



WATER THEFT POLICY

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Administering Entity: : Board of Directors and General Manager

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Approved By: Board of Directors

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Responsibility for Review: : Board of Directors and General Manager

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF WATER SERVICES

No one, except an employee or District representative shall, at any time, in any manner, operate valves, curb stops, or interfere with meters or their connections, pumps, regulators or other fittings or facilities of the District. This shall include the making of taps and/or connections to District facilities.

Any person who, with intent to obtain for himself or herself, obtains water services from CCCSD without paying the full lawful charge therefor, or with intent to enable another person to do so, or with intent to deprive CCCSD of any part of the full lawful charges for water services it provides, commits, authorizes or solicits any of the following shall be liable to CCCSD for the penalties set forth in this document:

- a. Diverts or causes water to be diverted by any means whatsoever.
- b. Prevents any water meter or other device used in determining the charge for water services, from accurately performing its measuring function by tampering or by any other means or bypasses any water meter to cause no measurement or inaccurate measurement of water actually delivered.
- c. Tampered with any property owned by or used by CCCSD to provide water services.
- d. Makes or causes to be made any connection with or reconnection to water service facilities owned or used by CCCSD to provide water services and without the authorization or consent of the District.

- e. Uses or receives the direct benefit of all or a portion of water services with knowledge or reason to believe that the diversion, tampering or unauthorized connection existed at the time of that use or that the use or receipt was otherwise without the authorization or consent of the District.
- f. Uses any instrument, apparatus, or device to obtain District water supplies, which device(s) is/are primarily designed to be used to obtain water service without paying the full lawful charge thereof.
- g. Cuts or removes a seal or locks on any meter or other water measuring device.

FIRE HYDRANTS

Tampering with any fire hydrant for the unauthorized use of water there from or any other reason, is a misdemeanor as provided by the California Penal Code Sections 148.4 and 498. Such actions are punishable by imprisonment in the County Jail or a fine or both. The District will prosecute any such actions to the fullest extent of the law.

PROCEDURES FOR UNAUTHORIZED USE OF WATER SERVICES OR FIRE HYDRANTS

1. Upon complaint or discovery of possible water theft, the staff of CCCSD shall investigate and file a report of findings to the General Manager. Any devices used to illegally remove water from the distributions system shall be confiscated.
2. Based upon the report, the General Manger shall begin a formal assessment to determine, if damages have resulted based on the water theft and the tampering of the water service or fire hydrant.
3. Penalties for tampering with and or damaging a water service or fire hydrant will be assessed as follows:

a. First Violation	\$250.00
b. Second Violation	\$500.00
c. Third and Subsequent	\$1000.00
4. In addition to the penalties for tampering, the offender will be billed for all water estimated by CCCSD staff to have been withdrawn from the distribution system to be billed at the Domestic rate. Staff time and equipment utilized in investigating and performing repairs will also be included in the billing.
5. In the event of a failure to pay by the offender the CCCSD will use any means necessary to collect, including but not limited to, filing a lien against real property and/or contact local authorities to file a criminal complaint.
6. The district reserves the right to pursue criminal charges where warranted in addition to penalties and actual costs associated with the theft. The penalties must be paid within 15 days of invoice, or a late fee will be assessed.