

Article 7: Water System

Division 2: Regulation of Water System

(Added 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0201 Regulations of Water System — Authority

That pursuant to the right and power granted by Section 3 of the Charter of the City of San Diego, the rules and regulations hereinafter in the Article set forth are promulgated, adopted and established for the regulation, use and government of the water system of The City of San Diego.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.02 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0202 Regulation of Water System — Size and Location of Service Connection

The Department reserves the right to determine the size of the service connection, the service pipe and of the water meter and shall also have the right to determine kind and size of back flow protection and all appurtenances to the service. Upon application to the Department for a service installation, a red card will be furnished to the applicant to be placed at the point where he (or she) wishes the service to enter the premises unless service connection already exists.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.04 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0203 Regulation of Water Service - Charges for Water Service Connections, Meter Installations and Appurtenances

- (a) The Department shall charge for the Cost of installing a water Service Connection, any meter, and any equipment necessary to initiate, expand or continue a water Service Connection requested by an Applicant.
- (b) The charges shall be paid by the Applicant before the work is performed by the Department.
- (c) The amount of charges shall be established by the City Manager, except for water Service Connection charges, which shall be established by the City Council. The amount of the charges shall fully reimburse the Department for the Department's Costs.
- (d) Any equipment necessary to initiate, expand or continue a water Service Connection, or meters installed by the Department shall remain the Department's property and shall be maintained by the Department.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.05 and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0204 Regulation of Water System — Pipe Through Basement Wall

When the applicant requires the service connection pipe to be extended through a basement wall, the owner of the property shall provide the entrance way through such wall and assume all responsibility for any damage caused by leakage through such entrance way and shall assume all liability for damage caused by leaking pipes, fittings, or meter installed inside of such basement wall.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.06 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0205 Regulation of Water System — Unauthorized Use of Curb Cock or Shut Off Valve

The Shut Off Valve or Curb Cock is for the exclusive use of the Department in controlling the water supply through the service connection pipe. It is unlawful to use the Curb Cock or Shut Off Valve on the City side of the meter without prior authorization from the Department, regardless of intent.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.07, retitled and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0206 Regulation of Water System — Pressure Conditions

All applicants for service connections or water service shall be required to accept such conditions of pressure and service as are provided by the distributing system at the location of the proposed service connection, and to hold the Department harmless from all damage arising from low pressure or high pressure conditions or interruptions of service.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.08 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0207 Regulation of Water System — Cutting and Refitting, etc., of Service Connections and Water Mains

Where persons, corporations or contractors making improvements, etc., requiring excavations in streets wherein water mains and service connections exist, requiring said water mains and service connections to be cut and refitted, lowered or raised, etc., said persons, corporations or contractors shall make written request to the Department, insuring the payment of all costs incurred by the Department in making the changes necessary or required to be made.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.09 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0208 Regulation of Water System — Unlawful Use of Separate Water Service Connection

It is unlawful for anyone to connect a house or building to the water service connection for a separate property without prior authorization from the Department, or to maintain such a connection, or to use water from such a connection, regardless of intent.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.10, retitled and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0209 Regulation of Water System — Combined Irrigation and Domestic Service

This service shall be for water delivered through a single meter for combined irrigation and domestic purposes in accordance with the following definition:

“Agricultural purposes” shall mean the growing or raising for the purposes of commerce, trade, or industry, of agricultural products, in conformity with the recognized practices of husbandry, and produced (1) for human consumption or for the market, or (2) for the feeding of fowl or livestock produced for human consumption or for the market, or (3) for the feeding of fowl or livestock for the purpose of obtaining their products for human consumption or for the market, such agricultural products to be grown or raised on a parcel of land having an area of not less than one acre utilized exclusively therefor, or for irrigating golf courses consisting of not less than thirty-five acres of improved course.

Combined irrigation and domestic service shall be furnished to those who make application in writing, on a form provided by the Department, and who agree to take such service at the special rate provided for such service for a period of one year.

When combined irrigation and domestic service is discontinued at the consumer’s request, no other application for combined irrigation and domestic service to the same consumer on the same land shall be accepted or granted for twelve months after the date of such discontinuance, unless the consumer shall have first paid to the Department the difference by which any monthly charge already made for water supplied on the same land, subsequent to such discontinuance, is less than the minimum charge would have been for the same month if combined irrigation and domestic service had not been so discontinued.

Combined irrigation and domestic service shall be discontinued by the Department, without notice, when the conditions under which such service is authorized by this section cease to exist.

Combined irrigation and domestic service may be discontinued by the City Manager at any time that he deems it to be in the best interest of the City to do so.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.11 and retitled on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0210 Regulation of Water System — Fire Service Connections

- (a) It is unlawful to make or maintain any connection to, or to use water from, any fire sprinkler or Fire Service Connection, regardless of intent, unless that connection or use is for the purpose of extinguishing a fire or testing the Fire Service Connection.
- (b) The Department reserves the right to install a Bypass Meter on each Fire Service Connection at the expense of the owner of the property.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.12 and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0211 Regulation of Water System — Water to Pass Through Meter

- (a) It is unlawful to use City water which does not pass through a City meter, unless specifically provided for in this Article, regardless of knowledge or intent.
- (b) It is unlawful to make, maintain, or permit any bypass or connection between the City meter and the main, regardless of knowledge or intent.
- (c) Sections (a) and (b) shall not apply to unmetered landscaping installed prior to the effective date of this section, for which a flat rate has been established by the Department Director.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.13 and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0212 Regulation of Water System — Fire Hydrants

- (a) Fire hydrants are for the primary purpose of extinguishing fires, and are to be opened and used only as specifically authorized by the Department.
- (b) It is unlawful to use City water from a fire hydrant for purposes other than extinguishing a fire without prior authorization from the Department and installation of a fire hydrant meter, regardless of knowledge or intent.
- (c) In the event that a service connection to a fire hydrant is not sufficiently accessible to the work site and City water must be transported to the work in a container or vehicle, it is unlawful to use such water unless the water passes through a fire hydrant meter installed by the Department.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.14, retitled and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0213 Regulation of Water System — Tampering with or Obstructing Water System Equipment

- (a) It is unlawful to break, disassemble or otherwise tamper with a water meter, locking device on a water meter, backflow device or other equipment or appurtenances of the City Water System.
- (b) It is unlawful to turn on the water on the City side of the water meter without authorization of the Department.
- (c) It is unlawful to operate or tamper with a City water control valve of any type without authorization of the Department.
- (d) It is unlawful to place any material, debris, or structure of any kind upon or about any Water System equipment, including but not limited to fire hydrants, valves, manholes, meters or meter boxes, so as to prevent free access to the equipment or facilities.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.15, retitled and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0214 Regulation of Water System — Shutting Off Water for Emergencies and Repairs

The Department has the authority to shut off the City water supply to any premises at any time, in case of an emergency, or for the purpose of making repairs, or extensions.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.16, retitled and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0215 Regulation of Water System — Use of Water for Testing

Whenever plumbers or other persons connecting service pipes to the property or outlet side of the meter may use the water for testing pipes and fixtures at an unoccupied building, they shall see that water is properly shut off before leaving same.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.17 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0216 Regulation of Water System — Boiler Connections

- (a) It is unlawful for any person or persons to draw water from any city water supply pipe direct into any stationary boiler within the corporate limits of the City of San Diego.

- (b) All persons having boilers or other heaters supplied with city water are cautioned against danger of explosion or collapse. The City will not be liable for any damage that may occur on account of water being cut off as consequence of such explosion, collapse, or other occurrence, or on account of the breakage of any pipe or fixture by pressure of water from the City mains.
- (c) Where water is supplied to a steam engine boiler, its owner must provide a tank of sufficient capacity to serve a continuous supply to the boiler or boilers for at least twelve hours. Water service pipe will be discharged into such tank.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to cause, or permit to be installed, or to allow to exist, any inlet discharging water supplied by the Department in or to any tank, cistern, reservoir, or any other receptacle for the storage or use of water below the maximum possible high water level of such tank, cistern, reservoir, or other receptacle for the storage or use of water.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.18 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0217 Regulation of Water System — Shutting Off Flow of Water in Case of Fire

Consumers are required to use discretion in shutting off lawn sprinklers or any steady flow of water, where same does not interfere with business, in case of fire in their section of the City.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.19 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0218 Regulation of Water System — Temporary Service Connections

- (a) A temporary service connection may be installed upon approval of an application for such a connection by the Department. For purposes of this section, "temporary service connection" means a water service connection installed for use by a consumer for a period not to exceed two years. The charge for installation of a temporary service connection shall be that same as for a regular service connection pursuant to Section 67.0203.
- (b) It is unlawful to use a temporary service connection beyond the time period authorized by the Department, regardless of knowledge or intent. The consumer shall discontinue using the temporary service connection twelve months after installation, unless an extension of time has been granted by the Department. In no event shall a consumer use a temporary service connection for more than two years.

- (c) The Department has the authority to make a temporary service connection permanent at the end of the time period authorized by the Department, provided all charges for a permanent service connection, together with all bills for water furnished through such service, including all applicable charges, fees, deposits and interest, have been paid in full.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.20 and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0219 Regulation of Water System — Installation of Valve for Emergency Shut-Offs

It shall be unlawful for any Person laying service pipe on the property side of the meter to fail to install a Shut Off Valve in the line for the purpose of shutting off the water in case of emergency.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.21, retitled and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0220 Regulation of Water System — Meter Testing

When the accuracy of a water meter is questioned, the Department has the authority to perform a water meter controversy test upon request of the consumer, and payment of a meter testing fee pursuant to Section 67.0228. The Department is authorized to adjust the consumer's water bill based on the results of the controversy test, according to the procedures set forth in the Department's written regulations approved by the City Manager.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.22 and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0221 Regulation of Water System — Consumer's Guarantee Deposits

Consumer's guarantee deposits are required from all applicants for water service.

- (a) Exceptions are:

- (1) Applicants for water service for a single family dwelling who have no prior record of delinquency concerning water service accounts.
- (2) Applicants for water service for premises other than single family dwellings, who have at least one other active water service account with the City and who have no record of delinquent payments with respect to their water service accounts.

- (b) Deposits as required herein shall be equal to the estimated amount payable by the applicant for two (2) billing periods. In the event that an applicant has no water usage history with the Department, a flat rate deposit will be imposed pursuant to the schedule of guarantee deposits on file in the Rate Book of City Fees and Charges at the Office of the City Clerk.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.23 and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0222**Regulation of Water System — Estimation of Water Bills**

Water bills shall be calculated based on actual meter readings whenever feasible or on estimated water consumption when it is not feasible to read the meters pursuant to written procedures approved by the City Manager. When a water bill is based on estimated water consumption, the Department shall include a written notice to the consumer concurrently with the water bill, or electronic notice for consumers receiving paperless billing, indicating that the water bill was estimated.

(Amended 12-9-2002 by O-19129 N.S.)

(Amended 10-23-2019 by O-21141 N.S.; effective 11-22-2019.)

§67.0223**Regulation of Water System — Payment of Water Bills**

- (a) Water Bills are due upon receipt, and are past due sixteen (16) calendar days from the statement date appearing on the water bill. In the event that a consumer fails to pay a water bill before the sixteenth (16th) calendar day following the statement date, the Department is authorized to charge the consumer interest on the amount due for each calendar day that the payment is overdue. The late payment interest charge shall be established yearly by the City Manager, and shall be kept on file at the Office of the City Clerk in the Rate Book of City Fees and Charges.
- (b) In the event that any consumer shall be delinquent in the payment of a water bill, and such delinquency shall continue for a period of forty five (45) calendar days after the statement date of such bill or bills, the Department is authorized to discontinue water service to such delinquent consumer until all delinquent water bills, including all applicable charges, fees, deposits and interest, have been paid.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.25 and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0224 Regulation of Water System — Authority to Adjust Water Bills

When it is determined that a water bill is inaccurate because of billing errors, concealed water pipe leaks, meter leaks, broken or malfunctioning meters, meter reading errors or inaccurate estimates, the Department is authorized to make water bill adjustments in accordance with the Department's written regulations approved by the City Manager.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.25.1, retitled and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0225 Regulation of Water System — Admission of Department Employees to Consumer's Premises

It is unlawful for any Person to refuse to admit a Department employee to the Person's premises at all reasonable times, or at any time in case of an emergency, for the purpose of inspecting, testing, checking, changing, removing or reading water meters.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.27 and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0226 Regulation of Water System — Water Used Through Service Connection Without Authorization

- (a) It is unlawful to use City water through a service connection without authorization from the Department, regardless of knowledge or intent.
- (b) If proper application for water service is not made or if bills for service are not paid immediately, the Department is authorized to discontinue the unauthorized water service, and to refuse to furnish water to the premise until an application for service is approved, and all of the applicant's delinquent bills for previous water service, including all applicable charges, fees, deposits and interest, have been paid.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.30, retitled and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0227 Regulation of Water System — Authority to Refuse Water Service or Fire Hydrant Meter to Consumer With Delinquent Bills

When a request for water service or a fire hydrant meter is made by a consumer who has failed to pay all bills for service previously rendered, including all applicable charges, fees, deposits and interest, the Department is authorized to refuse to furnish water or issue a fire hydrant meter to such Applicant until the outstanding bills are paid. The Department is also authorized to require a guarantee deposit from such Applicant for the payment of future bills, prior to approval of the request for water service.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.31, retitled and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0228 Regulation of Water System — Fees

- (a) The Department is authorized to charge the consumer for the Cost of the following services:
 - (1) turning off the water supply for nonpayment of water bills, failure to pay a required guarantee deposit, or violation of this Article or Department rules and regulations;
 - (2) restoration of service after the water has been turned off for nonpayment of water bills, failure to pay a required guarantee deposit, or violation of this Article or Department rules and regulations;
 - (3) removal of a meter;
 - (4) reinstallation of a meter after removal for illegal turn on;
 - (5) return of consumer's unpaid check by a bank;
 - (6) performance of a meter controversy test.

This amount plus the consumer's unpaid outstanding bills, including all applicable charges, rates, fees, deposits and interest, must be paid by the consumer before service will be renewed.

- (b) The amount of the charges in subsection (a) shall fully reimburse the Department for the Department's Costs.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.32, retitled and amended 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0229 Regulation of Water System — Unauthorized Restoration of Water After Shut Off

- (a) It is unlawful to turn on City the water, or cause it to be turned on, at the curb or meter after it has been shut off for failure to pay outstanding bills, or violation of this Article or Department rules or regulations, regardless of intent.
- (b) In the event that water is turned on or caused to be turned on after it has been shut off at the curb or meter for any of the above-stated reasons, the Department is authorized to shut off the water, place a locking device on the Curb Cock, remove the meter and charge a fee to the consumer for those services pursuant to Section 67.0228(a). The Department is authorized to refuse to renew service until the consumer has paid all outstanding bills, including all applicable charges, fees, deposits and interest.

(“Regulation of Water System — Unauthorized Restoration of Water After Shut Off” added 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0230 Regulation of Water System — Damages Through Leaking Pipes and Fixtures

The Department’s jurisdiction and responsibility ends at the meter, and the Department will in no case be liable for damages occasioned by water running from open or faulty fixtures, or from broken or damaged pipes beyond the Department’s meter.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.33 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0231 Regulation of Water System — Miscellaneous Services Not Mentioned Herein

The Department is always willing to render any reasonable service in connection with the supply of water service to consumers upon application at the main office of the Department, providing, however, that reasonable charges may be made for any expense involved in rendering the service.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.34 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0232 Regulation of Water System — Water Mains Property of the Department

All water pipes which have been approved by the Department, laid in streets, alleys, or other public thoroughfares within the corporate limits of The City of San Diego shall become the property of the Department.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.35 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)

§67.0233 Regulation of Water System — Street Work

All contractors, persons, corporations, etc., who open, grade, regrade, fill, excavate, or otherwise work a street, shall give at least three days' written notice to the Department for the removal, raising, lowering, or otherwise displacement of any water mains, pipes, fittings, meters, or other water system property that may interfere with such street work.

Contractors, or other persons performing such work, shall be liable for damage to city water properties.

(Renumbered from Sec. 67.36 on 7-31-2000 by O-18828 N.S.)