

RAGLM Misstatements

"Your water rates will go up 250% if you use too much water."

Incorrect. The vast majority of customers will see a decrease in their water bill under the proposed rate structure. Only customers who substantially waste water (**more than 50 percent above** an efficient level of use) would pay this higher rate, and Western would work with them to help reduce their water use and lower their water costs.

Actually, this statement is correct as the tier 5 rate is **\$4.67/unit** and the Tier 1 rate is \$1.77/unit so you could actually see an **increase of 264%**. $\$4.67 / \$1.77 = 2.638$, that is **264%**. Also it says more than 50% above when in reality, according to WMWD if you go more than **25% over you will hit Tier 3**.

This statement is correct.

"WMWD is proposing a 40% decrease in your personal consumption."

Incorrect. Western is proposing a water budget of **60 gallons per person per day** for indoor use, which is based upon studies of the **American Water Works Association** and a review of our customers' historical usage. We're not asking our already water-efficient customers to use less water.

Their study is based on the AWWA. I used a non-biased entity (**the USGS**) and it states **80 - 100**.

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/qahome.html#HDR3>

100 - 60 = 40 that is 40% of 100 suggested by the USGS

Depending on which study you choose to follow. **This statement is correct.**

"Change or add plants and you must submit a plan (paid for by you) to WMWD."

Incorrect. Outdoor water budgets are calculated in part based upon **aerial photography of each customer's yard**, and assumes the entire landscaped area is **water-thirsty grass**. **Any plants you add to your yard**, including fruit trees, would require less water than turf, so **you should be able to remain within your water budget without contacting the District**. Furthermore, adjustments to water budgets to accommodate changes to your situation are free of charge.

Isn't aerial photography an **invasion of privacy**? According to WMWD, they are allocating our landscaping water usage based on "**Cool Season Turf Grass**". Unfortunately however, "Cool Season Turf Grass" is only applicable to **Northern United States** and **does not do well in the Southern United States** were "**Warm Season Turf Grass**" is required as "Cool Season Turf Grass" requires a **cold winter and moderate summers** to live. They claim that any plants you **add** would require less water than turf and you **should be able to remain under your budget without contacting them**, and adjustments will be made at no cost to you. However in the Ordinance 375 adopted by WMWD states you must submit a plan.

Ordinance 375: http://www.raglm.org/pdfs/WMWD/Ord375_LandscapeWUE.pdf

More on Turf Types: <http://www.american-lawns.com/grasses/grasses.html>

This statement is correct.

"If someone stays with you, you need to call WMWD to let them know."

It is highly unlikely short-term guests would cause you to go over your budget because our proposed indoor water budget of 60 gallons per person per day is more than a typical individual needs. If guests cause you to exceed your water budget, **you could call the District to request a credit**.

This is an **opinion** that you will not go over budget, and again if **you do need to call**. This is also based on the skewed study of 60 gallons per person per day.

This statement is correct.

"Western Riverside County is amongst the wettest in all of Southern California and has record rainfall."

It is true our region received some welcomed rainfall this year, but we still continually face water supply challenges and are **still in a serious long-term water shortage**. Western must import the majority of our water from Northern California and the Colorado River - both of which are unreliable sources that face regulatory limitations and are recovering from long-term drought.

So **long-term water shortage** is based on just that, long-term which means with **proposed development**. So I would ask again why do they **allow new meters**? Also, if we must import water, then why are we allowing our local water supplies to be sucked out of our grounds just to **ship it to another county** if we are short on water here? <http://www.myvalleynews.com/story/57112/>

MWD has just affirmed support of **a local desalination plant to increase local water supply**, again in our area. <http://www.myvalleynews.com/story/57089/>

This statement is correct.

"If you have more than 2,500 sq. ft. of landscaping, you need to have a dedicated meter (paid for by you)."

This **does not apply to Single Family Residences**.

After speaking with WMWD the other night, they stated that this would be a requirement of new development of **single family residences**. Also this is in the Ordinance 375 adopted by WMWD, just because **they have not enforced it yet**, does not mean they will not ever enforce it.

Ordinance 375: http://www.raglm.org/pdfs/WMWD/Ord375_LandscapeWUE.pdf

This statement is correct.

"This time it is just not raising our rate, it is water rationing."

Quite the opposite. The proposed Water Budget Rate Structure would result in decreased water bills for most customers. The rate structure also allows customers **to use water as they see fit** and **eliminates the need for three-day-per-week watering restrictions and other water-use limits**. It is designed to provide each customer with a personalized water budget that meets their needs, and provides that water at the lowest available price.

I am not sure how you are able to use the water as you see fit since **indoor consumption is in Tier 1** and **landscaping is in Tier 2**. Also, according to the Ordinance 375, "Western may restrict the use of water during any emergency caused by drought, or **other threatened or existing water shortage**"

Ordinance 375: http://www.raglm.org/pdfs/WMWD/Ord375_LandscapeWUE.pdf page 2.

This statement is correct.

This will affect "all Western Municipal Water District customers."

Incorrect. The proposed rate structure would only apply to Western's retail customers - **not customers of other water districts served by Western**.

WMWD is somewhat correct here as their **other customers have already been hit with this proposal**.

How is that working out for you?

So essentially, **it will affect all of their customers**, we are just the last to be affected by it.

This statement is partially correct.

The examples provided in the Prop. 218 notice are based upon households with three people, so your "monthly allotments will actually be less."

Incorrect. The examples provided in the Prop . 218 notice were just that -examples. Under the proposed rate structure, **every customer would receive a personalized water budget** calculated based upon the actual number of people in their home and their specific amount of landscaping.

Are we all being **treated equally**? Are we all "water-wasters"?

RAGLM Questions

What is the difference in rate tiers?

Tiers three, four and five are priced higher because the cost of supplying water at these **inefficient and unsustainable levels** is significantly higher. *Only customers whose water use exceeds their water budget would be charged the higher tiered rates.* Under the proposed rate structure, **every customer would receive a personalized water budget** sufficient to meet their needs, which means that no matter the size of your household or yard, you should be able to remain within your water budget (Tiers 1 and 2) and pay the lowest available price. Western hopes that the small number of customers who are wasting water sees the higher pricing, understands the wastefulness of this practice and contacts the District to improve their efficiency. The District would work closely with these customers to help them **reduce** their water use and lower their water costs.

I would ask again to clarify the definition of "water-waster". Again, I would ask if we are all being **treated equally**. If you go over budget, they will **work with you to reduce your usage to the rationed amount**, it **does not state here that they would increase your budget** if you need (want to waste) more water.

Why are residents being discriminated against?

The proposed rate structure is designed to **provide each customer with a personalized water budget that meets their needs** and provides that water at the lowest available price.

Discrimination - to note or **observe a difference**; distinguish accurately: to discriminate between things. So again, I would ask why are we **not being treated equally**?

How and who defines the terms "waste," "inefficiency," excessive" and "unsustainable?"

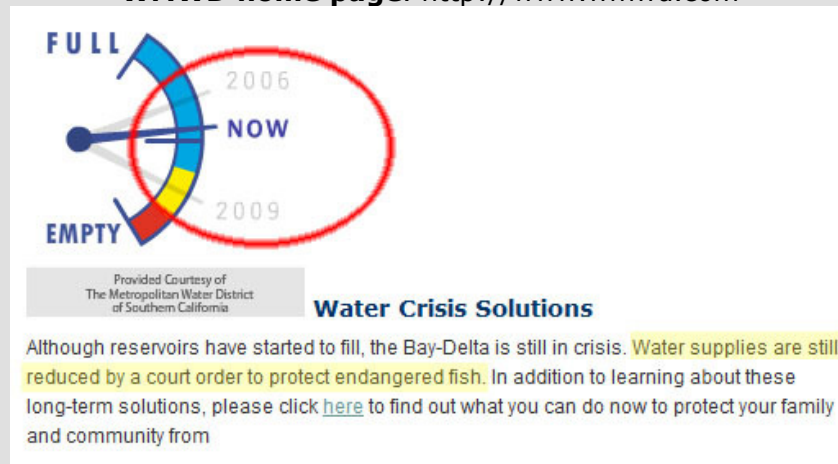
Not Western. Decades of studies have determined **how much water the average individual uses each day** and the irrigation needs of **various types of landscapes**.

WMWD is using studies that favor their numbers, as the **USGS** states otherwise as well as "Cool Season Turf Grass" does not do well in our **Semi Arid Region**".

What water-supply challenges does Western face?

Despite the recent rains, Western must import the majority of our water from Northern California and the Colorado River - both of which are **unreliable sources that face regulatory limitations and are recovering from long-term drought**.

WMWD home page. <http://www.wmwd.com>



So we have the **same regulations but with more water**. Is 2006 - 2009 long-term?

How are we a semi-arid region given recent rainfall totals?

According to the CIMIS (California Irrigation Management Information System) Station at the **University of California, Riverside**, the average annual rainfall (January-December) for the last 21 years is 9.55 inches. The technical definition of a **semi-arid region is an area that ranges from about 10 to 20 inches of precipitation per year**.

Again, this is a matter of which study fits your situation.

Riverside County Year-to-date rainfall **National Weather Service**, this is "**Normal Precipitation**":

http://water.weather.gov/precip/index.php?yday=1309996800&yday_analysis=0&layer%5B%5D=0&layer%5B%5D=1&layer%5B%5D=2&layer%5B%5D=4&timetype=RECENT&loctype=WFO&units=engl&timeframe=wateryear2date&product=normal&loc=wfoSGX

If you average the Western part of the county, you will see the average will fall somewhere **between 21 - 25 inches on average**.

Why does Western continue to advise the County of Riverside that it can and will provide water for new development for the next 20 years?

Western is required by law to meet the water-use needs of the community and **has no jurisdiction over land-use decisions**.

According to Bob Busters office and **confirmed by Jeffrey Sims (WMWD COO)** at our last community meeting, **WMWD does have full control over the approval of new meters** for developments over 499 units. WMWD also states it has **control over the "Will Serve Letters"**. So they could deny new development but choose not to. Also, do you notice how most new development in our area is just under the 499 units?

Is it responsible to increase demands given our limited local water supply?
Western does not propose increasing the region's water demands, nor does it have jurisdiction over land-use issues.

Same as above:

According to Bob Busters office and confirmed **by Jeffrey Sims (WMWD COO)** at our last community meeting, **WMWD does have full control over the approval of new meters for developments** over 499 units. WMWD also states it has **control over the "Will Serve Letters"**. So they could deny new development but choose not to. Also, do you notice how most new development in our area is just under the 499 unit mark?

Why does Western not implement a stricter development requirement on new large developments over 100 units?

Western does not have jurisdiction over land-use issues, but under Water Budget Rates, homes built after 2012 would receive slightly smaller water budgets. This is because their water needs would be less due to inclusion of the latest water-saving fixtures and appliances.

If this is the case, why does our county not implement a **new stricter standard** of less units so **developers** can not **just go around this approval?**

Is this a rate increase for sewer as well?

No. **The Water Budget Rate Structure does not affect sewer rates.**

If the new water budget structure does not affect sewer rates, then why does it state that:
"Additionally, Western's Board reviews sewer rates each summer, and **will consider changes to that rate in August 2011**" under the "What elements of my bill would change under the Water Budget Rates proposal?" section of the recent mailer from WMWD?

Is this rate structure based upon sewer amounts?

No. **The Water Budget Rate Structure is not related to sewer use.**

See previous.

Is this water rationing?

No. The proposed rate structure is designed to provide each customer with a **personalized water budget** that meets their needs and provides that water at the lowest available price.

So **as long as I do not go over my budget**, it is not rationing.

Definition:

Ration - **To restrict to limited allotments.**

So again, I would ask why are we not being treated equally? Is this **water rationing?**

Do I now need to call Western and submit a full EAWU plan every time I want to change my plant types or quantities?

No. Outdoor water budgets are calculated in part based upon **aerial photography of each customer's yard** and assumes the entire landscaped area is **water-thirsty grass**. Any plants you **add** to your yard, including fruit trees, would require less water than turf, so **you should be able to remain within your water budget** without contacting the District.

Same as above, under RAGLM Misstatements.

Isn't aerial photography an **invasion of privacy**? According to WMWD, they are allocating our landscaping water usage based on "**Cool Season Turf Grass**". Unfortunately however, "Cool Season Turf Grass" is only applicable to **Northern United States** and **does not do well in the Southern United States** were "**Warm Season Turf Grass**" is required as "Cool Season Turf Grass" requires a **cold winter and moderate summers** to live. They claim that any plants you **add** would require less water than turf and you **should be able to remain under your budget without contacting them**, and adjustments will be made at no cost to you. However in the Ordinance 375 adopted by WMWD states you must submit a plan.

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This statement is correct.

Do I need to tell you when my parents move in?

Water budgets are based in part upon the number of people in your household. If that number increases for any reason, **please call the District, and we'll adjust your budget accordingly**. We want to make sure you receive the water you need at the lowest available price.

So the answer here is **yes**.

According to USGS, "each person uses 80-100 gallons of water per day." How did Western arrive at 60 gallons per day?

Western is not familiar with the USGS data cited nor a study that suggests indoor per capita water use is 80 to 100 gallons per day. However, the American Water Works Association Research Foundation Study, titled *Residential End Uses of Water* measured single family residential water consumption in 12 areas in the western United States and revealed that indoor consumption (including leaks) averaged 69 gallons per person per day. The study is widely accepted and was cited in **the California Water Conservation Act of 2009 (Senate Bill x 7-7) which mandates a 20 percent per capita reduction by the year 2020**. One compliance path in the legislation is demonstration of indoor per capita demand equal to or less than 55 gallons per person per day (69 x 80%).

Again, this is a case of which study you choose to view. The **USGS is non-biased in this study**. Also, are we looking at more future rationing?

<http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/qahome.html#HDR3>

Are rates for new customers based on less usage, therefore getting a better rate?

New customers would receive the same rates as existing customers. But water budgets **for homes built after 2012 would be slightly smaller** because their water needs would be less due to inclusion of the **latest water-saving fixtures and appliances**.

So their **budget would be less** and this assumes they are using more **efficient appliances/fixtures**. Will we be **forced to change all of our appliances** to match new homes?

Is this a way to generate additional revenue?

No. The **proposed rate structure is expected to generate the same revenue in fiscal year 2011-12 as the current rate structure**. The purpose of Water Budget Rates is to help all customers achieve efficient water use - NOT to generate additional revenue.

So if most customers will "actually see a decrease in their water bill", then **how will this generate the same revenue**. Also, if my indoor budget is the only area where the Tier 1 rate is and is **generally 1/10th of my total monthly usage** and the rest is in the new Tier 2, 3, 4 and 5, how is this not going to generate more revenue?

Do allocations for horses include water for bathing?

Yes. The proposed adjustment policy would **account for horses by providing 30 gallons per animal per day** for consumption, which is based on veterinary studies. The structure also accounts of horses' bathing and cool-down water needs by counting the stable and riding areas of your property as landscaping, which would provide more than enough water to meet your horse's total water needs.

WMWD did state that they will give you **enough water to cover your horse stalls** as if they were being watered like turf grass, which would give you more water for your horse. You would however **need to contact WMWD and let them know you have horses** or you will not get this allocation.

How are pets accounted for in water budgets?

Large dogs and other small pets **typically do not consume enough water to necessitate an increased water budget**, as studies have found dogs of all sizes and activity levels typically drink less than **one gallon of water per day**.

So you will **trade your pets consumption for your own**. If you have multiple dogs or chickens, **their per day consumption will come out of your personal allocation**. This again **does not account for bathing your pets** etc.

Who pays for dedicated landscape meters for landscapes larger than 2,500 square feet?

The Commercial entity (businesses, **HOAs**, etc.) pays for dedicated landscape meters.

HOA - **Home** Owners Association. I thought this was not going to be implemented, and if you have no HOA, **who will pick up the tab?**

Why do all the budget allotment examples in the handout show a landscaped area of >2,500 sq. ft.? Would this not require us all to purchase a new meter?

The examples provided in the Prop. 218 notice were just that - examples. The three examples used in the notice were: 2,744 square feet; 6,535 square feet; and 18,513 square feet. Under the proposed rate structure, **every customer would receive a personalized water budget** calculated based upon the actual number of people in their home and their specific amount of landscaping and does not require the purchase of a new meter.

The Ordinance 375 adopted by WMWD state **you must have a dedicated meter** so simply telling us they are not currently requiring it, does not negate the law.

Ordinance 375: http://www.raglm.org/pdfs/WMWD/Ord375_LandscapeWUE.pdf

Why should you be told how much water you are allowed to purchase?

Water Budget Rates would give customers the freedom to use **their water budgets as they see fit**. Recent three-day-per-week watering restrictions would no longer be necessary. **If you'd rather water your lawn more and use less water elsewhere that's fine, as long as your overall use remains within your customized budget**. The amount of **your water bill would let you know if you're using more water than you should be**, and it would be up to you to adjust your use as you see fit. And your water budget would be calculated based on your specific needs, not general classifications that may or may not match your situation.

Same as above:

I am not sure how you are able to use the water as you see fit since **indoor consumption is in Tier 1 and landscaping is in Tier 2**. Also, according to the Ordinance 375, "**Western may restrict the use of water** during any emergency caused by drought, or **other threatened or existing water shortage**" Ordinance 375: http://www.raglm.org/pdfs/WMWD/Ord375_LandscapeWUE.pdf page 2.

Are you now supposed to take 40% less showers, or drink 40% less water?

No. **Western is proposing a water budget of 60 gallons per person per day** for indoor use, which is based upon **the 1999 American Water Works Association Research Foundation's Residential End Uses of Water Study** and a review of our customers' historical usage. We're not asking our already water-efficient customers to use less water.

This is a **10+ year old study**. With Global warming, people and plants are experiencing more **evapotranspiration**. This study does not reflect today's climate.

Again:

Their study is based on the AWWA. I used a non-biased entity (**the USGS**) and it states **80 - 100**. <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/qahome.html#HDR3>

100 - 60 = 40 that is 40% of 100 suggested by the USGS