

ARTICLE V
WATER METERS AND BACKFLOW PREVENTERS

5.1 Meters and Irrigation Backflow Preventers Required. All water delivered to the Premises of a User shall be metered and all Premises connected to the District water system shall be required have a radio-read capable water meter installed by December 31, 2023. If water is delivered to the Premises of a User by more than one water service line, each water service line shall be separately metered. All irrigation systems shall have a separate backflow preventer to protect the water supply. The purposes of the water meter and backflow preventer are to: (1) measure and record actual water use for billing and other purposes; and (2) prevent contamination of the water supply. Water meters, water meter yokes, and water meter accessories shall conform to the most current American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards, the International Plumbing Code (IPC) and/or other applicable rules and regulations of the District and the State of Wyoming. The District may determine that certain building or water use applications require a certified hazard classification in order to determine the need for, and the type of, backflow preventer and required testing and inspection intervals. Users shall reimburse the District for costs to perform any required certified hazard classification. Users may be required by the District to install non-irrigation related backflow preventers to prevent potential contamination of the District water supply, which shall be installed at the User's sole cost and expense. If a User desires or is required to replace or add a meter, such User must purchase a District-approved meter, and such meter and any backflow preventer shall be installed in accordance with the then-current IPC.

5.2 Ownership of Meters and Backflow Preventers, and Related Equipment. All water meters and radio-read units supplied to Users by the District shall be owned by the District. All other related equipment installed in the Premises of a User including but not limited to water meters not supplied to Users by the District, water meter yokes, backflow preventers and expansion tanks shall be owned by the User.

5.3 Location and Installation. Except as otherwise provided herein, all water meters installed upon any Premises served by the District shall be located on the User-side of the curb stop and installed either in the basement, crawlspace, utility room, or other accessible frost-proof area of a the User's building or within a frost-proof meter vault. The User agrees to protect and hold the District harmless from any and all claims for damage as a result of water meter installation if installation of the water meter is performed by the District and done in a commercially reasonable and workman-like manner.

5.4 Maintenance and Repairs. The District shall perform normal maintenance of District-owned water meters and radio-read units including water meter battery replacement. The User shall perform normal maintenance of non-District owned water meters, water meter yokes, backflow preventers, expansion tanks and other related equipment to ensure proper performance. Any cost of repair, testing, or replacement of any water meter, water meter yoke, backflow preventer, expansion tank or other related equipment shall be borne by, and charged to, the User unless performed on a District-owned water meter or as part of a District-wide repair or replacement program.

5.5 User to repair, relocate, etc., pipes and fixtures where necessary for meter

operation. User, at his/her own expense and in a manner satisfactory to the District, is required to maintain, repair, replace, reconstruct, or relocate the water lines and plumbing fixtures so that all water furnished to and used within the boundaries of the Premises, including for irrigation purposes, passes through and is measured and recorded by a water meter.

5.6 Inspections. Water meters, backflow preventers, and expansion tanks and other related equipment are subject to inspection by the District. The District may assess a reasonable charge for any such inspection.

5.7 Periodic reading and record of water consumption – Failure of District to obtain meter readings shall not affect payment obligations of User.

a. Until a radio-read capable water meter is installed in the Premises of a User, each User shall read his or her own meter, and report such reading to the District at such intervals as determined by the District. Once a radio-read capable water meter is installed in a Premises of a User, the District will periodically read the meter using the installed radio-read system, or manually, at such intervals as determined by the District. The District shall keep a proper record of the water consumption by each User. However, failure of the District to obtain meter readings shall not be deemed to be a waiver upon the part of the District of any obligations of payment upon the part of the User.

b. If for any reason a meter is not read and/or reported at the interval determined by the District, the water billing for that period may be based upon an estimate by the District and the billing shall be adjusted at the time of the next meter reading and may include non-refundable administrative fees plus meter-not-read fees as outlined in the District's rate schedule.

5.8 Right of entry for purposes of installation, reading, inspecting, testing, etc.— Failure to allow entry. At any time during reasonable working hours and upon at least seventy-two (72) hours advanced notice, representatives, agents, and/or contractors of the District shall have the right to enter upon any User Premises upon which a water meter is located or required for the purpose of installing, reading, inspecting, testing, or maintaining such meter. In the event such entry for purposes of installation of a water meter is refused or in the event a User desires to install his or her own water meter, such User shall be allowed to install a District-supplied or District-approved water meter in a location specified in paragraph 5.3 above. In the event such entry is refused for purposes of reading, inspecting, testing, or maintaining a water meter, the District shall have the right to shut off water to such Premises after providing ten (10) days written notice to the User.

5.9 Defacing, tampering with, injuring, etc. – Estimated charges for months when meter fails to register correctly.

a. It is unlawful for any person to deface, injure, loosen, take apart, or otherwise tamper with any water meter, to adjust or to attempt to adjust the same to reduce the reading thereof, to divert water around such meter, or to attempt in any other manner whatsoever to interfere with the correct reading by such meter of the total amount of water furnished to the Premises where such meter is installed.

b. If, in the opinion of the Board, any meter has been tampered with, the quantity of water delivered during the month such meter failed to register correctly by reason of such tampering, or for which no reading was obtained, shall be determined by the District by using an average of the previous three (3) years water usage for the same period to determine normal billing or, if such records are not available, by a good faith estimate of the District, which shall be charged to the User. The District may also impose a penalty charge not to exceed \$5,000.00 against any User for tampering with a water meter. Upon repetition of such offense, the District may, at its option, stop the delivery of water to the Premises of the User.