

Tualatin Valley Water District
Delivering The Best Water Service Value

**Rate Advisory
Committee Meeting**
November 2, 2016



Presented by:
HDR Engineering, Inc.



RAC Issue 3: Hydrant Meter Program



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Overview of the Issue

- Board previously reviewed the issues and concerns
 - Perception of leaking, poorly maintained water hauler equipment
 - Method(s) used by TVWD to track the number of loads by the water hauler
- Two types of hydrant users
 - Metered construction
 - Non-metered water haulers
- No defined laws or regulations on limiting or defining uses
 - Customer requirements are addressed in permitting process and procedures
- TVWD currently has 76 active customers who used 3,714 CCF in 2014 (2.8 mg) and \$13,000 of revenue



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Overview of TVWD Program


- Construction Hydrants
 - Charged a permit fee, hydrant deposit and a volumetric unit charge (See Issue Paper Table 1)
- Water (Truck) Haulers
 - TVWD inspects trucks for approved air gap and proper equipment
 - Hauler's receive instructions and hydrant locations
 - Only approved (green top) hydrants can be accessed
 - Hauler is responsible for recording loads and submits card quarterly to TVWD and TVWD invoices the permit holder



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Survey of Other Programs


- Metered Hydrants and Water Haulers
 - Many utilities have metered hydrant programs
 - Limited number of utilities which have water hauler programs
 - A few utilities have water fill stations
 - Keyed entry or monitored
- Survey of Permit Fees and Rate Varied Significantly (See Issue Paper Table 3)



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Advantages and Disadvantages

Metered Hydrant Use	Un-Metered Hydrant Use	Water Filling Station
<p>Advantages –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific sites can be designated and identified. Access points are spread across the service area. Reduced need to monitor and track customer use. <u>Consumption is metered.</u> No self reporting since metered. <p>Disadvantages –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial cost of meters for customer use. Maintenance of equipment and damage to hydrant meters. Higher customer cost for deposits, rental fees, etc. Administration of additional fees and program. 	<p>Advantages –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific sites can be designated and identified. Access points are spread across the service area. Lower cost of metering equipment. Lower maintenance costs of metering equipment. <u>Simple, low cost, approach and program.</u> <p>Disadvantages –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumption is un-metered. <u>Reliance on customer self reporting to bill for usage.</u> Increased field staff effort to monitor customers. 	<p>Advantages –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All consumption is metered and tracked by customer. Limits water access to specific locations. Minimizes the need for hydrant meters and equipment. Eliminates wear and tear on fire hydrants. Easier to monitor location(s). <p>Disadvantages –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Capital costs of establishing and maintaining station(s).</u> Additional operating costs for maintaining the station(s). Required monitoring of trucks and access for permitted only vehicles. <u>Availability of sites and impact to locations.</u>



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Address the Board's Concerns

- Customer group is very minor – impact is small
 - Revenue \cong 4/100th of 1 percent
 - Volume Sales \cong 4/100th of 1 percent
- Issue of perception – customers with leaking, poorly maintained filling equipment
 - TVWD utilizes commonly used approaches
 - Options for water haulers seem limited, and building a water filling station is not economically justified

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Policy Direction – Hydrant Use

- Maintain Hydrant and Water Hauler Program
 - Metered Hydrant Use
 - Maintain permit and hydrant meter approach
 - Revise approach (in general how and to what?)
 - Water Hauler
 - Maintain permit/self-reporting approach
 - Explore feasibility and economic justification for a designated water filling station
 - Eliminate any non-metered hydrant use

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