

Annual Report of Environmental Costs

Every year, Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) publishes the average annual costs associated with environmental and regulatory requirements and how those costs impact customer rates as part of our commitment to keeping customers and the public informed of matters affecting them, particularly when it impacts rates.

Our first priority is to protect public health and the environment while we deliver high quality drinking water, provide recycled water, and treat wastewater. To accomplish that, we must comply with a number of environmental and regulatory requirements such as mandatory statewide water conservation, air quality emission limits, potable (drinking) water quality and treatment processes, recycled water quality and treatment processes, recycled water reuse and disposal practices, brine (salt) disposal requirements, hazardous materials and waste management standards, and biosolids management requirements.

Several Federal, State and multi-jurisdictional agencies, such as the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), South Coast Air Quality Management District, Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water oversee these required programs.

The costs to comply with these requirements continue to increase. These costs include labor, materials, capital costs, and studies/reports required by environmental regulations. This includes all monitoring and recording requirements, inspections and auditing programs, installing and maintaining sample equipment, emission reduction equipment, administrative fees, special studies, database costs, and salt and habitat mitigation requirements. Water districts ultimately must pass along these mandatory costs to their customers.



EMWD MUST COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS SUCH AS:

- Mandatory statewide water conservation
- Air quality emission limits
- Potable (drinking) water quality and treatment processes
- Recycled water quality and treatment processes
- Recycled water reuse and disposal practices
- Brine (salt) disposal
- Hazardous materials and waste management standards
- Biosolids management

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In 2017, the average annual environmental compliance costs were:

COMPLIANCE RELATED COST CATEGORIES	WATER ≈ 148,500 Accounts	WASTEWATER ≈ 246,000 Accounts
Labor	\$1,632,826	\$3,213,226
Materials and Administrative	\$118,304	\$233,307
Services	\$2,336,149	\$2,664,441
Permits, Fees, and Emissions	\$779,739	\$542,021
Capital*	\$718,281	\$2,062,960
Water Conservation	\$801,056	-
Mitigation requirements	\$26,185	\$3,366,158
TOTAL COST	\$6,412,540	\$12,082,113
Approximate Cost Per Account Per Year	\$43	\$49
Approximate Cost Per Account Per Month	\$3.60	\$4.09

*Includes Quail Valley Subarea 9 Phase I Sewer Project

As a result, customers pay approximately \$3.60 per month to cover the environmental and regulatory costs related to providing water services. The regulatory costs related to providing wastewater (sewer) services add up to approximately \$4.09 per month.

For more information about EMWD service rates, please visit our website at emwd.org/rates.