

## POLICY: WATER METERS

**Authority:** The Policy on Water Meters was originally implemented on October 30, 2002. Revisions occurred on November 9, 2006, and June 20, 2007.

**Purpose:** The Board for Financing Water Projects deems that:

- Metering of all water services is an essential element of a water conservation program.
- Metering is an effective means of improving and maintaining the close control of water system operations made necessary by the difficulty in maintaining high quality water supplies and the increasing costs of providing reliable water service to consumers.
- Metering consumption provides a basis for assessing users equitably.
- Metering provides a database for system performance studies, facility planning, and evaluation of conservation measures. It also improves accountability for water delivered through the system and helps to ensure an equitable recovery of revenues.

### **AB198 grant program requirements:**

In 1991, the Nevada State Legislature passed a law requiring public water systems to adopt a Plan of Water Conservation (NRS 540.131). The plan must include provisions related to the management of water to identify and reduce inaccuracies in water meters and leakage in water supplies (NRS 540.141).

The 2001 Nevada State Legislature established a program under NRS 349.941, to provide grants of money to an eligible recipient to pay for the cost of improvements to conserve water including the measurement or metering of the use of water.

The Board for Financing Water Projects requires that an application for grant funding includes a report concerning the implementation of the plan for water conservation (NAC 349.500). If a water system is not metered, the board requires that the applicant provide an estimate of the capital costs required for the installation of water meters on all service connections, including an analysis of the feasibility of installing the water meters.

**Policy:** It is the policy of this board that, if water meters do not exist, the installation of water meters must be a condition of receiving the grant. If a system applying to the board for grant funding has water meters, it must provide the board with a metering program before grant funding is considered.

A public water system that receives grant funding from this program to install water meters must provide a plan and schedule to implement a metered water rate as a condition of receiving the grant. If a project is phased, meters installed on each phase of the project must be read and a metered rate must be charged before the final grant pay request is reimbursed for each phase. Should a study of the metered system and usage be necessary, a tentative metered water rate must be put in place while the study is conducted.