



CITY OF BISHOP

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Water and Sewer Commission News Release

Water Meters in Bishop

The City of Bishop is installing about 25 water meters to help ensure water customers aren't charged too much for water. The meter readings won't be used to charge customers, they'll just be used to gather general water usage information.

The city's current flat rate billing makes assumptions for the different amounts of water used by different types of water customers. These assumptions were developed many years ago. Some customers are concerned they are being charged too much for the water they use. They don't think those old assumptions are right.

The city is installing meters to find out how much water different customer types use so current information can be used instead of the old assumptions. To do this, the city is making sure there is at least one meter in each of its 22 categories of user.

There were about 60 water meters already in place in the city. Once the new meters are installed, there will be about 85 meters in place. Bars, schools, beauty salons, and barber shops are examples of user categories that are having meters installed for the first time. After a year or so of tracking typical water use in each of the 22 user categories, the flat rates could be adjusted to be more fair. That is the city's plan.

Even if the flat rates are adjusted to be more fair, several Bishop water customers want to be charged by meter instead of by flat rate. These customers believe they use less water than other customers and think they should pay less as a result. Charging by meter has advantages to both the customer and to the water provider. Also, there is some state and federal pressure to move to a metered system. As a result, it is possible that some water users in Bishop will move to meter-based charges in the coming years.

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