

## Water Meters

By Scott Finke, Circuit Rider

Should you have a water meter or not? That is the question. Most towns that have water meters see their consumption go down after they have been installed. This is because customers will receive their first bill after the installation of a meter; and the customer will have a heart attack because there is no way he could have used that much water. The customer is used to turning the water on and letting it run down to the curbs and gutters - essentially wasting water. Someday we will be in the predicament where we will have to watch how much water we use because if it runs out, we could be in big trouble.

When a village does not have meters, the city is only taking in a certain amount of revenue. The city has to prioritize where the money is going when it comes to whether you are taking in enough money to cover the cost of pumping the water, fixing water leaks, or any other expenses that may come up. Not to mention the wastewater side of things. Is your monthly fee enough to cover costs?

The benefit of water meters is that with water meters you can set a fee for the meter, and charge per 1000 gallons for how much water a person, family, or household uses. By having these meters, the city can find how much to average in fees in order to make revenue for the city. For example, the best time to find the revenue for wastewater is by averaging the months of December, January and February's total water consumption. Taking the amount of water consumed during those three months and then charging the same amount the other months will make life so much simpler. Most meters will last 15-20 years, so staying up to date on the age of your meters is imperative.

If you have a 3-inch water meter in a school, it will not catch the low flow of water coming out of that water fountain. Therefore, you must have a water meter that will go down to an eighth of a gallon so that it can register the low flow of that water fountain. A bigger meter is needed to keep track of the water consumption for the school. An example is in the locker rooms with showers or in the kitchen with all the dishes. But it is still useful have a meter that will accommodate for the low flow and high flow areas of the school.

If you have any questions about anything don't hesitate to call NeRWA office.