

South Tahoe

Public Utility District

Public/Legislative Affairs Office

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WATER METERS IN CALIFORNIA FACT SHEET

- On September 29, 2004 Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 2752 authored by then Assembly Member Christine Kehoe. This bill was chaptered on the same day and is currently Chapter 884 of the California Code. The District sought a legislative exemption from the law, but was unsuccessful. Whether you agree or disagree with water meters and water conservation, it is a reality in California.
- The bill requires an urban water supplier, as defined (any public water system with 3,000 or more connections), on or before January 1, 2025 to install water meters on all municipal and industrial water connections that are located within its service area. The District meets this definition and must comply with the law.
- The bill also requires an urban water supplier, beginning on or before January 1, 2010 to charge each customer that has a service connection for which a water meter has been installed, based on the actual volume of deliveries, as measured by a water meter.
- The bill provides an exception in order to provide customers with experience in volume-based water service charges. An urban water supplier that is subject to this law may delay, for the 2010 seasonal cycle of water use, the use of meter-based charges for service connections that are being converted from nonvolume-based billing to volume-based billing. That means, for most residential customers, volume-based billing will not begin until January 2011. From January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, residential customers with meters will receive their normal flat rate bill and additional information that will demonstrate what their bill would have been if billed volumetrically.
- Finally, the bill authorizes a water purveyor to recover the cost of providing services related to the purchase, installation, and operation of a water meter from rates, fees, or charges. At this point, it is the District's intent to seek federal and state funding to cover as much of the costs of meter installation as possible. Where outside funding is not available, costs will be paid through the general rates, borrowing, or bond issuance.
- The District has applied for and received a \$4.387 million grant (no matching dollars) through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). These funds were provided via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. These funds will allowed the installation of approximately 2,500 water meters in 2010.
- For additional information please contact Dennis Cocking, Public Information Officer at 543.6208 or visit the District's webpage at www.stpud.us.