

**Ordinance no 2024-O-205**

**An Ordinance of the City of Laredo, Texas amending Chapter 31 (Utilities), Article II (Sewers and Sewage Disposal), Division 1 (Generally), Section 31-16 (Definitions), Division 5 (Rates and Charges), Section 31-95 (Penalty for Nonpayment; Deferred Payment Plan); and Section 31-97 (Fees); amending Article III, (Water), Division 2 (Use Restrictions) (c); Division 3 (Rates and Charges), Section 31-138.1.1 (Fees) to Section 31-138.4 (Refund of Security Deposits); and Section 31-140 (Fire Hydrant Meters) to Section 31-141 (Water Availability) (b) (3); providing for publication and an effective date.**

**WHEREAS**, the water system continues to provide the necessary services to assure that the water system continues to provide the highest level of services to our customers; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to increase the cost of services based on the actual costs of materials, etc. to provide those services; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that water and wastewater cost increases are necessary in order to keep up with the increased costs of equipment, services and inflation to ensure that the water and wastewater systems continue to provide services to our customers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:

**ARTICLE II. - SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

**DIVISION 1. – GENERALLY**

**Sec. 31-16. – Definitions.**

As used in this article and as defined below, all terms in this section are as defined in Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 403 which is adopted hereby and incorporated by reference herein and a copy of which shall be maintained in the office of the city secretary:

*Abnormal industrial waste* means any industrial waste having a TSS, COD, or BOD content in excess of that found in normal waste, but which is otherwise acceptable into a sanitary sewer under the terms of this article.

Actual cost means the cost to purchase items from the manufacturer or distributor such as meters and the cost components to a cost such as vehicle and equipment usage, labor, and material costs such as in meter installations, etc.

*Apartment house* means a collection of family residences grouped together in one (1) building, each family residence being a section of such building.

*Approved methods* means the analytical procedures published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 40 CFR 136.

*Approved low water plant list for Laredo* means a list of plants, shrubs, and turf that are suitable for Laredo's climate, soil, and salinity. This list, as may be amended from time to time, was compiled by the utilities department and shall be available from the water conservation program or may be downloaded from the City of Laredo webpage at [www.ci.laredo.tx.us](http://www.ci.laredo.tx.us).

*Approving authority* means the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and/or TCEQ.

*Best management practices (BMPs)* means scheduled activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the amount of pollution entering the sanitary sewer system.

*Blowdown meter* means a meter that tracks the amount of water discharged from a cooling tower system.

*Boarding house* means a place where one obtains food or lodging, or both, in another's house for a stipulated price.

*BOD (biochemical oxygen demand)* means the quantity of oxygen by weight, expressed in mg/l, utilized in the biochemical oxidation of organic matter under standard laboratory conditions for five (5) days at a temperature of twenty (20) degrees Centigrade.

*Building sewer* means the extension from the building drain to the public sewer or other place of disposal (also called house lateral and house connection).

*Bypass* means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of an industrial user's treatment facility.

*City* means the city or any authorized person acting in its behalf.

*COD (chemical oxygen demand)* means measure of the oxygen consuming capacity of inorganic and organic matter present in the water or wastewater expressed in mg/l as the amount of oxygen consumed from a chemical oxidant in a specific test, but not differentiating between stable and unstable organic matter and thus not necessarily correlating with biochemical oxygen demand.

*Commercial customer* means any structure or premises other than residential as defined in this section and shall include the following:

- (1) All retail, wholesale and industrial business establishments;
- (2) All office buildings;
- (3) Professional businesses and service businesses;

- (4) Hotels, motels, inns, rooming houses, boardinghouses, whether private, public or quasi-public;
- (5) Hospitals, whether public or private, charitable or otherwise;
- (6) Fraternal organizations, public or private clubs, associations or organizations, and whether profit or non-profit;
- (7) All other charitable and/or tax-supported organizations;
- (8) Church-related hall or church-related school, whether on the same or on different premises as the church to which affiliated;
- (9) All operations that manufacture, package, prepare, provide, serve, or make available any food or meals; and
- (10) Any and all other types or forms of public or private concerns, organizations or institutions not otherwise herein provided for.

*Comminuted garbage* means garbage that has been shredded to such a degree that all particles will be carried freely under the flow conditions normally prevailing in sanitary sewers, with no particle greater than one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) inch in any dimension.

*Connection means* each and every joining of a sewer line leading from any building or structure with a part of the sanitary sewer system of the city; provided that, if there are two (2) or more buildings or structures on the same lot or adjoining lots and their respective sewer lines join on such lot or either adjoining lot and then one (1) line joins the sanitary sewer system of the city, each such building or structure shall be considered as having a separate connection to the sanitary sewer system of the city.

*Control manhole* means a manhole giving access to a building sewer at some point before the building sewer discharge mixes with other discharges in the public sewer.

*Control point* means a point of access to a course of discharge before the discharge mixes with other discharges in the public sewer.

*Cooling tower* means an open water recirculation device that uses fans or natural draft to draw or force air to contact and cool water through the evaporative process.

*Customer* means any person, company, or organization using water supplied by the city. It includes individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, and all other legal entities.

*Dining facilities* and *cafeterias* mean a place that prepares and serves food and beverages to be consumed on premises.

*Director* means the director of the city utilities department (or other official designated by the city manager) or the director's authorized representative, unless otherwise specified.

*Drainage water* means stormwater; roof run-off water; subsurface and subsoil uncontaminated drainage water; drainage from down spouts; water from yard drains; water from fountains, ponds and swimming pools; water from lawn sprays, rainwater leaders, and areaways, and overflows from cisterns and water tanks.

*E.P.A. (Environmental Protection Agency)* means the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or where appropriate, the term may also be used as a designation for the administrator or other duly authorized official of that agency.

*Effluent* means same as gray water (see gray water).

*Evergreen* means a plant with foliage that persists and remains green year-round.

*Family* means any number of individuals living together as a single household unit.

*Fats, oils, or grease (FOGs)* means organic polar compounds derived from animal and/or plant source that contain multiple carbon chain triglyceride molecules. FOGs are sometimes referred to herein as "grease" or "greases."

*FPE* or *FPEs* is a food processing establishment(s) where food for human consumption is manufactured or packed.

*FSE* or *FSEs* is a food service establishment(s) that prepares, provides, serves, or makes available for human consumption meals, or any food.

*Garbage* means animal and vegetable wastes and residue from preparation, cooking and dispensing of food; and from the handling, processing, storage and sale of food products and produce.

*Grab sample* means a sample which is taken from a waste stream on a one-time basis with no regard to the flow in the waste stream and without consideration of time.

*Grass* means (see turf or turf grass).

*Gray water* means a domestic or municipal wastewater that has been treated to a quality suitable for a beneficial use in accordance with applicable laws.

*Grease trap/interceptor* means a device designated to use differences in specific gravities to separate and retain light density liquids, waterborne fats, oils, and greases prior to the wastewater entering the sanitary sewer collection system. These devices also serve to collect settleable solids, generated by and from food preparation activities, prior to the water exiting the trap/interceptor and entering the sanitary sewer collection system.

*Hard-surfaced areas* means areas that are not designed for irrigation purposes but need to be washed using a high pressure washing device such as driveways, concrete pads, parking lots, or floor patios made of wood or other material.

*Hardscape* means solid non-organic materials, such as rock, stone, concrete, brick, or other similar type material used to cover ground on areas not intended to support vegetation, but rather complement or enhance it, or to allow access for maintenance or better visualization.

*Hazardous waste* means those substances which if otherwise disposed of would be hazardous waste as set forth in 40 CFR 261.

*High pressure washer* means a mechanical device that uses high pressure water to remove mold, grime, dust, mud and dirt from surfaces and objects such as buildings, vehicles, and concrete road surfaces. This device consists of a motor which directly drives a water pump, a high pressure hose, and a trigger gun that does not exceed four and one-half (4.5) gallons of water per minute (gpm).

*Holding tank waste* means any waste from holding tanks such as vessels, chemical toilets, campers, trailers, septic tanks and vacuum pump tank trucks.

*Hose bibb vacuum breaker* means a spring-loaded check valve that seals against an atmospheric outlet when the water supply is turned on. When the supply is turned off, the device vents to atmosphere, thus protecting backsiphonage conditions and preventing possible contamination of water supply.

*Hot water on-demand system* means a plumbing system that incorporates a device that provides hot water on demand, thus preventing water waste by a user while waiting for hot water to reach the faucet.

*Illegal connection* means any connection between the water tap and the home, business or irrigation system not using a city-issued or approved meter.

*Impervious surface* means patios, pathways, and other areas where firm footing is desired, constructed in such a way that does not allow water to penetrate the ground. Examples include, but are not limited to: slab patios, sidewalks and driveways, asphalt streets or pavers, stones, or flagstones set with mortar.

*Industrial or high strength wastes* means liquids or other character of wastes resulting from any commercial, manufacturing or industrial operations or processes that in strength concentration or character exceeds that of normal domestic sanitary sewage.

*Industrial user* means a source of indirect discharge which does not constitute a "discharge of pollutants" under regulations issued pursuant to Section 402 of the Act.

*Industrial waste or high strength surcharge* means the charge made on those operations who discharge industrial or high strength wastes into the city's sewage system.

*Industrial waste permit* means a permit to deposit or discharge industrial waste into the sanitary sewer. The permit charge is to cover the cost to issue the permit and to inspect the facility. This permit shall not grant a waiver to allow discharge of any wastes that exceed the limits or violate the requirements of this article.

*Industrial water user* means a customer that uses large amounts of water in the manufacturing and processing of products.

*Irrigation system* means a system with fixed pipes and emitters or heads that apply water to landscape plants or turf grass including, but not limited to, in-ground and permanent systems.

*Irrigation system analysis* means a zone-by-zone analysis of an irrigation system.

*Landscapable area* means any area of ground that can support vegetative ground cover or other landscaping plants. Sidewalks and other impervious surfaces are not considered landscapable areas.

*Landscaping* means the improvement of a section of ground by contouring the land and planting any combination of living plants such as trees, shrubs, vines, groundcover or grass, and placing natural features such as rock, stone, bark chips or shavings.

*Large water user* means a customer that uses more than four thousand (4,000) gallons per day.

*Makeup meter* means a meter that measures the amount of water entering a cooling tower system.

*Milligrams per liter (mg/l)* means the same as parts per million and is a weight-to-volume ratio; the milligram per liter value multiplied by the factor eight and thirty-four one-hundredths (8.34) shall be equivalent to pounds per million gallons of water.

*Mulch* means an organic or inorganic material, which is placed to prevent erosion, lower soil temperature, and maintain soil moisture.

*Multi-family customer* means the owner or occupant of property containing a multiple family dwelling units, except for those meeting the definition of “residential”, below.

*Native plant* means a commercially grown or legally harvested plant hardy to the natural conditions of the South Texas Plains (part of the Tamaulipan Biotic Province), which once established is capable of sustaining growth without supplemental watering.

*Natural outlet* means any outlet into a watercourse, ditch, lake, or other body of surface water or groundwater.

*NELAC* means National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference and is a cooperative association of states and federal agencies, formed to establish and promote mutually acceptable performance standards for the operations of environmental laboratories. The standards cover both analytical testing of environmental samples and the laboratory accreditation process.

*Normal domestic wastewater* means wastewater excluding industrial wastewater discharged by a person or operation into sanitary sewers and in which the average concentration of TSS is not more than two hundred fifty (250) mg/l and BOD is not more than two hundred fifty (250) mg/l.

*Overload* means the imposition of organic or hydraulic loading on a treatment facility in excess of its engineered design capacity.

*Permeable paving* means materials such as brick pavers set in sand or other permeable base.

*Person* means any individual, business entity, partnership, corporation, governmental agency, political subdivision, or any other legal entity.

*Pervious landscape* means patios, pathways, and other areas where firm footing is desired, constructed in such a way that allows for water to penetrate the ground. Examples include flagstone set in sand and wood plank decks.

*pH* means the logarithm (base 10) of the reciprocal of the hydrogen ion concentration.

*Plumbing fixture* means a device that receives water, waste, or both and discharges the water, waste, or both into a drainage system.

*Positive shut-off* means a valve that is held in a closed position by system pressure until it is overridden by an outside source.

*Public sewer* means pipe or conduit carrying wastewater or unpolluted drainage in which owners of abutting properties shall have the use, subject to control by the city.

*Receiving stream* means the waterway into which a wastewater treatment plant, operated by the city, discharges the treated effluent.

*Residential connection* means a single or multi-family dwelling unit containing two (2) or fewer family units.

*Residential customer* means a single or multi-family dwelling unit containing two (2) or fewer family units.

*Rooming house* means a house or building where there are two (2) or more bedrooms rented to persons for lodging.

*Sanitary convenience* means any plumbing fixture (except for a food waste disposal unit) not required to have a sand and/or grease trap (interceptor) according to provisions of the plumbing code.

*Sanitary sewage* means the waste from water closets, urinals, lavatories, sinks, bath tubs, showers, household laundries, basement floor drains, garage floor drains, store rooms, soda fountains, cuspidors, refrigerator drips, fountain and stable floor drains and all other similar fixtures and receptacles that discharge wastes into the sewerage system.

*Sanitary sewer* means a public sewer that conveys domestic wastewater or industrial wastes or a combination of both, and into which stormwater, surface water, groundwater, and other unpolluted wastes are not intentionally passed.

*Shall* and *may* are differentiated by the term "shall" understood to be mandatory. The use "may" is understood to be permissive.

*Shrub* means a woody plant, deciduous or evergreen, generally multi-stemmed with small branches near the ground and growing smaller than a tree.

*Single-pass cooling system* means a system that removes heat by transferring it to a supply of clean water and releasing it down the drain. This system is relatively inexpensive to install, but it is significantly more expensive to operate, resulting in high water and sewer bills. Examples of cooling equipment that may have single-pass cooling include: air conditioners, refrigerators, coolers, and ice machines.

*Summer dormancy* means the ability of turf grass to survive without water for a period of sixty (60) consecutive days during the months of May through September. Turf grass, with summer dormancy capabilities approved for use, is set forth in the approved low water plant list.

*Slug* means any discharge of water, wastewater, or industrial waste which in concentration of any given constituent or in quantity of flow, exceeds for any period of duration longer than fifteen (15) minutes more than five (5) times the average twenty-four (24) hour concentration or flows during normal operation.

*Standard methods* means the examination and analytical procedures set forth in the latest edition, at the time of analysis, of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" as



prepared, approved and published jointly by the American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association, and the Water Pollution Control Federation.

*Storm sewer* means a public sewer which carries storm and surface waters and drainage and into which domestic wastewater or industrial wastes are not intentionally passed.

*Stormwater* means rainfall or any other forms of precipitation.

*Suspended solids* means solids measured in mg/l that either float on the surface of, or are in suspension in, water, wastewater, or other liquids, and which are largely removable by a laboratory filtration device.

*Swimming pool* means any portable or permanent structure containing a body of water twenty-four (24) inches or more in depth and containing one thousand one hundred (1,100) gallons or more of water and is intended for recreational purposes.

*Tenant* means one (1) that pays rent to use or occupy land, a building, or other property owned by another person.

*Turf or turf grass* means a perennial groundcover plants and grasses adapted to regular mowing and traffic through management, which excludes St. Augustine grass.

*To discharge* includes to deposit, conduct, drain, emit, throw, run, allow to seep, or otherwise release or dispose of, or to allow, permit, or suffer any of these acts or omissions.

*Treatment plant upset* means an inhibition or disruption of the treatment plant, its treatment processes or operations, or its sludge processes, use or disposal which is a cause of or significantly contributes to:

- (1) A violation of any requirement of the city's TPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation);
- (2) The prevention of sewage sludge use or disposal by the treatment plant in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations and city ordinances;
- (3) A decrease in the quality of the effluent being discharged from the treatment plant; or
- (4) A decrease in the performance of the treatment plant processes or operations.

*Unpolluted wastewater* means water containing:

- (1) No free or emulsified grease or oil;
- (2) No acids or alkalis;
- (3) No phenols or other substances producing taste or odor in receiving water;
- (4) No toxic or poisonous substances in suspension, colloidal state, or solution;
- (5) No noxious or otherwise obnoxious or odorous gases;
- (6) No more than ten (10) mg/l each of suspended solids and BOD; and
- (7) Color not exceeding fifty (50) units as measured by the Platinum-Cobalt method of determination as specified in "Standard Methods."

*Utilities director* means the director of the utilities department of the City of Laredo.

*Utility* means the City of Laredo Utilities Department, which provides water and wastewater services to the residents of the City of Laredo in the State of Texas, County of Webb.



*Vehicle wash facility* means a permanently-located business that washes vehicles with water or water-based products including, but not limited to, self-service vehicle washes, full-service vehicle washes, roll-over/in-bay style vehicle washes, and fleet maintenance wash facilities.

*Vehicle washing* means the washing of any motor vehicle, motorcycle, truck, trailer, boat, airplane, or other mobile equipment.

*Vehicle wash fundraiser* means any special-purpose vehicle wash event for which a fee is charged or a donation is accepted.

*Waste* means rejected, unutilized or superfluous substances in liquid, gaseous, or solid form resulting from domestic, agricultural, or industrial activities.

*Wastewater* means a combination of the water-carried waste from residences, business buildings, institutions, and industrial establishments, together with any ground, surface and stormwater that may be present.

*Wastewater effluent* means final discharge from a permitted wastewater treatment plant. Because of the Federal Clean Water Act, the requirements for the treatment of the water is set on a plant-by-plant basis determined by the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit. The majority of effluent is discharged into a body of water, but it also could be used in irrigation based on permit modification by the TCEQ.

*Wastewater facilities* includes all facilities for collection, pumping, treating, and disposing of wastewater and industrial wastes.

*Wastewater service charge* means the charge on all industrial users of the public sewer system whose wastes do not exceed in strength the concentration values established as representative of normal wastewater.

*Wastewater treatment plant* means any city-owned facilities, devices, and structures used for receiving, processing and treating wastewater, industrial waste, and sludge's from the sanitary sewers.

*Watercourse* means a natural or manmade channel in which a flow of water occurs, either continuously or intermittently.

*Water closet* means a plumbing fixture that has a water-containing receptor that receives liquid and solid body waste and, on actuation, conveys the waste through an exposed integral trap seal into a drainage system.

*Water conservation plan* means a strategy or combination of strategies for reducing the volume of water withdrawn from a water supply source, for reducing the loss or waste of water, for maintaining or improving the efficiency in the use of water, for increasing the recycling and reuse of water, and for preventing the pollution of water.

*Water conservation planner* means the manager of the water conservation program in the City of Laredo. Duties include, but are not limited to, administering and enforcing the program, hearing and reviewing all variance petitions and water conservation plans, and preparing approved variances.

*Water harvesting* means the process of intercepting irrigation runoff or stormwater and storing it with the intention of putting it to beneficial use thereby reducing runoff and making maximum use of irrigation and rain water.

*Water flow restrictor* or *aerator* means an orifice or other device designed to reduce the rate at which water moves. Water waste means any water, other than natural precipitation, that flows from a property to the public right-of-way or adjacent private property. Landscape irrigation is the most common cause of water waste, but it can also result from air conditioning systems, leaks, car washing, and other uses of water. Water waste results in the loss of a valuable natural resource.

*Xeriscape* means a type of landscaping that is drought resistant, conserves water and protects the environment. The word is a combination of "landscape" and the Greek word "xeros" meaning "dry." Xeriscape is a trademark of the Denver Water Department.

## DIVISION 5. – RATES AND CHARGES

Sec. 31-95. - Penalty for nonpayment; deferred payment plan.

- (a) *Penalty.* Any person who shall fail to pay the sewer charges or rentals levied in this division and assessed within ten (10) days from the time same becomes due and payable shall be subject to have their water service discontinued by the utilities department billing division, and in addition shall be subject to have their sewer disconnected from the city's sewer system and lines, and thereafter no sewer connection which has been disconnected for the nonpayment of charges shall again be connected for the same user until all costs incurred in the actual physical disconnect and reconnect shall have been paid, and delinquent sewer charges have been paid; provided that, no such sewer disconnection shall be made without first giving the users ten (10) days written notice.
- (b) *Deferred payment plan.*
  - (1) *Applicability.* The deferred payment plan is applicable to all services billed by the utilities department including water, sewer, garbage, federal and state mandates, tax and any other services attached to the utilities bill in the future.
  - (2) *Eligibility.* Individuals or business entities whose account is in arrears or who are unable to pay a billed amount are eligible to enroll in the deferred payment plan. Customers, however, are only eligible to use this recourse for one (1) bill at a time ~~and are not eligible again until the full amount in a prior enrollment is liquidated.~~
  - (3) *Payment period.* The maximum allowable repayment period for residential and commercial customers is twelve (12) months. For residential customers ~~whose monthly agreed payment plus the average current bill exceeds three (3) times the average current bill, if a longer repayment period is needed due to the amount owed, the period shall~~ may be authorized by the utilities director, ~~provided that the repayment period does not exceed thirty-six (36) months.~~ This additional extended provision does not apply to commercial customers.

- (4) *Duty to remain current.* The customer shall remain in good standing throughout the life of the payment plan. Failure to pay the full amount billed each month, consisting of the current bill plus the agreed monthly amount to liquidate the prior debt, shall result in disconnection of services and a requirement to pay the full amount owed in the plan, as a condition of reconnection.

Sec. 31-96. - Charges assessed against whom.

The charges levied and assessed in this division are and shall be levied and assessed against the person in whose name the water meter at such place, building, structure, business or establishment is listed and assessed.

Sec. 31-97 Fees

- (a) Sewer PVC pipe:

Twelve-inch, per lineal foot .... ~~\$30.00~~ Actual cost

Eight-inch, per lineal foot.....~~25.00~~ Actual cost

Six-inch, per lineal foot.....~~20.00~~ Actual cost

- (b) Sewers tap: six-inch, each.....~~1,927.80~~ Actual cost

- (c) Locate sewer tap, each.....~~250.00~~ Actual cost

- (d) Sewer clean out.....~~1,258.65~~ Actual cost

- (e) Sewer services:

- (1) Jetter-vacuum truck:

Service call (3-hour minimum).... ~~250.00~~ Actual cost

Additional hour.....~~150.00~~ Actual cost

- (2) ~~Vacuum truck (5,000 gal.).....~~

~~Service call (3-hour minimum).....250.00~~

~~Additional hour.....150.00~~

- (3 2) ~~Dump truck (12 cu. yds.)~~ Construction Crew (includes personnel, Backhoe Tractor, Dump Truck and Pick-up Truck)....

Service call (3-hour minimum).....~~200.00~~ Actual cost

Additional ~~cost~~ hour.....~~150.00~~ Actual cost

- (4 3) CCTV truck:.....

Service call (3-hour minimum).....~~250.00~~ Actual cost

Additional hour.....~~150.00~~ Actual cost

(5 ~~4~~) CCTV truck > 200 ft. ~~6 to 12-inch pipe inspection, per linear foot.....2.50~~

CCTV truck > 200 ft. ~~15 to 21-inch pipe inspection, per linear foot..... 3.50~~

CCTV truck > 200 ft. ~~24-inch pipe inspection, per linear foot.....4.50~~

For new construction requiring CCTV inspections for acceptance of sanitary sewer, the first service call will be at no charge. New construction first service calls at no charge includes eight (8) hours and unlimited footage or as instructed by Utilities Director. Additional service calls will be charged as per (3 4) & ~~(5)~~ above. ~~A service call includes 200 linear feet of footage. Additional footage will include length that camera has to travel to reach and televise any particular deficiency and will be charged as per (5) above.~~

~~(6)~~ Pick up truck, per day.....~~120.00~~

~~(7)~~ Jetter truck:....

Service call (3 hour minimum)....~~250.00~~

Additional hour.....~~150.00~~

~~(8)~~ Portable jetter equipment:....

Service call (3 hour minimum).....~~100.00~~

Additional hour.....~~150.00~~

~~(9)~~ Sewer taps located.....~~300.00~~

~~(10)~~ Line locates, service call.....~~150.00~~

~~(11)~~ Septic tanks disposal fee.....~~40.00~~ /1,000 gallons

~~(12 5)~~ In addition to other fees which may be applicable, residential lots at the Colonias requesting sewer connection will be charged \$921.74 plus a LUE fee equal to the sums specified in Ordinance No. 2011-0-019.

~~(6)~~ Removal of stoppages in lateral sewer lines after 4<sup>th</sup> occurrence.....Actual cost per occurrence

(f) Actual costs can be found on the Utilities website or provided upon request.

### ARTICLE III. - WATER

#### DIVISION 2. - USE RESTRICTIONS

Sec. 31-133. - Denial of service to individuals or business entities.

- (a) The utilities department is authorized to refuse service to individuals or business entities who owe money on the same or prior location, until such time as proper and complete payment is made, provided that the utilities department conduct a diligent investigation to determine that indeed such person or business has changed the account name or location to avoid payment.
- (b) The utilities department is authorized to ban certain addresses from service, when it can prove that the individual or business entity residing or using the location is attempting to change or has changed the account name or location in order to avoid payment.
- (c) The utilities department is authorized to seek information about individuals or business entities who owe money for prior service, by other means such as tax rolls, other utility accounts, or any other legal means, for the purpose of attempting to collect the monies owed. *If the utilities department cannot identify the people that were or are at a location, then the property owner is liable if they do not provide a lease agreement and I.D. of the people using the water.*
- (d) The individuals or business entities who refuse to pay for prior service, or who abandon the location to avoid payment, or who use the services without establishing a valid account as provided in this Code, are declared to be in theft of services and therefore are subject to all provisions of the law.
- (e) A property on which an illegal connection is discovered by city personnel or its agents will be immediately denied water and sewer service, until a proper account is opened and an illegal connection fee of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) is paid. A person or business entity opening an account where an illegal connection was found will not be eligible for any deferred payment plan. A portion of the fee up to two hundred dollars (\$200.00) will be utilized to cover the expense of establishing an active account for the customer.
- (f) A person wishing to eliminate an illegal connection from his/her property and who notifies the city voluntarily and before detection of this illegal connection in writing will not be charged the illegal connection fee but will be required to open an active account.

## ARTICLE III: WATER

### DIVISION 3: RATES AND CHARGES

#### Sec. 31-138.1.1 FEES

Actual costs can be found on the Utilities website or provided upon request.

Meter Service fee.....\$ 10.00

Reconnection fees for existing accounts:

Next business day (M-F)....\$35.00

Same business day...\$55.00

Weekends and holidays.....\$75.00

Connection fees for new accounts:

Next business day (M-F)....\$0.00 {initials (meter is already at the location) and meter sets}

Same business day ~~residential account~~.....

\$35.00 (initials) or

\$75.00 if a new meter setup is required. for meter sizes 5/8" X 3/4", 3/4" X 3/4" and 1"

\$100.00 for meter sizes 1" and 2"

Installation for meters larger than 2" is not available for same-day installation.

Return trip charge:

\$35.00 per visit

Obstruction to meter fee will be charged after customer has been notified twice to remove obstruction such as covered meter, car on top, trash on top, gate locked, etc....Actual cost

Tamper fee...\$150.00, plus cost of applicable replacement parts

Nonsufficient fund checks fees:

N.S.F. check service charge....\$25.00

Late fee:

A late fee of 5% or \$5.00, whichever is greater, is charged to the balance owed on the account ~~at the beginning of the second business day after the bill due date of each month~~ on the due date.

Exemptions will be given upon request on the homestead account only. The account holder must be the owner of the property. Customers must meet the following criteria: 1. Customers who are 65 years and older (must provide valid driver's license or valid Texas I.D.), 2. Veterans (must provide DD214 certification and Valid Texas I.D. or valid state-issued I.D. with a veteran designation on it).

No late fee exemptions will be given for accounts missing personal information such as date of birth, driver's license, I.D. number, social security number, passport number, etc.

Meter installation fee:

Meter Size	Cost
<u>5/8" X 3/4"</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>
3/4" X 3/4"	<del>\$93.20</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
1"	<del>\$94.53</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
1 1/2"	<del>\$404.74</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
2" Compound	<del>\$406.31</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
<u>2" Fire Hydrant</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>
3"	<del>\$836.29</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
4"	Actual Cost
6"	Actual Cost
8"	Actual Cost

4", 6" and 8" meter installations require a vault by the customer.



## SECURITY DEPOSITS REQUIRED

Size of meter, residential:

5/8" .....\$100.00

¾" .....\$100.00

1" .....\$150.00

1½" .....\$150.00

2" .....\$300.00

3" .....\$600.00

4" .....\$800.00

For (1) customers who are sixty-five (65) years and older (must provide a valid driver's license or a valid Texas I.D.) and (2) veterans (must provide DD214 certification and valid Texas I.D. or valid state-issued I.D. with a veteran designation on it) the deposit is ~~\$30.00~~ \$60.00.

Size of meter, commercial:

5/8" .....\$150.00

¾" .....\$150.00

1" .....\$225.00

1½" .....\$225.00

2" .....\$300.00

3" .....\$600.00

4" .....\$800.00

6" .....\$1,000.00

8" .....\$1,200.00

## COST OF METER

(DOES NOT INCLUDE WATER AVAILABILITY FEES)

Meter Size	Cost
<u>5/8" x 3/4"</u>	<u>Actual Cost</u>
3/4" X 3/4"	<del>\$180.90</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
1"	<del>\$253.01</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
1 1/2"	<del>\$572.15</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
2" Turbine Fire Hydrant Meter	<del>\$1,031.24</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
2" Compound	<del>\$1,324.91</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
3"	<del>\$2,400.43</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
4"	<del>\$2,991.24</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
6"	<del>\$4,898.28</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>
8"	<del>\$6,882.46</del> <u>Actual Cost</u>

Additional costs due to customer/contractor issues/damages....Actual cost

## SIX-INCH WATER TAP FOR FIRE PROTECTION

6" water tap.....~~\$3,801.00~~ Actual Cost

## Sec. 31-138.1.2 SERVICE CHARGES

Valve Operating Crew Fee.....~~\$200.00~~ Actual Cost

The Utilities Department can install a connection "Tee" to the City's water system. Any connection "Tee" fee will be based on a cost estimate prepared by a Licensed Professional Engineer Consultant (Texas) and provided by the contractor, and must be approved by the Utilities Director/City Manager if the amount is less than \$50,000.00 or by the City Council if the amount is \$50,000.00 or more.

Cost of water taps: For Residential Only. Not including Water availability and deposit

¾" .....~~\$1,590.74~~ Actual Cost

1" .....~~\$1,675.23~~ Actual Cost

1½" ...~~\$1,749.21~~ Actual Cost

2" .....~~\$2,032.00~~ Actual Cost

3" .....~~\$2,914.00~~

4" .....~~\$2,969.00~~

6" .....~~\$3,928.00~~

Cost of ¾" water taps for irrigation meter with existing domestic meter ~~\$800.00~~

Cost for T-Connections and for irrigation (only allowed with single service line of ¾" or dual service line of 1 ½" taps).

¾" ..... ~~\$240.61~~ Actual cost

Cost for service relocation

¾" .....~~\$240.61~~ Actual Cost

1" .....~~\$248.18~~ Actual Cost

#### CITY OF LAREDO WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT COST OF WATER LINE EXTENSIONS, MATERIAL AND LABOR

On polyvinyl chloride (P.V.C.) pipe C-900 or C-905:

The Utilities Department can extend waterline for residential service connections. Any commercial service extension fee will be based on a cost estimate prepared by a Licensed Professional Engineer (Texas) and provided by the contractor, and must be approved by the Utilities Director/City Manager if the amount is less than \$50,000.00 or by the City Council if the amount is \$50,000.00 or more.

2" P.V.C., per linear foot.....~~\$8.50~~ Actual Cost

LINE DESINFECTION OF WATER PIPES:

The contractor will furnish all labor and equipment necessary to complete the proper disinfection of the line and the cost of this operation shall be included in the bid price for the installation of the distribution system.

The City of Laredo will pay for the cost of the PASSING bacteria test, any failures will be at the expense of the contractor.

Changes or adjustments.

~~Based on the Public Utility Commission's rule regarding overbilling and underbilling, contained in title 16, Texas Administrative Code, section 24.87(h). "If billings for utility service are found to differ from the utility's lawful rates for the services being provided to the customer, or if the utility fails to bill the customer for such services, a billing adjustment shall be calculated by the utility. If the customer is due a refund, an adjustment must be made for the entire period of the overcharges. If the customer was undercharged, the utility may backbill the customer for the amount that was underbilled. The backbilling may not exceed 12 months unless such undercharge is a result of meter tampering, bypass, or diversion by the customer as defined in §24.89 of this title (relating to Meters). If the underbilling is \$25 or more, the utility shall offer to such customer a deferred payment plan option for the same length of time as that of the underbilling. In cases of meter tampering, bypass, or diversion, a utility may, but is not required to, offer a customer a deferred payment plan."~~

(a) Adjustments

Rates and charges described in sections 31-138 and 31-92 are set by action of the city council of the city. Any changes or adjustments to those rates are prohibited unless approved by the city council, except in the event that there is a clear error in calculation or meter reading. The Utility Director or his designee may, in the case of a clear error of calculation or meter reading, allow certain adjustments of amounts billed if sufficient evidence is presented by the customer. In no event shall any such adjustment be

made for error of calculation or meter reading which has occurred more than three (3) years prior to the date the matter is brought to the attention of the Utilities Director or his designee.

~~Any adjustments will be based on the Public Utility Commission's rule contained in section 24.87(h) of title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code.~~

(b) Back Billings/Under Billings

Any adjustments will be based on the Public Utility Commission's rule contained in section 24.87(h) of title 16 of the Texas Administrative Code. "If the customer was undercharged, the utility may backbill the customer for the amount that was underbilled. The backbilling may not exceed 12 months unless such undercharge is a result of meter tampering, bypass, or diversion by the customer as defined in §24.89 of this title (relating to Meters). If the underbilling is \$25 or more, the utility shall offer to such customer a deferred payment plan option for the same length of time as that of the underbilling. In cases of meter tampering, bypass, or diversion, a utility may, but is not required to, offer a customer a deferred payment plan."

Sec. 31-138.2. - Fire Protection Fees For Fire Protection Tanks

Annual Inspection Fee.....\$30.00

Refilling of fire protection tanks will be charged as bulk water as established under Section 31- 139.

Sec. 31-138.3 Connection Fees For Temporary Construction Meters

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION METERS (RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL)

Before requesting a temporary construction meter, a plumbing permit must be obtained from the Building Department. The Utilities Department will approve the sizing of the temporary construction meter(s) based on required flow rate submitted by customer or customer representative at the time of the request for the development. In addition, for commercial meters, an appropriate backflow

preventer must be registered with the Utilities Department and then installed by the customer at the location. For commercial locations, if a plat approval has not been issued, then the request for a temporary construction meter will be forwarded to the Utilities

Department for review and approval in order to ensure that the bacteriological and pressure tests are in compliance. The person desiring such meter shall first make an application and payment of fees (water availability, deposit, meter and meter installation) with the Utilities Department under section 31-138.1 and 31-141. The meter will be read and billed for water only during this period based on the current rates

Temporary Construction meters shall be allowed for **no longer than six months for residential and no longer than 9 months for commercial construction**. During these time frames, if a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) from the Building Department is obtained, the temporary construction meter would become a permanent meter and all costs of services will be added to the bill (sewer, garbage, federal/state mandates, stormwater, tax and any other fees approved by City Council). The meter shall be installed, read and finally removed, if needed, by Utilities' employees only. It is illegal to remove or replace the meter by any person other than a Utilities Department employee and is subject to an illegal connection fee as established under Section 31- 133 (e).

#### Sec. 31.138.4 - Refund of Security Deposits.

- (a) A refundable security deposit for utility services is required from all customers according to section 31-138.1-2-1.1 when establishing a new utility account.
- (b) For the purpose of this section "unsatisfactory credit history" means according to the ~~city tax~~ Utilities department records, that utility service has been cut off more than once for nonpayment within the previous five (5) ~~two (2)~~ years or a bill has been left unpaid after any previous service that was discontinued or there are balances overdue on any utility ~~and paving contract and liens for forced lot cleaning or demolition are due to the city.~~
- (c) The city shall review customer's payment histories in September ~~April~~ of every year to determine eligibility for a one-time security deposit refund of the entire amount ~~in the amount of thirty dollars (\$30.00)~~ when a customer has met all of the following conditions:
  - (1) The account must be ~~is on~~ a residential meter: and
  - (2) ~~The account currently has a utility security deposit posted in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) or greater: and~~
  - (3 2) The customer has been receiving utility service for more than five (5) continuous years ~~twelve (12) continuous months: and~~

- (4 3) The customer has a good credit record by paying by the due date on their bill for each month ~~of paying in thirty (30) days from the date of billing or less every month~~ in accordance to the city tax Utilities department records: and
  - (5 4) The customer's service has not been cut off more than once ~~twice~~ during the past five ~~(5) two (2) years or less for nonpayment of a bill~~: and
  - (6 5) The customer is current on all utility and paving contracts and has no liens for forced lot cleaning or demolition due to the city.
- (d) Customers eligible for refunds will receive their refunds according to the following guidelines:
- (1) ~~Any~~ The refund of a portion of the security deposit will normally be credited to a customer's October ~~May~~ bill. The refund of the deposit will be applied to the customer's utility account and will credit any current or future balance up to the amount of that refund. ~~If the deposit is greater than the outstanding bill, the credit may be applied to the customer's next monthly bill.~~
- (e) All sums of money collected as cash deposit securing the Utilities department against losses that may be sustained when a customer discontinues his/her utility services shall be deposited in a special fund to be used for the payment or adjustment of final amounts due the city for utility service when the account is being closed.
- (f) If a person makes a deposit and becomes insolvent or bankrupt, or makes an assignment for the benefit of the person's creditors. the city shall apply the person's deposit to offset the outstanding bill.
- (g) Any customer who has a posted security deposit of less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) because of a refund, senior citizen reduction, transfer reduction, a prior ordinance or other reason but subsequently develops an unsatisfactory credit history, may be required as a condition for continuing utility service to post a security deposit in the full amount currently charged to new applicants.

#### Sec. 31-139. - Bulk water and wastewater effluent rates

##### Sec. 31-139.1. - Bulk water.

Bulk water is potable water and is used in residential and commercial construction for the testing of the water lines.

- (a) *General requirements.*
- (1) Without prior permission of the utilities department, no water may be removed from the city water system, except by the city fire department for firefighting purposes or the city water department.
  - (2) No water shall be removed from the city water system unless it is dispensed by a device approved by the city.



- (3) The city makes no guarantees regarding the quality of water after it leaves the city water system, and persons purchasing bulk water agree to hold the city harmless regarding water quality if it is removed from the city's water system.
  - (4) The utilities director or his designee may at any time halt the sale of bulk water.
- (b) *Bulk water categories and rates.* Thirty dollar (\$30.00) administrative fee.
- Potable water category (rate per 1,000 gallons up to 53,750 gallons) .....\$ 8.00
- Anything above the fifty-three thousand seven hundred fifty (53,750) gallons will be charged as commercial water rates as established in water rates, section 31-138.

Sec. 31-139.2. - Wastewater effluent.

- (a) Wastewater effluent means final discharge from a permitted wastewater treatment plant. Because of the Federal Clean Water Act, the requirements for the treatment of the water is set on a plant-by-plant basis determined by the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit. The majority of effluent is discharged into a body of water, but it also could be used in irrigation based on permit modification by the TCEQ.
  - (b) Wastewater effluent to be used for recreational use with a signed contract with the city.
- Effluent water category (rate per 1,000 gallons) .....\$0.12/1,000 gallons.
- (c) At the discretion of the city, charges for wastewater effluent may be waived or set at a lower price than the \$0.12/1,000 gallons stated in this section for other government entities.
  - (d) Rate will increase yearly by two (2) percent on October 1, of every year or higher as approved by the city council through ordinance.

Sec. 31-140. - Fire hydrant meters.

- (a) System connection and water use. The city utilities department issues on-location fire hydrant meters for water usage on projects to contractors/customers on a short-term basis. Water taken from fire hydrants may be used only for non-potable, non-recreational purposes within the utilities department service area. The use of non-potable water taken from fire hydrants for swimming pools is prohibited. Fire hydrant meters may not be used for long-term irrigation or other uses where a permanently installed meter would be appropriate. No garden hose adaptors will be allowed to be connected to the two (2) inch fire hydrant meter. The Utilities Director may allow another size of meter as a fire hydrant meter. The utilities director may remove any fire hydrant meter due to pressure issues.

- (b) Application process and inspection. The contractor/customer shall complete a fire hydrant meter application stating the exact location for the meter installation. ~~submit the applicable fee and.~~ The applicant shall provide the reason for the meter and an approximate time frame the meter will be in service. ~~At the conclusion of each and every project, it will be necessary to finalize the meter reading.~~ Once approved, the contractor/customer must pay the applicable fees. ~~Upon request, the application will be updated for the new project location, time frame and transferring of applicable fees.~~ The use of a meter other than what is indicated on the application shall cause the meter to be confiscated immediately. ~~The contractor/customer must use a city meter and pay any and all applicable fees.~~ Failure to comply with one (1) or more of the terms and conditions shall be cause for terminating the account permit. Under a standard fire hydrant meter request permit, the applicant may request the use of any fire hydrant from the utilities department's designated network fire hydrants. The utilities department staff will review such requests on a case by case basis and a decision shall be issued within five (5) business days of receiving the request. The utilities department reserves the right to refuse to issue a fire hydrant meter permit to any applicant or to require an applicant to pay all current charges on the applicant's utilities account as a condition to the issuance of a fire hydrant meter permit. The utilities department can inspect fire hydrant meters at any time and the account permit holders shall make provisions for such inspections. The account permit holder shall use the backflow preventer provided with the fire hydrant meter at all times to protect the city's water supply. Removal of the backflow prevention device shall be cause for confiscating the fire hydrant meter and terminating the account permit. Any contractor, customer, builder, or person found connected to the water system without the city's approval shall be considered an illegal connection and subject to a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) illegal connection fee. This includes if the contractor/customer moves the meter from the location where the utilities staff installed it.
- Upon request, the fire hydrant meter can be transferred when the contractor/customer completes a relocation of a fire hydrant meter form for the new project location and time frame. Payment of all applicable fees is required.

(c) Fees and charges.

- (1) A deposit of ~~three hundred dollars (\$300.00)~~ the actual cost of the meter is required for each fire hydrant meter account.
- (2) The nonrefundable installation fee is ~~three hundred twenty five dollars (\$325.00)~~ for each fire hydrant meter account permit is based on actual cost.
- (3) All fire hydrant meter(s) shall be charged a minimum monthly charge of four hundred thirty dollars (\$430.00) which will provide up to fifty-three thousand seven hundred fifty (53,750) gallons. Anything above the minimum consumption will be charged as established in section 31-138, water rates.
- (4) A contractor/customer may request for an on-location fire hydrant meter. If no fire hydrant exists at the location, the total cost for the installation of a new fire hydrant and meter for on-location service is ~~four thousand six hundred twenty five dollars~~

~~(\$4,625.00) one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for the fire hydrant, two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) for the fire hydrant installation, three hundred dollars (\$300.00) deposit and three hundred twenty-five dollars (\$325.00) for the fire hydrant meter installation).~~ the actual costs of a fire hydrant, fire hydrant installation, fire hydrant meter deposit and fire hydrant meter installation.

- (5) The account ~~permit~~ holder shall be required to remit payment for all water withdrawn from fire hydrants on a monthly basis. A late fee of five (5) percent or five dollars (\$5.00) whichever is greater is charged to the balance owed on the account ~~at the beginning of the second business day after the bill due date of each month.~~ on the due date.
  - (6) Fire hydrant flow test (if required) is one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00).
  - (7) Customers/contractors have the option to construct a water tap at the location where they are requesting a fire hydrant meter. If approved, the fire hydrant meter will be placed at the tap instead of a fire hydrant. All fees and charges will remain the same as a fire hydrant meter.
- (d) Loss, damage and payment. The fire hydrant meter is the responsibility of the contractor/customer who will be held responsible for charges and fees if the meter is lost, stolen or damaged. Meters reported stolen must be accompanied by a Police Report. Deposits for lost or stolen meters will be forfeited for the meter cost and estimated consumption charges will be billed. Damages to the meter will also be deducted from the deposit. A new deposit and fire hydrant meter installation fee will be required if the customer/contractor wants to continue using a fire hydrant meter. ~~For permit holders that contract with the utilities department, the director is authorized to withhold all or a portion of the deposit for outstanding fire hydrant meter charges including but not limited to repair and replacement of the hydrant meter and usage.~~

~~If a fire hydrant meter is lost or stolen, the permit holder must file a police report and pay the minimum charge for one (1) month.~~

Sec. 31-140.1. Reserved.

#### Sec. 31-141. Water Availability

Water availability charges applicable to all platted property.

- (a) Lot charges. In addition to all other charges provided for herein and in addition to all requirements of the subdivision ordinance or other ordinances regulating the subdivision or platting of land, there shall be an additional charge for the creation of every new lot as set forth below:

(1) Residential lots:

- a. For each lot that is under 6,000 square feet.....\$300.00
- b. For each lot that is 6,000 to 8000 square feet.....\$500.00
- c. For each lot that is 8,001 to 9,999 square feet..... \$1500.00
- d. For each lot that is 10,000 square feet and over..... \$2,000.00

(2) Nonresidential lots (commercial lots):

- a. For each and every lot created which is less than one (1) acre, the equivalent of one third (1/3) acre-feet of municipal use water right, per lot..... \$1000.00.
- b. For every lot which is greater than one (1) acre (any fractional acreage within such lot shall incur a proportionate charge), the equivalent of one-half (1/2) acre-feet of municipal use water right, per acre.....\$1500.00.
- c. For every lot regardless of size created by a replat that has been previously paid under subsection 1. or 2. above, the equivalent of one-half (1/2) acre-feet of municipal use water right, per lot.....\$1500.00.

- (b) Connection charges. For each connection to the water system or increase in meter size, the following charges will be collected at the time of connection, as shown below, except for a five-eighths (5/8) and three-fourths (3/4) meter connection to a lot of record as defined in section 24-61(b)(59)(ii) of the zoning ordinance, for which there shall be no charge.

(1) Residential lots.....\$300.00

Residential lots at the Colonias will be charged a \$450.00 water connection fee. Water LUEs will be charged in accordance with Ordinance No. 2011-0- 019 or any amendments to this ordinance.

- (2) Multifamily will be charged as two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per unit. Any lot created as multifamily use requires the installation of a master meter with backflow preventer for all the units. Any individual meter/unit request will be reviewed by the Utilities Director on case by case basis and may be approved by the Utilities Director.

- (3) Nonresidential lots (commercial lots) excluding multifamily will have a connection fee based on the meter size:

Size of meter in inches:

5/8".....\$500.00

¾".....\$500.00

1".....\$1,000.00  
1 ½".....\$2,000.00  
2.....\$4,000.00  
3.....\$8,000.00  
4.....\$16,000.00  
6 & 8 ....\$40,000.00

( C) Excluded from the water availability charge are any lot or lots created prior to September 9, 1979, by a subdivision or a re-subdivision of land described by metes and bounds contained in an instrument of grant or conveyance legally executed, duly acknowledged and properly recorded at the county deeds records office, and filed on September 9, 1979, or afterwards within thirty (30) days from such date, which date is the publication date of the public notice printed on page 12A of the Laredo Times at the direction of the planning and zoning commission; and upon proof thereof to the appropriate city official or officials, such lot or lots shall be excluded from the water availability charge.

(d) Prohibit the use of water rights to pay capital improvement contribution fees.

(e) The city council hereby ratifies, adopts and approves the water availability charge as passed and approved by the waterworks board at its regular meeting of August 17, 1983.

(f) Funds collected for water availability, connection charges, and water demand fees shall be allocated to a "water availability fund" in the city's annual budget and shall be used to purchase water, groundwater, or water rights and/or finance studies, secondary water supply and pilot programs which tend to diversify and augment the water supply.

## Section 2. Severability.

If any word, phrase, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this ordinance shall remain in effect as if the unconstitutional or invalid portion had not been adopted.

## Section 3. Repeal law in conflict.

All ordinances and resolutions or parts of ordinances or resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Publication.

This Ordinance shall be published according to Section 2.09(D) of the Charter of the City of Laredo.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect 60 days from the date of the introductory ordinance, pursuant to the City Charter, Section 2.09(B).

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS**

**THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.**

\_\_\_\_\_

**DR. VICTOR D. TREVINO**

**MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**MARIO I. MALDONADO JR.**

**CITY SECRETARY**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

**DOANH T. NGUYEN**

**CITY ATTORNEY**

\_\_\_\_\_

**BY: JOAQUIN A. RODRIGUEZ**

**FIRST ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY**