

ORDINANCE NO. 09-1

**ORDINANCE OF MENDOCINO CITY COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
ESTABLISHING A POLICY TO CHARGE PROPERTY OWNERS FOR DISTRICT
STAFF TO READ WATER METERS**

WHEREAS the Mendocino City Community Services District has legal responsibility to manage groundwater resources within the District, in accordance with California Water Code Section 10700 et seq.; and

WHEREAS the District, in accordance with its groundwater management responsibilities, administers a groundwater extraction permit program (**Ordinance 07-1**) which requires (among other things) that a permit applicant install a water meter at the wellhead to monitor groundwater extraction and provide monthly meter readings to the District **on the 1st of the month to report groundwater extraction during the previous month**; and

WHEREAS, the purpose for groundwater extraction reporting is to assure that groundwater extraction does not exceed the allotment established for the reporting property in order to protect the District aquifer and any hydrologically-contiguous well from being adversely affected by excessive groundwater extraction; and

WHEREAS, the District has legal authority to enter upon property in the District and read the water meter if the owner fails to comply with groundwater reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, the majority of property owners are diligent about submitting their records in a timely fashion, but some District property owners fail to provide timely groundwater extraction records or report late or provide reports on an inconsistent basis.

The Board of Directors of the Mendocino City Community Services hereby **ORDAINS:**

A charge for District Staff to read water meters is hereby established. This charge shall apply to all developed parcels within the District that have been required by the District to install a water meter. The charge shall be computed based on a determination of the reasonable cost of providing service by the District to read the water meter.

The charge for District staff to read the water meters is hereby established at \$10.00 per monthly meter reading (\$120.00 per year) when the meter reading service is requested by a District property owner on an annual basis. The meter reading service charge is hereby established at \$50.00 per meter reading to property owners who do not comply with their obligation to read their meter and report groundwater extraction readings on a consistent basis, thus requiring MCCSD staff to read the water meter on an occasional basis as a result of the property owner's noncompliance with District Requirements.

The foregoing are based on a determination of the actual cost of staff wages and benefits for providing the service, as well as additional related costs for special mailings to comply with the District's process found in Resolution 209 for obtaining a meter reading from a property owner who has failed to comply with the District meter reading requirement.

The District shall have the same enforcement powers and remedies for the collection of these fees as it has for the collection of other District fees.

This Ordinance shall be published once in the Mendocino Beacon, a newspaper of general circulation published within the District, and shall take effect within 30 days from adoption.

This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors on **March 30, 2009** and adopted on _____, by the following vote.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

Edward F. O'Brien, III
President of the Board

ATTEST:

Jodi Mitchell
District Secretary