

PINERY PIPELINE JULY 2024



From your Board of Directors

How many of you look forward to dealing with budgets? That is not a joyous time around my house – a necessity, but not a lot of fun. Your Pinery Water Board of Directors is currently creating such a budget for the District, so please think kindly of us!

The Board uses a Rates and Fees Study for this purpose. Figuring out the needed funding for the Pinery Water and Wastewater District is not an easy task. For example, at home we may know we'll need to buy a new stove soon, but we need to ask questions such as: When will we need it? How do we pay for it – cash or credit? The process of determining rates and fees is more complex than figuring out a household budget, and it requires input from an outside consulting firm.

How does the District pay its bills? There are two primary sources of income for the District. The first of these is the use of tap fees, one-time charges the District levies on new customers that are connecting to the system. Tap fees are used to defray the costs of growth-related facilities, and they are a financial tool commonly used by utilities and municipalities for such purposes.

One might expect the determination of tap fees would be a straightforward process. However, the District tap fee is made up of individual charges for three specific purposes: 1) building new water delivery systems, 2) developing and storing water (i.e., water wells, WISE water, Walker Reservoir), and 3) developing and expanding wastewater treatment plants.

These costs are not static – they change over time. Household budgets are not the only ones affected by inflation. Charges for each of the tap fee components must be researched and implemented in view of the projected needs of the District, all while adhering to State of Colorado Statutes.

The other primary source of funds is rate revenues, which are collected in the form of monthly fixed and usage charges. The District uses these funds for Operation and Maintenance expenses (utilities, salaries and benefits, water supply costs, etc.), the Capital Improvement Program (water supply, water system, and administrative projects), and Debt Service Payments.

Just like tap fees, deciding water rates for District customers requires figuring out how these costs change over time. The costs of utilities, repair and replacement of District facilities, and managing our water resources, all trend upwards due to inflation and growth.

The Board's priorities during this process include supporting the sustainability, resiliency, and revenue stability of the system. No one wants an unpleasant surprise if any of these three criteria should not be met. The Board's priorities also include creating *interclass* and *intra*class equity, which is an elaborate way of saying we try to figure out water rate revenues in a manner that is fair to all customers. Lastly, the Board believes that growth pays for growth. We do not consider it proper that pre-existing customers pay for the added infrastructure required by new customers.

Current water and sewer rates for the District are posted on the Pinery Water & Wastewater District website, so please have a look!



**Chuck Hinson, Director,
Pinery Water and Wastewater District**

Please join us at our District Office for our monthly Board Meetings typically held at 6:00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday July 17, 2024 Wednesday Aug 21, 2024

WHAT IF...

- ... your phone alerted you to possible leaks?
- ... you could monitor sprinkler usage on a daily basis?
- ... water bills weren't surprising?

Welcome to EyeOnWater®!

Pinery Water is excited to announce BEACON's EyeOnWater® metering technology is now installed on your water meter. Information about your water usage is at your fingertips: the EyeOnWater® app allows you to track monthly, weekly, daily, and hourly water usage. Knowing when your home is using the most water can help you find ways to conserve. The app also allows you to set custom leak alerts to help you avoid costly water waste. You can access your account on both computers and mobile devices.

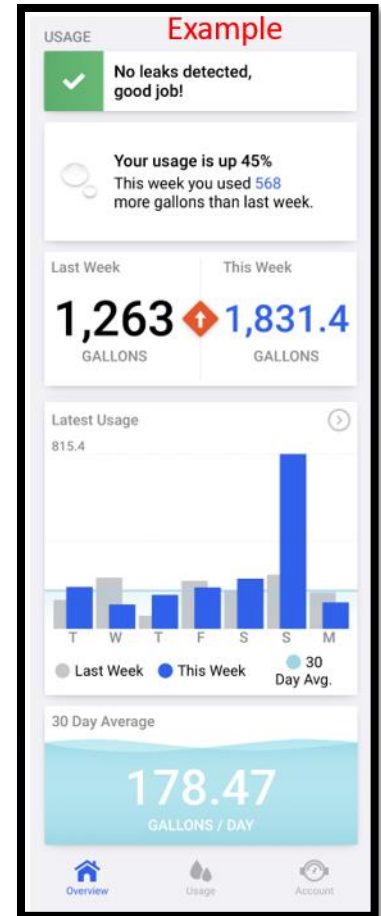


Sign up today!

Enter the zip code **80134** and your four-digit account number with 8 leading zeros.

Example: 000000001234

Questions? Call (303) 841-2797 to speak with one of our staff or visit www.pinerywater.com for more information about the program.



SLOW THE FLOW | SOLVE YOUR SPRINKLERS

Pinery Water and Wastewater District customers can receive a free sprinkler evaluation! Resource Central technicians will run a few tests to check your sprinklers' efficiency and diagnose any irrigation system problems. At the end of your evaluation, you'll receive a customized watering schedule designed to reduce water usage and keep your lawn healthy and beautiful all summer long! Evaluations last about 75 minutes and could help you save thousands of gallons of water each year. It's easy to sign up and get long-lasting results! **Registration has begun and the list is first come first served with limited spots!** Call (303) 999-3824, scan the QR code in the image, or sign up at **Resource Central's website.**

Think it's time to remove some of that grass? Pinery Water customers may be eligible for discounts! Check out the lawn replacement program, also at **Resource Central's website.**

Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:

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For after-hours emergencies,
(303) 841-2797 EXT 9