

## CHAPTER 91

### WATER METERS

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- 91.01 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this chapter is to encourage the conservation of water and facilitate the equitable distribution of charges for water service among customers.
- 91.02 WATER USE METERED.** All water furnished customers shall be measured through meters furnished by the City and installed by the City.
- 91.03 FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS - EXCEPTION.** Fire sprinkler systems may be connected to water mains by direct connection without meters under the direct supervision of the Public Works Director. No open connection can be incorporated in the system, and there shall be no valves except a main control valve at the entrance to the building which must be sealed open.
- 91.04 LOCATION OF METERS.** All meters shall be so located that they are easily accessible to meter readers and repairmen and protected from freezing. All water meters shall be installed with an outside reading device.
- 91.05 METER SETTING.** The property owner shall provide all necessary piping and fittings for proper setting of the meter including a valve on the discharge side of the meter. Meter pits may be used only upon approval of the Public Works Director and shall be of a design and construction approved by the Public Works Director.
- 91.06 METER COSTS.** The full cost of any meter larger than that required for a single-family residence shall be paid to the City by the property owner or customer prior to the installation of any such meter by the City, or, at the sole option of the City, the property owner or customer may be required to purchase and install such meter in accordance with requirements established by the City.
- 91.07 METER REPAIRS.** Whenever a water meter owned by the City is found to be out of order the Public Works Director shall have it repaired. If it is found that damage to the meter has occurred due to the carelessness or negligence of the customer or property owner, or the meter is not owned by the City, then the property owner shall be liable for the cost of repairs.
- 91.08 RIGHT OF ENTRY.** The Public Works Director shall be permitted to enter the premises of any customer at any reasonable time to read, remove, or change a meter.

**91.09 METER INSTALLATION FEE.** There shall be a fee charged to the property owner for each new installation of a water meter in accordance with the schedule of such fees approved by resolution of the Council.

**91.10 METER TESTS.** Upon the written request of any customer, the meter serving said customer shall be tested by the City. Such test will be made without charge to the customer if the meter was outside the two percent (2%) meter efficiency; a charge will be made then only if the test indicates meter accuracy with the limits of two percent (2%).

**91.11 ESTIMATED READINGS.** Where a meter has ceased to register, or meter reading could not be obtained, the quantity of water consumed for billing purposes will be based upon an average of the prior six (6) months' consumption, and the conditions of normal water usage expected during the period in which the meter failed to register.

**91.12 Irrigation System Metering.** The purpose of this section is to provide a means and method for the installation, metering, and billing for water used for irrigation purposes so as to preserve and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of the residents of the City.

1. Definition. For the purpose of this section, the owner of land who causes an irrigation water meter to be installed under the provisions of this section is referred to as the "builder," and such term includes the heirs, successors or assigns of such owner.
2. Purpose of Irrigation Meter. Installation of a second water meter to measure water used for swimming pools, lawns, garden, or other outside uses. The purpose of an irrigation meter is to ensure that residents do not incur sewer charges for use of water that does not enter the sanitary sewer system. Without an irrigation meter, all water usage will be charged sewer charges at the current rates.
3. Construction by Owner. In the event an owner of land within the corporate limits desires to construct an irrigation system (which is a system that returns the water to the ground as opposed to the City sewer system) or to separately meter water used for irrigation purposes, the owner, at said owner's expense, may do so after making proper application to the City in accordance with the following:
  - a. Irrigation Meter Costs. The full cost of any meter shall be paid to the City by the property owner or customer prior to the installation of any such meter by the City. Irrigation meters shall be installed by the City or a licensed plumber.
  - b. Irrigation Meters. Said meters are to be installed on a tee, off the inlet service line right after the inlet valve. It is commonly referred to as an 'add on' system – NOT a deduct system. Installation diagrams must be provided to the City of Marengo before installation.

- c. Irrigation Meter Repairs. Whenever a water meter is found to be out of order, the resident shall have it repaired or replaced. If the resident refuses to do so, then the City shall have it repaired. Any costs or expenses incurred will be the responsibility of the property owner. If the meter needs replaced, then the customer or property owner is responsible for the replacement cost of the meter.