



OCTOBER FIRES WATER BILL ADJUSTMENT

Adopted by City Council on November 20, 2017

The October fires impacted the Sonoma area in many ways. Some City of Sonoma water customers responded to the fire threat by applying water to their property to reduce their fire risk. Others evacuated and returned home to find that a hose or sprinkler had been left on, or that their water facilities had been damaged by CalFire response activities. The City performed normal water meter readings for the month of October and distributed water bills to customers in early November. Several water customers contacted the City requesting that their water bills be adjusted since their high water use was in response to the extreme threat of fire.

In recognition of the unique Fire emergency, the City Council adopted a special October Fires water bill adjustment on the following basis:

1. By January 1, 2018, customers request a water bill adjustment and explain the cause of their high water use during the month of October 2017 was due to the October Fires.
2. Consistent with the City's Water Leak Adjustment Policy, normal usage will be determined by averaging consumption on a monthly basis using the previous twelve months of water consumption.
3. Normal water usage amounts will be billed at standard water billing rates and the usual service rate will apply.
4. The October Fires water bill adjustment will be applied and water usage above normal usage will be billed at the Tier 1 rate.
5. The adjusted water bill will be the total amount resulting from steps 3 and 4 identified above.
6. If any water customer's home was lost due to the fires, the City will waive all water charges for the month of October 2017.
7. If any water customer's water usage was higher than normal due to damage to their water facilities by CalFire firefighting operations, their water bill will be adjusted to remove charges for the water usage above normal usage in the month of October 2017.

An example Special October Fires Water Bill Adjustment is attached.

The adjusted amount for the water usage above normal usage at the Tier 1 rate will be sufficient to cover the City's direct water supply cost.

City of Sonoma
Example Special October Fires Water Bill Adjustment
(For Water Customer inside City limits)

October 2017 water usage: 72,000 gallons

Normal water usage based on 12 month average: 12,000 gallons

Water usage above normal usage: 60,000 gallons

Water rates per 1,000 gallons

Tier 1 (1-6,000 gallons):	\$3.94
Tier 2 (7-12,000 gallons):	\$6.91
Tier 3 (13-18,000 gallons):	\$7.76
Tier 4 (19,000+ gallons):	\$11.22
Service rate (per month):	\$19.79

Unadjusted October water bill: \$737.33

Breakdown of unadjusted October water bill:

6 @ \$3.94 = \$23.64 (Tier 1)

6 @ \$6.91 = \$41.46 (Tier 2)

6 @ \$7.76 = \$46.56 (Tier 3)

54 @ \$11.22 = \$605.88 (Tier 4)

Water usage total = \$717.54

Service rate = \$19.79

Total bill = \$737.33

October water bill after application of October Fires Water Bill Adjustment: \$321.29

Breakdown of adjusted October water bill:

6 @ \$3.94 = \$23.64 (Tier 1, within normal usage)

6 @ \$6.91 = \$41.46 (Tier 2, within normal usage)

60 @ \$3.94 = \$236.40 (water usage above normal usage at the Tier 1 rate)

Water usage total = \$301.50

Service rate = \$19.79

Total bill = \$321.29

Water bill reduction due to Special October Fires Water Bill Adjustment: \$416.04