



City of
Courtenay

Water Metering Business Case – Executive Summary

Presented by:
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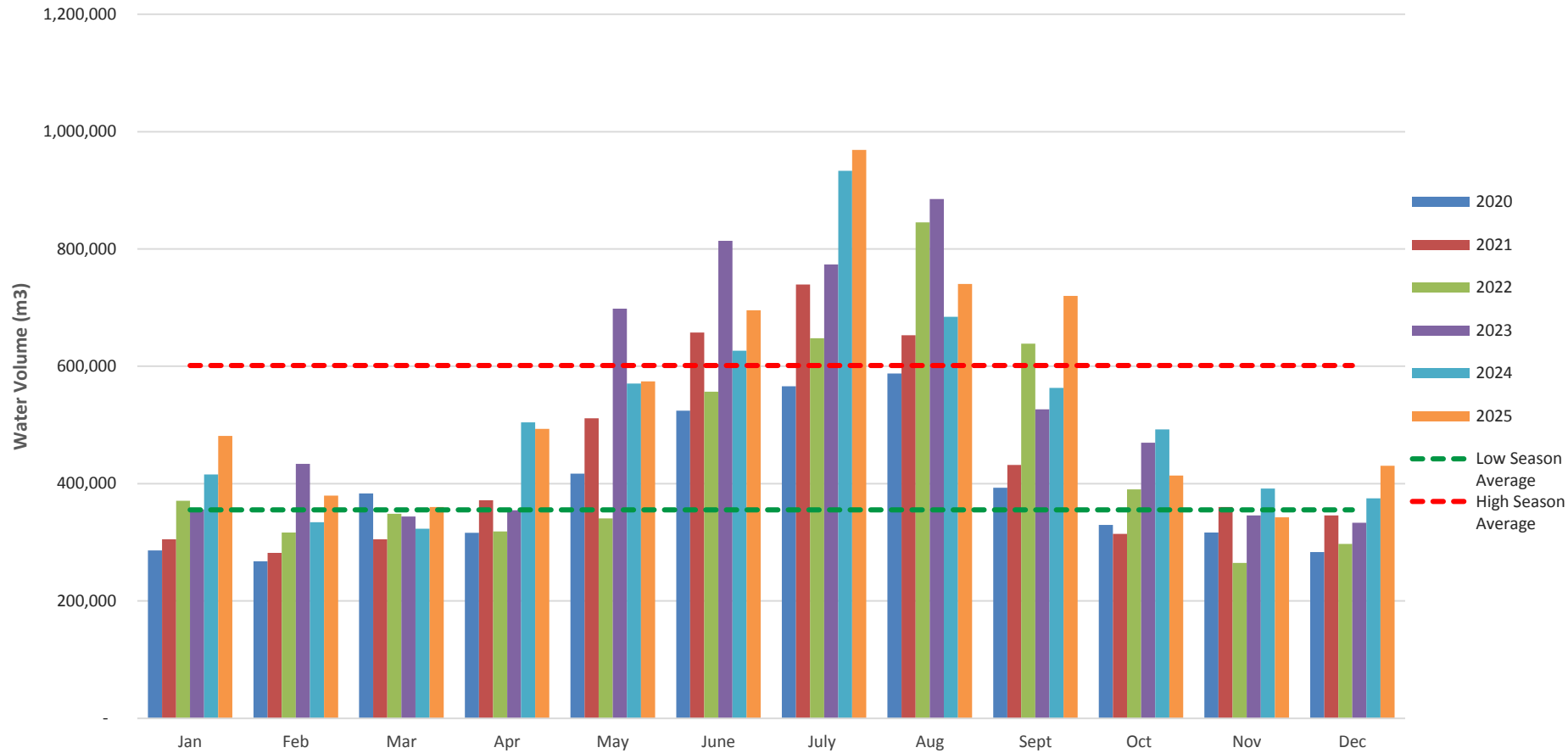
ZOOM Window Space

Introduction

What might a universal water metering program look like for Courtenay?

Background

City of Courtenay
Monthly Water Consumption 2020-2025



Executive Summary

Strategic Direction Overview

The summary outlines the strategic considerations with universal water metering, emphasizing conservation and climate resilience.

Council Decision Framework

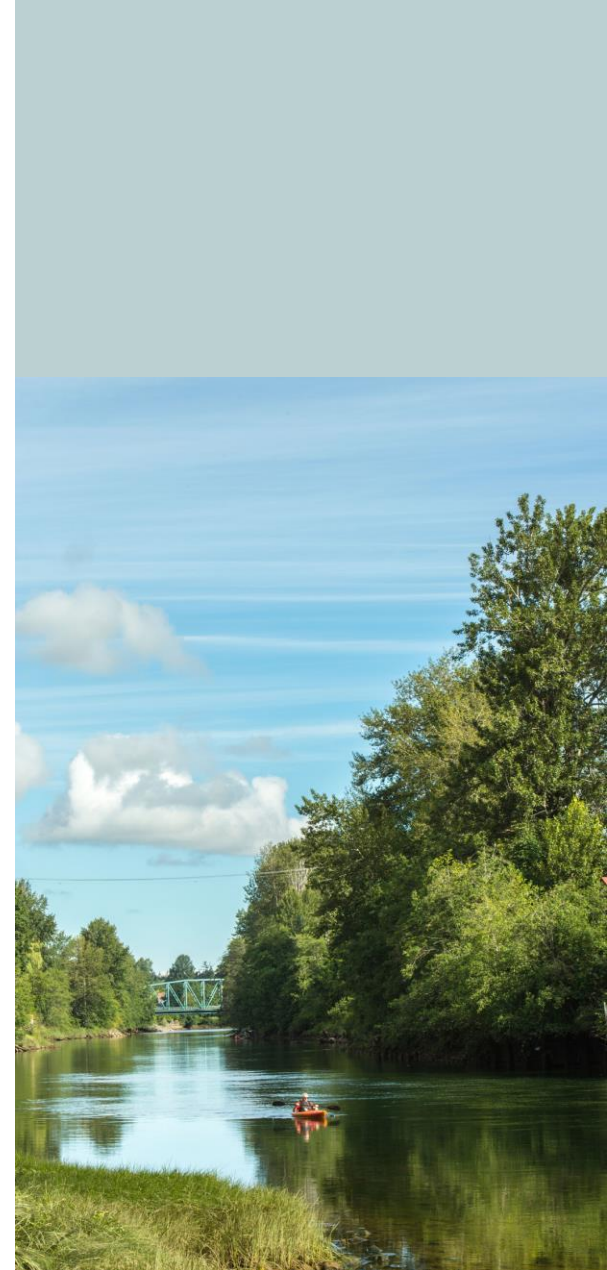
Is intended to support Council in determining future direction on universal water metering, rather than advancing immediate implementation steps.

Modernizing Water Services

Outlines why the modernization of water services is being examined, due to seasonal stress, peak demand, and outdoor water use challenges.

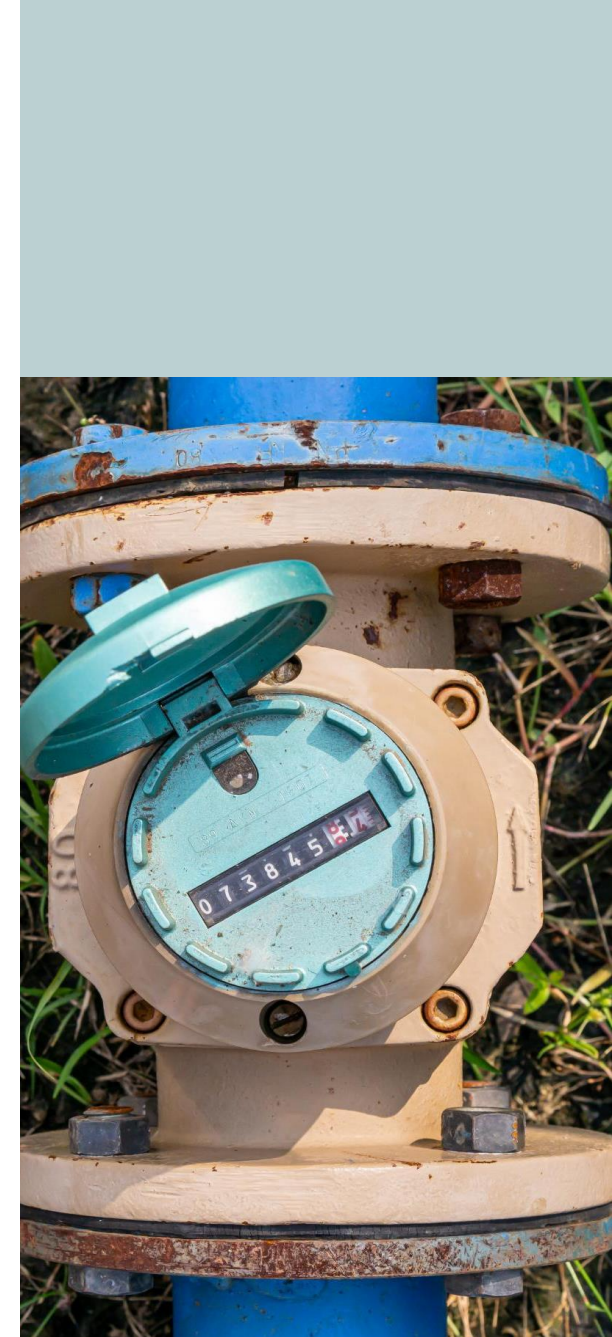
Report Structure Introduction

Introduces the Council report's focus on strategic direction, financial readiness, and implementation authority.



What the Business Case Tells Us

1. The analysis confirms that residential demand is the largest contributor to peak water use.
2. The business case identifies universal water metering as the most effective tool available to address that demand. Universal metering is shown to provide visibility into consumption, support leak detection, and allow residents to better understand and manage their water use.
3. Evidence from comparable municipalities indicates that once homes are metered, water use typically declines, particularly during summer months, when system pressures are highest.



Journey of Discovery

Current Water System Challenges

The work confirms that peak water demand is rising faster than population growth, driven mainly by outdoor residential use, causing seasonal stress.

Metering Gap and Equity Issues

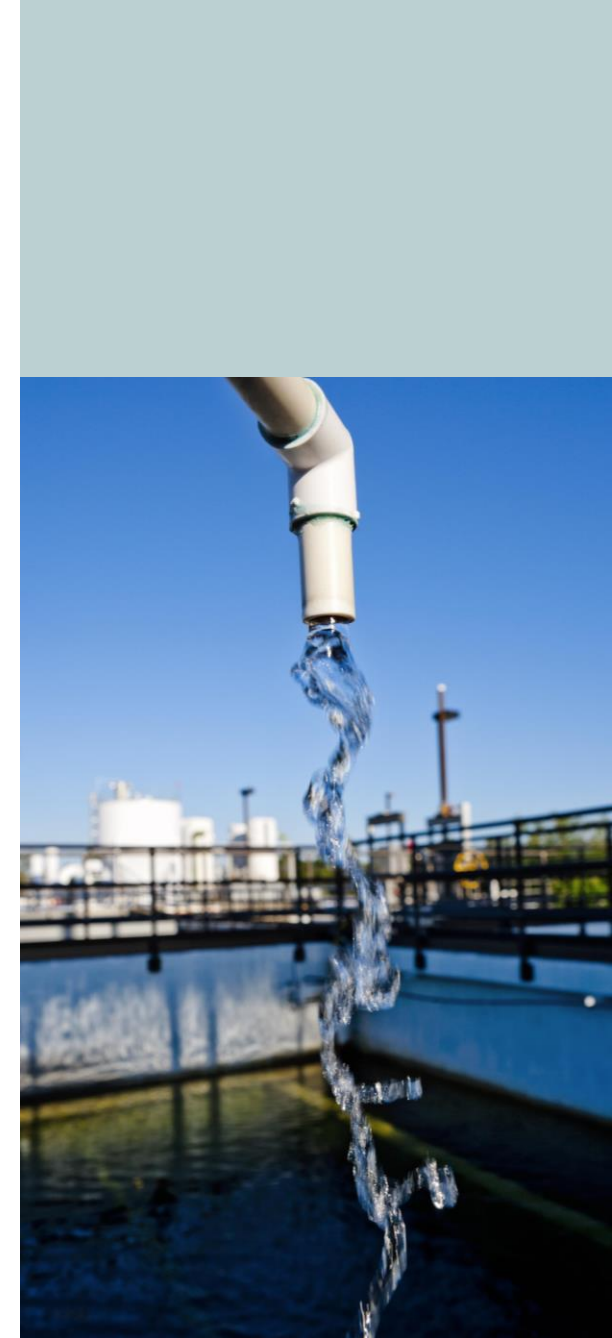
Single-residential customers currently lack meters, limiting consumption visibility and contributing to an estimated \$1.7 million annual cross-subsidy within the utility.

Benefits of Universal Metering

Universal metering is shown to reduce water use and improve equity, supported by evidence from similar municipalities.

Implementation Options and Risks

The analysis evaluates multiple options include status quo, new construction metering, voluntary programs, or universal metering, and identifies trade-offs between short-term and long-term benefits.



Decision Framework & Implementation Pathways

Decision Framework Elements

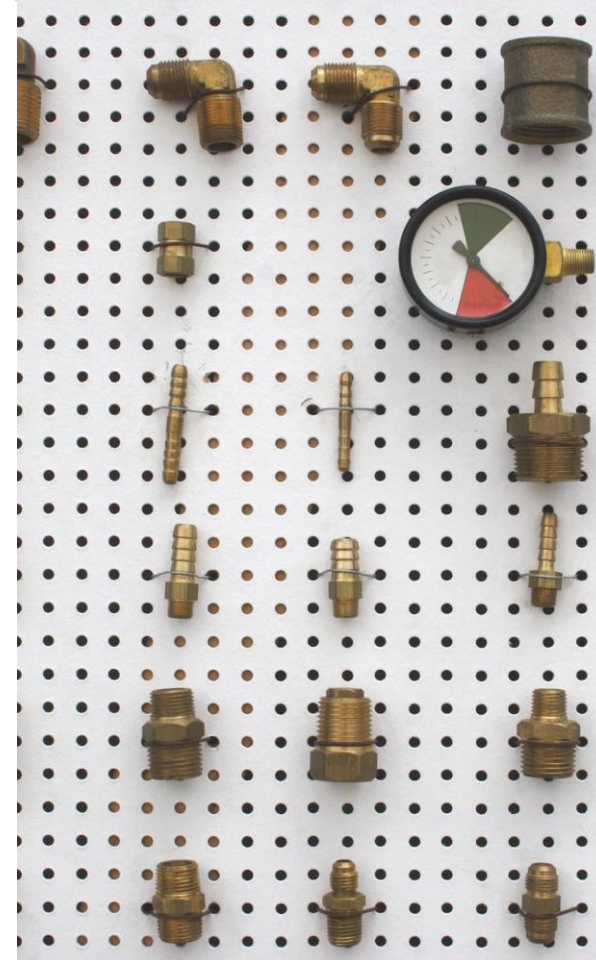
Strategic direction, financial strategy, and implementation pathway are structured to support aligned Council decision-making.

Implementation Phasing

- A **phased and balanced program option**, prioritizing meter-ready homes.
- A **defined universal rollout option**, delivered as a multi-year capital initiative.
- An **incremental approach option**, focused on new construction and voluntary participation.

Financial and Equity Considerations

Long-term investment considerations, anticipated savings, and variable-rate impacts highlight the importance of equity.



Closing Remarks & Next Steps

Strategic Modernization

The work suggests modernizing water services is a key consideration in advancing conservation, equity, and sustainability in the City.

Water Metering

Water metering has been shown to reduce water use and support long-term financial sustainability.

Council Decision Framework

The business case provides a solid foundation for Council's decisions, ensuring flexibility and risk analysis.

Community Engagement

Ongoing stakeholder engagement and clear communication will be essential for monitoring progress and policy success.

