

COMPTON WATER ASSOCIATION

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Dear Water Member,

Our recent storm that affected our water system so hard left us understanding our weakest points in our system. Our system is old and we know all old things do wear out, and one of those areas is meters. Though we do call the meter supplying water to your home or property 'your meter' we want you to know actually, its 'our meter'. When that meter was set, you paid a new connection fee which supplied a meter base and connection to the system as well as a meter, and all of those items are the property of Compton Water. If anyone of those were to break down, you would call us to repair/replace them, if they were yours, we would expect you to repair and maintain them; look at as if it were your electrical box supplying electricity to your home, all of that equipment belongs to the electric company yet you still paid to have it connected or installed especially if it were new construction and if it were to malfunction you would call them for repairs.

Our meters wear out over time, they can leak to benefit you or benefit the water company. If left untouched they will work just fine for years to come but what makes them wear down and leak is when they are used as a shut off valve by you, to turn your water off or on as you leave town, as your cabin guests leave, as you make your repairs or don't make your repairs and you daily shut off our meter so the leaks around your home won't leak while you're away for the day.....yes, we have all of these occurrences daily, weekly and monthly. When our last extreme weather came through, the cold broke lose these slowly leaking meters and we all lost thousands of gallons just on these damaged meters and we replaced countless meters. You should know that when they become damaged from being used as a shut off valve, we have to purchase a new meter, and many times a new meter set and the cost on these two items is approx. \$750.00 excluding the additional fittings and labor, as sometimes we have needed a backhoe to complete the job. As we read meters monthly, we are still finding them leaking or being used as a shut off valve.

We have had to implement some precautionary things to begin the long cycle of fixing this. **First**, we are moving forward to locking all of our meters in the on position, if you don't have a shut off valve on your line below our meter, then you can call us should you have a leak and we will unlock it and lock it in the off position until your leak is fixed. **Second**, we are now requiring all meters to have a shut off valve and pressure regulator in a deep meter box to be installed approx. 3 feet from our meter box; you can then have your own shut off valve which you can use as often as you like. As we move through the system, and we see there is no shut off valve, as mentioned earlier we will need to take precautionary steps to ensure the meter isn't leaking and the shut off valve is in a stationary position. We are taking the entire system by sections in order to achieve our goal.

Thank you,

Compton Water