

## **Water Meter Testing**

### **Water Meters:**

A water meter, like any other mechanical device, is subject to wear and deterioration. Over a period of time, it loses its peak efficiency. The only way to determine if a specific meter is operating efficiently is to test it. Meters are tested to ensure accuracy in billing, verify performance standards, and prevent water loss due to malfunctioning meters. Testing confirms that devices function within specified tolerance limits, identifies aging or damaged equipment and ensures compliance with regulatory standards. Water meter testing and management are critical tools in drought planning and ensuring accurate water consumption reporting.

### **Meter Testing:**

Water meters are tested over three flow rates—**high, intermediate, and low**—to ensure accuracy across varying usage levels, following AWWA standards. This method validates accuracy at different demand scenarios, as meters can exhibit different performance levels depending on water pressure, velocity, and wear. A calibrated volume of water (e.g. 120 gallons) is run through the meter to compare with the registers reading. If the tested meter does not meet accuracy limits the meter will be replaced.

### **Why we are here:**

Our goal is to test 1% of city meters annually. Meter testing programs have long been advocated by AWWA and are required by regulatory agencies. It is in the best interest of both the utility and customer that testing of meters be part of an ongoing maintenance and replacement program. We look forward to working with our customers to ensure our residential meters are performing as designed at a time convenient for both the City of Brentwood and our customers.

