

Sunflower Village Water Utility

Current Base Charge and Volume Charge Exercise

Budget Category	Fixed Costs	Variable Costs
Operation and Maintenance	\$205,000	\$300,000
Debt Service	\$50,000	-
Increased Reserve Requirement	\$35,000	-
Total	\$290,000	\$300,000

Instructions: Refer to the *Village of Sunflower Information Sheet* and answer the questions below. Keep in mind, the community is only collecting 94% of what is being billed.

1. Calculate a monthly base charge for each account to recover fixed costs.
(Hint: $\text{Fixed cost} / \text{Total accounts} / 12 \text{ months per year}$).

2. Calculate a uniform volume charge per 1,000 gallons to recover variable costs.
(Hint: $\text{Variable costs} / [\text{Water metered} / 1,000]$).

3. You are presently billing a base charge of \$20 per month and a volume charge of \$2 per 1,000 gallons. What will be the new monthly charge for users at 5,000 gallons per month and 20,000 gallons per month? Use answers from Problems 1 and 2. How do these compare to the cost per month under the old rates? Answer these questions by completing the table below.
(Hint: $\text{Volume charge per 1,000 gallons} \times [\text{Usage} / 1,000 \text{ gallons}] + \text{Base charge}$).

	Old Rate: Bill/Month	New Rate: Bill/Month	\$ Increase	% Increase
5,000 gal				
20,000 kgal				

4. Calculate the affordability index for the new charges based on 5,000 gallons per month usage and the community's median household income. What is the affordability index for a family of two making \$19,000 in annual income?
(Hint: $\text{Annual water cost} / \text{annual income}$).

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	Fixed Costs	Variable Costs
Operation and Maintenance	\$205,000	\$300,000
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1. Calculate a monthly base charge for each account to recover fixed costs.
(Hint: Fixed cost / Total accounts / 12 months per year).

Total fixed cost: **\$290,000** / Total accounts: **1,000** = **\$290** per year per customer / 12 months = **\$24.17** / 0.94 = **\$25.71** new monthly charge after delinquency rate for nonpaying customers applied

2. Calculate a uniform volume charge per 1,000 gallons to recover variable costs.
(Hint: Variable costs / [Water metered / 1,000]).

Variable cost: **\$300,000** / Water Metered **140,000,000** / 1000 = **140,000** per kgal = **\$2.14** / 0.94 = **\$2.28** new charge per 1,000 gallons after delinquency rate for nonpaying customers applied

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(Hint: Volume charge per 1,000 gallons X [Usage / 1,000 gallons] + Base charge).

	Old Rate: Bill/Month	New Rate: Bill/Month	\$ Increase	% Increase
5,000 gal	\$30.00	\$37.11	\$7.11	23.70%
20,000 kgal	\$60.00	\$71.31	\$11.31	18.85%

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4. Calculate the affordability index for the new charges based on 5,000 gallons per month usage and the community's median household income. What is the affordability index for a family of two making \$19,000 in annual income?

(Hint: Annual water cost / annual income).

a) 5,000 gal New Bill/Month Rate x 12 months = **\$445.32** per year (Annual Rate)

b) Annual Rate / Median income of **\$41,000** = **1.09** percent of annual income

c) Annual Rate / \$19,000 = **2.34** percent of annual income