

RESOLUTION NO. 1258

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ESTABLISHING THAT THE SEWER AND WATER CAPS EFFECTIVE FOR THE PERIOD FROM JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022, BE DETERMINED BY AVERAGING WATER USAGE FOR WINTER BILLING PERIODS OF NOVEMBER 2020 THROUGH MARCH 2021 OR BASED SOLELY ON THE SECOND WINTER BILLING PERIOD DURING THE WINTER BILLING PERIOD, WHICHEVER IS LOWER

WHEREAS, sewer usage charges are based on indoor water use through the calculation of a sewer cap, which is determined by averaging water usage during winter billing periods occurring during the months of November through March and in accordance with policies, rules, or regulations approved by the Board of Public Utilities; and

WHEREAS, a water cap is calculated to determine indoor water usage for water-only customers that use City water for both indoor and irrigation water use; and

WHEREAS, the calculation of the water cap is determined by averaging water usage during winter billing period occurring during the months of November through March and in accordance with policies, rules, or regulations approved by the Board of Public Utilities; and

WHEREAS, the winter billing period that occurred between the months of November 2020 and March 2021 included periods of dry weather with the exception of the second billing period. During the dry periods plant water needs were higher than the average amount of water needed. Data for plant water needs is based on Reference Evapotranspiration (ET_o) measured by two weather stations in Santa Rosa which are included in the State of California's Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) program. This resulted in customers irrigating landscaping, making portions of the November 2020 through March 2021 use unrepresentative of indoor use; and

WHEREAS, staff analyzed usage data and developed a cap setting procedure that would be the fairest to customers who may have irrigated during part of the winter billing period; and

WHEREAS, the cap setting procedure determined to be most equitable to the City's customers during less than average rainfall is to determine FY 2021-22 water and sewer caps based on average usage from the winter billing period or by using the second winter billing period when no irrigation was required, and applying whichever is less.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Public Utilities establishes that the sewer and water caps in effect only for the period from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, be calculated based on either winter usage from November 2020 through March 2021 or based solely on the second winter billing period, whichever is lesser.

