the District shall not alter, refuse or discontinue service to, or discriminate against, a customer, or a trustee of a customer, solely on the basis that a debt owed by the customer to the District for service rendered before the order for relief was not paid when due.

It shall be the responsibility of the customer to supply the District with a copy of any applicable order for relief. The District shall discontinue service if neither the customer, nor the trustee, within 20 days after the date of the order for relief, furnishes adequate assurance of payment in the form of a deposit for service after such date. As used herein, "adequate assurance of payment" shall mean a cash deposit in an amount equal to two times the highest of the last twelve billings rendered to the customer, or for the customer's property if customer has not occupied the property for that period of time prior to the order for relief. As used herein, "order for relief" shall have the same meaning as given to it in the Bankruptcy Act. The commencement of a voluntary case under the Bankruptcy Act shall constitute an order for relief. Such deposit shall be refunded seven years after completion of all bankruptcy proceedings or at termination of service provided all amounts due District for service provided after order of relief have been paid. Deposit shall also be refunded if customer voluntarily pays District the debt originally discharged in bankruptcy. Service may be discontinued in accordance with the rules of the District upon nonpayment for service rendered after the order of relief.

Per Ordinance No. 2025-11 Adopted 12/15/25 [Sec. 160.25 (table)]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-13 Adopted 12/16/2024 [Sec. 160.25 (table)]
Per Ordinance No. 2024-01 Adopted 01/02/2024 [Sec. 160.25 (table)]
Per Ordinance No. 2023-01 Adopted 01/03/2023 [Sec. 160.25 (table)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-07 Adopted 05/16/2022 [Sec. 160.24]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-01 Adopted 01/03/2022 [Sec. 160.25(table)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-15 Adopted 11/16/2020 [Sec. 160.25(table)]
Per Ordinance No. 2020-01 Adopted 01/06/2020 [Sec. 160.25]
Per Ordinance No. 2011-11 Adopted 11/21/2011 [Sec. 160.24(b)]

Sec. 160.27 Conditions of Service. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the Valley Center Municipal Water District does not guarantee or ensure any particular condition of flow or pressure in its system, and the District shall not be liable to any customer for any damage to the customer's property for fluctuations in the pressure at which water is delivered or for unavailability of water. Further, the District shall not be liable for any loss or damage to persons or property caused by the termination of water service (including service to a fire sprinkler system) for any reason, including leaks or non-payment of charges, whether or not the customer's property has a separate meter for its fire sprinkler system. Further, nothing in these Rules and Regulations obligates the District to correct low pressure conditions, to increase pressure, to correct high pressure conditions, to decrease pressure or to compensate the customer in any manner for the customer's cost to increase or decrease pressure. District staff provides data and information about the District's system and how it normally operates to its customers so they can use that information in making plans. When significant changes to the normal conditions are anticipated, the District will endeavor to notify the affected customers. The District reserves the right to make changes and allow changes to occur at any time, without notice.

Customers shall, at their own expense and with counsel selected by the District, defend, indemnify and hold harmless the District, its directors, officers, employees and agents from and against claims, suits, causes of action, fines, penalties, proceedings, damages, injuries or losses, including attorneys' fees, resulting from conditions of flow or pressure or any lack of water service resulting from the lawful termination of service to the customer's property, including service to the customer's fire sprinkler system, except to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of the District.

Per Ordinance No. 2022-11 Adopted 08/01/22 [Entire §160.28 REMOVED]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-03 Adopted 02/07/22; Effective 3/14/22 [Sec. 160.28)]
Per Ordinance No. 2022-01 Adopted 01/03/22 [Sec. 160.28)]
Per Ordinance No. 2018-03 Adopted 3/19/18 [Sec. 160.27]