

## Water rates should be tiered

Water users should be reminded that the total utility bill includes the sewer charge of \$25 a month. That's on top of the too-high water standby charge of \$13.51 plus consumption. That's a big chunk of money for the many poverty-level households in Fresno.

There's no argument our ailing water pipes need replacement. However, a charge of one-size-fits-all is not the answer to pay for the upgrade. Now that we have water meters, there should be a tiered method of billing, so that the big water consumers can see the errors of their way via much higher charges for excess water consumption.

Charging tiered rates might help also to negate some of the necessity for water cops, who are needed all over town.

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