

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

FROM: CARYN LOZDA, DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COORDINATOR

SUBJECT: WAIVE METER UPSIZE FEES FOR HOMES DESTROYED IN
TUBBS FIRE NEEDING TO UPSIZE FROM A 5/8" TO A 3/4"
WATER METER

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department that the Board of Public Utilities, by resolution, waive the fee to upsize from a 5/8" to a 3/4" water meter as needed for properties rebuilding due to the Tubbs Fire and provide the Director of Water, or designee, the authority to refund, upon request, any meter fees already paid to upsize from a 5/8" to a 3/4" water meter to the applicants that are rebuilding due to the Tubbs Fire.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Starting on October 8, 2017, the Tubbs Fires burned the northern part of Santa Rosa, eventually destroying 2,599 homes in Santa Rosa. The current regulations require homes that are being rebuilt because of the fire to install fire sprinkler systems and the existing 5/8" water meters will need to be upsized to 3/4" water meters to meet the fire sprinkler calculations. To help minimize the impacts to those rebuilding from the Tubbs Fire, Santa Rosa Water recommends waiving the \$10 fee to upsize from a 5/8" to a 3/4" water meter.

BACKGROUND

Many of the homes destroyed in the Tubbs fire were built prior to the requirement to install residential fire sprinkler systems. The typical meter for residential homes without fire sprinklers is a 5/8" water meter. The current regulations require homes to be constructed with residential fire sprinklers. Homes that are being rebuilt because of the Tubbs fire must meet all current building code requirements, including the requirement for fire sprinklers.

Homes in the Coffey Park area and some in Hidden Valley and Fountaingrove will need to upsize their meter to a ¾" meter to accommodate the required fire sprinklers. The ¾" meter fits in the same fittings and meter box as the existing 5/8" meter and no additional work to the meter box would need to occur at the expense of the applicant.

PRIOR REVIEW

None.

ANALYSIS

The current fee to install a 5/8" meter is \$310 and a ¾" meter is \$320. When a meter is upsized, the applicant must pay the difference in the cost of the meter they had existing and the meter they are needing to upsize to. Based on the number of existing 5/8" meters that need to be replaced in the burn area, staff estimates a revenue loss of \$24,000 (2,415 5/8" meters).

To help minimize the impacts to those rebuilding from the Tubbs Fire, staff recommends waiving the upsize fee from a 5/8" to a ¾" water meter for those properties destroyed by the Tubbs Fire. Staff also recommends that the Board provide the Director Water, or designee, the authority to, upon request, refund any meter fees already paid to upsize from a 5/8" to a ¾" water meter to the applicants that are rebuilding due to the Tubbs Fire.

The meter upsize fee is included in the Water Department Miscellaneous Fees and Charges. The Board of Public Utilities has the authority to set Miscellaneous Fees and Charges for the Water Department.

FISCAL IMPACT

The estimated loss of revenue to the Water Enterprise Fund by waiving the fee to upsize the existing water meters is estimated at \$24,000 (2,415 5/8" meters) and funding for purchasing meters is included in Water's Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution

CONTACT

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