



**FORSYTHCOUNTY**  
Department of Communications  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**INCREASED IRRIGATION METER RATES IN FORSYTH  
COUNTY APPROVED AS COMPLIANCE MEASURE**

*New pricing designed to encourage water conservation*

**FORSYTHCOUNTY, Georgia** – In order to achieve compliance with guidelines set forth by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, rates for irrigation meters from Forsyth County Water and Sewer will be increasing. This increase will only apply to those customers with a separate irrigation meter.

“The rate change will impact the less than 1,500 accounts that have a separate irrigation meter, or roughly three percent of our customers,” Director of Water and Sewer Tim Perkins said. “The vast majority of our more than 53,000 water and sewer customers will see no change to their bills as a result of this measure.”

Customers with an irrigation meter will begin seeing the new rates reflected in bills received in August, which will cover usage from their prior-use period, generally the previous 30 days. Due to the large volume of water and sewer customers, the county has a number of different billing cycles with meters read at different times throughout the month. As such, prior-use periods vary by account.

“The county wanted to provide plenty of notice to those customers who will be impacted by these rates,” said Perkins. “This allows them time to adjust their water usage prior to the new rates going into effect if they so desire.”

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The minimum charge for an irrigation meter will remain unchanged, with the tiered rates for usage changing as shown below:

Tier 1	1,000-6,000 gallons	\$6.80 per 1,000 gallons ( <i>was \$4.53</i> )
Tier 2	6,000-12,000 gallons	\$7.93 per 1,000 gallons ( <i>was \$5.66</i> )
Tier 3	12,000-24,000 gallons	\$10.20 per 1,000 gallons ( <i>was \$7.93</i> )
Tier 4	24,000+ gallons	\$12.27 per 1,000 gallons ( <i>was \$10.00</i> )

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District cites water conservation as a critical element in meeting the water supply needs within the Metro Water District, of which Forsyth County is a part. Conservation pricing, such as the increased tiered irrigation meter rates in Forsyth County, is one such measure the District recommends for encouraging water conservation.

Perkins noted the importance of compliance with guidelines set forth by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, emphasizing that such compliance is related to the issuance of permits and permit expansions by the Environmental Protection Division.

The irrigation meter rate increase was approved by the Board of Commissioners at their May 7, 2015 meeting. The increase is the first change to the irrigation meter rates since 2009.

The Forsyth County Water and Sewer Department can be reached at 770.781.2160.

### **About Irrigation Meters**

Irrigation meters are typically used by customers for irrigating landscapes where there is no discharge back to the sewer system, such as golf courses. Those with irrigation meters for their irrigation systems pay for water use only, whereas a majority of sewer customers pay both water and sewer charges based on water meter readings. In light of that difference, irrigation meter customers are subject to higher rates.

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