



CITY OF FRESNO

NEWS RELEASE

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City of Fresno Embarks on Water Meter Process

FRESNO, CA (November 4, 2008) – The City of Fresno Water Division is seeking residential volunteers to participate in a new customer research study designed to help measure water usage by single-family households. Data collected will help consumers learn more about their water usage and assist in the City's efforts to transition to a metered rate structure.

The City's goal is to select up to 10 homes from each of the seven city council districts, for a maximum of 70 volunteers, to do a cost comparison of current water charges per month versus a metered rate. Participants will not be charged the metered rate during the study. The Volunteer Study will begin in January 2009 and will run through December 2009.

All City of Fresno water customers are required to have water meters installed and billed a metered rate by 2013. Water meters are a requirement of AB514, which requires all users of Federal Central Valley Project (CVP) water to install water meters and bill a metered rate. It is also a requirement of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as part of the City's CVP contract renewal. The City contracts for 60,000 acre feet of CVP water annually, representing approximately 30% of Fresno's water supply.

There will not be any special assessment or charge associated with the cost of meter purchases or installation as meters are installed throughout the city. All costs for the water meter program are already built into current residential water rates. Currently, only commercial, industrial and multi-residence properties are billed a metered rate for their water usage in Fresno. Single-family residences pay a flat rate.

"Our Volunteer Study will be a year-long assessment to make certain customers get an accurate depiction of a full year's billing cycle," said Garth Gaddy, Assistant Director of Public Utilities. "Since water usage fluctuates greatly depending on the season, it will be important to pay close attention to the entire cycle to insure a fair and equitable rate structure once we implement metered rates."

Each of the selected volunteers will have a new water meter installed at their home to insure accurate readings. Water Division personnel will visit the homes once a month to read the meters and log the information. This information will be compared against the home's current water bill to help consumers and the City better understand the anticipated costs.

Interested participants must rent or own a single-family residence. A simple one-page questionnaire will be given to all interested volunteers and is available at www.fresnowater.org. Application deadline is November 21. Volunteers will be selected from submitted questionnaires to provide an adequate representation of the city.

Volunteer Study applications are available on the City of Fresno Water Division's web site at www.fresnowater.org. Questionnaires can also be mailed by request by calling (559) 621-5480.

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Fresno, a culture of excellence where people get the best every day.

Volunteer Study Timeline

Nov 1 – Nov 21, 2008	City of Fresno accepting applications for Volunteer Study.
Nov 24 – Dec 31, 2008	Volunteer Study members are selected, notified and meters are installed at their homes.
Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2009	Year-long Volunteer Study.