

2024A SCHEDULE OF RATES
FOR
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT UTILITY SYSTEM SERVICES PROVIDED BY
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

October 1, 2024

The potable water, wastewater, and reclaimed water utility systems owned by the County are supported entirely by the revenues earned from the operations of those systems (collectively, the "Utility System"). The County sets the fees and charges that may be assessed Utility System customers (or the methodology by which such fees and charges will be automatically adjusted) via formal resolutions adopted by its Board of County Commissioners. All such current fees, charges, and methodologies are incorporated in this *Schedule of Rates*.

Each *Schedule* shall be effective as of the published date and supersedes all previously published *Schedules*. The County's Water Resources Department (the "Department") is responsible for implementing the aforesaid County regulations in accordance with **Chapter 102, Article II** (the "Public Utility Connections Regulations") of the *Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, Part B, Public Utilities* (the "Utility Code") and with all applicable covenants of outstanding Utility System revenue bonds (the "Bond Covenants").

Each *Schedule of Rates* has been administratively revised to incorporate as of that date, all applicable actions adopted by the Board, all automatic rate adjustments implemented pursuant to **Sections 2 and 6** of the *Schedule* and any immaterial modifications necessary to correct clerical errors or convey the intent of the Board. Revisions to date include:

FY25

10/1/2024

Rate indexing and additional 4% as outlined in Section 6, effective October 1, 2024.

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SECTION 1

SERVICE-INITIATION RATES

1.1 WATER IMPACT FEES – Impact fees for connection to the potable water component of the Utility System shall be assessed in accordance with the following table by service area. The impact fees for any connection shall become fixed (or firm) and payable in accordance with **Division 7** of the Public Utility Connections Regulations.

Customer Class	Northwest Service Area ⁽¹⁾	South/Central Service Area ⁽¹⁾
Single-Family Residential ⁽²⁾⁽⁵⁾ (Per dwelling unit)	\$1,863.00	\$2,214.00
Master-Metered Residential ⁽³⁾⁽⁵⁾ (Per dwelling unit)	\$931.50	\$1,107.00
Commercial ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾ (Per ERC)	\$1,863.00	\$2,214.00

- (1) Northwest Service Area – The unincorporated area west and north of the City of Tampa city limits where utility service is required or permitted per the Comprehensive Plan or Land Development Code, and pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Tampa regarding water and wastewater service boundaries.
South-Central Service Area – The unincorporated area east and south of the City of Tampa city limits where utility service is required or permitted per the Comprehensive Plan or Land Development Code, and pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Tampa regarding water and wastewater service boundaries.
- (2) Single-family residential class (as used throughout this Schedule of Rates) includes all connections for individually metered dwelling units as such units are defined by the Land Development Code. Each such unit represents one equivalent residential connection (ERC). Each ERC represents an average daily potable water flow of **300 gpd** (gallons per day).
- (3) Master-metered residential class (as used throughout this Schedule of Rates) includes all master-metered connections for apartments, condominiums, cooperatives, quadraplexes, triplexes, duplexes, manufactured housing, and mobile homes used for multi-family residential purposes. Each such dwelling unit represents **0.5 ERC** of potable water usage including that unit's share of any common-area usage. Common-area potable water uses include but are not limited to those for irrigation, laundry facilities, recreation facilities, and management and maintenance offices which is not individually metered by the County. The total ERCs for any such connection shall be based solely on the number of dwelling units approved for that connection. Connections in this class may not include usage for any other commercial, industrial, or institutional purpose. For purposes of this Schedule of Rates, "master-metered residential" and "multi-family residential" are synonymous. Multi-family residential properties that are individually metered by the County are considered to be single-family residential class customers.
- (4) Commercial class (as used throughout this Schedule of Rates) includes all connections used primarily for commercial, industrial, and/or institutional purposes except connections used solely for multi-family residential purposes as defined above in note (3). Any connection which combines one or more dwelling units with any commercial, industrial, or institutional purpose other than the common-area usage associated with those dwellings is considered to be a commercial class customer.
- (5) Meter sizing is independent of impact fee determination.
- (6) The water impact fees for any connection shall be initially determined by summing the water flows from Table 1 that apply to the connection, dividing that total by 300 gpd, and multiplying the resulting number of ERCs by the impact fee specified for 1 ERC. However, the minimum water impact fees for any connection shall be the fee specified for 1 ERC. If the average daily flow for a connection during any consecutive 12-month period is greater than the average daily flow for which impact fees have been paid, an additional impact fee shall be assessed for the excess flow. If the average daily flow during any consecutive 3-month period is more than 15% greater than the average daily flow for which impact fees have been paid, an additional impact fee shall be assessed for the excess flow. All such additional fees shall be determined by dividing the total increase in the average daily flow by 300 gpd and multiplying the resulting number of ERCs by the impact fee specified for 1 ERC.

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1.2 WASTEWATER IMPACT FEES – Impact fees for connection to the wastewater component of the Utility System shall be assessed in accordance with the following table. The impact fees for any connection shall become fixed (or firm) and payable in accordance with **Division 7** of the **Public Utility Connections Regulations**.

Customer Class	Northwest Service Area ⁽¹⁾	South/Central Service Area ⁽¹⁾
Single Family Residential ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ (Per dwelling unit)	\$2,951.00	\$3,651.00
Master-Metered Residential ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾ (Per dwelling unit)	\$2,065.70	\$2,555.70
Commercial ⁽³⁾⁽⁵⁾ (Per ERC)	\$2,951.00	\$3,651.00

(1) Northwest Service Area – The unincorporated area west and north of the City of Tampa city limits where utility service is required or permitted per the Comprehensive Plan or Land Development Code, and pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Tampa regarding water and wastewater service boundaries.

South-Central Service Area – The unincorporated area east and south of the City of Tampa city limits, identified as the Urban Service Area per the Comprehensive Plan and pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Tampa regarding water and wastewater service boundaries.

(2) Single-family residential class (as used throughout this Schedule of Rates) includes all connections for individual dwelling units served by an individual water meter as such units are defined by the Land Development Code. Each such unit represents one equivalent residential connection (ERC). Each ERC represents an average daily wastewater flow of 200 gpd.

(3) Wastewater impact fees for single-family residential, master-metered residential, and commercial class customers served by a low-pressure sewer system (LPSS) are reduced to account for a corresponding reduction in wastewater flow requiring treatment in the County's wastewater system. The reduced wastewater impact fees are calculated as follows: (wastewater flows/200 gpd) x (0.80) x (impact fee per ERC).

(4) Each master-metered residential class dwelling unit represents 0.7 ERC of wastewater usage.

(5) The wastewater impact fees for any connection shall be initially determined by summing the wastewater flows from Table 1 that apply to the connection, dividing that total by 200 gpd, and multiplying the resulting number of ERCs by the impact fee specified for 1 ERC. However, the minimum wastewater impact fees for any connection shall be the fee specified for 1 ERC. If the average daily flow for a connection during any consecutive 12-month period is greater than the average daily flow for which impact fees have been paid, an additional impact fee shall be assessed for the excess flow. If the average daily flow during any consecutive 3-month period is more than 15% greater than the average daily flow for which impact fees have been paid, an additional impact fee shall be assessed for the excess flow. All such additional fees shall be determined by dividing the total increase in the average daily flow by 200 gpd and multiplying the resulting number of ERCs by the impact fee specified for 1 ERC.

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1.3 ACCRUED GUARANTEED REVENUE FEES - Accrued guaranteed revenue fees (AGRF) represent (a) the cost of financing the interest component of facilities and (b) the cost of operating and maintaining facilities, both of which are related to unused capacity in the County’s potable water and wastewater systems. The purpose of the fees is to recover the cost of holding the capital investment until such time that an applicant requests capacity. Such fees are not impact fees and are in addition to impact fees applied to applicants requesting capacity to recover the allocable capital investment made by the County on behalf of such applicants and are considered an operating revenue of the Utility System. Each new connection to either of those systems will be required to pay AGRF for the period of time that the system has been in service and unused, but not more than **6 years**. The AGRF for each new connection to the Utility System shall be assessed in accordance with the following table. The AGRF for any connection shall become fixed (or firm) and payable in accordance with **Divisions 3 and 7** of the **Public Utility Connections Regulations**. The AGRF for LPSS connections shall be based on the flow-reduction factor provided in **Section 1.2**.

Service	Customer Class (Per ERC) – All Service Areas		
	Residential	Master-Metered Residential	Commercial
Potable Water	\$833.00	\$833.00	\$833.00
Wastewater	\$989.00	\$989.00	\$989.00
Potable Water & Wastewater	\$1,822.00	\$1,822.00	\$1,822.00

1.3.1 Master-Metered and Commercial Properties – The AGRF for master-metered residential properties shall be calculated based on the number ERCs for water and wastewater. The AGRF for commercial properties shall be calculated based on the estimated average daily flow for the project, converted to ERCs in accordance with **Section 1.1** for water and **Section 1.2** for wastewater.

1.3.2 Prepaid Fees – Those developments which have fully prepaid impact fees shall only pay the operation-and-maintenance component of the AGRF calculated at \$483 per ERC for water and \$479 per ERC for wastewater.

1.4 LATE-PAYMENT CHARGES - The Public Utility Connections Regulations provide for the timing of impact fee and AGRF payments. Payments not made on time are subject to late penalties on the first day after the payment due date at a rate of **0.03288% per day** on the unpaid balance (**12% per annum**), compounded monthly.

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1.5 BUILDER PAYMENTS – Parcels within previously established County Impact Fee Assessment Units have agreed to pay the Builder Payment in accordance with **Division 3** of the Public Utility Connections Regulations which includes 100% of the AGRF and a portion of the impact fees. The Builder Payment shall be charged in accordance with the following table.

The builder payment is 10% of the impact fee plus the AGRF. The homeowner assessable fee is the remainder of the impact fee.				
Service	Builder Payment		Homeowner Assessable Fee	
	Northwest Service Area	South/Central Service Area	Northwest Service Area	South/Central Service Area
Potable Water	\$1,019.00	\$1,054.00	\$1,677.00	\$1,993.00
Wastewater	\$1,284.00	\$1,354.00	\$2,656	\$3,286.00
Potable Water & Wastewater	\$2,303.00	\$2,408.00	\$4,333.00	\$5,279.00

1.5.1 Assessable Fees – The “assessable fees” to be paid through the Impact Fee Assessment Unit shall be computed by deducting the builder payments from the sum of the impact fees, plus any annual financing, administration and collection costs defined in the Final Assessment Resolution. These fees shall be assessed as a non-ad valorem assessment on the annual property tax bill, with the first annual assessment scheduled for payment not earlier than one year following the date on which the Impact Fee Assessment Unit is created. The assessments shall continue to be assessed annually until the total assessable fees have been paid, or until the total outstanding balance of assessable fees is paid in full.

1.5.2 Prepaid Fees – For each project where impact fees have been prepaid in whole or in part, the builder payments shall be credited by the amount of the prepayment.

1.6 LINE-EXTENSION CHARGES – If an applicant for service is required to extend the Utility System to the applicant’s property as a condition of receiving service, the applicant may request the County to construct the extension at the applicant’s expense or to provide a written estimate for such an extension. If authorized by the County Administrator, the County shall design, permit, and construct the extension following receipt of a written request from the applicant requesting such construction and acknowledging the applicant’s responsibility to reimburse the actual costs incurred by the County for constructing the requested extension plus an allowance for overhead.

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1.7 METER-INSTALLATION CHARGES – Charges related to the installation of a flow meter for each connection to the Utility System shall be assessed in accordance with the following table.

POTABLE WATER ⁽¹⁾		
Meter Size	Meter Installation ⁽²⁾	Pre-Tapped Connection ⁽³⁾
5/8" x 3/4"	\$350.00	\$215.00
1"	\$450.00	\$275.00
1 1/2"	\$650.00	\$440.00
2"	\$1,000.00	\$540.00
3" & larger ⁽⁴⁾	\$250.00	\$250.00

- (1) Meters, meter-reading devices, and service lines installed by the County shall remain the property of the County. Meters and service lines installed by the customer shall be dedicated to the County and shall remain the property of the County thereafter. However, meters installed on private water wells for wastewater usage billing purposes shall remain the property and responsibility of the customer.
- (2) Except as provided in note (4) below, the potable water meter installation charge represents the cost of tapping the potable water line, installing the service line, and installing the meter, and meter box. On request, the County will install at the customer's expense, a larger meter than the minimum size required for that connection. However, the County will not install a larger meter if the customer's demand is too low for the accuracy range of the meter size requested.
- (3) The meter-installation charge for pre-tapped (service line already in place) installations represents the cost of installing the meter and meter box only. If service lines for pre-tapped connections were not properly installed by the contractor and have to be re-installed, the full meter installation charge shall be assessed.
- (4) For service connections larger than **2 inches**, the customer shall be responsible for furnishing and installing service lines, the meter and meter box, the back-flow prevention device, and an automated meter reading device (if required), in compliance with County specifications. The connection charge represents the County's cost to tap the potable water main and inspect the meter installation.

1.7.1 Back-Flow Prevention – Each property connected to the County potable water system which has an alternate water supply source available to that property may be required by local ordinance to have a back-flow prevention device installed on the potable water line to prevent a potential cross-connection with and/or contamination of the County's potable water system.

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1.8 RECLAIMED WATER CONNECTION CHARGES – A charge for each connection to the County’s reclaimed water system shall be assessed in accordance with the following table.

Connection Size ⁽¹⁾	New Connection ₍₂₎₍₃₎	Pre-Tapped Connection ⁽⁴⁾
5/8" x 3/4"	\$350.00	\$215.00
1"	450.00	\$275.00
1 ½"	\$650.00	\$440.00
2"	\$1,000.00	\$540.00
3" & larger ⁽⁵⁾	\$250.00	250.00

- (1) Meters, meter-reading devices, and service lines installed by the County shall remain the property of the County. Meters and service lines installed by the customer shall be dedicated to the County and shall remain the property of the County thereafter.
- (2) Charges for new single-family residential connections of **1 inch** or less in size represent the cost of processing the service application, tapping the reclaimed water line, installing the curb stop, setting the service box, and installing a dual check back-flow prevention device on the potable water service.
- (3) Charges for new single-family residential connections greater than **1 inch**, multi-family residential connections, and commercial connections represent the cost of processing the service application, tapping the reclaimed water line, and installing the curb stop, reclaimed water meter, and meter box.
- (4) Charges for pre-tapped (service line already in place) single-family residential connections of **1 inch** or smaller represent the cost of processing the service application, setting the service box, and installing a dual-check back-flow prevention device on the potable water service. Charges for pre-tapped connections greater than **1 inch** represent the cost of processing the service application, setting the service box, and installing a reclaimed water meter as well.
- (5) For service connections larger than **2 inches**, the customer shall furnish and install all associated appurtenances including the tapping saddle, corporation stop, service lines, curb stop, meter box, reclaimed water meter, meter reading device (if required), and any back- flow prevention assembly required for the potable water service. The connection charge represents the County's cost for review, inspection, and execution of the tap. For pre-tapped connections, the charge represents the County’s cost for review and inspection only. The entire reclaimed water service with all related materials shall be dedicated to the County and shall remain the property of the County thereafter.

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SECTION 2 MONTHLY USER RATES

2.1 WATER AND WASTEWATER USER CHARGES - Monthly user charges shall include (a) for each potable water account, a base facility charge for water, a purchased-water pass-through consumption charge, and a water-conservation consumption charge; (b) for each wastewater account, a base facility charge and a usage charge; and (c) a customer service charge. Charges shall be assessed each month in accordance with the following table.

MONTHLY USER RATES		
Potable Water Charges		
Base Facility Charge (per ERC) ⁽¹⁾		\$12.52
Usage Charges (per 1,000 gallons)		
Purchased-Water Pass-Through Consumption Charge		per Section 2.1.2
Water-Conservation Consumption Charges ⁽¹⁾		
Block 1	0 – 5,000 gallons per ERC	\$1.03
Block 2	5,001 – 15,000 gallons per ERC	\$2.85
Block 3	15,001 – 30,000 gallons per ERC	\$4.79
Block 4	30,001 gallons or more per ERC	\$7.13
Wastewater Charges ⁽¹⁾		
Base Facility Charge (per ERC)		\$20.24
Usage Charge (per 1,000 gallons)		\$6.52
Customer Service Charge ⁽¹⁾		
Per Bill Rendered		\$6.03
(1) Represents monthly user rates that are in effect as of October 1, 2024. The Board has adopted the implementation of a price index adjustment plus an additional rate adjustment as provided in Sections 6.1 and 6.2.		

2.1.1 Base Facility Charges

2.1.1.1 Fixed Charges - Base facility charges for water and wastewater are fixed charges per month, per ERC for each account served by the Utility System.

2.1.1.2 Calculation of ERCs – The total ERCs for each connection shall be determined in accordance with **Section 1.1** for water customers and **Section 1.2** for wastewater customers.

2.1.2 Purchased-Water Pass-Through Consumption Charge

2.1.2.1 Volumetric Charges – The purchased-water pass-through consumption charge is a volumetric charge based on the cost of water purchased by the County from Tampa Bay Water and any other utility providing potable water on a sales-for-resale basis to the County. The purchased-water pass-through consumption charge will be applied to all retail and bulk billable potable water consumption whether metered or estimated in accordance with approved policy. The application of the purchased-water pass-through consumption charge will be in addition to the application of the water conservation consumption charges.

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2.1.2.2 Calculation of Charge – The purchased-water pass-through charge—expressed on a per-1000-gallon basis—will be calculated using the following formula:

$$PTC = (PWC + PTU - WQC - IF + T) / BC$$

- where:
- PTC = The pass-through charge to be billed as a monthly consumption charge for all billable water consumption to County customers for the applicable billing period for which the charge is to be applied (the billing period).
 - PWC = The estimated total cost of water purchases for the billing period equal to the sum of purchased water from Tampa Bay Water and any other utility providing potable water on a sales-for-resale basis to the County. The estimated cost of purchased water for each supplier of water shall be based on the sum of a) the estimated water purchases multiplied by the volume rate (the consumption charges) and b) any base facility or fixed monthly charge billed in addition to the consumption charges.
 - PTU = Any true-up and/or adjustment as billed to the County by any supplier of water or as experienced by the County for prior fiscal year under/(over) recovery of charges.
 - WQC = Water-quality credit applied by Tampa Bay Water during the billing period.
 - IF = Amount of potable water Impact Fees estimated to be recovered by the County which are applied by the County towards the payment of the debt-service component of the cost of water purchased from Tampa Bay Water for the billing period.
 - T = Any applicable taxes or charges which may be imposed upon the County from time to time by jurisdictions having regulatory authority which are directly related to the purchases of water from Tampa Bay Water and any other utility providing potable water on a sales-for-resale basis to the County.
 - BC = Estimated amount of potable water consumption as billed by the County to its retail and bulk customers as estimated for the billing period, expressed in thousands of gallons.

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A sample calculation of the purchased-water pass-through charge is illustrated in the following table:

Example for Estimated cost of water purchased (PWC)	
Tampa Bay Water	\$71,703,462
Cities: Tampa, Temple Terrace, Plant City, & Oldsmar	\$2,724,996
Subtotal estimated cost of water purchased	\$74,428,458
True-up and/or adjustment (PTU)	
Water-quality credit (WQC)	
Impact fees pledged by County (IF)	-7,465,556
Regulatory taxes (T)	
Net cost of purchased water recognized	\$66,962,902
Projected FY water sales (BC) (000's of gallons)	22,205,430
Pass-through charge per thousand gallons (PTC)	\$3.02

2.1.2.3 Determination of Charge – The Department shall calculate the purchased-water pass-through charge annually and implement any changes in the charge for the **12-month** period beginning with consumption billed on or after **October 1** of each fiscal year (i.e., on a fiscal year basis). The Department may subsequently adjust the pass-through charge during any fiscal year as a result of events associated with the purchase of water which may affect the financial condition of the Utility System. Such events may include, but not be limited to, (a) a rate adjustment enacted by Tampa Bay Water after the adoption of its annual budget; (b) the determination of a material under/(over) recovery of funds by the Department which needs correction in order to avoid significant changes in the pass-through adjustment factor; (c) the implementation of an unforeseen surcharge or additional billing adjustment by Tampa Bay Water or any other utility providing potable water to the County; or (d) other expenditures or operating conditions which may affect the overall recovery of the net cost of water purchases by the County.

2.1.3 Water-Conservation Consumption Charges

2.1.3.1 Volumetric Charges - The conservation consumption charges for potable water service are volumetric charges based on the billable potable water consumption in each consumption block whether metered or estimated in accordance with approved policy. Water customers shall be assessed conservation charges for all metered water, including water metered on domestic-use meters and water metered on separate irrigation meters. The application of the water-conservation consumption charges will be in addition to the application of the purchased-water pass-through consumption charge.

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- 2.1.3.2 Additional Meters – Each account with multiple meters, compound meters, separate irrigation meters or other meter combinations shall be assessed the conservation charges for the combined usage on all meters.
- 2.1.3.3 Calculation of Charges for Master-Metered Residential Accounts – Conservation consumption charges for master-metered residential water accounts shall be based on the number of living units in the complex and the average usage per unit. Units are converted to ERCs based on the average flow conversion factor of **0.5 ERC** per unit. [For example, an apartment complex with 200 units will pay conservation charges based on 100 times the volumes in each of the consumption blocks (200 units x 0.5 ERCs/unit = 100 ERCs). The volumes in each consumption block in this example would be multiplied by 100 ERCs to determine the total volume of usage to which each block charge applies. Thus, the first consumption block charge is applied to the first 500,000 gallons, the second block charge is applied to the next 1,000,000 gallons, etc.]
- 2.1.3.4 Calculation of Charges for Commercial Accounts – Commercial water customers are charged conservation consumption charges based on total ERCs determined in accordance with **Section 1.1**. Annual average daily consumption is converted to ERCs by dividing the annual average daily consumption by **300 gpd** per ERC. [For example, a commercial project with an annual average daily consumption of 30,000 gpd is equivalent to 100 ERCs (30,000gpd/300 gpd per ERC = 100 ERCs). The volumes in each consumption block are multiplied by 100 (ERCs) to determine the total volume of consumption to which each block charge applies. Thus, the first consumption block charge is applied to the first 500,000 gallons, the second block rate is applied to the next 1,000,000 gallons, etc.]
- 2.1.3.5 Alternate Rates - Master-metered residential and commercial class water customers may apply for alternate consumption conservation charges based on the use of process water for a bona fide business purpose, including water used in the production of water-based products and make-up water used in recycling water cooling systems. An application for any such alternate charges must fully substantiate the use of process water, including certification by a qualified professional engineer and an adopted water conservation plan. The Department Director may approve an alternate rate after review of the application and the engineer's certification, and after on-site inspections, if necessary.

2.1.4 Wastewater Usage Charges

- 2.1.4.1 Volumetric Charges - The usage charge for wastewater service is a variable or volumetric charge based on the volume of billable potable water consumption whether metered or estimated in accordance with approved policy.

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- 2.1.4.2 Calculation of Charges - Residential wastewater customers are charged the wastewater usage charge for all water consumption up to a defined billing cap. The wastewater billing cap is **8,000 gallons** for single-family residential connections, and **5,600 gallons** for each living unit served within a master-metered residential complex. The **5,600 gallons**-per-unit factor is based on the conversion from gallons per ERC to gallons per living unit [(**8,000 gallons** per ERC) x (**0.7 ERC** per unit) = **5,600 gallons** per unit].
- 2.1.4.3 Alternate Billings - Commercial wastewater customers pay the wastewater usage charge for all billable water consumption. Commercial customers that use process water as part of their daily business operation may apply to the Department for determination of an alternate billing methodology. The Department Director will make the final decision on any alternate billing methodology. Such alternate methodologies include, but are not limited to, the installation of a water credit meter at the customer's expense.
- 2.1.4.4 Fixed-Consumption Billings - Where metered potable water service is not available wastewater billings will be estimated based on the application of approved rates to the maximum daily flow defined in the customer's Application for Service or as otherwise defined by approved policy.
- 2.1.4.5 LPSS Credits - Residential LPSS customers will receive a **\$0.40 per month** estimated credit per ERC for use of private electric service to operate the LPSS pumps. An adjustment will be made annually to reconcile the monthly credits to the actual credit due based on actual LPSS-pump run times.
- 2.1.4.6 Wastewater Flow Meters - When a wastewater flow meter has been authorized by an agreement or for a pilot program participant, wastewater usage charges will be based on the flow registered on the meter. In order to maintain accuracy in account billing, each wastewater flow meter will require an annual calibration test by a certified agency at the expense of the account holder. A copy of the certification will be sent to the Department's Customer Account Management Services Section.
- 2.1.4.7 Metered Water Wells – If a wastewater-only customer installs a meter on the private well used for potable water consumption and authorizes the County's use of the meter for wastewater billing purposes, wastewater usage shall be computed in the same manner as prescribed for County potable water customers.
- 2.1.5 Customer Service Charge – The customer service charge represents the cost of providing routine customer services such as reading meters, maintaining customer accounts, and billing for services rendered. The Customer Service Charge is a fixed charge per month and is applied to each monthly bill rendered.

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2.1.6 Water-Sampling Credits - Each water customer that provides water samples at the request of and pursuant to conditions prescribed by Department, or as otherwise defined by approved policy shall receive a credit of **\$50.00** against that customer’s account. Credits shall be applied not later than the billing period following the period in which the sample was provided. No credit shall be due the customer for any continuous sampling period in which a sampling device was damaged while under the care and supervision of that customer.

2.2 RECLAIMED WATER USER CHARGES – Connections to the County’s reclaimed water system shall be billed each month in accordance with this subsection.

2.2.1 Single-Family Residential Accounts – Monthly user charges for single-family residential reclaimed water accounts shall be assessed in accordance with the following table.

MONTHLY USER RATES—SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL				
Type of Charge		Charges by Connection Subclass		
		Unmetered		Metered ⁽⁴⁾
		Initial ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Committed ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	
Base Facility Charge		\$9.00	\$9.00	\$5.94
Usage Charge (per 1000 gallons)		None	None	Per usage blocks
Block 1	0 to 5,000 gallons	N/A	N/A	\$0.37
Block 2	5,001 to 15,000 gallons	N/A	N/A	\$0.62
Block 3	Above 15,000 gallons	N/A	N/A	\$0.85

(1) Residential properties in reclaimed water improvement units created pursuant to the Utility Code (RWIUs) on or before **April 1, 1997** are eligible for Initial-Class reclaimed water connections.

(2) The rates in this subclass apply only to reclaimed water connections of **1 inch** or smaller. Connections larger than **1 inch** are subject to Metered-Class rates.

(3) Residential properties in RWIUs created prior to **November 20, 2001** and residential properties in neighborhoods for which a conditional approval for connection of the neighborhood to the County’s reclaimed water system was issued prior to **November 20, 2001** are eligible for Committed-Class reclaimed water connections. The owners of residential properties within such neighborhoods or their legal representatives may enter into an agreement with the County—individually or collectively—documenting a **30-year** exemption from metered reclaimed water service within the neighborhood.

(4) Represents monthly user rates that are in effect as of October 1, 2024. The Board has adopted the implementation of a price index adjustment plus an additional rate adjustment as provided in Sections 6.1 and 6.2.

(End of Page)

2.2.2 Commercial and Multi-Family Residential Accounts –Monthly user charges for commercial and multi-family residential reclaimed water accounts shall be assessed in accordance with the following table.

MONTHLY USER RATES—COMMERCIAL & MULTI-FAMILY					
Type of Charge		Charges by Connection Subclass			
		Unmetered		Metered	
		Initial ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Committed ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	General Users ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁶⁾	Major Users ⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾
Base Facility Charge		\$9.00	\$9.00	\$5.94	\$5.94
Usage Charge (per 1000 gallons)		None	None	Per usage blocks	\$0.14
Block 1	0 –15,000 gallons per ERC ⁽⁷⁾	N/A	N/A	\$0.17	N/A
Block 2	15,001 –30,000 gallons per ERC ⁽⁷⁾	N/A	N/A	\$0.29	N/A
Block 3	Above 30,000 gallons per ERC ⁽⁷⁾	N/A	N/A	\$0.79	N/A

(1) Commercial and multi-family residential properties in RWIUs created on or before **April 1, 1997** are eligible for Initial-Class reclaimed water connections. Initial-Class rates shall remain fixed through **March 31, 2007**. Beginning **April 1, 2007**, Initial-Class rates will be increased over a **3-year** phase-in period to the then-current rates for Committed-Class connections.

(2) The rates in this subclass apply only to reclaimed water connections of 1 inch or smaller. Connections larger than **1 inch** are subject to Metered-Class rates.

(3) Commercial and multi-family residential properties that had unmetered reclaimed water service prior to **May 1, 2002** are eligible for Committed-Class reclaimed water connections.

(4) All metered commercial and multi-family residential reclaimed water accounts are classified within the General Users subclass unless eligible under the Major Users subclass.

(5) The Major Users subclass includes each reclaimed water account established by the County pursuant to a written agreement or arrangement with the customer which provides for a maximum daily quantity of reclaimed water deliverable by the County, the interruption of reclaimed water delivery for the remainder of any day in which the daily maximum quantity has been delivered, and/or the on-site storage of reclaimed water during wet-weather periods.

(6) Represents monthly user rates that are in effect as of October 1, 2024. The Board has adopted the implementation of a price index adjustment plus an additional rate adjustment as provided in Sections 6.1 and 6.2.

(7) An ERC for reclaimed water service is defined as an average annual daily flow of **500 gpd**. ERCs are determined initially based on projected usage and are subject to adjustment annually based on the actual average annual daily usage for the prior **12-month** period. For example, an average annual daily flow of **1000 gpd** is equivalent to **2 ERCs** (1000/500 = 2).

In the alternative, each General User may elect to have the total ERCs for its account determined on the basis of the property’s irrigated area. For each such election, **1 ERC** shall apply for each **5600 square feet** of irrigated area or portion thereof. An election may only be rescinded at the discretion of the Director of the County’s Department following the Department’s receipt of a written request for rescission from the General User stating the basis for the request. The assessment of monthly charges based on such an election shall commence with the first full billing cycle following the County Department’s receipt of the General User’s affidavit certifying the total irrigated area of the property and shall continue until the election is rescinded as provided herein or the account is closed. The determination of total ERCs based on such an election may be modified following the Department’s receipt of a subsequent affidavit certifying a change in the total irrigated area of the property. The total irrigated area certified for any such property shall be subject to verification and adjustment by the County.

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2.3 BULK-SERVICE CHARGES - Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, customers receiving bulk water or wastewater services shall be assessed monthly in accordance with the following table.

MONTHLY USER RATES—BULK SERVICE	
Service	Usage Charge
Potable Water (Per 1000 gallons) Purchased-Water Pass-Through Consumption Charge Base Consumption Charge ⁽¹⁾	Per Section 2.1.2 \$2.19
Wastewater Consumption Charge (Per 1000 gallons) ⁽¹⁾	\$7.98
(1) Represents monthly user rates that are in effect as of October 1, 2024. The Board has adopted the implementation of a price index adjustment plus an additional rate adjustment as provided in Sections 6.1 and 6.2.	

2.3.1 Bulk Water Customers – The water rates established in this subsection are applicable to each County water customer that (a) resells water services to its own customers in accordance with the Utility Code and (b) maintains all distribution systems, valves, hydrants, service connections, and meters in the public right-of-way within its recognized service area. The total cost of bulk water service will equal the sum of the effective purchased-water pass-through consumption charge and the base-consumption charge applied to all metered potable water delivered to such bulk-water customers. The terms for providing bulk water service to any applicant shall be established in an agreement between the applicant and the County.

2.3.2 Bulk Wastewater Customers - The wastewater rates established in this subsection are applicable to each County wastewater customer that (a) resells wastewater services to its own customers in accordance with the Utility Code and (b) maintains all collection systems, service connections, manholes, and valves in the public right-of-way within its recognized service area. The terms for providing bulk wastewater service to any applicant shall be established in an agreement between the applicant and the County.

2.4 **HARDSHIP / AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE DISCOUNT (HAAD)** -For all accounts that meet the following applicability criteria, a hardship and affordability discount applicable to the water and wastewater Base Facility Charge equal to \$2.50/month for water service and \$2.50/month for wastewater service totaling \$5.00 per month shall be credited to the utility bill rendered to the applicant each month. The application of the HAAD shall not be subject to any automatic rate adjustments, as provided in Section 6 of the Rate Resolution.

2.4.1 In order to be eligible and qualify to receive the HAAD, the following shall apply:

- a) The HAAD shall only be available to the applicant that is also named as the account holder for an individually metered single family residential customer receiving water and/or wastewater service provided by the County.
- b) The service address must be the primary residence of the applicant requesting the HAAD and the applicant cannot request more than one discount for service or be considered as a member of another household requesting the HAAD.
- c) The HAAD is only applicable to single-family residential water and/or wastewater service which is individually metered and not for service rendered to master-metered residential service or commercial service.
- d) The HAAD does not apply to reclaimed water service.

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- e) Eligibility requirements will be determined by and based on Hillsborough County's Social Services Department (Social Services) criteria used to determine the annual income of the household residing at the service address and will be based upon the most recent U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Poverty Guidelines published in the Federal Register.
 - f) If an applicant is denied the HAAD, the applicant can follow the Customer Appeal for Grant Eligibility process established by Social Services.
- 2.4.2 The applicant must file an application with Social Services that satisfies the eligibility and applicability criteria as provided in this section. A link can be found on the County Webpage for assistance programs or by contacting Social Services.
- a) The application of the HAAD will not be applied retroactively and shall become effective within forty-five days upon acceptance of the application by Social Services and notification to the applicant.
 - b) The term of the application of the HAAD will be i) for no more than twelve months; ii) upon closure of the account by the application if within less than twelve months; iii) upon the change in the name of the applicant if within less than twelve months.
 - c) The Water Resources Department (Department) will notify current program participants 60 days prior to expiration to reapply.
 - d) Applicant must be current with their account balance and must not have any unauthorized use of service.
 - e) To continue with the HAAD, the applicant must reapply and be deemed eligible on an annual basis by Social Services methodology as noted in 2.4.1 (e) above.
 - f) The responsibility to reapply and receive the HAAD rests solely with the applicant.
- 2.4.3 If the Department determines that an account that is receiving the HAAD should not have qualified for the receipt of the HAAD, the Department shall cease the application of the HAAD on the next bill for service.

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SECTION 3 MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE RATES

3.1 MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE CHARGES – Special services or handling provided by the County at the request of a customer or to correct improper customer activities shall be assessed in accordance with the following table.

Miscellaneous Services	Business-Hours Charge	After-Hours Charge ⁽¹⁾
Customer-Requested Services		
Bench-test meter: 1-inch or smaller	\$40.00	N/A
Larger than 1-inch	Actual Cost	N/A
Establish account and read/turn on for initial service	\$25.00	N/A
Estimate line extension cost for development (credited to account if line extension constructed)	\$300.00	N/A
Inspect line for damage/blockage (not County caused)	\$30.00	\$45.00
Install lateral	Actual Cost	N/A
Install Low Pressure Sewer System effluent pump package (pump, pump chamber, control panel and pump controls)	\$1,150.00	N/A
Install wet tap	\$250.00	N/A
Make unsuccessful visit to service address (not County caused)	\$10.00	N/A
Research account payment that was properly processed	\$10.00	N/A
Perform emergency turn-off / turn-on	\$35.00	\$52.50
Prepare time-payment document:		
Impact-fee affidavit	\$15.00	N/A
Delinquent-account agreement	\$30.00	N/A
Process early payoff of assessment:		
Ad valorem units	\$25.00	N/A
Impact-fee affidavit	\$15.00	N/A
Release of liens	\$15.00	N/A
Re-read meter	\$25.00	N/A
Transfer Capacity Reservation within permitted subdivision	\$45.00	N/A
Delinquent Accounts		
Attempt to collect delinquent account at service address	\$10	N/A
Late Pay Charge - % of past due balance	5.00%	
Interrupt service:		
Wastewater	Actual Cost	N/A
Water	\$25.00	N/A
Reinstall meter:		
1-inch or smaller	\$50.00	\$75.00
Larger than 1-inch	Actual Cost	N/A
Restore wastewater service, next working day	\$30.00	N/A
Restore water service:		
Next working day	\$25.00	N/A
Same day at customer request after payment in office	\$35.00	\$52.50
Special handling:		
Filing liens or actions for judgement	\$30.00	N/A
Court costs	Per Court Order	N/A
Enforcement or Corrective Actions		
Install or replace back-flow prevention device:		
Double-check	\$90.00	N/A
Residential dual-check	\$90.00	N/A
Reduced pressure zone	\$350.00	N/A
Install required lateral clean-out at point of connection	\$250.00	N/A

Miscellaneous Services	Business-Hours Charge	After-Hours Charge ⁽¹⁾
Other ⁽²⁾	Actual cost	Actual cost
Replace missing or damaged equipment	\$25.00	N/A
Padlock	\$25.00	N/A
Locking device	Pre-tap fee plus	N/A
Meter, any other than hydrant	estimated usage	
	\$75.00	N/A
Meter box	\$620.00 plus	N/A
Hydrant meter	estimated usage	
Remove illegal connection	\$200.00 plus	N/A
	estimated usage	
Re-read meter due to customer obstruction	\$20.00	N/A
Special handling:		
Update records due to unauthorized meter relocation	\$30.00	N/A
Verify illegal consumption (legal connection)	\$25.00 plus usage	N/A
Service Charge for Collection of Dishonored Checks, Drafts, or Other Orders for the Payment of Monies ⁽³⁾		
Checks up to \$50.00	\$25.00	N/A
Checks \$50.01 to \$300.00	\$30.00	N/A
Checks \$300.01 to \$800.00	\$40.00	N/A
Checks \$800.01 & over	5% of Face Value	N/A
Document recording	Actual Cost	N/A
<p>(1) Charges are increased 50% for services between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. on normal working days (Monday through Friday) and for all hours on holidays and weekends.</p> <p>(2) All other corrective or enforcement actions performed to protect the public utility system as a result of the customer's failure to comply with local regulations or conditions of service.</p> <p>(3) Section 2-419 of the <i>Hillsborough County Code of Ordinances and Laws, Part A, General Ordinances</i> authorizes a charge for collection of dishonored checks and a fee schedule based on Section 832.08(5), Florida Statutes.</p>		

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3.2 INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT CHARGES – Charges to implement, administer, and enforce the County’s Industrial Pretreatment Program as defined in **Chapter 120** of the Utility Code shall be assessed in accordance with the following table, as amended.

Industrial Pretreatment (Program (IPP) Service	Charge
Industrial Pretreatment Charges	
Accidental discharge review	\$200.00
Administrative fee for non-compliance	Actual Cost
Annual audit fee	\$200.00
Re-inspection fee	\$100.00
Appeal charge	\$200.00
Industrial investigative charge	\$100.00 per day
Laboratory services	Actual Cost
Permit application review fee	\$100.00
Initial IPP permit fee (including No-discharge and Restricted permits)	\$500.00
IPP permit renewal fee (including No-discharge and Restricted permits)	\$300.00
IPP permit modification fee (including No-discharge and Restricted permits)	\$100.00
Restricted permit administrative fee per day of discharge, first year	\$100.00
per week of discharge, after first year	\$100.00
Sample collections	
Flow-proportioned sample	\$100.00
Grab sample	\$35.00
Time-composite sample	\$75.00
24-hour pH and/or temperature recording	\$75.00
Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG) and Registered Waste Hauler Program Services	
Food Service Establishment (FSE) annual fees:	
FSEs with ≤50-gallon capacity grease trap only	\$100.00
FSEs with one ≥51-gallon capacity grease interceptor	\$200.00
FSEs with two or more grease interceptors	\$300.00
Facilities with one or more lint trap(s) annual fee	\$100.00
Facilities with oil/water separator annual fees:	
One oil/water separator	\$200.00
Two or more oil/water separators	\$300.00
Re-inspection fee	\$100.00
Waste Hauler annual registration fee	\$250.00 plus \$25.00 per truck
Administrative fee for non-compliance	Actual cost

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Industrial Pretreatment (Program (IPP) Service	Charge
Privately-Owned Collection & Transmission System (POCTS) Program Services	
POCTS annual fees:	
POCTS with collection system only (no station)	\$300.00
POCTS with pump station only (no manholes)	\$300.00
POCTS with pump station(s) and collection system	\$500.00
Re-inspection fee	\$100.00
Administrative fee for non-compliance	Actual cost

3.2.1 Special Project Charges – A Special Project charge shall be assessed Restricted Permit holders as defined in **Chapter 120** of the Utility Code. Such charges shall be assessed monthly for all days during the previous month that industrial wastes were discharged. The charge shall be calculated using the following equation:

$$SPC = [(ADF)(GCF)(DD)] / (UPL)$$

- where: SPC = Special Project charge
ADF = Permittee’s average daily wastewater flow in gallons over the duration of the permit
GCF = the per-gallon impact fee of the applicable service area
DD = the number of days that Permittee’s discharges to the Utility System occurred
UPL = the projected useful life of a Utility System treatment facility (**7,305 days**)

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3.3 HIGH-STRENGTH WASTE CHARGES – Discharges of high-strength waste as defined in **Chapter 120** of the Utility Code, which are found to contain specified pollutants in excess of the normal concentrations allowed shall be assessed wastewater treatment surcharges in accordance with this subsection at the rates established in the following table.

Parameter	Normal Value	Rate
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	(BOD) = 250 mg/l	\$0.155/lb
Total Suspended Solids	(TSS) = 250 mg/l	\$0.173/lb
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	(TKN) = 40 mg/l	\$0.361/lb
Total Phosphorus	(TP) = 10 mg/l	\$2.235/lb

3.3.1 Surcharge Applicability - The surcharge shall apply to:

- (a) Wastewater which is discharged at an average daily flow rate greater than **25,000 gallons per day** (gpd) and with a conventional pollutant level greater than normal-strength waste.
- (b) Wastewater which is discharged at an average daily flow rate less than **25,000 gpd** and with a conventional pollutant level greater than normal-strength waste caused by customer operations other than food preparation (meal preparation, baking, frying, etc.).

3.3.2 Surcharge Assessment - Customers discharging high-strength wastewater will be responsible for performing or securing an analysis of their wastewater for the prescribed parameter(s) and shall submit the results thereof to the Department. Customers who do not submit the required wastewater analyses will be sampled by the Department. The cost incurred by the Department for such sampling and analyses will be billed to the customer.

3.3.3 Calculation of Surcharge - The surcharge assessed will be based on the most recent wastewater analysis established for that customer pursuant to the authorizing Rate Resolution. The total surcharge will be the sum of all individual surcharges applicable to that analysis. Individual surcharges will be calculated using the following equation:

$$S = [(C_C - C_N)(Q_C)(W_W)(R_P)(T)] / D_W$$

- where
- S = surcharge (\$/month)
 - C_C = concentration of parameter in customer wastewater (mg/liter)
 - C_N = normal concentration of parameter (mg/liter)
 - D_W = flow rate conversion factor (**1,000,000** gpd/MGD)
 - Q_C = average daily wastewater flow of customer (gallons/day)
 - W_W = Mass conversion factor (**8.34** lbs/day / MGD-mg/l)
 - R_P = surcharge rate applicable to parameter (\$/lb)
 - T = number of days per month of customer operations (days)

3.3.4 Billing of Surcharge - The total calculated surcharge will be assessed each month in the regular billing for County wastewater treatment services. Initial billing for each customer will commence with the first complete billing cycle following establishment of that customer's wastewater analysis. Assessment of the surcharge will continue until a subsequent analysis, established in accordance with the testing schedule applicable to the discharge permit, indicates that an alternate surcharge amount is due or that no surcharge is appropriate at that time.

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3.4 FIRE PROTECTION CHARGES – Readiness-to-Serve charges pertaining to privately owned fire-protection systems and equipment connected to the County water system shall be assessed monthly in accordance with the following table based on the size of the service line connecting the private system to the County’s system. All fire protection usage that is documented to the Department by a local fire department or by a certified hydrant-testing agency shall be assessed at the rate established in **Section 2.1** for the first consumption block of the water-conservation consumption charges and at the rate established in that Section for the purchased-water pass-through consumption charge.

Size of Service	2" & smaller	3"	4"	6"	8"	10"	12"
Monthly Charge	\$3.25	\$3.40	\$3.60	\$8.70	\$16.50	\$27.50	\$45.00

3.5 MISCELLANEOUS RELOCATION/REPLACEMENT CHARGES - The County shall assess the party or parties responsible, for the actual costs incurred by the County to raise, lower, relocate, adjust, or replace mains, service lines, manholes, fire hydrants, fire lines, meters, meter boxes, back-flow prevention devices, clean-outs, clean-out caps, valves, valve boxes, or other appurtenances at the request of such parties or when necessitated by any action of such parties which results in a change in ground elevation, a construction change, or damage due to negligence. Actual costs shall include the cost of any design and permitting required, the cost of all labor and materials utilized, the cost of equipment utilized, and an allocation of overhead.

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SECTION 4 TEMPORARY SERVICE RATES

4.1 TEMPORARY METERED-SERVICE CHARGES – Charges for providing temporary water service for construction and other purposes shall be assessed in accordance with the following table.

Type of Charge	Charge by Type		
	Hydrant	Tank-Truck	New Development
Install and Remove ⁽¹⁾	\$170.00	\$170.00	
Base Facility ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	10 ERCs	10 ERCs	
Usage Charges ⁽²⁾			
Pass-Through ⁽⁴⁾	Per Section 2.1.2	Per Section 2.1.2	Per Section 2.1.2
Conservation ⁽⁵⁾	10 ERCs	10 ERCs	
Horizontal Construction ⁽⁶⁾ Vertical Construction ⁽⁷⁾			\$28.00 per/lot \$80.00 per/lot

(1) The specified charge is for one installation and removal by the County of the meter and meter reading devices.
 (2) Charges are assessed for each full month or portion thereof until the meter is removed by or returned to the County.
 (3) Charges are assessed for each ERC at the Base Facility Charge prescribed in Section 2.1 for potable water service.
 (4) The Purchased-Water Pass-Through Consumption Charge.
 (5) Charges are assessed for each ERC at the Conservation Consumption Charges prescribed in Section 2.1 for potable water service.
 (6) Allowed for the horizontal clearance of water and sewer lines within new subdivisions. The applicant must have a privately installed Backflow device at the potable water point of connection.
 (7) Per lot charge would apply to any approved vertical construction if a meter is not available.

4.2 RECLAIMED WATER CHARGE –The charge for providing temporary reclaimed water service to tank trucks at designated treatment plants for distribution at County-owned or operated facilities shall be assessed in accordance with the following table.

Quantity of Reclaimed Water	Charge
Each truck/tank load	\$9.00

4.3 FIRE-FLOW TEST CHARGE – The charge for performing an American Water Works Association fire-flow test for one or more fire hydrants and providing the resulting test data at the request of an applicant shall be assessed in accordance with the following table.

Fire-Flow Testing	Charge
Each fire hydrant	\$150.00

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SECTION 5 CUSTOMER DEPOSITS

- 5.1 GENERAL - Security deposits to reduce bad-debt losses shall be established for each new customer account and adjusted as necessary, by the Utility, to reflect two-times the systemwide average monthly billing for comparable account and services in accordance with this Section. Except as otherwise provided in this Section, required deposits shall be collected in cash when the account is established.
- 5.2 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL ACCOUNTS – Except as provided in subsection 5.3, deposits for single-family residential accounts shall be assessed in accordance with the following table. Collection of wastewater deposits for proposed single-family residences may be deferred until issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy.

Deposit by Service (Per ERC)		
Water	Wastewater	Water &Wastewater
\$90.00	\$165.00	\$185.00

- 5.2.1 Waiver – A deposit shall be waived if the County receives a favorable credit score from the County’s consumer reporting agency and the customer maintains a satisfactory payment record.
- 5.2.2 Letters of Credit - In lieu of cash, developers of new single-family residential projects may file an irrevocable letter-of-credit drawn on a qualified public depository as defined in **Florida Statutes, Chapter 280.02(11)**. Letters-of-credit shall not be used to guarantee debt already owed.
- 5.2.3 Adjustments to Deposits - Customers with unsatisfactory payment records, whether or not entitled to a waiver pursuant to subsection 5.2.1, shall be subject to the current deposit requirements for services provided or to three times the customer's average monthly bill, whichever is greater. A separate County policy establishes the specific criteria for increasing security deposits.
- 5.2.4 Release of Deposits – Cash deposits and accrued interest will be credited to the accounts of customers with good payment records. Otherwise, the deposit and interest shall be credited to the account when it is closed. Refund checks will not be issued unless a credit balance remains when the final bill is rendered. A separate County policy establishes the specific criteria for refunding customer deposits. Alternate forms of security will be released when the account is closed, and payment of the final bill has been received.
- 5.3 COMMERCIAL AND MASTER-METERED RESIDENTIAL WATER/WASTEWATER ACCOUNTS - Deposits for commercial and master-metered residential accounts shall be based on two times the current system-wide average monthly billing for comparable accounts.
- 5.3.1 Alternate Forms of Security – The County will accept a surety bond or a letter-of-credit in lieu of a cash deposit for an account. Letters-of-credit shall be drawn on a qualified public depository as defined in **Florida Statutes, Chapter 280.02(11)** and shall not be used to guarantee debt already owed.
- 5.3.2 Adjustments to Deposits - Customers with unsatisfactory payment records shall be subject to the current deposit requirements for services provided or to three times the customer's average monthly bill, whichever is greater. A separate County policy establishes the specific criteria for increasing deposits.
- 5.3.3 Release of Deposits – A cash deposit and accrued interest will be credited to the account when the account is closed and the final bill is rendered. Refund checks will not be issued unless a credit balance remains when the final bill is rendered. A separate County policy establishes the specific criteria for refunding customer deposits. Alternate forms of security will be released when the account is closed, and payment of the final bill has been received.

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5.4 COMMERCIAL AND MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL RECLAIMED WATER ACCOUNTS - Deposits for commercial and multi-family residential reclaimed water accounts shall be assessed by meter size in accordance with the following table. The criteria for increasing a deposit, for the use of an alternate form of security, and for releasing deposits on such accounts are the same as the criteria applied to commercial and multi-family residential accounts for water or wastewater service.

Meter Size	5/8"x 3/4"	1"	1 1/2"	2"	3"	4"	6"	8"	10"
Deposit	\$150.00	\$165.00	\$175.00	\$225.00	\$350.00	\$400.00	\$485.00	\$550.00	\$650.00

5.5 TEMPORARY METERED-SERVICE ACCOUNTS – Damage deposits are required for temporary meters obtained for water services provided pursuant to **Section 4.1**. All such deposits shall be assessed in accordance with the following table.

Meter Type	Hydrant	Tank-Truck
Deposit	\$650.00	\$650.00

5.5.1 Alternate Forms of Security – The County will accept alternate forms of security in accordance with the criteria established for commercial and master-metered residential accounts for water services.

5.5.2 Release of Deposits - A cash deposit and accrued interest will be credited to the account when the meter is returned to or removed by the County. Refund checks will not be issued unless a credit balance remains when the final bill is rendered. A separate County policy establishes the specific criteria for refunding customer deposits. Alternate forms of security will also be released when the meter is returned to or removed by the County. The release of each deposit shall be reduced by the value of any damage to or loss of the meter that occurred while serving the applicant's property other than due to normal wear and tear as determined by the County.

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SECTION 6 AUTOMATIC RATE ADJUSTMENTS

- 6.1 RATE INDEXING. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the monthly user rates established in Section 2 for the Enterprise System (collectively, the “Applicable Rates”) shall be increased automatically by the Department each year by applying the price index factor established for that year in accordance with this subsection (the “Price Index Factor”) to the Applicable Rates to offset the estimated effects of inflation on the cost of operating and maintaining the Enterprise System. All Applicable Rates so adjusted (the “Indexed Rates”) shall be implemented by the Department.
- 6.1.1 Adjustment Schedule. Each implementation of Indexed Rates (“Rate Indexing”) shall occur without a public hearing. Rate Indexing shall not be employed more than once in any fiscal year. The Indexed Rates shall be implemented by the Department on October 1st of the year in which the Price Index Factor was determined. Nothing herein shall preclude the County from making additional changes to the Applicable Rates in any year through adoption of a formal resolution pursuant to Division 7 of its Public Utility Connections Regulations.
- 6.1.2 Applicable Rates. Only the following Applicable Rates shall be subject to Rate Indexing:
- (a) The water and wastewater user charges referenced in Section 2.1 (excluding the Purchased-water Pass-through Consumption Charge).
 - (b) The reclaimed water user charges referenced in Section 2.2 (excluding Committed-Class connections).
 - (c) The bulk-service charges referenced in Section 2.3 (excluding the Purchased-water Pass-through Consumption Charge).
- 6.1.3 Sunset of Rate Indexing. The application of the Rate Index shall continue annually thereafter through September 30, 2035 and the Applicable Rates shall be adjusted by an amount equal to the Price Index Factor for each respective fiscal year as determined by this section with said annual index adjustment not being less than zero percent (0%) nor exceeding five percent (5.0%). The Indexed Rates resulting from the application of the Price Index Factor shall be rounded to the nearest cent.

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6.1.4 Calculation of Price Index Factor. The Price Index Factor shall be calculated using the following formula:

$$PIF = [(OP - PW) * EPI] / (ER - PPCCR)$$

Where:

- PIF = The Price Index Factor used for Rate Indexing to determine the monetary adjustment in the Applicable Rates. The PIF represents the estimated increase in current operating expenses during the prior fiscal year (the "Calculation Period") that is subject to the application of the annual inflation-index, expressed as a percentage of the applicable revenues derived from monthly user rates during such fiscal year. The amount of the increase is a component of any additional revenue required by the Enterprise System to ensure compliance with the Bond Covenants (the "Additional Required Revenue").
- OP = The total expenses, paid or accrued, for the operations, maintenance, and repair of the Enterprise System as reported in the Annual Report for the Calculation Period after excluding (a) allowances for depreciation and amortization expense; (b) any expense paid from funds on deposit in the "Renewal and Replacement Account" (as such account is defined in the Bond Covenants and the amount thereof reported in the Annual Report) or funded or reimbursed from a grant from a governmental body other than the County; and (c) capitalized salaries and other overhead related to the County's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Such total expenses as adjusted for the stated exclusions are hereinafter referred to as the "Operating Expenses". By way of example, Rate Indexing that will become effective on October 1, 2024 shall be based on the applicable Operating Expenses for Fiscal Year 2023.
- PW = That component of the Operating Expenses (OP) for the Calculation Period recognized in the determination of the Purchased-Water Pass-Through Consumption Charge pursuant to Section 2.1.2.
- EPI = The price index which represents the percentage change in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Water and Sewer Maintenance Index (Series ID CUSR0000SEHG01 CPI-All Urban Consumers) when comparing i) the average twelve month index factor ending January of the current fiscal year immediately prior to the fiscal year that the Rate Index is to be applied and ii) the average twelve month index factor ending January of the prior fiscal year (the "Effective Price Index"). By way of example, the Effective Price Index for Fiscal Year 2025 which would be implemented on October 1, 2024 would compare the percentage change in the average index calculated for the twelve months ended January 2024 to the average index calculated for the twelve months.
- ER = The total actual revenues earned by the Enterprise System from the Applicable Rates as reported in the Annual Report and any other supporting financial documentation for the Calculation Period.
- PPCCR = The total actual revenues earned by the Enterprise System during the Calculation Period from the application of the Purchased-Water Pass-Through Consumption Charge to the metered potable water consumption pursuant to Section 2.1.2.

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A sample calculation of the Price Index Factor based on the Fiscal Year 2023 financial results is illustrated in the following table:

Total Operating Expenses (Calculation Period)	OP	\$246,462,303
Less:		
Purchased Water Expenses (Calculation Period)	PW	(80,528,098)
Adjusted Operating Expenses		165,934,205
Effective Price Index	EPI	<u>4.80%</u>
Actual Revenues Earned (Calculation Period)	ER	351,375,356
Less Purchased-Water Pass-Through Consumption Charge Revenue	PPCCR	(79,323,926)
Applicable-Rate Revenue (Denominator)		272,051,430
Price Index Factor	PIF	<u>2.93%</u>

6.1.5 Determination of Indexed Rates. The Indexed Rates shall be determined based on the Price Index Factor applied uniformly to the Applicable Rates in effect and shall be rounded to the nearest cent. The determination shall be based on the following formula:

$$IR = AR * (1 + PIF)$$

Where:

IR = The Indexed Rates, before any further adjustment as provided in Section 6.2, that are to be placed in effect for the current fiscal year through application of the Price Index Factor.

AR = The Applicable Rates in effect immediately prior to the application of the Price Index Factor.

PIF = The Price Index Factor determined for the Calculation Period.

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6.2 ADDITIONAL RATE ADJUSTMENT. The Applicable Rates as adjusted annually by the Price Index shall be further adjusted automatically annually by 4.0% for each fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023, and by 5.0% for each fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2032 to provide additional funds to support expanding operating costs for additional services and additional capital programs to assure sustainability. Subsequent to October 1, 2032, no Additional Rate Adjustment will be recognized in the determination of the Final Rates to be billed for respective fiscal year. The annual application of the Additional Rate Adjustment shall be based on the following formula:

$$FR = IR * (1 + ARA)$$

Where:

- FR = The Final Rates that are to be placed in effect for the current fiscal year through the application of the Price Index Factor and the Additional Rate Adjustment.
- IR = The Indexed Rates that are to be placed in effect for the current fiscal year through application of the Price Index Factor before the application of the Additional Rate Adjustment, if any.
- ARA = The Additional Rate Adjustment equal to 4% to be applied for each fiscal year beginning October 1, 2023 through October 1, 2024 and then equal to 5% to be applied for each fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2032.

6.3 PASS-THROUGH CHARGES. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Applicable Rates shall be increased by the Department each year by applying a pass-through adjustment factor established for that year in accordance with this subsection (the "Pass-Through Factor") to the Applicable Rates to offset increases in certain costs incurred by the Utility System for purchased services and regulatory compliance (collectively, the "Applicable Costs"). All Applicable Rates so adjusted (the "Pass-Through Rates") shall be implemented by the Department.

6.3.1 Adjustment Schedule. The implementation of Pass-Through Rates for any year ("Cost Recovery") shall occur without a public hearing. Cost Recovery shall not be employed more than once in any calendar year. Any Pass-Through Rates based on Fiscal Year **2023** expenses shall be implemented as of **October 1, 2024**. Thereafter, Pass-Through Rates shall be implemented not later than October 1 of the year in which the Pass-Through Factor was established. Nothing herein shall preclude the County from making additional changes to the Applicable Rates in any year through adoption of a formal resolution pursuant to **Division 7** of its Public Utility Connections Regulations.

6.3.2 Applicable Rates. Only the following Applicable Rates shall be subject to Cost Recovery:

- (a) The water and wastewater usage charges referenced in **Section 2.1** (excluding the Purchased-water Pass-through Consumption Charge).
- (b) The reclaimed water usage charges referenced in **Section 2.2**.
- (c) The bulk-service charges referenced in **Section 2.3** (excluding the Purchased-water Pass-through Consumption Charge).

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6.3.3 Applicable Costs. Only the following cost categories qualify as Applicable Costs for Cost Recovery:

- (a) All increases in the rates or fees charged by a privately-owned utility system whose rates are regulated by a governmental agency (a "Regulated Utility") or charged by another governmental agency for wastewater services, electricity, or natural gas purchased by the Utility System.
- (b) All increases in the rates or fees assessed the County for permitting and other regulatory functions provided by any regulatory agency having jurisdiction over Utility System operations (a "Regulator").
- (c) All other cost increases incurred by the Utility System as a result of any regulatory changes or requirements imposed by a Regulated Utility or a Regulator.

6.3.4 Calculation of Pass-Through Factor. The Pass-Through Factor shall be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{PTF} = \text{ARR} / \text{ER}$$

Where:

- PTF = The annual Pass-Through Factor used for Cost Recovery to determine the monetary adjustment in the Applicable Rates. The PTF represents the increase in the Applicable Costs during the Calculation Period, expressed as a percentage of the current revenues for that period.
- ARR = The Additional Required Revenue is calculated based on the change in the Applicable Costs that will affect the overall cost of providing Utility System services.
- ER = The total actual revenues earned by the Utility System from the Applicable Rates as reported by the County for the Calculation Period, adjusted to reflect estimated annualized revenues to the extent an adjustment to the Applicable Rates was made effective during a portion of the Calculation Period, as if the rate adjustment had been in effect for the entire Calculation Period.

6.3.5 Determination of Pass-Through Rates. The Pass-Through Rates shall be determined based on the Pass-Through Factor applied uniformly to the Applicable Rates in effect and shall be rounded to the nearest cent. The Pass-through application shall be based on the following formula:

$$\text{PTR} = (\text{AR}) (1 + \text{PTF})$$

Where:

- PTR = The Pass-Through Rates that are to be placed in effect for the current fiscal year through application of the Pass-Through Factor.
- AR = The Applicable Rates in effect immediately prior to the application of the Price Index Factor.
- PTF = The Pass-Through Factor as determined for the Calculation Period.

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6.4 EMERGENCY WATER CONSERVATION CHARGES. If the Board of County Commissioners places emergency water conservation charges in effect via a subsequent public hearing and resolution, the Board may revoke such charges at any time without a public hearing by finding that the conditions upon which such charges were established no longer merit their imposition, provided that non-emergency water conservation rates have been established in accordance with the Public Utility Connections Regulations to replace such emergency charges. The Board may also, at any time and without a public hearing, reinstate the emergency water conservation charges last revoked in accordance with this subsection upon a finding that such charges are merited based on then-current environmental and/or regulatory conditions. The County shall provide notice of the intent to consider the imposition or reinstatement of any such emergency water conservation charges to affected customers in accordance with Section 180.136, Florida Statutes.

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**TABLE 1
FLOW BY TYPE**

Type of Establishment	GPD ^{(1)(2) (3)}
Commercial:	
Airports	
(a) per passenger	4
(b) add per employee per 8 hour shift	15
Barber and beauty shops per service chair	75
Bowling alley per lane (toilet wastes only)	50
Car Wash	
(a) automated, per car	45
(b) automated, with water recovery	8
(c) self-service, per car	12
(d) self-service, with water recovery	6
Country clubs	
(a) per resident, or	100
(b) per member or patron	25
(c) add per employee per 8 hour shift, or	15
(d) per member (with showers)	30
(e) add per employee per 8 hour shift, (with showers)	25
(f) apartment/multi-purpose clubhouse per restroom	250
Doctors and Dentist offices	
(a) per practitioner	250
(b) add per employee per 8 hour shift	15
Factories, exclusive of industrial wastes, per employee per 8 hour shift	
(a) no showers provided	15
(b) showers provided	25
Flea market open 3 or less days per week (double the estimated flows if open more often)	15
(a) per non-food service vendor space	
(b) add per food service establishment using single service articles only per 100 SF of floor space	50
(c) per limited food service establishment	25
Food service operations	
(a) restaurant open 16 hours or less per day, per seat	40
(b) restaurant open more than 16 hours per day, per seat	60
(c) restaurant serving single service articles only and open 16 hours a day or less, per seat	20
(d) restaurant serving single service articles only and open more than 16 hours a day, per seat	35
(e) bar and cocktail lounge per seat add per pool table or video game	20
(f) drive-in restaurant, per car space	15

**TABLE 1
FLOW BY TYPE**

Type of Establishment	GPD ^{(1)(2) (3)}
(g) carry out only, including caterers	50
(1) per 100 SF of floor space	50
(2) add per employee per 8 hour shift	15
(h) institutions per meal	5
(i) food outlets excluding deli, bakery, or meat department per 100 SF of floor space	10
(1) add for deli per 100 SF of floor space	40
(2) add for bakery per 100 SF of floor space	
(3) add for meat department per 100 SF of floor space	40
(4) add per toilet	75
	200
Hotels and motels	
(a) regular per room	100
(b) resort hotels, camps, cottages (per room)	200
(c) add for self-service laundry, per machine	750
Laundromats, launderette, self-service laundry facilities, per machine	260 ⁽⁴⁾
Trailer park for recreational vehicles	
(a) per space (overnight) without water and wastewater	50
(b) travel trailer (overnight) with water & sewer hookup, per trailer space	75
Office buildings	
(a) per employee per 8 hour shift, or	15
(b) per 100 SF of floor space, whichever is greater	15
Recreational/Sports facility	
(a) per person	5
(b) per person (with showers)	10
Service stations/convenience store per toilet	
(a) Open 16 hours per day or less	250
(b) Open more than 16 hours a day	325
Shopping centers without food or laundry per 100 SF of floor space	10
Stadiums, arenas, racetracks, ball parks per seat	4
Stores per 100 SF of floor space	10
Swimming and bathing facilities, public, per person	10
Theaters and auditoriums, per seat	4
Veterinary clinic	
(a) per practitioner	250
(b) add per employee per 8 hour shift	15
(c) add per kennel, stall, or cage	20
Warehouses per employee per 8 hour shift	15

**TABLE 1
FLOW BY TYPE**

Type of Establishment	GPD ^{(1)(2) (3)}
Warehouses/mini-storage	
(a) per bathroom	250
(b) add for onsite manager apartment	140
Institutional:	
Churches per seat	3
Hospitals per bed (includes kitchen wastewater flow)	215
Nursing, rest homes per bed (includes kitchen wastewater flow)	115
Parks, public picnic	
(a) with toilets only per person	5
(b) with bathhouses, showers, and toilets per person	10
Public institutions other than schools and hospitals per person (not including kitchen waste flows)	100
Schools per student	
(a) day-type	10
(1) add for showers	4
(2) add for cafeteria	4
(3) add for day school workers	15
(b) boarding-type	75
(c) day care	10
add per day care worker	15
Work or construction camps, semi-permanent, per worker	50
<p>(1) Metered water-use data may be used for Commercial Class customer requirements in lieu of the estimated water and wastewater flows in this Table. The applicant shall provide authenticated monthly water-use data documenting water consumption for the most recent 12-month period for the existing establishment for which service was applied for or if service is for a proposed development, for three (3) similar establishments. Similar establishments are defined as those engaged in the same type of business or service, with operations of similar size, located within Hillsborough County in the same type of geographic environment, and having approximately the same operating hours. Establishments with variations in average daily flows in excess of 25% will not be considered comparable. To be considered in lieu of this Table, water-use data for similar establishments must be received by the County's Planning and Growth Management Department prior to that Department's approval of the proposed establishment's construction plans.</p>	

**TABLE 1
FLOW BY TYPE**

Type of Establishment	GPD ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽³⁾
<p>(2) For those establishments with seasonal uses, the average metered water use during the establishment's peak season shall be used to establish the quantity of wastewater capacity required in lieu of the estimated flows above. For this purpose, seasonal usage is defined as any period three months or longer, when the average water usage is more than 15% greater than the average usage during the 12 months including the seasonal period.</p> <p>(3) Existing structures in Hillsborough County that are served by private wells, plants or septic tanks may use water and wastewater flow data in lieu of estimated wastewater flows in this Table. The applicant shall provide authenticated monthly water and wastewater usage data reported to the Health Department, the Environmental Protection Commission, or the Department of Environmental Protection for the most recent 12-month period.</p> <p>(4) In no case will less than 80 gpd per laundry machine be used when applying metered water-use data supplied pursuant to note (1) above.</p>	

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