



July 10, 2019

Dear La Plata West Water Authority Subscriber:

Thank you for your continued patience with the completion of our water system. This packet has information that will help you understand the process to connect and what documents you will be seeing in the future. Enclosed you will find the following important documents:

- Your account statement that shows your activity of payments received to date from you. We have e-mailed this statement to you at the e-mail we have on file, please look for this in your inbox or junk mail to verify that you received it.
- On the back side of the statement is a sample of what the monthly invoice will show so you know what to look for. Once we get the proper training we will be able to share with you how to go online and look at your water consumption daily, hourly, or whenever you feel the need to look at what is going on. This will be a very good feature to have.
- Next is our rate information sheet on how we arrived at the rate of \$175.00 base per month which includes 3,000 gallons of water. This process was not taken lightly and many hours went into this study.
- And, on the back side of this letter is a Back Flow & Cross Connection poster for households to refer to for proper connection to the water system without any contamination.

CONNECTION INFORMATION:

We need to flush and disinfect the service-line from the meter before you can connect to your new waterline to your home; therefore, **this is the reason not to connect at this time**. This flushing is very important to make sure we pass the guidelines for clean potable water.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY CONNECTED PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THIS LINE IS DISCONNECTED SO THAT WE CAN FLUSH PROPERLY WITHOUT WATER DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

Once LPWWA has set the flow meter, flushed the line, and then passed the required bacterial testing needed for compliance and safe water, **LPWWA will contact you** to let you know the line is ready for connection. **THEN**, when you are ready you need to contact LPWWA to set up an appointment to make simultaneous connections to the service-line and to your home, timing will be crucial so that no home is left without water. This process could take a couple of weeks depending on the demand to connect so patience is requested.

Communication is very critical in this process to make sure **you** (the homeowner) coordinate with your plumber or contractor, and with LPWWA to make it all happen. The homeowner must be present so that no damage to properties occurs during testing and starting up the water directly to your home.

If you have any questions or need to update any contact information, please contact us soon. Thank you for awaiting this precious resource!

La Plata West Water Authority Board of Directors
Phone: 970-403-5790
Website: www.lpwwa.org Email: lpwwaboard@gmail.com

La Plata West Water Authority PO Box 631 Durango, CO 81302 970-403-5790



REQUIREMENTS:



PROTECTING DRINKING WATER

Your public water system is responsible for keeping the water safe as it travels to homes. There are many safety measures along the way. This guidance contains a detailed explanation of backflow prevention and cross-connection control specifically for public water systems with private cisterns. It is the department's expectation that systems with cisterns will meet all compliance requirements in the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations (Reg. 11) and the Backflow Prevention and Cross-connection Control Policy. Private cisterns connected to public water systems can be a threat if not handled properly.

Public water systems cannot allow cross connections because they can affect the water quality by allowing non-potable into the system lines. This backflow usually happens when there is a loss of water pressure in the distribution water line or a pressure in the private line higher than the distribution line. This is called a backflow event and creates a potential health risk for anyone on the system. You are in charge of controlling these cross-connections through backflow prevention.

Water stored in privately owned cisterns may be non-potable. Cisterns at residential properties can also be the source of backflow issues. Just like fire sprinkler systems can cause backflow threats, so can water cisterns. All private cisterns at residential connections must have approved backflow prevention. If a cistern is permanently connected to the public water supply, it requires tracking and approved backflow prevention. If a cistern is not directly connected to the public water supply with a permanent fixture, it is considered controlled. Cisterns installed per the plumbing code do not need additional tracking.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

- Colorado's Primary Drinking Water Regulations (Regulation 11)
- DW Policy 007 - Backflow prevention and cross-connection control policy
- WQ Guidance 007 - 11.39 BPCCC Guidance Document
- Colorado Plumbing Code

Systems that do not maintain compliance are subject to enforcement or disciplinary action.

1 MEET THE PLUMBING CODE

Potable water cisterns that meet the 2018 International Plumbing Code (IPC) requirements are controlled. No additional prevention or control measures are needed. Tanks with vertical standpipes with fill valves installed above the water line that have an appropriately sized overflow automatically meet the IPC.

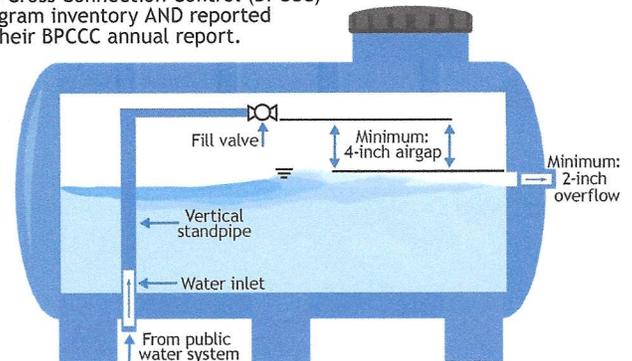
INLET PIPE

- Controlled by a fill valve or other automatic supply valve
- Ends with an air gap at least 4 inches above the overflow as shown in the figure below.

OVERFLOW PIPE

- Minimum 2 inches in diameter. (Actual size is calculated by maximum capacity of water supply line to tank)
- Covered with a corrosion-resistant screen not less than 16x20 mesh per inch and 1/4-inch hardware cloth **OR** ends in a horizontal angle seat check valve.

Systems that do not meet the plumbing code must either install a testable assembly or utilize the method as described below. Utilizing an assembly or a method requires extra tracking. These cross-connections must be shown in the system's Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control (BPCCC) program inventory **AND** reported in their BPCCC annual report.



2 BACKFLOW PREVENTION ASSEMBLY

Systems may choose to install a backflow prevention assembly instead of determining if the cistern is in compliance with the plumbing code. If the cistern fills from the bottom, the tank is subject to backpressure. Backflow assemblies meet rigid safety requirements and control the cross connection. All backflow protection assemblies installed by the system must be tested annually by a certified cross-connection control technician.

ASSEMBLY CHOICES

- Double Check Assembly (DC) - allows water to push through two check valves when flowing the right way. Valves close when water goes the wrong way. **OR**
- Reduced Pressure zone assembly (RP) - which uses two independently acting valves to equalize pressure.

3 BACKFLOW PREVENTION METHOD

Systems may find that some cisterns have air gaps less than the standard 4 inches. As long as there are not added chemicals, cisterns with combined methods below meet requirements.

COMBINED OPTION

Adding a dual check at the service connection. Acceptable only when **COMBINED** with the modified air gap (less than 4 inches). A dual check without an air gap is unacceptable. The air gap **MUST** be inspected annually.

La Plata West Water Authority

PO Box 631

Durango, CO 81302

+1 9709464864

flick.d.lpwwa@gmail.com

Statement

TO

John & Deb Flick

3739 CR 101

Hesperus, CO 81326

STATEMENT NO. 1384

DATE 07/04/2020

TOTAL DUE \$0.00

ENCLOSED

DATE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
12/31/2014	Balance Forward		0.00
06/29/2015	Payment #5158	-4,250.00	-4,250.00
06/29/2015	Invoice #106	8,550.00	4,300.00
12/26/2015	Payment #5317: Paid in full	-4,300.00	0.00
06/14/2020	Invoice #813: PLEASE REVIEW ATTACHED DOCUMENT REGARDING YOUR MONTHLY RATE.	0.00	0.00
07/01/2020	Invoice #814: Voided - PLEASE REVIEW ATTACHED DOCUMENT REGARDING YOUR MONTHLY RATE.	0.00	0.00

Current Due	1-30 Days Past Due	31-60 Days Past Due	61-90 Days Past Due	90+ Days Past Due	Amount Due
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00

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PO Box 631
Durango, CO 81302
+1 9709464864
flick.d.lpwwa@gmail.com

BILL TO

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Hesperus, CO 81326

INVOICE 814

DATE 07/01/2020 **TERMS** Net 20

DUE DATE 07/31/2020

DATE	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
	Monthly Water Tap Fee	Monthly base fee plus 3000 gallons water	0	175.00	175.00
	Overconsumption fee	Monthly overage fee per 1000 gallons	0	25.00	0.00

CONGRATULATIONS-Water is Ready to Flow! LPWWA wants to thank all for supporting this project.

This is a sample billing that will come monthly. We ask that you specify how you want to receive this monthly invoice - e-mail or regular mail.

TOTAL DUE **\$175.00**

Water Rate FAQs

How will La Plata West Water Authority spend the water rate revenue it collects?

The money will be used to pay LPWWA's monthly expenses. Annual expenses are projected to be \$377,000 dollars during its first complete year of operations, or \$31,400 per month on average. About 1/3 of the expenses cover operations and maintenance of the water distribution system, about 1/3 will cover monthly debt payments for the construction of the water system, and the remaining 1/3 will cover the cost of treated water. Additionally, the Authority's contractual arrangements require it to set aside modest reserve funds for the first several years of operations.

Why do La Plata West Water Authority customers pay more for water than most other central water system customers in the area?

La Plata West Water Authority has to operate like a business, water rate charges are its only source of revenue. Many rural water districts impose a property tax to subsidize the revenues collected via water rate charges, but La Plata West Water Authority does not impose a property tax. Additionally, LPWWA's expenses are divided among a smaller number of customers than most water providers have. For example, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District has nearly 8,000 customers while LPWWA has just over 150 customers. Finally, LPWWA is a new system and the organization must make debt payments to finance the construction of the system. Most long-established water systems have long ago paid down the initial construction debt.

What happened to the subscriber fee I paid to LPWWA?

The subscriber fee was allocated toward paying for the capital investment costs necessary to build the water system. Subscriber fees were approximately \$10,000. The total capital cost of building the LPWWA System was \$5.6 million or currently \$36,532 per subscriber. The additional capital investment of \$10,960,000.00 above and beyond what the subscriber fees generated was provided by several federal and state grants. Were subscribers to have paid the full cost of the capital investment, those subscriber fees would have been \$ 107,701.30 per subscriber. The intake structure was developed in 2009 and board members have been working non-stop to get this completed. Each subscriber gained a tremendous discount by signing onto LPWWA.

Will the monthly rates change over time?

The rates will need to be adjusted over time as conditions change, and it is unlikely that the rates will decrease significantly in the foreseeable future. Future planned phases of LPWWA's distribution system would make its water accessible to a larger customer base, however those phases will require capital investment to expand the distribution infrastructure. The capital costs of future phases will be assigned to the subscribers in those future phases.

What is the difference between the base rate and the overage charge?

The base rate is \$175/month for up to 3,000 gallons of water used during that month. The charge is \$175/month regardless of how much of the 3,000 gallons a customer uses. Beginning at 3,001 gallons, an overage charge of \$25 will be added for each 1,000-gallon increment.

A customer who uses between **3,001** and 4,000 gallons would be charged:

\$175 (base rate) + \$25.00 (overage for 1,000 gallons) = \$200

A customer who uses between **4,001** and 5,000 gallons would be charged:

\$175 (base rate) + \$50 (overage for 2,000 gallons) = \$225

- CONGRATULATIONS, LaPata West Water Authority is pleased to announce that the final stages of construction are being completed with lines being pressure tested and treated.
- The project is to be handed over to the Authority in early July and water to meters following.
- A future phase(s) engineer is in the works of being hired to take this project to the next level and to assure future tap holders we are continuing to work towards the future for our community's sustainability. We are being encouraged to continue this project since the government wants to help fund water projects. Water projects are deemed essential and that is how we have been able to continue during this pandemic and complete phase 1 of our water line.
- A rate study has been completed and after many hours the board has come up with a monthly rate. This has been a very hard decision and one that has not been taken lightly.
- We are in the stages of setting up our monthly billing system and will be sending out a dummy statement for information only. This statement will share additional information regarding your billing and how the monthly rate is determined. We will be asking for you to respond so that we can get the billing set up to each subscriber need.
- The board continues to meet through out the month to meet the immediate demand to get our water flowing and we appreciate the community support in these efforts. Our next meeting will be June 24th.