Using the Meter and Allocation Log

Reading the Meter

Meters measure water used in Cubic Feet (CF) but allocations are based on Hundred Cubic Feet (CCF). To use IRWD's Meter and Allocation Log, you need to read only the CCFs, which are the black on white numbers on the odometer portion of the dial. In this example, the meter shows 573.01 CCFs. You need only record the 573 CCFs. However, for smaller sites (less than 1/4 acre) you may also want to read the first white on black number as a decimal.

How to Use the Log Sheet

1. Always read the meter on the same day of the week, from week to week.

2. Read the white numbers on the meter, which are in CCFs (hundred cubic feet). Note the date in the "Today's Date" column and the meter reading in the "Today's Meter Reading" column.

3. Wait a week and read the meter again. As before, note today's date and the meter read in the same columns. Write down the previous meter reading in the "Previous Meter Reading" column. Subtract to calculate the "Water Usage" and record the difference in the "Water Usage" column.

4. Call the ET Hotline* at **949-453-5451** to get the allocation per acre for your climate zone. If you are not certain which climate zone this meter is in, call IRWD customer service at **949-453-5300**.

5. Write in the acreage for this meter in the "Site Acreage" column. This number is on the water bill.

6. Multiply the "Alloc. Per Acre" number by your "Site Acreage" to calculate the allocation for this meter for last week. Write this number in the "Site Alloc." column.

7. From "Water Usage" subtract "Site Alloc.". Write this number in the "Over/Under" column. If the number is positive, you are over allocation and should make adjustments to the irrigation schedule.

*Note: Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) updates the ET Hotline each Monday. Weekly ET updates are also posted on IRWD's website, **www.irwd.com**. If you have any questions or concerns regarding water usage on your site, please call IRWD at **949-453-5437**.

Scheduling

Changes in scheduling will need to be done frequently during certain periods of the year, particularly fall and spring. In September, October and November, the rate of plants' evapotranspiration (ET) typically drops steadily as days get shorter and the energy reaching the earth from the sun is less intense.

Conversely, ET increases by approximately 40 percent in April, but gradually less rapidly during May, June and July. IRWD recommends taking extra care to adequately irrigate during the spring and early summer to ensure that plants develop healthy root structures in this growing season.

Calculating ET

ET changes almost every day because the ET rate is calculated from weather data collected at three weather stations measuring these climate zones: **Coastal** (covering Newport Coast and Santa Ana Heights); **Central** (covering the City of Irvine, UCI, Tustin Ranch, and Lake Forest, except Foothill Ranch); and **Foothill** (covering Portola Hills and Foothill Ranch).

Each weather station monitors solar radiation, air temperature, wind speed, humidity, and other evapotranspiration factors, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. As every site is assigned to one of these weather stations, the allocation for each site will increase and decrease in response to all weather factors in its specific climate zone. If you're not sure which climate zone your site is located in, please call.

How Allocations Work

Landscape water-use allocations are determined by the square footage of irrigated landscape and the ET for exactly those day that occurred during the billing cycle. Because ET changes daily, the allocation will change with every bill.

Allocations have several "buffers" built in, so your usage should **always** be **below** your allocation. For example, IRWD assumes that all landscape is 100 percent turf, located in 100 percent sun. There is also an "inefficiency" factor built into the formula because you are not expected to change your controllers daily nor have a perfect irrigation system. If you believe you have more acreage than is indicated on your bill, contact Juan Garcia at 949-453-5437.

IRWD's Rates—Landscape Irrigation Potable Water

Tier	% of allocation	Rate/CCF
Low Volume Base Rate	0 – 40% 41 – 100%	$1.36 $1.70
Inefficient	101 – 160%	$4.09
Excessive	N/A	N/A
Wasteful	161 + %	$12.06

IRWD's Rates—Landscape Irrigation Recycled Water

Tier	% of allocation	Rate/CCF
Low Volume Base Rate	0 – 40% 41 – 100%	$1.01 $1.36
Inefficient	101 – 140%	$2.33
Excessive	N/A	N/A
Wasteful	141 + %	$5.08