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**Rancho California Water District**

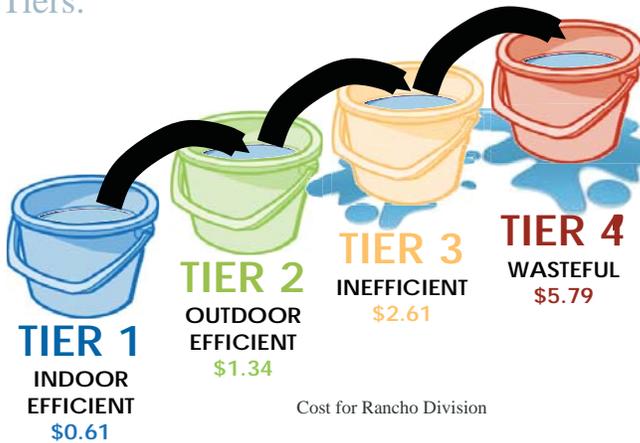
Serving the areas of Temecula & Murrieta since 1965

# Fall Water News

2013 Vol. 76

## Budget Based Tiered Rates Refresher:

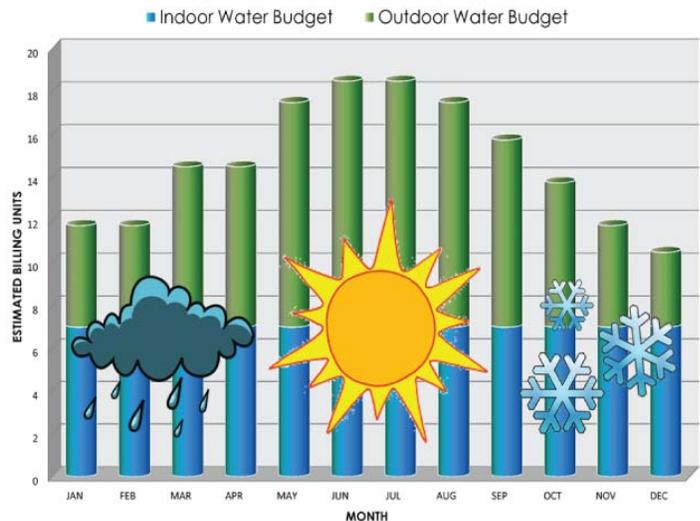
In 2010, Rancho California Water District (RCWD/District) implemented a budget based tiered rate structure for residential, multi-family, and landscape customers. A water budget is comprised of 4 Tiers:



Water allocations established by RCWD are based on a slightly favorable criterion. For the indoor budgets, the District provides 60 gallons per person per day. The State of California uses 55 gallons per person per day as a provisional standard. The factors used to determine outdoor water budgets are, on average, 15% more water than what should be needed to maintain landscaped areas.

While your indoor budget will remain the same throughout the year, during the warm summer months, more water is budgeted to keep landscapes alive through the heat.

### SAMPLE WATER BUDGET



# How is the Budget for Each Tier Determined?

## Tier 1- Base Rate Budget Calculation Indoor/Household Use

All single family residential customers are provided with an indoor water budget to accommodate a minimum of 4 people per household. Customers receive 60 gallons of water per person per day times the number of days in the billing period. Additional people can be added by completing a residential variance form.



$$4 \frac{\text{persons}}{\text{household}} \times 60^* \frac{\text{gallons}}{\text{per person/per day}} \times \# \text{ days in the bill cycle}$$

## Tier 2 Budget Calculation Outdoor Efficient Use



All single family residential customers are provided an appropriate outdoor budget to accommodate the efficient irrigation of their landscaped areas (grass, trees, shrubs, groundcover, etc.). The factors used to calculate the budget for this tier include landscape area square feet and real-time weather conditions specific to the property's geographic location. Landscape square footage is determined by measurements taken of each property's landscape area using detailed aerial imagery and a highly accurate Geographic Information System (GIS). Requests for a landscape variance can be completed by using the residential variance form.

$$\text{Irrigated Area} \times \text{billing period} \times \text{Weather Conditions/Factors}$$

### Inefficient - Wasteful

**Tier 3** provides a budget for additional outdoor water use that exceeds efficient watering needs. The Tier 3 budget is 50% of the sum of Tiers 1 and 2.

**Tier 4** - All water use above the Tier 3 budget falls into Tier 4.

### Remember...

Water budgets are not fixed; they will vary based on the factors mentioned above.

To find out more about Tiered Budgets or to request a variance, please visit our website at [www.ranchowater.com](http://www.ranchowater.com)



# Cost of Water:



Currently, tap water costs you less than a penny per gallon. However, in recent years the cost of delivering water to your tap has increased for several reasons, including scarcity of supply and energy costs. RCWD has three main sources of water: native groundwater, imported water, and recycled water. The native groundwater comes from large underground aquifers. An aquifer is an underground geologic formation through which water flows slowly. RCWD has one of the largest natural underground sources in the Southern California region.

Imported water is another RCWD source and is purchased from two of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) member agencies. Imported water that MWD supplies, comes from the Colorado River and the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta, via aqueduct systems. Water delivered to homes and businesses is a blend of groundwater and imported water. RCWD also uses recycled water for irrigation of golf courses and large landscape areas. Recycled water helps save ground water and imported water for household use.



## Rolling Budgets:

RCWD pioneered a new approach to water budgets. The rolling water budget is an approach used to better recognize how "real life" water use occurs, compared to a traditional static monthly water budget. Utilizing a rolling water budget allows customers to have an opportunity to receive credit in later months in order to make up for going over their budget in the earlier months. RCWD's goal isn't to limit customers water use, but rather to encourage water efficiency. RCWD gives customers the entire year to correct any inefficient or wasteful use by being more efficient at other times in the year. Customers will see on their bill their monthly water budget and how it compares to their actual monthly consumption. The benefit of unused water budgets is that they can be used to offset months that the customer goes over their water budget. If you have an unused budget, that means you have been very efficient and are saving on your water bill naturally. All budgets are reset back to zero each July.

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## Efficiency Tips...

### 1 Aerators

Install aerators on every faucet. This could save as much as 1 gallon every minute you use them.

### 2 Evaporation

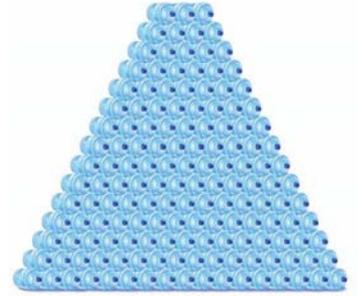
Cover pools and spas to avoid evaporation.

### 3 Sweep

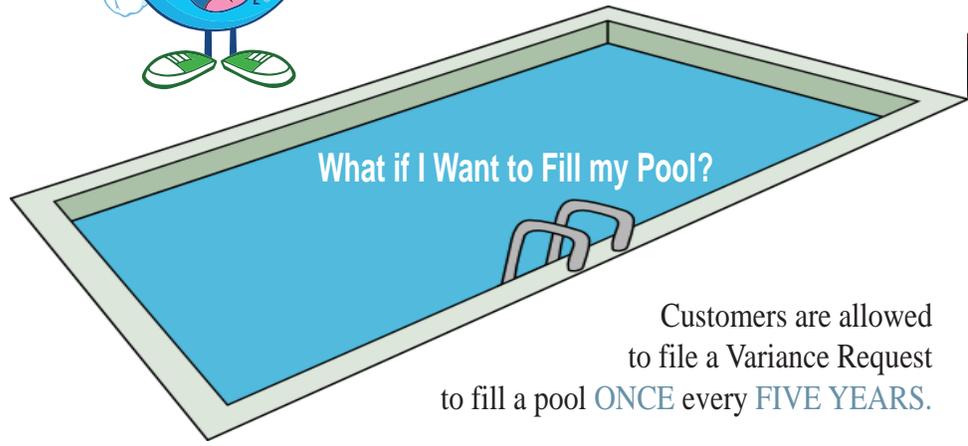
Sweep your driveways and sidewalks with a broom instead of spraying them off with a hose.

## How much water is in a billing unit?

Billing units are expressed in Hundred Cubic Feet (HCF). One HCF is equal to 748 gallons of water.



748 gallons is equivalent to 150 five-gallon water bottles.



Customers are allowed to file a Variance Request to fill a pool **ONCE** every **FIVE YEARS**.

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Post Office Box 9017  
Temecula, CA 92589-9017

## RCWD Grants Acquisition and Management

### Did You Know?

**RCWD** currently manages more than \$3,405,000 in local, state, and federal grant funding.

**RCWD** has completed projects that have included more than \$4,735,000 in grant funding.

**RCWD** is currently negotiating funding agreements for an additional \$1,345,000.

**RCWD** has applied for more than \$22,000,000 in grant funding since 2007.

**RCWD** also has been approved for nearly \$3,250,000 in incentives for solar power at its facilities.

**RCWD** customers have received more than \$1,200,000 in incentives for urban water customers in water use efficiency devices.

**RCWD's** federal partners have provided more than \$600,000 to agricultural water customers for water use efficiency irrigation.