

## HOW TO READ YOUR WATER METER

*Your water meter is an important tool for understanding how much water your household uses. With water meters, customers pay for the amount of water they actually use. And, water meters can help detect leaks and stop waste.*

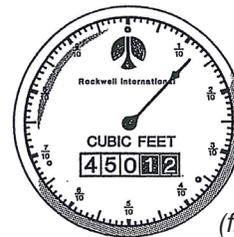
### Step 1: Locate Your Water Meter

Your water meter is located in the front of your property, usually in or near the sidewalk, under a concrete lid. Use a long screwdriver to remove the lid.

### Step 2: Read Your Water Meter

Benicia uses a “straight-read” meter, which resembles a mileage indicator in a car. Digits are read left to right. Here’s how to determine how much water is used over time:

- 1) Write down the number you see. (fig. 1 = 450.12)
- 2) At the next reading, note the new number. (fig. 2 = 450.16)
- 3) Subtract the first reading from the second to find the difference.
- 4) Multiply your answer by 748 to convert cubic feet to gallons used.



(fig. 1)



(fig. 2)

$$\begin{array}{r} 450.16 \text{ (fig. 2)} \\ - 450.12 \text{ (fig. 1)} \\ \hline .04 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} .04 \\ \times 748 \\ \hline 30 \end{array}$$

### Using Your Meter

- Once you know how to read your water meter, you can use it to check for leaks: Turn off all the taps in your house and look at your meter. If it is still turning, chances are you have a leak.
- You can determine how much water is used for a specific task such as watering your lawn: Record the reading on the meter before you begin your watering cycle and then record it again at the end of the cycle. The difference between the two readings tells you how much water was used.
- You can determine your average daily water use: Simply divide the number of gallons used by the number of days.

Water meters in Benicia measure volume in cubic feet. One cubic foot of water equals 7.48 gallons, and 100 cubic feet equal 748 gallons. Benicia charges are based on 100 cubic feet of water used, as indicated by your meter.