CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – BUREAU OF SANITATION

RESIDENTIAL PRIVATE WATER SUB-METER INFORMATION PACKAGE
(Four Dwelling Units and Fewer on a Single Water Meter)

INTENTION OF THIS PACKAGE

The information in this package will provide you with the following: To allow customers with **four dwelling units or less** on a single water meter to be billed **S**ewer **S**ervice **C**harges (**SSC**) based upon private water sub-meter readings.

1. Background information about the program.
2. Points to consider about the benefits and responsibilities of private sub-metering.
3. The necessary steps to install a sub-meter.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The City Council has authorized a procedure that allows City of Los Angeles sewer system customers to use data from private water sub-meters in the calculation of their Sewer Service Charge (**SSC**). The program is totally optional and the customer will bear all costs associated with it.

The program requires that the customer's plumbing be configured to separate the water distribution lines on the customer's property which drain to the sewer ("tributary lines") from those which do not drain to the sewer ("non-tributary lines"). In the residential situation, tributary lines serve interior (domestic) uses, and non-tributary lines serve exterior (primarily irrigation) uses. The customer may install the private sub-meter on either the tributary or the non-tributary line. Hose bibs may remain attached to the tributary line, but no credit against the SSC will be given. **Only one (1) sub-meter is allowed per Department of Water & Power (DWP) meter in accordance with Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC)** Sec.64.41.03(g)3(A)ii**.** See the diagram on Page 6 for more information.

The SSC system, also known as the **Winter Water Use (WWU)** program, bases the SSC upon the lowest average daily water delivered to the premise during the preceding winter rainy season (typically mid-October through April). This daily average of wastewater generation will be used to determine the customer's SSC bill throughout the following year (six or twelve billing periods). The private sub-meter will substitute actual data for the estimate. Thus, the program should benefit many customers who use a greater than average volume of water for irrigation than for interior uses.

Since the data from a private sub-meter will provide the best available estimate of the sewage flow generated from a customer's property, the City's base rate of **$10.13** per hundred cubic feet (hcf) of sewage flow will be applied to the readings of the private sub-meter (on the tributary line). Another method to calculate the customer's SSC bill is taken from the difference between the readings of the Department of Water and Power (DWP) meter and a private sub-meter (on the non-tributary line) will be used to. The **$10.13** per hcf represents the City's cost to treat one HCF of sewage flow. This rate is the same as the SSC rate applied to customers on the WWU program.

2. PLUMBING CONSIDERATIONS

1. Is your irrigation plumbing totally separate from your interior plumbing? If not, you will have to rearrange your plumbing to separate the tributary (interior) and non-tributary (exterior/irrigation) uses. There is an exception for hose bibs, which may remain connected to tributary plumbing. However, no credit against the SSC will be given for non-tributary water discharged through those hose bibs. Estimate your re-plumbing costs.

2. The estimated cost for the private water sub-meter and its installation as depicted in our attached schematic is approximately $800 to $1300 (this price range is for installation of a one-inch meter or smaller.) This includes two hours of time for a qualified licensed and bonded plumber (the price for installation of a sub-meter varies widely according to individual plumber prices.) If you can do the work yourself (only for single family dwellings), then the cost of installing the sub-meter is much less. Add this to the other re-plumbing costs needed to totally separate the interior plumbing as described in Item No. 1.

3. HOW WOULD I GO ABOUT ACQUIRING A PRIVATE WATER SUB-METER?

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Summary

I. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRIVATE SUB-METER PARTICIPANT

1. **You will be responsible for all the costs associated with the installation and maintenance of the private sub-meter, etc. The private sub-meter belongs to the property owner/resident.**
2. **Since this is your private water sub-meter, you will be required to maintain it in good operating condition per the manufacturer's specifications.**
3. **You may be required to periodically calibrate the private sub-meter** per the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations and send the results to the City.
4. **You must install the private water sub-meter in a location in front of the house that is readily accessible to the DWP meter readers.**
5. **The meter must be purchased from DWP and installed as a horizontal installation.**
   See Note no. 1 above and diagram on Page 6.
6. **If your sub-meter is malfunctioning, and you do not take the necessary steps to correct it, you will be put back on the City's standard billing system WWU program.** This system bills your SSC based upon your lowest average daily delivered water to your premise during the preceding winter rainy season billing periods.
7. **You may, at any time, decide to discontinue being charged based upon the private sub- meter readings and revert to the City's standard system for determining your SSC (WWU) program. However, you will not be allowed back on the private water sub-meter billings until one year has elapsed.**
8. **You must sign a release form that indemnifies the City from any damages (physical or financial) which may arise from the installation of the private water sub-meter at your premises.**

If you have studied the guidelines above, and still feel that it will be worth the investment, then you must perform all the following steps to change over to the new billing system using a private water sub-meter. **Only one (1) sub-meter is allowed per DWP water meter per the LAMC Section** 64.41.03(g)3ii**.**

II. PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING THE PRIVATESUB-METER

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The person installing the private water sub-meter must be given this information package to read it carefully before the sub-meter is installed. He/she must determine if your plumbing configuration is appropriate for the installation of this private water sub-meter and that you have the proper meter size. A licensed plumbing contractor should be consulted on the proper location of the sub-meter and should verify that tributary and non- tributary plumbing is properly segregated.

1. Whoever is doing the installation must first **obtain a plumbing permit** from the Department of Building and Safety (**DBS**). It is preferable that a licensed and bonded plumbing contractor perform this job. There are various DBS offices throughout the City. Please call **213-482-0061** to find the office nearest you.

2. Then, **take the DBS permit to DWP to purchase a private water sub-meter**[1] and its enclosure box (approximately $700 - $1000 for meter only) depending upon the size of the meter. **The water sub-meter must be purchased from DWP if you want to qualify for this program. DWP will not read the meter if it is not purchased from them.** Please contact DWP at **1-800-342-5397** to find the office nearest you.

3. After the private sub-meter has been installed, **you must notify DBS that the sub-meter has been installed and is ready for inspection. If the DBS plumbing inspector finds that the tributary and non-tributary lines have not been totally segregated (except for hose bibs as explained on the diagram), additional plumbing work will be necessary and inspection cost incurred.** Once the DBS plumbing inspector has approved the installation, DBS will notify DWP to begin reading your private water sub-meter and bill you under the new system.

4. You will receive your first DWP bill with SSC on it based upon the private sub-meter readings after you have accrued one complete cycle (approximately 60 days) of private water sub-meter reading data. Please read the SUMMARY on Page 6.

NOTICE TO READER

Please note: the following examples are purely for illustration purposes only. They are intended to help you decide if this program is beneficial to you. It is not intended to cover every possible SSC case that may arise in the real world.

EXAMPLE 1

A. Let us evaluate a family with Ultra-low-flush toilets at their premises and they annually discharge **92** hcf to the sewer.

B. Take your lowest consumption (hcf) from a rainy season billing period (FY 20-21 is November 17, 2019 to April 22, 2020) and multiply it by six (6) to get annual discharge to the sewer.

DWP Billing Period Water Usage on Bill

04/17/20	- 06/14/20	-	56 hcf	
02/16/20	- 04/17/20	-	20 hcf	
12/15/19	**- 02/16/20**	-	**14 hcf**	14 hcf X 6 billing periods (one year) = **84 hcf**
10/14/19	- 12/15/19	-	46 hcf	**ADSV = 84 x DWCF** (0.83 for FY 20/21)
08/16/19	- 10/14/19	-	69 hcf	= **69.72** (the DWCF reduces the volume)
06/16/19	- 08/16/19	-	98 hcf	

C. For cost comparison of the winter water use SSC program with private water sub-metering program, multiply the total amount of water used in one year under both programs by the SSC rate of $9.28. SSC under winter water use program: **69.72 hcf X $10.13** (SSC rate) **= $706.26**
SSC under the private sub-metering: **92 hcf X $10.13** (SSC rate) **= $931.96**

D. Difference in cost comparison between the two systems.
$931.96- $706.26 =$225.7

E. According to this example, you would have a lower SSC under the winter water use program. Installation of a private water sub-meter would <u>not</u> be advisable.

EXAMPLE 2

A. Let us evaluate a family with Ultra-low-flush toilets at their premises and they discharge **92** hcf to the sewer.

B. Take your lowest consumption (hcf) from a rainy season billing period (FY 20-21 is November 17, 2019 to April 20, 2020) and multiply it by (6) to get annual discharge to the sewer.

DWP Billing Period			Water Usage on	
04/17/20	- 06/14/20	-	78 hcf	
02/16/20	- 04/17/20	-	44 hcf	
12/15/19	**- 02/16/20**	-	**34 hcf**	34 hcf X 6 billing periods (one year) = **204 hcf**
10/14/19	- 12/15/19	-	85 hcf	**ADSV** = 204 x DWCF (0.83 for FY 20-21)
08/16/19	- 10/14/19	-	75 hcf	=169.32 (the DWCF reduces the volume)
06/16/19	- 08/16/19	-	97 hcf	

C. For cost comparison of the winter water use SSC program with private water sub- metering program, multiply the total amount of water consumption used in one year by the SSC rate of $7.08.

SSC under the winter water use: **169.32 hcf X $10.13** (SSC rate) = **$1715.21**
SSC under the private sub-metering: **92 hcf X $10.13** (SSC rate) = **$931.96**

D. Difference in cost comparison between the two systems.
$1715.21 - $931.96 = $783.25

E. According to this example, you would have a lower SSC under the private water sub-meter program. Installation of a private water sub meter would probably be advisable.

F. Assume the private water sub-meter and an estimated installation cost of $1500. The length of time that it would take you to recover your up-front cost of $1000 is calculated as follows:

$1500 divided by $655.67 = 2.3 years (or less if the DWCF is greater than 0.83).

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROGRAM? Top

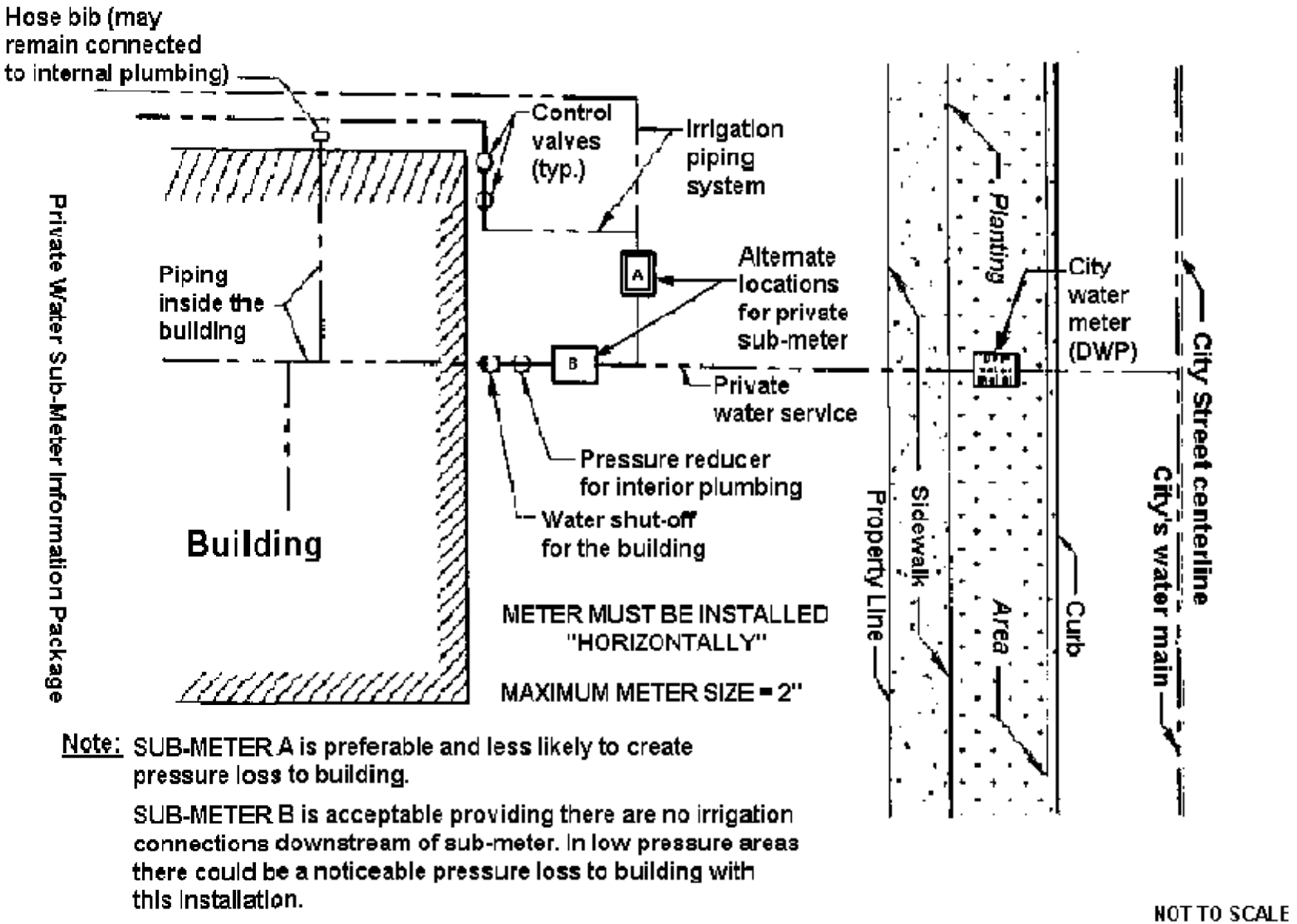
If you have additional questions, please call LA Sanitation, Financial Management Division, SSC Hotline at **1-800-540-0952**. You can also visit *https://www.ladwp.com/residential-services/programs-and-rebates-residential/private-water-sub-meter* for additional information.

REQUEST FOR SSC ADJUSTMENTS OR MORE INFORMATION

Financial Management Division (FMD) can do an investigation, upon written request, to see if you qualify for an adjustment before any money is spent by you to install a private water sub-meter. FMD will require that the customer send a letter that states the reason you believe the property qualifies for an adjustment such as water leak, newly planted area, swimming pool refill, vacancy, new customer to DWP, two (2) or more water meters, etc. The requests for an SSC adjustment must be in writing and sent to: **LA Sanitation, Residential SSC, PO Box 79083, Los Angeles, CA 90079-0083.**

[1] You will be buying an approved meter and also save a considerable amount of money by purchasing a private water sub-meter from DWP, including the following:

- **The sub-meters sold by DWP have met their accuracy and quality standards.**
- **The sub-meters have uniform characteristics because they are from the same vendor.**
- **The City's Department of Building & Safety and DWP's Water Meter Division have thoroughly tested the sub-meters.**
- **DWP passes on the savings (10% discount on some meters) that it receives from the manufacturer when it purchases the meters in bulk. DWP's meter vendor was selected based on competitive bids to ensure that you receive the best possible price.**



Note: SUB-METER A is preferable and less likely to create pressure loss to building.

SUB-METER B is acceptable providing there are no irrigation connections downstream of sub-meter. In low pressure areas there could be a noticeable pressure loss to building with this installation.

NOT TO SCALE

Sewer Service Charge

Private Water Sub-Meter Alternative Locations

comm.wpd 8/7/98

SUMMARY OF INSTALLATION OF A

PRIVATE WATER SUB-METER

Obtain the Private Water Sub-Meter information packet from FMD, DBS or DWP*. Read the package and decide if it is to your advantage to install the meter. You may call FMD at 1-800-540-0952 for information.

1. DECIDE IF THE METER IS TO BE INSTALLED ON THE DOMESTIC LINE OR THE IRRIGATION LINE. **Only one private sub-meter per DWP metered line.** See sketch on page 6 of the residential sub-meter info packet or Page 4 of the commercial sub-meter info.
2. OBTAIN PLUMBING PERMIT "FOR PRIVATE WATER SUB-METER" FROM DBS
3. TAKE PERMIT TO DWP & PURCHASE SUB-METER. Call DWP AT 213-367-2130 for the nearest location to pick up sub-meter.
4. INSTALL SUB-METER (Only a LICENSED PLUMBER can do installations for commercial, multi-residential, etc., properties).
5. CALL DBS TO HAVE THE SUB-METER INSTALLATIONINSPECTED.

STEPS CITY DEPARTMENTS MUST COMPLETE

A. DBS WILL INSPECT THE INSTALLATION AND SEND MEMO TO DWP NOTING TYPE A OR B INSTALLATION ON SKETCH. See the sub-meter info diagram for explanation.

B. DWP WILL MODIFY ACCOUNT TO BILL SSC BASED ON SUB-METERREADINGS.

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* **DBS** - Department of Building & Safety - **213-482- 0061**

DWP - Department of Water & Power – **1-800-342-5397**

FMD - LASAN, Financial Management Division – **1-800-540-0952**

WATER FACILITY CHARGES
SEWER SUB-METER PROGRAM
2025/2026 FY

1" AND Smaller Sewer Sub-Meter Cost Package

#2 Plastic Meter Box w/RPM Cover (includes hardware)	$	204
5/8" X 3/4" Meter	$	312
1" Int. Meter	$	347
1" Reg. Meter	$	405
Meter with Box Included: (5/8" x 3/4")	$	**516**
Meter with Box Included: (1" Int.)	$	**551**
Meter with Box Included: (1" Reg.)	$	**609**

1 1/2" and 2" Sewer Sub-Meter Cost Package

#3 Plastic Meter Box w/RPM Cover (includes hardware)	$	738
1 1/2" Meter (included 1 1/2" flange & valve)	$	759
2" Meter (included 2" flange & valve)	$	973
Meter with Box Included: (1 1/2")	$	**1497**
Meter with Box Included: (2")	$	**1711**

Note: The meter must be purchased from DWP and a plumbing permit obtained from inspection by Building & Safety is required to qualify the property for billing of the sewer service charge under the private water sub-meter program.

Phone No. for City Hall Sub-Meter Program (to request info packages only 800.540.0952)