

Palmdale Water District

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RULES and REGULATIONS FOR WATER SERVICE

This is provided to customers in our Service Area as an informative guide of policies and procedures relating to water service. These Rules & Regulations are subject to periodic revisions.

SECTION "A" – GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the District is to make available the highest quality water at the lowest possible cost. Palmdale Water District provides customers with high quality:

- ◆ water treatment, storage, and delivery
- ◆ meter reading and maintenance
- ◆ system monitoring and maintenance
- ◆ infrastructure expansion and upgrades
- ◆ water quality testing and compliance
- ◆ environmental compliance
- ◆ customer services
- ◆ technical services
- ◆ service information updates

SECTION "B" - DEFINITION OF TERMS

Unless the context specifically indicates otherwise, the following terms shall, for the purposes of these rules and regulations, have the following meanings:

- (a) District: Palmdale Water District
- (b) Manager: General Manager of the Palmdale Water District, or the person authorized by the Manager, or the Board, to act for the General Manager
- (c) Board: Board of Directors of the Palmdale Water District
- (d) Consumer: Any person, association, corporation or governmental agency supplied or entitled to be supplied with water service for compensation by the District
- (e) Applicant: Any person or entity applying to the District for water service

SECTION "C" – WATER SERVICE

The District will use its best efforts to supply water dependably and safely in adequate quantities and pressures to

meet the reasonable needs and requirements of Consumers. The District will endeavor to provide water that is wholesome, potable, in no way harmful or dangerous to health and, insofar as practicable, free from objectionable odors, taste, color and turbidity.

Application for Service

The application is merely a written request for service and does not bind the applicant to take service for a period of time longer than that upon which the minimum charge is based; neither does it bind the District to serve, except under reasonable conditions and upon the approval of the Manager. Each applicant for service is required to sign, on a form prescribed by the District, an application providing sufficient information as the District may reasonably require for the above stated purpose and to enable the District to determine the credit worthiness of the applicant. Applications for service to any property will be granted only if all assessments, fees, charges, delinquent water bills, and penalties due and charged to or against said property have been fully paid.

Applications for residential water service to rental property require service to be provided on account of the property owner. The District holds the property owner ultimately responsible for payment.

Proof of ownership, if required, must be submitted at the time of application and would include, but not be limited to, a copy of the deed to the premises, a title insurance policy, a current property tax bill or the escrow closing statement. In addition, the District requires proper identification of all applicants (the owner's driver's license will need to be seen or if proof of ownership is submitted by the tenant, a copy of the owner's driver's license must be submitted for signature verification).

Establishment of Credit & Deposits

Applicants for service or reconnection shall provide the District with information sufficient to enable the District to determine the credit worthiness of the Applicant. Upon determining the Applicant's credit worthiness, the District will require the Applicant to deposit such sums of money as determined by the Board from time to time. Currently, consumer's deposit required is as follows:

Commercial or Industrial: For each single or multiple commercial or industrial unit served by the same service meter - \$300 per unit.

Residential: For each dwelling unit served by the same service meter -- \$200 per unit.

Additional deposit: At the Manager's discretion, the District may require an additional deposit as a condition precedent to water service or reconnection if (i) District determines the consumer has an unsatisfactory payment history, (ii) the

consumer is not credit-worthy or has previously had water service disconnected for non-payment; rejected payments (insufficient funds, account not located) or credit card payments charged back, or (iii) the nature of the services or the consumer's intended use of water warrants an additional deposit. In such instances, the total deposit shall be determined by the Manager.

Refund of Deposit:

- 1) Such deposits will be refunded to applicants at the termination of water service, provided all water charges have been paid. However, no refund will be made where the balance remaining in the deposit account is less than \$5.00. All amounts less than \$5.00 will be transferred to the water conservation account to be used for the education of the public regarding water conservation.
- 2) Single Family Residences Only: One year after the date a deposit is made the Manager has discretionary authority to refund such deposits upon receipt of a written request by customer and if the customer meets the following criteria: (a) has at least one year of established active customer history, (b) does not have more than one 48-hour Disconnection Notice (doortag) on the account within the one year period immediately prior to request, (c) does not have any disconnect charges on the account, and (d) has not had any checks returned from the bank (e.g., insufficient funds), rejected electronic funds transfer or credit card charge-backs.
- 3) Single Family Residences Only: One year after the date a deposit is made due to disconnection for non-payment, returned check(s), or credit chargeback(s), such deposit may be refunded upon receipt of a written request by customer and if the customer meets the following criteria: (a) does not have more than one 48-hour Disconnection Notice (doortag) on the account within the one year period immediately prior to request, (b) has not incurred any additional disconnect charges on the account, and (c) has not had any additional checks returned from the bank (e.g., insufficient funds), rejected electronic funds transfer or any additional credit card charge-backs.

Waiver of Deposit:

Public Agencies will not be subject to the deposit requirements stated above. First time customers will not be subject to the deposit requirements stated above if their credit report shows the following (fee for check inquiry \$10.00):

- (a) At least two years of established credit history through a Credit Reporting Agency.
- (b) Under the Negative column, the Public column, and the Collection column it must show zero.
- (c) Under the Payment History column, it should show 1's and X's only. Any other number appearing would be considered as unworthy credit.

Transfer of Service:

Existing customers who have at least one year of established active customer history and meet the requirements for a refund of deposit may transfer from one account to another without having to make a deposit as long as there has not been more than a thirty day lapse in service.

Cleaning and Walk-Thru Service

All requests for temporary service shall be made on an approved application form available in the District office. Temporary service will be provided for a maximum of five working days to facilitate cleaning and showing of property for sale or rent. This service is not to be used for maintenance requiring high volumes of water. A charge of \$85.00 that allows usage of 5 units or less will be assessed; 6 or more units will be charged at current District rates. (This rate is subject to revision by the Board from time to time).

Water Service Connections

For those premises that do not have an existing service connection the applicant will be charged for the installation and material costs for a service connection in addition to the Assessment Parity Charge, the Capital Improvement Fee and the cost of main extension (if needed); in all cases the applicant shall contribute for any existing mains and public fire hydrants. Please contact the District office for additional Rules & Regulations and the rates and fees as established by the Board.

Ownership of Facilities on Consumer's Premises

The service lateral, meter, and meter box furnished at the Consumer's expense and located wholly or partially upon a Consumer's premises are the property of the District. The District shall at all reasonable hours have access to meters, service connections and other property owned by it which may be located on Consumer's premises for purposes of installation, maintenance, operation or removal of the property. If the Consumer, new applicant or developer is found to be responsible for any damage done to District property, such damages shall be reimbursed to the District at cost plus administrative overhead. If responsibility for damage is not known, charges will be made to the current Consumer or property owner.

Water for Construction Needs

All requests for construction water shall be made on an approved application form available in the District office and accompanied by the appropriate deposit amounts as stated in that form. Any costs involved in supplying such connections will be prepaid by the applicant. The approval of construction water is subject to the availability of water necessary to meet normal domestic demands as determined by the Manager. Please contact the District for allowable uses of construction water and other rules and regulations pertaining to water for construction needs.

Fire Hydrants

Fire hydrants connected to District mains are for use by the District and by organized fire protection agencies. Other parties desiring to use water from fire hydrants for any purpose must obtain written permission from the Manager and from the appropriate fire protection agency prior to use, and shall operate the hydrant according to the instructions issued by the Manager. Unauthorized use will be subject to penalty and will be prosecuted according to law and be subject to the appropriate fine specified in Appendix D in the District's Rules & Regulations. In addition, when any person, company, or agency is determined to be the responsible party that has caused damage of a fire hydrant or blowoff, the District may charge that party with all costs necessary to repair the damages and the cost of water loss.

SECTION "D" - RATES & CHARGES

The Board adopted a water budget rate structure effective May 14, 2009. Rates and charges for water consumption, as specified under various classifications of service and other miscellaneous charges, are set by the Board from time to time. A water budget is the amount of water you are expected to need for a specific month. Water budgets may vary monthly based on the seasonal outdoor watering needs. Your allocation depends on the number of people in your home (default 4) and the water you will need for irrigation (residential is 45% of your total parcel area). The following table lists the monthly service charge based on size of meter:

Meter Size (in)	Minimum Monthly Charge (\$)	
5/8" x 3/4"	24.97	
1"	47.44	
1 1/2"	84.89	
2"	129.84	
3"	234.72	
4"	384.55	
6"	759.11	
8"	1,208.58	
10"	1,732.98	

Retail charges consist of a minimum monthly service charge, commodity rate charge, water quality fee and a possible elevation booster surcharge, if applicable. The monthly service rate depends on the size of a Consumer's meter and is fixed irrespective of the quantity of water consumed. The commodity rate for water consumption is based on a 5-tiered system. Rates range from \$.67 per hundred cubic feet (hcf) to \$5.26 per hcf additionally a water quality fee of \$.20 per hcf is assessed. For service areas 3000 ft and above, an elevation booster surcharge of \$0.16 to \$0.70 per hcf is assessed. Conservation efforts mean lower usage and lower usage is rewarded with lower rates. For more information contact the District office.

MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES

In order to recover the cost associated with after hours service calls, late payments, disconnections, reconnections, and other damages sustained by the District, the specified items listed below are charged to Consumers.

Shutoff Fee: The District may disconnect a Consumer's service for various reasons including, but not limited to, (a) non-payment of bills, (b) failure to comply with rules and (c) fraudulent use of service. Such involuntary disconnections are subject to a \$30 Shut-off Fee or other administrative charges.

Non-emergency Service Call Fee: Service calls made on weekdays after regular working hours (8am-5pm), on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays are subject to a \$80 fee.

48-Hour Disconnection Notice (doortag) Charge: Prior to actual disconnection of service by the District for reasons as stated in the Shutoff Fee section above, the District will make a reasonable, good-faith effort to contact an adult at the premises by issuing a 48-Hour Disconnection Notice (doortag) which will be left at the premises. A processing fee of \$20.00 will be charged to the account.

Reject Payment Charge: When a Consumer's payment is rejected for any reason the District will consider the account not paid. The consumer's account will be assessed a \$45 rejected payment charge (\$25 fee and \$20 doortag fee). A 48-Hour Disconnection Notice will be issued to obtain full restitution for the rejected payment. Water service will be disconnected if the amount of the rejected payment and all applicable fees, charges and/or deposits, if required are not paid within the 48-hour period. Upon shutoff of water service for a rejected payment, a Shutoff Fee will be charged to the account.

Pulled Meter Charge: If a Consumer's service has been disconnected and the meter has been "pulled" or removed from the premises, then the Consumer shall pay a pulled meter charge of \$60.00 along with any other charges before the service and meter can be reconnected.

Meter Test Charge: Any Consumer may request that his/her meter be examined and tested to see if it is correctly recording water delivered through it. If the meter is found to be registering within 3% accuracy, the Consumer shall pay the cost of such test, \$65.00 per test, to the District. Said request shall be made on a form furnished by the District and signed by the Consumer.

Unauthorized Water Use: Any person or entity found taking water from or through any of the District's facilities without District authorization will be assessed a \$1,000 fine payable to the District.

Waste of Water: In order to protect itself and its Consumers against willful or negligent waste or misuse of water, the District has adopted a policy regarding water waste. A Disconnection Charge of \$1,000.00 for Waste or Misuse of Water may be assessed to the Consumer for violating this policy.

Late Charges: A Delinquent Final Notice will include a late charge of 10% of the balance due for the first 30 days and then 1 1/2% for each 30 days thereafter.

Turn-on/off Fee: If a customer requests that a service be turned on after paying all applicable fees and charges and a District representative turns the water service on and water is found to be running, or when a customer requests that water be turned off due to the customer working on plumbing, the customer shall then be required to pay a \$15.00 fee.

Account Setup Charge: Any customer applying for water service is subject to a \$25.00 account setup charge.

Bad Debt Collection Charge: All costs associated with collection of delinquent balance, collection fees and Attorney fees.

SECTION "E" - BILLING & PAYMENT

Rendering of Bills: Bills for service will be rendered on a monthly basis and are due and payable upon presentation. Bills become delinquent 25 days from date of the invoice. It is the Consumer's responsibility to assure that payments are received at the District's office in a timely manner. If payment for a billing period is not made on or before the 25th day after Date of Bill, a Delinquent Final Notice will be mailed to the Consumer at least 15 days prior to disconnection of service. The Notice will include a late charge of 10% of the balance due for the first 30 days and then 1 1/2% for each 30 days thereafter.

After Hours Depository: An after hours depository is provided for your convenience in the front of the District's office building located at 2029 E. Avenue Q.

Delinquent Accounts: Water service charges and late charges must be paid on or prior to 5:00pm on the Turn Off Date specified in the Delinquent Final Notice. At least 48 hours prior to actual termination as set forth in the Delinquent Final Notice, the District shall leave a 48-hour Disconnect Notice at or near the entrance to the premises. A service may be disconnected for non-payment of periodic bills. Such involuntary disconnections are effected by turning off and locking the meter, thereby stopping the water service.

Restoration of Service: The District will endeavor to make reconnections as soon as practicable; however, the District shall make the reconnection before the end of the *next regular working day* following the Consumer's request and payment of any applicable reconnection fees and other charges.

Amortization of Unpaid Balance for Medical Condition: Upon written confirmation of the doctor's certification of life-threatening conditions, determination by the District of the Consumer's inability to pay and District approval of the Consumer's written request for a 12-month amortization payment plan, a written amortization plan will be entered into between the District and the Consumer. The Consumer will be

charged an administrative fee and the plan shall include a charge for interest of 10% per annum or the maximum legal rate, whichever is lower, on the unpaid balance. The Consumer must comply with the plan and remain current as charges accrue in each subsequent billing period. The Consumer may not request further amortization of any subsequent unpaid charges while paying delinquent charges pursuant to an amortization plan. Failure to comply with the terms of the plan will result in delivery of a 48-hour Disconnect Notice.

Disputed Bills: The Consumer has a right to initiate a complaint or request an investigation regarding the accuracy of water charges on any bill tendered by the District. Water service may not be terminated until the investigation is completed and the Consumer has been notified of the District's decision.

Up to 5 calendar days prior to the Delinquent Date on the bill the Consumer can make such a complaint in writing and deliver it to the District at its office along with all evidence and data the Consumer wishes to be considered by the District. The Manager shall review the complaint and render a decision as to the accuracy of the water charges. If water charges are determined to be incorrect, a corrected invoice will be provided and the revised charges will be due within 10 calendar days after the date of invoice for revised charges. If the water charges are determined to be correct, the water charges are due and payable at the time the decision of the Manager is rendered.

If the decision of the Manager is not to the satisfaction of the Consumer, the Consumer may request in writing a hearing before the Board at the next regular meeting. The request must be submitted in writing to the District at least 4 calendar days prior to the next regular meeting of the Board.

SECTION "F" - WATER CONSERVATION

Each Consumer of the District is urged to install devices to reduce the quantity of water to flush toilets and to reduce the flow rate of showers. Each Consumer is further urged to adopt such other water usage and reuse practices and procedures as are feasible and reasonable. For tips and hints on how to avoid over-irrigation, detect leaks, economize water and reuse water or for landscaping ideas utilizing water tolerant plants and hardscape themes contact our Water Conservation Coordinator at (661) 947-4111, x120 during regular business hours.

California law prohibits the waste and unreasonable use of water and requires that the District take all appropriate actions to prevent waste and unreasonable use of this limited resource.

SECTION "G" - BOARD ORGANIZATION

There are five Directors elected at large from the District, each to be a resident of one of the five voting divisions. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the second Wednesday of each calendar month at 7 p.m. at the offices of the District.