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July 14, 2026

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Mark Handzlik, P.E., Engineering Manager

SUBJECT: Approval of Water Policy Manual Changes Related to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Customers

Requested Action:

Approve Water Policy Manual Changes to Sections 3, 4, and Table A regarding customer-requested AMI metering.

Background:

Within the PUD's service area, at least two industrial customers consistently use high volumes of water that are subject to federal reporting requirements. Their water use and discharge are regulated through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, which require daily reporting of water consumption. Historically, and to this day, this reporting has relied on manual meter readings collected by company employees.

Advancements in metering technology now provide an opportunity to deliver more timely, accurate, and reliable consumption data. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) can collect usage data at 15-minute intervals and make it available through web-based platforms. The PUD currently uses this technology for internal system monitoring and has found it to be reliable. Currently, AMI is not used for routine customer billing, and there are no plans for system-wide implementation.

I am recommending to make AMI technology available to the PUD's largest industrial consumers who must meet NPDES daily reporting requirements. These AMI meters communicate via cellular networks, but they are not compatible with the PUD's existing Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) system. As a result, consumption data from these meters does not automatically integrate into the billing system and must be manually entered for invoicing.

AMI metering uses the same meters and registers as the AMR meters currently used. Aside from a different endpoint/battery, AMI uses the same infrastructure as our current standards, including the meter, vault, and lid. The AMI Installation is in addition to Service Installation Types 1-6 and simply converts any new or existing service installation to AMI for eligible customers.

To use the AMI meters, customers will pay a nominal monthly account fee to defray the cost of cellular communication and web services used to collect and transmit metering data. This approach will provide improved access to reliable consumption information for the customer while allowing the PUD to continue evaluating AMI technology for specialized applications that may offer operational or customer benefits. The current fee is \$0.93 per month and will be rounded up to \$1.00.

Attached to this memo are proposed revisions to Chapters 3 and 4 and Table A from the Water Policy

Manual. Redlined sections in the attachment identify selected updates regarding AMI metering cost and availability.

Fiscal Impact:

Minimal fiscal impact resulting from AMI invoicing data being entered manually.

Enclosures: 1. [2026 Appendix A](#)
 2. [Section 3 Draft](#)
 3. [Section 4 Draft](#)