

# Mountain Democrat

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## Sewer commodity rate options set

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At its Feb. 24 meeting, the El Dorado Irrigation District Board of Directors voted unanimously to direct staff to use the lower of the last two years — either 2013 or 2014 — of winter water usage billing cycles to establish a customer's 2014 sewer commodity rate.

This is the second time the district has used this method to set winter commodity charges. In January 2012, after a particularly dry winter, the board took the action because of the dry conditions and disparity of usage between years.

EID staff will be manually reviewing each residential sewer account and will automatically enter the lower usage of the last two water years, unless there are unusual circumstances requiring staff to contact customers to obtain more information before a determination is made. For new customers, the lesser of the flat rate or first full billing cycle will be used until a winter billing cycle is established. This option applies only to customers who do not receive recycled water because these customers use recycled water rather than potable water for their outside irrigation needs.

Residential wastewater rate calculations are performed annually, based on water consumption that occurs during a two-month winter billing cycle between November and February of each year. These calculations are based on winter water usage under the assumption that during the winter months, little outside irrigation is occurring.

The district will notify customers of this exception to the sewer rate-setting method in a variety of ways, notices in the Waterfront newsletter; notices on upcoming customer billing statements; automated calls to customer homes; and notices on the district's Website. Customers may also contact customer services at 530-642-4000 for more information if they have questions.