Why We Charge a Base Rate for Each Dwelling Unit Served

As a water supply corporation, our mission is to provide safe, reliable water service to every member of our system. To meet this goal, we must carefully plan and build our infrastructure to handle the full demand placed on it—not just for today, but for decades to come.

When members have more than one dwelling unit—defined as any structure with a sink, toilet, shower, and kitchen, each unit contributes to the total demand on the water system. Whether the water is used heavily or not, **the capacity must be available** at all times.

Why Capacity Matters

Water system **capacity** refers to how much water our system can reliably produce, store, and deliver at any given time. It's not just about how much water is used, but how much must be **available and ready** to meet peak demand—like early mornings, evenings, or during droughts or emergencies.

Each additional dwelling unit increases this peak demand, and that affects:

- **Plant size**: Our water treatment plant must be designed to treat and deliver enough water for all connected units, even if they're served by the same meter.

- **Main distribution lines**: These large pipes transport water from the treatment plant through the system. More units require larger and more expensive lines to ensure proper pressure and flow.

- **Service lines**: The pipe that connects each meter to the main line must also be sized appropriately to handle the number of units it serves.

Even if a second or third unit on a property doesn't use much water daily, the system has to be **built and maintained as if it will**—because it must be ready to serve that demand at any time.

Compliance with State Requirements

State regulations require us to **count each dwelling unit** when designing and reporting on our system's capacity. This means that each unit:

- Is considered in the engineering and permitting process,

- Triggers capacity and infrastructure requirements, and

- Affects how we plan for future expansion and reliability.