



July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025

Water Rates and Service Charges

There are six types of charges that may make up a water bill. Charges #1 & 2 are fixed charges per month. The rest of the charges are volumetric charges based on the amount of water used.

1. **“Ready-to-Serve” Charge (meter charge):** This charge stays the same every month and covers the costs of reading and maintaining your water meter, billing, and maintaining your account. The charge varies by meter size.
2. **Fire Ready to Serve:** This charge is only for customers who have private fire sprinkler service. If you have a private fire service there is a per month charge added to the Ready-to-Serve charge.

The meter charge for several standard meter sizes as well as the private fire service charge are shown below.

Meter Size	Monthly Meter Ready-to-Serve	Monthly Fire Service Ready-to-Serve
5/8"	\$16.73	N/A
1"	\$17.92	\$3.42
1.5"	\$19.12	\$4.25
2"	\$22.36	\$5,70

*Only applicable to customers with private fire services.

3. **Quantity Charge:** The quantity charge for water supports department general operations and maintenance. Water is charged based on the volume consumed, in units of 100 cubic feet (CCF). Please note: 1 billing unit = 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons. Single-family (SFR) and multi-family residential (MFR) customers have a three tier quantity rate as shown below. The amount of water per tier for MFR properties is based on number of dwelling units (i.e. multiply number of dwelling units times the amount in each tier). For example the first tier (0-5 CCF) for a 3 unit property would be up (0-15 CCF).
4. **Infrastructure Reinvestment Fee:** The Infrastructure Reinvestment Fee will support reinvestment in critical infrastructure projects. The quantity charge and the infrastructure reinvestment fee are shown in the chart below. To calculate your complete volumetric charge, add the quantity charge and infrastructure reinvestment fee together.

Type	Quantity Charge	Infrastructure Fee
Residential (SFR & MFR)		
Tier 1 (0-5 CCF)	\$10.38	\$2.79
Tier 2(6-9 CCF)	\$14.01	\$5.22
Tier 3 (10 CCF and above)	\$17.03	\$8.31
Commercial		
uniform rate	\$11.53	\$3.85
North Coast Ag		
Maintain Reliability	\$56.86	\$1.88
Decrease Reliability	\$23.04	\$0.88
UCSC		
uniform rate	\$11.87	\$4.46
Landscape Irrigation		
Tier 1 (≤100% of budget)	\$15.54	\$12.21
Tier 2 (101%-150%)	\$22.78	\$15.85
Tier 3 (151% & above)	\$29.87	\$19.20

For information about water budgets for irrigation accounts, please call the Santa Cruz Municipal Utilities at 831-420-5220.

5. **Elevation Surcharge:** This charge covers the additional energy costs of pumping water to customers residing at higher elevations. Pressure zones above approximately 180 feet. Not all customers receive this charge.

Elevation Zone	(per CCF)
Lift Zone 1	\$0.27
Lift Zone 2	\$0.53
Lift Zone 3	\$0.95

6. **Rate Stabilization Fee:** This charge is held in a separate fund to mitigate risk associated with implementing the more volumetric based rate structure that encourages conservation. This charge is \$1.00 per CCF for both inside and outside city customers.