



Agricultural Allocation Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How are AG allocations established?

A: Your agricultural water allocation consists of three components: water needs for your crops, water needs for the inside of the house (if a home is present), and water needs for any ornamental landscape.

The indoor portion of the water allocation is based on 55 gallons per person per day- just like a residential account. If applicable, a variance of 12 gpd is added for large animals/ livestock.

To calculate the crop portion of the allocation, irrigated acreage is identified using aerial photos, similar to, but more recent than Google Earth. Once it is determined how much of each crop is planted on the property, a water allocation is provided by multiplying the irrigated acreage of each crop type by a crop coefficient assigned for each type of crop. Crop coefficients are calculated based on University research that was performed to determine the water needs of the plant. These coefficients are as follows:

CROP COEFFICIENTS			
Crop Type	HCF/Year	Crop Type	HCF/Year
Apple	1777	Nursery	1298
Avocado	2039	Nuts	1616
Berries	1657	Olives	1475
Cool Season Turf	1777	Peach	1721
Citrus	1485	Pomegranate	1618
Eucalyptus	1082	Persimmon	1485
Flowers	1298	Pasture	1396
Greenhouse	2163	Strawberry	1512
Grapefruit	1485	Tangelos	1485
Limes	1485	Wine Grape	871
Lemons	1485		
Landscape Type	HCF/Year		
Grass/Turf/Ground Cover	1398		
Turf/Shrub	1398		
Swimming Pool	1398		

The landscape coefficient is 1,398 HCF per year for each irrigated acre. On December 10, 2015 the District modified the methodology for calculating the landscape factor of agricultural allocations. Specifically, the number of irrigated landscape acres for which an agricultural account will receive a water allocation for will be limited to 10 percent of the account's irrigated agricultural acreage, up to a maximum of 75,000 sq. ft.

All of these components are combined to equal the total Tier 1 allocation. Anything used in excess of this allocation is charged at the higher Tier 2 rate. There is currently also a surcharge added to the Tier 2 rate.

Q: Will I incur higher if I exceed my allocation this month?

A: Tier 2 rates will only be incurred after the total Tier 1 annual allocation has been exceeded. Agricultural allocations are annual, so if this occurs it is normally later in the year.

Q: I was removed from agricultural status, why?

A: The primary reason for removal from agricultural status is because the irrigated acreage dedicated for agricultural purposes has dropped below 1 full acre. This determination was made based on data received from the customer stating less than 1 acre or if the customer did not respond to the request for data and analysis of GIS imagery determined that there was less than 1 acre.

Q: Do I receive credit for my landscape area?

- On December 10, 2015 the District modified the methodology for calculating the landscape factor of agricultural allocations. Specifically, the number of irrigated landscape acres for which an agricultural account will receive a water allocation for will be limited to 10 percent of the account's irrigated agricultural acreage, up to a maximum of 75,000 sq. ft (1.72 acres).

An example of implementation of the new landscape calculation is as follows:

Calculated allocation prior to cap:

CROP ALLOCATION(S)			
Crop Type	Irrigated Acres*	Annual Allocation Per Acre (HCF)	Annual Allocation (HCF)
Avocado	1	2039	2039
Wine Grape	3	871	2613
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
Subtotal			4652
OTHER ALLOCATION(S)			
Allocation Type	Units	Annual Allocation Per Unit (HCF)	Annual Allocation (HCF)
Residents	3	27	81
Decorative Landscape Irrigated Acreage*	1.5	1398	2097
Large Animals / Livestock	-	-	-
Subtotal			2178
TOTAL NORMAL ANNUAL ALLOCATION			6830

Calculated allocation after cap:

CROP ALLOCATION(S)			
Crop Type	Irrigated Acres*	Annual Allocation Per Acre (HCF)	Annual Allocation (HCF)
Avocado	1	2039	2039
Wine Grape	3	871	2613
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
Subtotal			4652
OTHER ALLOCATION(S)			
Allocation Type	Units	Annual Allocation Per Unit (HCF)	Annual Allocation (HCF)
Residents	3	27	81
Decorative Landscape Irrigated Acreage*	1.5	N/A	N/A
Landscape Irrigated Acreage Used to Calculate New Water Budget	.4	1398	559
Large Animals / Livestock	-	-	-
Subtotal			640
TOTAL NORMAL ANNUAL ALLOCATION			5292