

PINERY PIPELINE



From your board of directors

When I was a young kid, I was always told to be careful when playing with water to make sure I didn't spray water on an electrical circuit. I was tempted to squirt the hose in the electric outlet just to see what happened, but I never had the courage. As I advanced in my career through the water and wastewater industry, I found you couldn't have water without electricity or electricity without water.

You generally need electricity to pump water and you need water to make electricity. Whether it is electricity from a dam that produces hydroelectric power or coal or natural gas fired power plant that uses water to make steam that turns the turbines that produce the electricity.

What I also discovered during my career is that you use a lot of electricity in water and wastewater operations. Besides pumping water out of the ground to get water to your homes, electricity powers computers, controllers, blowers, mixers, variable frequency drives, lighting, and disinfection processes. It is used in almost every process to provide daily water and wastewater services.

Electricity is usually one of the highest budget line items in an operating budget next to manpower. For the Pinery Water and Wastewater district this is almost \$865 thousand dollars every year. In our water system we have 25 well pumps that get the water out of the ground and 30 pumps operating at our above ground pump stations that move the water to our customers. These pumps total 4,920 horsepower. If we had to turn them all on at the same time during the month it would cost us approximately \$51,000, and an additional \$233 per hour to run them. Fortunately, some of the pumps are backups and we don't have to run them all at the same time.

Without getting into the specifics of kilowatts (1,000 watts) and kilowatt hours and how someone is charged for electricity, I learned (I have no idea where) that the cheapest electricity is the "Nega Watt". That's the watts or kilowatts of electricity that you don't use. As a new director for the District, I was pleased to learn that the Pinery Water and Wastewater district is undertaking an Energy Optimization Project. This project will examine pumping efficiencies, process optimizations, hydraulic optimization, and even billing structures from our electrical supplier.

Some preliminary findings have shown we can coordinate some spring and fall pump operations with our electrical supplier meter reading dates and change some electrical rates that are more favorable to how we use electricity for pumping to save approximately \$40,000 per year. What a fantastic way to kick off an Energy Optimization project. I look forward to seeing future results as staff works their way through future phases of the project.



**Terry Franklin, Director
Pinery Water and Wastewater District
Board of Directors**

Please join us at our District Office for our monthly held Board Meetings at 6:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming Board Meetings will still be held at 6:30pm on:

Wednesday, August 19, 2020
*(*this meeting will be a digital meeting, please see meeting notice for information on joining the meeting by internet.)*

Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020

Take Control of your Water

In 2018, Pinery Water started offering a “Smart Metering” option for our customers. You can choose this option and be able to monitor your water usage from the palm of your hand or a click of a mouse. This allows you to better understand your consumption pattern, providing peace of mind. It also allows you to notice a leak before it is out of hand. Below is some more information about the “Smart Metering” option. Give the office a call if you have more questions or go to pinerywater.com.



EyeOnWater® Advanced Metering Program

Available exclusively through BEACON® AMA, EyeOnWater enables utility customer’s to view and understand their usage profile through easy-to-understand consumption graphs and provides a simple method to establish alerts to better manage their water use

Literally putting water usage data in the palm of consumers’ hands, EyeOnWater mobile apps bring the power of the online portal to your customer’s iOS device or Android smartphone.

Features:

- Hourly, daily, monthly, and yearly data and charts
- Temperature and precipitation overlays
- Week-over-week consumption comparisons
- Configurable leak alerts by email or SMS text
- Web-based consumer portal, plus Android and iOS mobile apps. Better information. Better utility management.







Cost:

Customer pays \$206, this covers the activation and administration fees. The \$206 will be added to your water account or there is the option to pay separately by check or cash. In addition, there is a \$0.91 monthly data fee. The EyeOnWater app is a free download.

Why is My Water Bill So High?

An unusually high-water bill is most often caused by a leak or change in water use. Some common causes of high-water bills include:

- A leaking toilet, or a toilet that continues to run after being flushed.
- A dripping faucet; a faucet drip can waste 20 gallons of water a day or more.
- Filling or topping off a swimming pool or hot tub.
- Watering the lawn, new grass, or trees; also check for an open hose spigot.
- Humidifiers attached to the furnace that are improperly adjusted or not working correctly.
- Kids home for summer vacations or school holidays; guests.
- Water-cooled air conditioners.
- A broken water pipe or obvious leak; check the pipes in the basement or crawlspace; the water heater could also be leaking.
- Water softener problems – cycles continuously.
- Running the water to avoid freezing water pipes during cold weather.

Leak Size	Gallons Per Day	Gallons Per Month
 A dripping leak consumes:	15 gallons	450 gallons
 A 1/32 in. leak consumes:	264 gallons	7,920 gallons
 A 1/16 in. leak consumes:	943 gallons	28,300 gallons
 A 1/8 in. leak consumes:	3,806 gallons	114,200 gallons
 A 1/4 in. leak consumes:	15,226 gallons	456,800 gallons
 A 1/2 in. leak consumes:	60,900 gallons	1,827,000 gallons

The most common one that is seen is a leaking toilet. Below you can find an assessment you can do on your toilet to see if you have a leak. How much a leak can add to usage: <http://www.precision-locating.com/waterleaks.html>

Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:

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(303) 841-2797

www.pinerywater.com
information@pinerywater.com

For after-hours emergencies,
(303) 841-2797 EXT 299