

*Del Oro Water Company - Strawberry District
2023 Service Improvement Plan*

NOTICE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARD PRACTICE U-36-W
OF THE CA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Del Oro Water in our continued efforts to reduce water waste and improve our operations is announcing a new project for the Strawberry District: **Automated Metering Interface (AMI) Meter Project**. The AMI meter project will include installing smart meters at each service location. The AMI project proposed is expected to cost approximately \$125,000, and will allow for real time meter reads and leak detection. Customers will be able to access their water meter data, set up usage alerts and self-monitor the household water usage with alerts in the event of a leak. DOWC plans to couple this meter project with a Customer Valve Replacement Program to assist with winterization of cabins.

Water scarcity and the efficient utilization of water resources have become increasingly pressing issues statewide. By implementing AMI water metering, we can effectively address these challenges and pave the way for sustainable water management practices. Here are some key reasons why Del Oro Water has chosen to implement AMI water metering and why this deserves your attention and support:

Real-time Data and Consumption Monitoring: AMI water meters provide accurate, real-time data on water usage. This allows both consumers and water utility companies to monitor consumption patterns closely. With this information, consumers can make informed decisions regarding their water usage, identify potential leaks or inefficiencies, and adjust their behavior accordingly. Del Oro Water will be able to identify high-demand areas, detect leaks promptly, and optimize the distribution network for efficient water supply.

Water Conservation: AMI water metering promotes water conservation by raising awareness among consumers about their water consumption habits. The access to detailed consumption data empowers individuals to take proactive steps in reducing their water usage. Studies have shown that when people have visibility into their consumption, they tend to be more mindful and tend to reduce their water usage significantly.

Leak Detection and Reduction: Leaks in water distribution networks can lead to substantial water wastage and inflated bills, which can often be a source of frustration for consumers. AMI water meters can detect even minor leaks, enabling timely repairs and reducing water losses. This proactive leak detection not only conserves water but also saves costs for both consumers and Del Oro Water.

Billing Accuracy: AMI technology ensures accurate billing based on actual consumption. Traditional metering systems may have limitations and can result in estimated bills during winter months. AMI water meters eliminate such discrepancies by providing accurate and transparent usage data, fostering trust and accountability.

Operational Efficiency and Cost Savings: AMI water metering eliminates the need for manual meter reading, reducing labor costs and potential human errors. We look to streamline our field operations, allocate resources more efficiently, and proactively respond to maintenance issues. The overall cost savings can be significant, benefiting the Strawberry customers.

Sustainability and Environmental Impact: By promoting water conservation, AMI water metering contributes to the broader goal of sustainability. It helps to safeguard our precious water resources for future generations and reduces the energy required for water treatment and distribution. Furthermore, it supports the Sustainable Goals, for Clean Water.

In light of these compelling benefits and cost saving measures, Del Oro looks to adopt AMI water metering systems in the Strawberry District starting in August 2023 to improve water management, reduced water wastage, lower operational costs, and a greener future for our district.

(Over)

With our best estimate of the cost to complete this project, the total potential impacts on rates, not including a service fee, after the project is completed are as follows:

The rate impact is approximately \$3.52 per month for the average customer

Metered Rate:

<u>Per Meter</u>	<u>Current Per Month</u>	<u>Proposed Per Month</u>	<u>Proposed Monthly Increase</u>
For 5/8 x 3/4-inch meter	\$119.61	\$122.66	\$3.05
For 3/4-inch meter	170.10	174.44	4.34
For 1-inch meter	271.08	277.99	6.91
For 1 1/2 inch meter	523.52	536.87	13.35
For 2 inch meter	826.45	847.52	21.07
For 3 inch meter	1533.28	1572.38	39.10
For 4 inch meter	2543.04	2607.89	64.85
For 6 inch meter	5067.43	5196.65	129.22

	<u>Current Per ccf</u>	<u>Proposed Per ccf</u>	<u>Proposed Increased</u>
<u>All water, per 100 cu. Ft.</u>	\$12.207	\$12.518	\$0.311

Bill Comparison - 5/8" x 3/4" Service

<u>Monthly Usage (ccf)</u>	<u>Present Rates</u>	<u>Proposed Rates</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
0	\$119.61	\$122.66	\$3.05	2.55%
1	131.82	135.18	3.36	2.55%
1.5	137.92	141.44	3.52	2.55%
2	144.02	147.70	3.68	2.55%
3	156.23	160.21	3.98	2.55%
10	241.68	247.84	6.16	2.55%
15	302.72	310.43	7.71	2.55%

Customers are also invited to comment in writing on this proposal. Comments must reference "Strawberry 2023 Service Improvement Plan". Comments must be mailed within 20 days of the date of this notice (no later than June 30, 2023) and should be mailed to **Del Oro Water Co., Strawberry District, Drawer 5172, Chico, CA 95927**, or be faxed to (530) 717-2639, or be emailed to CommunityRelations@delorowater.com.

It will be determined if a meeting is required after the comment period has ended and we get an understanding of our customers' questions and concerns and a final notice can be sent out with answers to the concerns.