



	Approved	Denied
Action taken	5/23/05 ✓	
Other:		
Verified by:	<i>[Signature]</i>	

**WASILLA CITY COUNCIL ACTION MEMORANDUM**

**AM No. 05-24**

**TITLE: IRRIGATION METER GRANT PROGRAM**

Agenda of: May 23, 2005

Date: May 13, 2005

Originator: Kristie Smithers, City Clerk for Council Member Diana Straub *Diana L. Straub*

Route to:	Department	Signature/Date
	Police	
	Recreational and Cultural Services Library, Museum	
X	Public Works Planning	<i>[Signature]</i> 5/16/05
X	Finance *signature required	<i>[Signature]</i>
X	Clerk	<i>[Signature]</i>

**REVIEWED BY MAYOR DIANNE M. KELLER:** *Dianne M. Keller*

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  yes \$ or  no

Funds Available  yes  no

Account name/number:

Attachments: IM No. 04-11

**SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

Last fall the public works director submitted an information memorandum to the council on the impact of the implementation of an alternative method for sewer utility customers using irrigation water. To date, the council has not addressed this issue.

After speaking to the public works director I have requested an update on how the utility may better serve residential customers who use large volumes of irrigation water that has the potential to be charged on their sewer bill.

Currently, the City's policy provides customers the option of installing an irrigation or subtractive meter at their expense that allows the irrigation use to be metered and subtracted from the sewer bill.

A few utility customers have complained that they should not have to pay the cost of installing the extra meter. The City has supplied the meter at cost, and provided free inspections.

After discussions with the public works director, he is proposing to initiate a grant program similar to sewer service connections, where a residential customer could apply for funding to install the irrigation meter. An applicant would need to be on the system for one year to verify by water use history that they have summer increases. The deputy director would review the grant application and water history to determine eligibility. If approved, the homeowner would have the meter installed by a plumbing contractor and seek reimbursement from the City under the grant program.

The public works director also recommends that only existing homes be eligible for the program at the time the program is implemented. New homes would have the option to install the meter as part of new construction, which is far cheaper than a retrofit. The council could also elect to require all new homes and businesses to have these meters installed when they are constructed.

If this is an option that the Council wishes administration to explore, the City Code will need to be amended and funding appropriated each year.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Council Member Straub would like the council to discuss this option and direct Administration to draft legislation, which will allow for an irrigation meter grant program.