

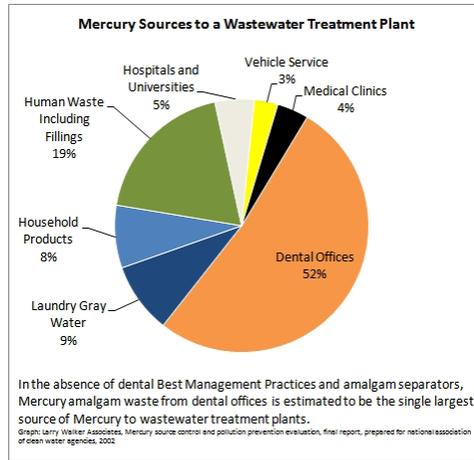


The Waterworks

A Publication of the Petaluma Department of Water Resources & Conservation

The City of Petaluma's Dental Amalgam Program

As a contributor to the Bay Area watershed, the City of Petaluma has been required, along with other municipalities, to reduce the amount of mercury discharged to the San Francisco Bay. Petaluma's program started with a voluntary period during which the dental facilities in the City's service area were asked to voluntarily meet the best management practices outlined by the California Dental Association. The California Dental Association's best management practices include 15 different requirements such as installing an amalgam separator, recycling amalgam waste, and not using bleach cleaners on wastewater lines.



On July 1, 2011 SCWA Will Raise the Cost of Water 5 Percent

Petaluma purchases drinking water from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA). On July 1, SCWA will raise the price of its water 5%. This follows an 11% increase in both July 2009 and July 2010. 40% of your water bill goes toward the cost of water Petaluma purchases from SCWA. The Petaluma City Council will act on a rate study completed this year to determine the extent the proposed 2011 rate increase is passed through to our customers. If the 5% increase by SCWA is passed through, an approximate 2-3% raise in water rates in Petaluma is anticipated.

NPDES Permit

The State Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) adopted a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for the Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility, which went into effect on March 1, 2011. This permit establishes water quality standards, which Ellis Creek continues to meet, to protect the environment and the beneficial uses of the Petaluma River. As part of the permit renewal process, the RWQCB toured the plant and was genuinely impressed with the new facility. Appointed RWQCB board members congratulated the residents of Petaluma for their commitment to build a state-of-the-art facility that will meet the community's needs for many decades.



Permalla Dental Care, located at 855 Lakeville Street, was the first dental office to agree to join the City in reducing amalgam waste discharged to the sanitary sewer. On January 3, 2011, Permalla Dental Care was acknowledged by the City Council and presented

a Pollution Prevention Partner Certificate. The Petaluma Department of Water Resources and Conservation wishes to thank Permalla Dental Care for taking this step to help protect the watershed.

Wetland Trails

While the Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility wetlands were engineered as an advanced wastewater treatment process, the trails surrounding the wetlands are open to the public between the hours of 6:00 am and dusk. These wetlands contain treated wastewater, therefore, bodily contact with the water, including removing vegetation and collecting "pond water samples", is prohibited per the California Code of Regulations, Title 22. Dogs must be leashed and kept on trails.

Your Monthly Utility Bill

Petaluma bills for water and wastewater (sewer) services on a monthly basis. The separate charges for water and wastewater services are addressed in the following sections.

Water Service

Water bills include a fixed service charge and consumption charge. Consumption charges for single-family residential customers are based on four tiers. The first tier rewards outstanding water conservation efforts by our customers. The average household will see some usage in the second tier.

A typical single family residential water bill under the current rates, assuming an average household usage of 12 hcf/month (1 hcf = 1 hundred cubic feet = 748 gallons, 12 hcf = 8,976 gallons), will include: the first 9 hcf charged at \$2.94; the next 3 hcf charged at \$3.41. The total bill will be $\$5.69 + (9 \times \$2.94) + (3 \times \$3.41) = \42.38 .

Water Rate Schedule 2011	
Type of Charge	Rate
Monthly Service Charge (based on meter size)	
5/8"	\$5.69
3/4"	\$5.69
1" (residential)	\$6.84
1"	\$7.07
1.5"	\$12.40
2"	\$19.46
3"	\$40.19
4"	\$54.13
6"	\$78.19
Consumption Charges (\$/hcf)	
Single Family Residential (monthly)	
Tier 1 (0-9 hcf)	\$2.94
Tier 2 (10-18 hcf)	\$3.41
Tier 3 (19-24 hcf)	\$4.35
Tier 4 (25+ hcf)	\$4.82
Multi-Unit Residential, Business, Industrial, Public	\$3.14

Wastewater Service

Wastewater rates for commercial and industrial customers are based on a fixed service charge and a commodity charge based on wastewater produced, as measured by the water meter. Wastewater rates for residential customers are based on a fixed service charge plus a commodity charge based on average winter water usage (therefore water that is used for irrigation outside the residence is not included in the wastewater service charge). This structure rewards indoor water conservation efforts.

A typical single family residential wastewater bill, under the current rates, based on average household usage of 8 hcf (5,984 gallons) of water per month during the winter will be: $\$16.19 + (\$7.67 \times 8) = \$77.55$.

Wastewater Rate Schedule 2011	
Type of Charge	Rate
Fixed Monthly Charge (\$/mo)	
Single-Family Residential	\$16.19
Multi-Unit Residential, per dwelling unit	\$16.19
Unmetered Residential, per dwelling unit	\$73.57
Commercial	
Low/Medium/High Strength	\$16.19
Metered Industrial Users	\$16.19
Variable Charge (\$/hcf)	
Single Family Residential	\$7.67
Multi-Unit Residential	\$7.67
Commercial	
Low-Strength	\$7.67
Medium-Strength	\$9.09
High-Strength	\$11.76
Metered Industrial Users	
Flow (\$/hcf)	\$5.69
BOD (\$/lb)	\$0.56
TSS (\$/lb)	\$0.60

With the 2011 rates, the average single family residential customer's monthly bill for water and sewer services are \$111.81, an increase of \$10.06 above the 2010 rate. Petaluma's combined monthly water and wastewater bills will remain competitive with other Sonoma County communities.

Water Maintenance and Repair

The water mains are looped in five different pressure zones to maintain continuous and consistent service. Maintenance activities include flushing the mains periodically to remove any buildup of minerals. When a main develops a leak or significant failure, measures are taken to isolate the break to avoid infiltration of dirt or contaminants into the system. Following the repair, flushing is done to clean the repaired line before returning that section to active use. Every year, the City identifies and replaces aging water mains as funds are available.

Mulch Madness Program

The City of Petaluma is crazy about water conservation; our Mulch Madness Program is proof! We are so dedicated to helping our customers save water that we are offering free mulch, compost, cardboard, irrigation conversion kit and five free native plants from a local native plant nursery to those customers who wish to sheet mulch (or mulch over) their existing turf. That's right, FREE! This even includes delivery of the mulch, compost and cardboard. It's Madness!



If you regularly use your turf for recreational purposes, that's great; keep it healthy and happy. But at most locations, turf areas are rarely used except to mow, edge and fertilize; wasting water, using fossil fuels and polluting the environment. This is the type of turf that we are after! A typical 1,000 square foot area of turf uses more than 25,000 gallons of water per year; it is one of the biggest water users out there!

Why not take advantage of the program and convert your turf into something more appropriate: a low water use garden, a vegetable garden or food forest! To learn more about the program and how to qualify, please visit our website at www.cityofpetaluma.net/wrcd/mulch-madness-program.html or call (707) 778-4507.

We also offer an in-home Water-Wise House Call program for a free water use evaluation. Call (707) 778-4507 or visit www.cityofpetaluma.net/wrcd/waterconservation.html

For More Information

If you have questions about the Department of Water Resources & Conservation, please:

Call: (707) 778-4546 or visit: www.cityofpetaluma.net

For questions about your utility bill, please contact the Finance Department at (707) 778-4352.