



## INTERNAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Robert Rivera  
**FROM:** Greg Wikholm  
**DATE:** February 20, 2020  
**RE:** Water Conservation

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The City of New Port Richey encourages water conservation efforts for a couple of reasons. Our water use permit stresses water conservation as condition of our permit in several sections. The cover page of the City's Water Use Permit states: *Please further note that water conservation is a condition of your permit and be practiced at all times.* The abstract of the permit states that the withdrawal quantities of the permit are based on an unadjusted gross per rate of 89 gallons per day. It also requires that the City continue to implement irrigation conservation measures. The last Public Supply Annual Report we submitted in 2019 as a condition of this permit showed a compliance per capita water use of 93 gallons per day.

Special Condition #6 of the permit also requires water conservation efforts: *The permittee shall immediately implement the District-approved water conservation plan dated June 5, 2014 that was submitted in support of the application for this permit. Conservation measures that the permittee has already implemented shall continue and proposed conservation measures shall be implemented as proposed in the plan.* (see attached)

Special Condition #9 of the permit: *The permittee shall maintain a water conserving rate structure for the duration of the permit term* (Expiration date: July 24,2034). This requirement is met by using a tiered billing structure. All of the other member governments which comprise Tampa Bay Water use some form of tiered billing with the exception of Pinellas County. In Pinellas an average usage for each customer is established and then that customer is charged an additional \$1.00 per thousand gallons. Tiered water pricing is used by most water utilities throughout the nation to incentivize conservation. Increasing block price schedules provide strong incentives for customers to conserve water. The lowest price block or tier typically corresponds to an amount of water sufficient to meet basic indoor needs like drinking and bathing. Each subsequent tier charges a higher rate and is designed to discourage households from using water for non-essential things like large lawns and swimming pools. A tiered pricing structure also helps mitigate the cost of water on low-income households that use minimal amounts of water. Customers that use larger amounts of water in effect partially subsidize them by paying a larger portion of the cost of maintaining the water system. While inversed tiered pricing is considered the best pricing method to encourage conservation **other methods can be used, among them are:** Time of day pricing - Charging higher prices for water used during a utility's peak demand periods. Water surcharges - Charging a higher rate for "excessive" water use (i.e., water consumption that exceeds the local or regional average). Seasonal rates - Water prices rise or fall according to weather conditions and the corresponding demand for water.



# NEW PORT RICHEY

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While none of the latter methods mentioned are as effective as tiered billing from a conservation standpoint it is imperative that the pricing of water services should accurately reflect the true costs of providing high-quality water to consumers. This means a price that is adequate to cover not only the cost of the water and treatment process but to maintain infrastructure and plan for upcoming repairs, rehabilitation, and replacement of that infrastructure as well.

Our ability to grow our system might also be impacted if system demand gets too high. Section 62-555.348 of the FAC - Planning for Expansion of Public Water System Source, Treatment, or Storage states:

*When the total maximum-day quantity of finished water produced by all treatment plants connected to a water system, including water produced to meet any fire-flow demand but excluding water produced to meet any demand that the supplier of water documents to be highly unusual and nonrecurring, exceeds 75 percent of the total permitted maximum-day operating capacity of the plants, the supplier of water shall submit source/treatment/storage capacity analysis reports to the Department according to the schedule described in paragraphs (a) and (b) below; however, in no case shall it be necessary to submit more than one report annually.*

Our max flow day for the 2019 calendar year was 6.2 mg and our plant is permitted for 11.1 mg. The 75% threshold would be 8.375 mg which if exceeded would trigger the requirement that we conduct source/treatment/storage capacity analysis reports on a regular basis. The same section also states:

*If an initial or updated source/treatment/storage capacity analysis report indicates that maximum-day water demand (including fire-flow demand if fire protection is being provided) will exceed the total permitted maximum-day operating capacity of the water treatment plant(s) in less than five years or that finished-water storage need (including fire storage if fire protection is being provided) will exceed the existing total useful finished-water storage capacity in less than five years, documentation of timely design, permitting, and construction of recommended new or expanded source, treatment, or storage facilities shall be submitted with the report. The documentation shall consist of a written statement that is signed by an authorized representative of the supplier of water and that certifies the supplier is meeting, and intends to meet, the report's recommended schedule for design, permitting, and construction of recommended new or expanded source, treatment, or storage facilities.*

***CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY  
CONSERVATION PLAN OVERVIEW***

The City of New Port Richey has an ongoing water conservation awareness that has led to reductions in gross water use and a lower per capita water demand. In calendar year 2015 the gross water use for the City was 3.14 million gallons per day and 95 gallons per capita per day. These numbers are consistent with historical figures that have averaged 3.0 million gallons gross water total and 100 gallons per capita per day since the City began its conservation efforts in earnest. Prior to that gross water use had been 3.5 million gallons per day of gross water use and had a gallon per capita per day use higher than 120.

- The City has entered into a cooperative funding agreement with SWFWMD on a Toilet Rebate Program that will replace 80 high volume toilets with low flow models.
- The City maintains twice per week irrigation restrictions, with enforcement by our Billing & Collection, Public Works and Police Departments and Code Enforcements.
- The City continues to supply customers with plumbing retrofit kits, outside conservation kits and toilet dye tabs for leak testing.
- The City includes a conservation awareness message on all water bills and in the City Newsletter and distributes conservation and leak detection information to all new city customers.
- The City utilizes a water conserving rate structure that incorporates “tiered billing” to discourage excess water usage.
- Any City water account that reflects unusually high consumption is notified that they should look for leaks and provides them with leak and conservation information.
- The City’s reclaimed water facility provided over 3.82 million gallons per day to the Pasco County Reuse System, and 1.75 million gallons per day to the City’s Reuse System in 2018.