

Edgemont Ranch Metro District Public Rate Hearing: Tiered Water Usage Rates
October 16, 2025
Recommendations to the Board of Directors

The ERMD Staff regularly reports on the use and availability of water. This is standard practice, and is also driven by concern about ongoing regional drought. While ERMD holds sufficient rights to Florida River water to service typical household needs, long term analysis shows that over the past thirteen years, growth in water usage has increased faster than growth in the community. In short, per household usage is increasing. Several factors and concerns are worthy of consideration, as follows:

- ERMD water usage rates have remained unchanged for twenty years. Inflation over that period, as measured by the CPI, has increased 65%
- This region continues to be in long-term drought (see [Drought.gov](https://drought.gov))
- Current ERMD tiered rates are lower than those of other districts in the region (see [Edgemontranch.com/2025-rate-increase-information](https://edgemontranch.com/2025-rate-increase-information))
- 36% of District households used between 7,001 and 30,000 gallons per month during summer of 2025, which accounted for 60% of total consumption. For comparison, median household summer usage was 6,000 gallons per month, and median winter usage was 2,000 gallons per month
- The current rate is the same for all usage from 0-10,000 gallons per month. Adding tiers at 4,001-7,000 gallons and 7,001-10,000 gallons would improve alignment with actual seasonal usage profiles
- Indoor water use is a diversion of the resource, as water is returned to the river via the WWTP. Outdoor use is considered depletion of the resource

Taking these items into consideration, the ERMD Staff recommends that the Board adopt the modified progressive water usage fees as shown in the document entitled Edgemont Ranch Metropolitan District Proposed Tiered Rate Schedule. We also recommend that, as exceptions, five Farmhouse accounts be charged for water usage at the 0-4,000 tier rate. Each account supplies water to eight units. These accounts are: 1.9875.02, 19876.02, 19373.03, 19371.03 and 19372.03. The proposed tiered rate schedule would apply to all other residential, landscape and pond accounts.