AWWA Free Water Audit Software v5.0

This spreadsheet-based water audit tool is designed to help quantify and track water losses associated with water distribution systems and identify areas for improved efficiency and cost recovery. It provides a "top-down" summary water audit format, and is not meant to take the place of a full-scale, comprehensive water audit format.

Auditors are strongly encouraged to refer to the most current edition of AWWA M36 Manual for Water Audits for detailed guidance on the water auditing process and targetting loss reduction levels

The spreadsheet contains several separate worksheets. Sheets can be accessed using the tabs towards the bottom of the screen, or by clicking the buttons below.

Please begin by providing the following information

Name of Contact Person:	Jennifer Baca
Email Address:	jennifer.baca@lacnm.us
Telephone (incl Ext.):	505-662-8133
Name of City / Utility:	Los Alamos County
City/Town/Municipality:	Los Alamos
State / Province:	New Mexico (NM)
Country:	United States
Year:	2023
Start Date:	01/2023 Enter MM/YYYY numeric format
End Date:	12/2023 Enter MM/YYYY numeric format
Audit Preparation Date:	11/25/2024
Volume Reporting Units:	Million gallons (US)
PWSID / Other ID:	NM3500115

The following guidance will help you complete the Audit

All audit data are entered on the ***Reporting Worksheet***

- Value can be entered by user
- Value calculated based on input data
- These cells contain recommended default values

Use of Option (Radio) Buttons: Pcnt: 0.25% Value:

Select the default percentage by choosing the option button on the left

To enter a value, choose this button and enter a value in the cell to the right

The following worksheets are available by clicking the buttons below or selecting the tabs along the bottom of the page

Instructions
The current sheet. Enter contact information and basic audit details (year, units etc)

Reporting Worksheet
Enter the required data on this worksheet to calculate the water balance and data grading

Comments
Enter comments to explain how values were calculated or to document data sources

Performance Indicators
Review the performance indicators to evaluate the results of the audit

Water Balance
The values entered in the Reporting Worksheet are used to populate the Water Balance

Dashboard
A graphical summary of the water balance and Non-Revenue Water components

Grading Matrix
Presents the possible grading options for each input component of the audit

Service Connection Diagram
Diagrams depicting possible customer service connection line configurations

Definitions
Use this sheet to understand the terms used in the audit process

Loss Control Planning
Use this sheet to interpret the results of the audit validity score and performance indicators

Example Audits
Reporting Worksheet and Performance Indicators examples are shown for two validated audits

Acknowledgements
Acknowledgements for the AWWA Free Water Audit Software v5.0

If you have questions or comments regarding the software please contact us via email at: wlc@awwa.org

AWWA Free Water Audit Software:
Reporting Worksheet

WAS v5.0

American Water Works Association.

? Click to access definition

+ Click to add a comment

Water Audit Report for: Los Alamos County (NM3500115)

Reporting Year: 2023 1/2023 - 12/2023

Please enter data in the white cells below. Where available, metered values should be used; if metered values are unavailable please estimate a value. Indicate your confidence in the accuracy of the input data by grading each component (n/a or 1-10) using the drop-down list to the left of the input cell. Hover the mouse over the cell to obtain a description of the grades

All volumes to be entered as: MILLION GALLONS (US) PER YEAR

To select the correct data grading for each input, determine the highest grade where the utility meets or exceeds all criteria for that grade and all grades below it.

Master Meter and Supply Error Adjustments

<---------- Enter grading in column 'E' and 'J' ---------->

WATER SUPPLIED

						Pcnt:	Value:	
Volume from own sources:	7	1,270.000	MG/Yr	2				MG/Yr
Water imported:	n/a	0.000	MG/Yr					MG/Yr
Water exported:	8	317.000	MG/Yr					MG/Yr

Enter negative % or value for under-registration

Enter positive % or value for over-registration

WATER SUPPLIED: **953.000** MG/Yr

AUTHORIZED CONSUMPTION

Click here: ? for help using option buttons below

				Pcnt:	Value:	
Billed metered:	8	798.760	MG/Yr			
Billed unmetered:	n/a	0.000	MG/Yr			
Unbilled metered:	n/a	0.000	MG/Yr			
Unbilled unmetered:		11.913	MG/Yr	1.25%		MG/Yr

Use buttons to select percentage of water supplied **OR** value

Default option selected for Unbilled unmetered - a grading of 5 is applied but not displayed

AUTHORIZED CONSUMPTION: **810.673** MG/Yr

WATER LOSSES (Water Supplied - Authorized Consumption) **142.328** MG/Yr

Apparent Losses

				Pcnt:	Value:	
Unauthorized consumption:		2.383	MG/Yr	0.25%		MG/Yr

Default option selected for unauthorized consumption - a grading of 5 is applied but not displayed

Customer metering inaccuracies:	7	16.301	MG/Yr	2.00%		MG/Yr
Systematic data handling errors:		1.997	MG/Yr	0.25%		MG/Yr

Default option selected for Systematic data handling errors - a grading of 5 is applied but not displayed

Apparent Losses: **20.681** MG/Yr

Real Losses (Current Annual Real Losses or CARL)

Real Losses = Water Losses - Apparent Losses: **121.647** MG/Yr

WATER LOSSES: **142.328** MG/Yr

NON-REVENUE WATER

NON-REVENUE WATER: **154.240** MG/Yr

= Water Losses + Unbilled Metered + Unbilled Unmetered

SYSTEM DATA

Length of mains:	8	163.0	miles
Number of active AND inactive service connections:	7	7,178	
Service connection density:		44	conn./mile main

Are customer meters typically located at the curbstop or property line?	Yes	
Average length of customer service line:		(length of service line, beyond the property boundary, that is the responsibility of the utility)

Average length of customer service line has been set to zero and a data grading score of 10 has been applied

Average operating pressure:	6	65.0	psi

COST DATA

Total annual cost of operating water system:	10	$40,543,811	$/Year	
Customer retail unit cost (applied to Apparent Losses):	9	$6.50	$/1000 gallons (US)	
Variable production cost (applied to Real Losses):	5	$505.02	$/Million gallons	☑ Use Customer Retail Unit Cost to value real losses

WATER AUDIT DATA VALIDITY SCORE:

***** YOUR SCORE IS: 72 out of 100 *****

A weighted scale for the components of consumption and water loss is included in the calculation of the Water Audit Data Validity Score

PRIORITY AREAS FOR ATTENTION:

Based on the information provided, audit accuracy can be improved by addressing the following components:

1: Volume from own sources

2: Variable production cost (applied to Real Losses)

3: Unauthorized consumption

AWWA Free Water Audit Software:
System Attributes and Performance Indicators

WAS v5.0

American Water Works Association.

Water Audit Report for: Los Alamos County (NM3500115)

Reporting Year: 2023 | 1/2023 - 12/2023

*** YOUR WATER AUDIT DATA VALIDITY SCORE IS: 72 out of 100 ***

System Attributes:

	Apparent Losses:	20.681	MG/Yr
+	Real Losses:	121.647	MG/Yr
=	**Water Losses:**	**142.328**	MG/Yr
?	Unavoidable Annual Real Losses (UARL):	46.47	MG/Yr
	Annual cost of Apparent Losses:	$134,424	
	Annual cost of Real Losses:	$790,705	Valued at **Customer Retail Unit Cost**

Return to Reporting Worksheet to change this assumpiton

Performance Indicators:

Financial:	Non-revenue water as percent by volume of Water Supplied:	16.2%	
	Non-revenue water as percent by cost of operating system:	2.5%	Real Losses valued at Customer Retail Unit Cost
Operational Efficiency:	Apparent Losses per service connection per day:	7.89	gallons/connection/day
	Real Losses per service connection per day:	46.43	gallons/connection/day
	Real Losses per length of main per day*:	N/A	
	Real Losses per service connection per day per psi pressure:	0.71	gallons/connection/day/psi
	From Above, Real Losses = Current Annual Real Losses (CARL):	121.65	million gallons/year
?	Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) [CARL/UARL]:	2.62	

* This performance indicator applies for systems with a low service connection density of less than 32 service connections/mile of pipeline

AWWA Free Water Audit Software:
User Comments

Use this worksheet to add comments or notes to explain how an input value was calculated, or to document the sources of the information used.

General Comment:	

Audit Item	Comment
Volume from own sources:	Total Water Produced for all for 2023 divided by 1,000,000
Vol. from own sources: Master meter error adjustment:	Additional meter accuracy data for production wells is needed to improve this value. Calculation only includes 2 of 12 production wells. Source: PureOps - Los Alamos County - Meter Testing Report 17.04 - C.PDF PureOps tested 21 meters in 2016, three of which were production wells (Otowi 1 and 4 and Pajarito 2). The Otowi Well 1 was highly inaccurate (only registering 29.8% of the flow) and therefore replaced. In order to not include an extreme outlier value, the remaining two values were averaged. (Value of all three = 76.9% vs. valueofjusttwo = 100 4%)
Water imported:	None (Los Alamos County has a contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for 1,200 acre-feet of water per year from the San Juan-Chama Project, but this water has not been brought online).
Water imported: master meter error adjustment:	Not applicable
Water exported:	Put the LANL water sale as exported water.
Water exported: master meter error adjustment:	Not applicable
Billed metered:	Total water sales, Kgal: total number added 12 months up and divided by 1,000
Billed unmetered:	None
Unbilled metered:	None
Unbilled unmetered:	Calculated

Audit Item	Comment
Unauthorized consumption:	
Customer metering inaccuracies:	No data (no customer meter testing was conducted in 2023).
Systematic data handling errors:	
Length of mains:	
Number of active AND inactive service connections:	Average of 12 months of billed locations: total units / locations
Average length of customer service line:	Answer yes to question regarding whether customer meters are located at the curb. From email from James Alarid to Amy Ewing on October 9, 2017: "the vast majority are at the curb."
Average operating pressure:	From email from James Alarid to Amy Ewing: "Average system operating pressure is 65 psi."
Total annual cost of operating water system:	Total cost for Water Production + total cost for Water Distribution - Less: Interdept Water
Customer retail unit cost (applied to Apparent Losses):	Los Alamos County Water Rate
Variable production cost (applied to Real Losses):	Total Water Production Electric Bill divided by Volume from own sources.

AWWA Free Water Audit Software: Water Balance

WAS v5.0

American Water Works Association.

Water Audit Report for:	Los Alamos County (NM3500115)	
Reporting Year:	2023	1/2023 - 12/2023
Data Validity Score:	72	

Own Sources (Adjusted for known errors)
1,270.000

Water Imported
0.000

Water Exported
317.000

Water Supplied
953.000

Authorized Consumption
810.673

Water Losses
142.328

Billed Water Exported

Billed Authorized Consumption
798.760

Billed Metered Consumption (water exported is removed)
798.760

Billed Unmetered Consumption
0.000

Revenue Water
798.760

Unbilled Authorized Consumption
11.913

Unbilled Metered Consumption
0.000

Unbilled Unmetered Consumption
11.913

Non-Revenue Water (NRW)
154.240

Apparent Losses
20.681

Unauthorized Consumption
2.383

Customer Metering Inaccuracies
16.301

Systematic Data Handling Errors
1.997

Real Losses
121.647

Leakage on Transmission and/or Distribution Mains
Not broken down

Leakage and Overflows at Utility's Storage Tanks
Not broken down

Leakage on Service Connections
Not broken down

AWWA Free Water Audit Software:
Dashboard

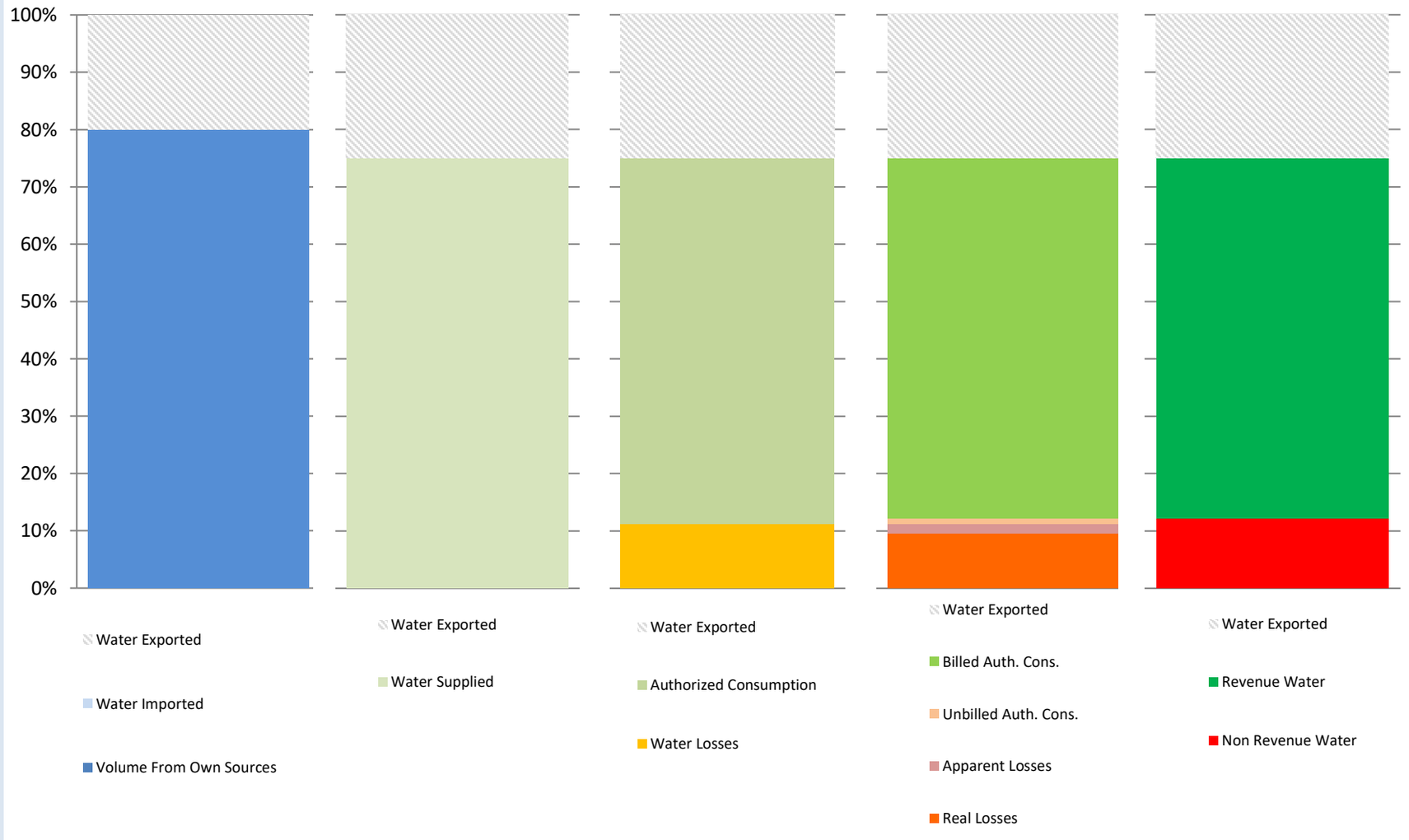
WAS v5.0

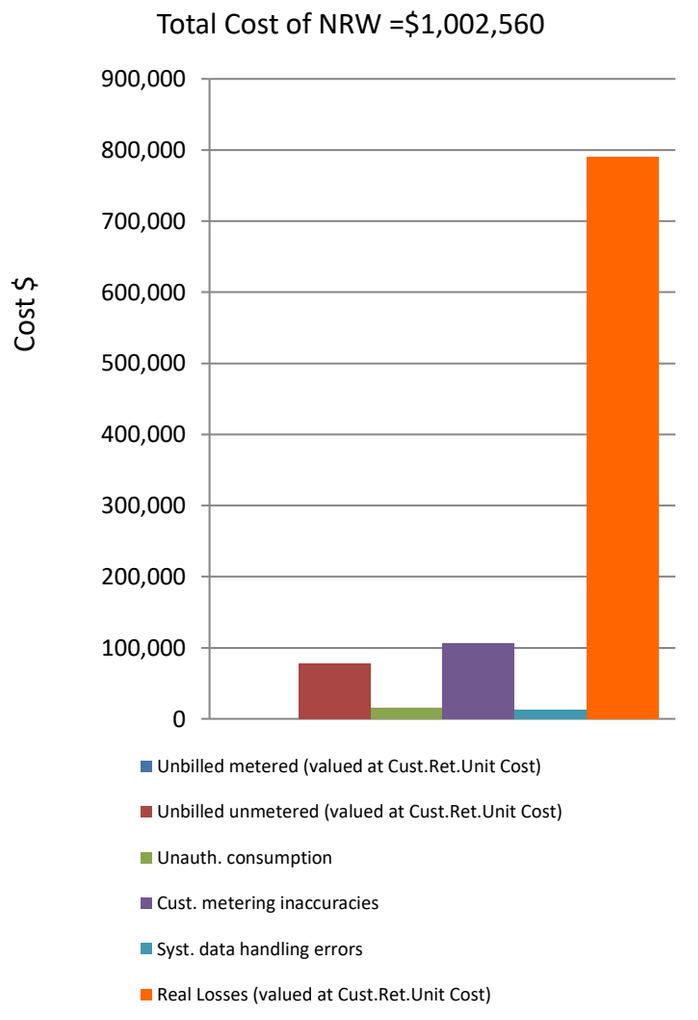
The graphic below is a visual representation of the Water Balance with bar heights propotional to the volume of the audit components

Water Audit Report for:	**Los Alamos County (NM3500115)**	
Reporting Year:	**2023**	**1/2023 - 12/2023**
Data Validity Score:	**72**	

○ Show me the VOLUME of Non-Revenue Water

◉ Show me the COST of Non-Revenue Water





The grading assigned to each audit component and the corresponding recommended improvements and actions are highlighted in yellow. Audit accuracy is likely to be improved by prioritizing those items shown in red

Grading >>>	n/a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
WATER SUPPLIED											
Volume from own sources:	Select this grading only if the water utility purchases/imports all of its water resources (i.e. has no sources of its own)	Less than 25% of water production sources are metered, remaining sources are estimated. No regular meter accuracy testing or electronic calibration conducted.	25% - 50% of treated water production sources are metered; other sources estimated. No regular meter accuracy testing or electronic calibration conducted.	Conditions between 2 and 4	50% - 75% of treated water production sources are metered, other sources estimated. Occasional meter accuracy testing or electronic calibration conducted.	Conditions between 4 and 6	At least 75% of treated water production sources are metered, or at least 90% of the source flow is derived from metered sources. Meter accuracy testing and/or electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted annually. Less than 25% of tested meters are found outside of +/- 6% accuracy.	Conditions between 6 and 8	100% of treated water production sources are metered, meter accuracy testing and electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted annually, less than 10% of meters are found outside of +/- 6% accuracy	Conditions between 8 and 10	100% of treated water production sources are metered, meter accuracy testing and electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted semi-annually, with less than 10% found outside of +/- 3% accuracy. Procedures are reviewed by a third party knowledgeable in the M36 methodology.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Volume from own Sources" component:		to qualify for 2: Organize and launch efforts to collect data for determining volume from own sources	to qualify for 4: Locate all water production sources on maps and in the field, launch meter accuracy testing for existing meters, begin to install meters on unmetered water production sources and replace any obsolete/defective meters.		to qualify for 6: Formalize annual meter accuracy testing for all source meters; specify the frequency of testing. Complete installation of meters on unmetered water production sources and complete replacement of all obsolete/defective meters.		to qualify for 8: Conduct annual meter accuracy testing and calibration of related instrumentation on all meter installations on a regular basis. Complete project to install new, or replace defective existing, meters so that entire production meter population is metered. Repair or replace meters outside of +/- 6% accuracy.		to qualify for 10: Maintain annual meter accuracy testing and calibration of related instrumentation for all meter installations. Repair or replace meters outside of +/- 3% accuracy. Investigate new meter technology; pilot one or more replacements with innovative meters in attempt to further improve meter accuracy.		to maintain 10: Standardize meter accuracy test frequency to semi-annual, or more frequent, for all meters. Repair or replace meters outside of +/- 3% accuracy. Continually investigate/pilot improving metering technology.
Volume from own sources master meter and supply error adjustment:	Select n/a only if the water utility fails to have meters on its sources of supply	Inventory information on meters and paper records of measured volumes exist but are incomplete and/or in a very crude condition; data error cannot be determined	No automatic datalogging of production volumes; daily readings are scribed on paper records without any accountability controls. Flows are not balanced across the water distribution system: tank/storage elevation changes are not employed in calculating the "Volume from own sources" component and archived flow data is adjusted only when grossly evident data error occurs.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Production meter data is logged automatically in electronic format and reviewed at least on a monthly basis with necessary corrections implemented. "Volume from own sources" tabulations include estimate of daily changes in tanks/storage facilities. Meter data is adjusted when gross data errors occur, or occasional meter testing deems this necessary.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Hourly production meter data logged automatically & reviewed on at least a weekly basis. Data is adjusted to correct gross error when meter/instrumentation equipment malfunction is detected; and/or error is confirmed by meter accuracy testing. Tank/storage facility elevation changes are automatically used in calculating a balanced "Volume from own sources" component, and data gaps in the archived data are corrected on at least a weekly basis.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Continuous production meter data is logged automatically & reviewed each business day. Data is adjusted to correct gross error from detected meter/instrumentation equipment malfunction and/or results of meter accuracy testing. Tank/storage facility elevation changes are automatically used in "Volume from own sources" tabulations and data gaps in the archived data are corrected on a daily basis.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Computerized system (SCADA or similar) automatically balances flows from all sources and storages; results are reviewed each business day. Tight accountability controls ensure that all data gaps that occur in the archived flow data are quickly detected and corrected. Regular calibrations between SCADA and sources meters ensures minimal data transfer error.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Master meter and supply error adjustment" component:		to qualify for 2: Develop a plan to restructure recordkeeping system to capture all flow data; set a procedure to review flow data on a daily basis to detect input errors. Obtain more reliable information about existing meters by conducting field inspections of meters and related instrumentation, and obtaining manufacturer literature.	to qualify for 4: Install automatic datalogging equipment on production meters. Complete installation of level instrumentation at all tanks/storage facilities and include tank level data in automatic calculation routine in a computerized system. Construct a computerized listing or spreadsheet to archive input volumes, tank/storage volume changes and import/export flows in order to determine the composite "Water Supplied" volume for the distribution system. Set a procedure to review this data on a monthly basis to detect gross anomalies and data gaps.		to qualify for 6: Refine computerized data collection and archive to include hourly production meter data that is reviewed at least on a weekly basis to detect specific data anomalies and gaps. Use daily net storage change to balance flows in calculating "Water Supplied" volume. Necessary corrections to data errors are implemented on a weekly basis.		to qualify for 8: Ensure that all flow data is collected and archived on at least an hourly basis. All data is reviewed and detected errors corrected each business day. Tank/storage levels variations are employed in calculating balanced "Water Supplied" component. Adjust production meter data for gross error and inaccuracy confirmed by testing.		to qualify for 10: Link all production and tank/storage facility elevation change data to a Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) System, or similar computerized monitoring/control system, and establish automatic flow balancing algorithm and regularly calibrate between SCADA and source meters. Data is reviewed and corrected each business day.		to maintain 10: Monitor meter innovations for development of more accurate and less expensive flowmeters. Continue to replace or repair meters as they perform outside of desired accuracy limits. Stay abreast of new and more accurate water level instruments to better record tank/storage levels and archive the variations in storage volume. Keep current with SCADA and data management systems to ensure that archived data is well-managed and error free.
Water Imported:	Select n/a if the water utility's supply is exclusively from its own water resources (no bulk purchased/ imported water)	Less than 25% of imported water sources are metered, remaining sources are estimated. No regular meter accuracy testing.	25% - 50% of imported water sources are metered; other sources estimated. No regular meter accuracy testing.	Conditions between 2 and 4	50% - 75% of imported water sources are metered, other sources estimated. Occasional meter accuracy testing conducted.	Conditions between 4 and 6	At least 75% of imported water sources are metered, meter accuracy testing and/or electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted annually for all meter installations. Less than 25% of tested meters are found outside of +/- 6% accuracy.	Conditions between 6 and 8	100% of imported water sources are metered, meter accuracy testing and electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted annually, less than 10% of meters are found outside of +/- 6% accuracy	Conditions between 8 and 10	100% of imported water sources are metered, meter accuracy testing and electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted semi-annually for all meter installations, with less than 10% of accuracy tests found outside of +/- 3% accuracy.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Water Imported Volume" component: (*Note: usually the water supplier selling the water - "the Exporter" - to the utility being audited is responsible to maintain the metering installation measuring the imported volume. The utility should coordinate carefully with the Exporter to ensure that adequate meter upkeep takes place and an accurate measure of the Water Imported volume is quantified.*)		to qualify for 2: Review bulk water purchase agreements with partner suppliers; confirm requirements for use and maintenance of accurate metering. Identify needs for new or replacement meters with goal to meter all imported water sources.	To qualify for 4: Locate all imported water sources on maps and in the field, launch meter accuracy testing for existing meters, begin to install meters on unmetered imported water interconnections and replace obsolete/defective meters.		to qualify for 6: Formalize annual meter accuracy testing for all imported water meters, planning for both regular meter accuracy testing and calibration of the related instrumentation. Continue installation of meters on unmetered imported water interconnections and replacement of obsolete/defective meters.		to qualify for 8: Complete project to install new, or replace defective, meters on all imported water interconnections. Maintain annual meter accuracy testing for all imported water meters and conduct calibration of related instrumentation at least annually. Repair or replace meters outside of +/- 6% accuracy.		to qualify for 10: Conduct meter accuracy testing for all meters on a semi-annual basis, along with calibration of all related instrumentation. Repair or replace meters outside of +/- 3% accuracy. Investigate new meter technology; pilot one or more replacements with innovative meters in attempt to improve meter accuracy.		to maintain 10: Standardize meter accuracy test frequency to semi-annual, or more frequent, for all meters. Continue to conduct calibration of related instrumentation on a semi-annual basis. Repair or replace meters outside of +/- 3% accuracy. Continually investigate/pilot improving metering technology.

Grading >>>	n/a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Water imported master meter and supply error adjustment:	Select n/a if the Imported water supply is unmetered, with Imported water quantities estimated on the billing invoices sent by the Exporter to the purchasing Utility.	Inventory information on imported meters and paper records of measured volumes exist but are incomplete and/or in a very crude condition; data error cannot be determined Written agreement(s) with water Exporter(s) are missing or written in vague language concerning meter management and testing.	No automatic datalogging of imported supply volumes; daily readings are scribed on paper records without any accountability controls to confirm data accuracy and the absence of errors and data gaps in recorded volumes. Written agreement requires meter accuracy testing but is vague on the details of how and who conducts the testing.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Imported supply metered flow data is logged automatically in electronic format and reviewed at least on a monthly basis by the Exporter with necessary corrections implemented. Meter data is adjusted by the Exporter when gross data errors are detected. A coherent data trail exists for this process to protect both the selling and the purchasing Utility. Written agreement exists and clearly states requirements and roles for meter accuracy testing and data management.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Hourly Imported supply metered data is logged automatically & reviewed on at least a weekly basis by the Exporter. Data is adjusted to correct gross error when meter/instrumentation equipment malfunction is detected; and to correct for error confirmed by meter accuracy testing. Any data gaps in the archived data are detected and corrected during the weekly review. A coherent data trail exists for this process to protect both the selling and the purchasing Utility.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Continuous Imported supply metered flow data is logged automatically & reviewed each business day by the Importer. Data is adjusted to correct gross error from detected meter/instrumentation equipment malfunction and/or results of meter accuracy testing. Any data errors/gaps are detected and corrected on a daily basis. A data trail exists for the process to protect both the selling and the purchasing Utility.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Computerized system (SCADA or similar) automatically records data which is reviewed each business day by the Exporter. Tight accountability controls ensure that all error/data gaps that occur in the archived flow data are quickly detected and corrected. A reliable data trail exists and contract provisions for meter testing and data management are reviewed by the selling and purchasing Utility at least once every five years.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Water imported master meter and supply error adjustment" component:		to qualify for 2: Develop a plan to restructure recordkeeping system to capture all flow data; set a procedure to review flow data on a daily basis to detect input errors. Obtain more reliable information about existing meters by conducting field inspections of meters and related instrumentation, and obtaining manufacturer literature. Review the written agreement between the selling and purchasing Utility.	to qualify for 4: Install automatic datalogging equipment on Imported supply meters. Set a procedure to review this data on a monthly basis to detect gross anomalies and data gaps. Launch discussions with the Exporters to jointly review terms of the written agreements regarding meter accuracy testing and data management; revise the terms as necessary.		to qualify for 6: Refine computerized data collection and archive to include hourly Imported supply metered flow data that is reviewed at least on a weekly basis to detect specific data anomalies and gaps. Make necessary corrections to errors/data errors on a weekly basis.		to qualify for 8: Ensure that all Imported supply metered flow data is collected and archived on at least an hourly basis. All data is reviewed and errors/data gaps are corrected each business day.		to qualify for 10: Conduct accountability checks to confirm that all Imported supply metered data is reviewed and corrected each business day by the Exporter. Results of all meter accuracy tests and data corrections should be available for sharing between the Exporter and the purchasing Utility. Establish a schedule for a regular review and updating of the contractual language in the written agreement between the selling and the purchasing Utility; at least every five years.		to maintain 10: Monitor meter innovations for development of more accurate and less expensive flowmeters; work with the Exporter to help identify meter replacement needs. Keep communication lines with Exporters open and maintain productive relations. Keep the written agreement current with clear and explicit language that meets the ongoing needs of all parties.
Water Exported:	Select n/a if the water utility sells no bulk water to neighboring water utilities (no exported water sales)	Less than 25% of exported water sources are metered, remaining sources are estimated. No regular meter accuracy testing.	25% - 50% of exported water sources are metered; other sources estimated. No regular meter accuracy testing.	Conditions between 2 and 4	50% - 75% of exported water sources are metered, other sources estimated. Occasional meter accuracy testing conducted.	Conditions between 4 and 6	At least 75% of exported water sources are metered, meter accuracy testing and/or electronic calibration conducted annually. Less than 25% of tested meters are found outside of +/- 6% accuracy.	Conditions between 6 and 8	100% of exported water sources are metered, meter accuracy testing and electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted annually, less than 10% of meters are found outside of +/- 6% accuracy	Conditions between 8 and 10	100% of exported water sources are metered, meter accuracy testing and electronic calibration of related instrumentation is conducted semi-annually for all meter installations, with less than 10% of accuracy tests found outside of +/- 3% accuracy.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Water Exported Volume" component: (*Note: usually, if the water utility being audited sells (Exports) water to a neighboring purchasing Utility, it is the responsibility of the utility exporting the water to maintain the metering installation measuring the Exported volume. The utility exporting the water should ensure that adequate meter upkeep takes place and an accurate measure of the Water Exported volume is quantified.*)		to qualify for 2: Review bulk water sales agreements with purchasing utilities; confirm requirements for use & upkeep of accurate metering. Identify needs to install new, or replace defective meters as needed.	To qualify for 4: Locate all exported water sources on maps and in field, launch meter accuracy testing for existing meters, begin to install meters on unmetered exported water interconnections and replace obsolete/defective meters		to qualify for 6: Formalize annual meter accuracy testing for all exported water meters. Continue installation of meters on unmetered exported water interconnections and replacement of obsolete/defective meters.		to qualify for 8: Complete project to install new, or replace defective, meters on all exported water interconnections. Maintain annual meter accuracy testing for all exported water meters. Repair or replace meters outside of +/- 6% accuracy.		to qualify for 10: Maintain annual meter accuracy testing for all meters. Repair or replace meters outside of +/- 3% accuracy. Investigate new meter technology; pilot one or more replacements with innovative meters in attempt to improve meter accuracy.		to maintain 10: Standardize meter accuracy test frequency to semi-annual, or more frequent, for all meters. Repair or replace meters outside of +/- 3% accuracy. Continually investigate/pilot improving metering technology.
Water exported master meter and supply error adjustment:	Select n/a only if the water utility fails to have meters on its exported supply interconnections.	Inventory information on exported meters and paper records of measured volumes exist but are incomplete and/or in a very crude condition; data error cannot be determined Written agreement(s) with the utility purchasing the water are missing or written in vague language concerning meter management and testing.	No automatic datalogging of exported supply volumes; daily readings are scribed on paper records without any accountability controls to confirm data accuracy and the absence of errors and data gaps in recorded volumes. Written agreement requires meter accuracy testing but is vague on the details of how and who conducts the testing.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Exported metered flow data is logged automatically in electronic format and reviewed at least on a monthly basis, with necessary corrections implemented. Meter data is adjusted by the utility selling (exporting) the water when gross data errors are detected. A coherent data trail exists for this process to protect both the utility exporting the water and the purchasing Utility. Written agreement exists and clearly states requirements and roles for meter accuracy testing and data management.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Hourly exported supply metered data is logged automatically & reviewed on at least a weekly basis by the utility selling the water. Data is adjusted to correct gross error when meter/instrumentation equipment malfunction is detected; and to correct for error found by meter accuracy testing. Any data gaps in the archived data are detected and corrected during the weekly review. A coherent data trail exists for this process to protect both the selling (exporting) utility and the purchasing Utility.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Continuous exported supply metered flow data is logged automatically & reviewed each business day by the utility selling (exporting) the water. Data is adjusted to correct gross error from detected meter/instrumentation equipment malfunction and any error confirmed by meter accuracy testing. Any data errors/gaps are detected and corrected on a daily basis. A data trail exists for the process to protect both the selling (exporting) Utility and the purchasing Utility.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Computerized system (SCADA or similar) automatically records data which is reviewed each business day by the utility selling (exporting) the water. Tight accountability controls ensure that all error/data gaps that occur in the archived flow data are quickly detected and corrected. A reliable data trail exists and contract provisions for meter testing and data management are reviewed by the selling Utility and purchasing Utility at least once every five years.

Grading >>>	n/a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Water exported master meter and supply error adjustment" component:		to qualify for 2: Develop a plan to restructure recordkeeping system to capture all flow data; set a procedure to review flow data on a daily basis to detect input errors. Obtain more reliable information about existing meters by conducting field inspections of meters and related instrumentation, and obtaining manufacturer literature. Review the written agreement between the utility selling (exporting) the water and the purchasing Utility.	to qualify for 4: Install automatic datalogging equipment on exported supply meters. Set a procedure to review this data on a monthly basis to detect gross anomalies and data gaps. Launch discussions with the purchasing utilities to jointly review terms of the written agreements regarding meter accuracy testing and data management; revise the terms as necessary.		to qualify for 6: Refine computerized data collection and archive to include hourly exported supply metered flow data that is reviewed at least on a weekly basis to detect specific data anomalies and gaps. Make necessary corrections to errors/data errors on a weekly basis.		to qualify for 8: Ensure that all exported metered flow data is collected and archived on at least an hourly basis. All data is reviewed and errors/data gaps are corrected each business day.		to qualify for 10: Conduct accountability checks to confirm that all exported metered flow data is reviewed and corrected each business day by the utility selling the water. Results of all meter accuracy tests and data corrections should be available for sharing between the utility and the purchasing Utility. Establish a schedule for a regular review and updating of the contractual language in the written agreements with the purchasing utilities; at least every five years.		to maintain 10: Monitor meter innovations for development of more accurate and less expensive flowmeters; work with the purchasing utilities to help identify meter replacement needs. Keep communication lines with the purchasing utilities open and maintain productive relations. Keep the written agreement current with clear and explicit language that meets the ongoing needs of all parties.
AUTHORIZED CONSUMPTION											
Billed metered:	n/a (not applicable). Select n/a only if the entire customer population is not metered and is billed for water service on a flat or fixed rate basis. In such a case the volume entered must be zero.	Less than 50% of customers with volume-based billings from meter readings; flat or fixed rate billing exists for the majority of the customer population	At least 50% of customers with volume-based billing from meter reads; flat rate billing for others. Manual meter reading is conducted, with less than 50% meter read success rate, remaining accounts' consumption is estimated. Limited meter records, no regular meter testing or replacement. Billing data maintained on paper records, with no auditing.	Conditions between 2 and 4	At least 75% of customers with volume-based, billing from meter reads; flat or fixed rate billing for remaining accounts. Manual meter reading is conducted with at least 50% meter read success rate; consumption for accounts with failed reads is estimated. Purchase records verify age of customer meters; only very limited meter accuracy testing is conducted. Customer meters are replaced only upon complete failure. Computerized billing records exist, but only sporadic internal auditing conducted.	Conditions between 4 and 6	At least 90% of customers with volume-based billing from meter reads; consumption for remaining accounts is estimated. Manual customer meter reading gives at least 80% customer meter reading success rate; consumption for accounts with failed reads is estimated. Good customer meter records exist, but only limited meter accuracy testing is conducted. Regular replacement is conducted for the oldest meters. Computerized billing records exist with annual auditing of summary statistics conducted by utility personnel.	Conditions between 6 and 8	At least 97% of customers exist with volume-based billing from meter reads. At least 90% customer meter reading success rate; or at least 80% read success rate with planning and budgeting for trials of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) or Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) in one or more pilot areas. Good customer meter records. Regular meter accuracy testing guides replacement of statistically significant number of meters each year. Routine auditing of computerized billing records for global and detailed statistics occurs annually by utility personnel, and is verified by third party at least once every five years.	Conditions between 8 and 10	At least 99% of customers exist with volume-based billing from meter reads. At least 95% customer meter reading success rate; or minimum 80% meter reading success rate, with Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) or Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) trials underway. Statistically significant customer meter testing and replacement program in place on a continuous basis. Computerized billing with routine, detailed auditing, including field investigation of representative sample of accounts undertaken annually by utility personnel. Audit is conducted by third party auditors at least once every three years.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Billed Metered Consumption" component:	If n/a is selected because the customer meter population is unmetered, consider establishing a new policy to meter the customer population and employ water rates based upon metered volumes.	to qualify for 2: Conduct investigations or trials of customer meters to select appropriate meter models. Budget funding for meter installations. Investigate volume based water rate structures.	to qualify for 4: Purchase and install meters on unmetered accounts. Implement policies to improve meter reading success. Catalog meter information during meter read visits to identify age/model of existing meters. Test a minimal number of meters for accuracy. Install computerized billing system.		to qualify for 6: Purchase and install meters on unmetered accounts. Eliminate flat fee billing and establish appropriate water rate structure based upon measured consumption. Continue to achieve verifiable success in removing manual meter reading barriers. Expand meter accuracy testing. Launch regular meter replacement program. Launch a program of annual auditing of global billing statistics by utility personnel.		to qualify for 8: Purchase and install meters on unmetered accounts. If customer meter reading success rate is less than 97%, assess cost-effectiveness of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) or Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system for portion or entire system; or otherwise achieve ongoing improvements in manual meter reading success rate to 97% or higher. Refine meter accuracy testing program. Set meter replacement goals based upon accuracy test results. Implement annual auditing of detailed billing records by utility personnel and implement third party auditing at least once every five years.		to qualify for 10: Purchase and install meters on unmetered accounts. Launch Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) or Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system trials if manual meter reading success rate of at least 99% is not achieved within a five-year program. Continue meter accuracy testing program. Conduct planning and budgeting for large scale meter replacement based upon meter life cycle analysis using cumulative flow target. Continue annual detailed billing data auditing by utility personnel and conduct third party auditing at least once every three years.		to maintain 10: Continue annual internal billing data auditing, and third party auditing at least every three years. Continue customer meter accuracy testing to ensure that accurate customer meter readings are obtained and entered as the basis for volume based billing. Stay abreast of improvements in Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and information management. Plan and budget for justified upgrades in metering, meter reading and billing data management to maintain very high accuracy in customer metering and billing.
Billed unmetered:	Select n/a if it is the policy of the water utility to meter all customer connections and it has been confirmed by detailed auditing that all customers do indeed have a water meter; i.e. no intentionally unmetered accounts exist	Water utility policy does not require customer metering; flat or fixed fee billing is employed. No data is collected on customer consumption. The only estimates of customer population consumption available are derived from data estimation methods using average fixture count multiplied by number of connections, or similar approach.	Water utility policy does not require customer metering; flat or fixed fee billing is employed. Some metered accounts exist in parts of the system (pilot areas or District Metered Areas) with consumption read periodically or recorded on portable dataloggers over one, three, or seven day periods. Data from these sample meters are used to infer consumption for the total customer population. Site specific estimation methods are used for unusual buildings/water uses.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Water utility policy does require metering and volume based billing in general. However, a liberal amount of exemptions and a lack of clearly written and communicated procedures result in up to 20% of billed accounts believed to be unmetered by exemption; or the water utility is in transition to becoming fully metered, and a large number of customers remain unmetered. A rough estimate of the annual consumption for all unmetered accounts is included in the annual water audit, with no inspection of individual unmetered accounts.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Water utility policy does require metering and volume based billing but established exemptions exist for a portion of accounts such as municipal buildings. As many as 15% of billed accounts are unmetered due to this exemption or meter installation difficulties. Only a group estimate of annual consumption for all unmetered accounts is included in the annual water audit, with no inspection of individual unmetered accounts.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Water utility policy does require metering and volume based billing for all customer accounts. However, less than 5% of billed accounts remain unmetered because meter installation is hindered by unusual circumstances. The goal is to minimize the number of unmetered accounts. Reliable estimates of consumption are obtained for these unmetered accounts via site specific estimation methods.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Water utility policy does require metering and volume based billing for all customer accounts. Less than 2% of billed accounts are unmetered and exist because meter installation is hindered by unusual circumstances. The goal exists to minimize the number of unmetered accounts to the extent that is economical. Reliable estimates of consumption are obtained at these accounts via site specific estimation methods.

Grading >>>	n/a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Unauthorized consumption:		Extent of unauthorized consumption is unknown due to unclear policies and poor recordkeeping. Total unauthorized consumption is guesstimated.	Unauthorized consumption is a known occurrence, but its extent is a mystery. There are no requirements to document observed events, but periodic field reports capture some of these occurrences. Total unauthorized consumption is approximated from this limited data.	conditions between 2 and 4	Procedures exist to document some unauthorized consumption such as observed unauthorized fire hydrant openings. Use formulae to quantify this consumption (time running multiplied typical flowrate, multiplied by number of events).	Default value of 0.25% of volume of water supplied is employed	Coherent policies exist for some forms of unauthorized consumption (more than simply fire hydrant misuse) but others await closer evaluation. Reasonable surveillance and recordkeeping exist for occurrences that fall under the policy. Volumes quantified by inference from these records.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Clear policies and good auditable recordkeeping exist for certain events (ex: tampering with water meters, illegal bypasses of customer meters); but other occurrences have limited oversight. Total consumption is a combination of volumes from formulae (time x typical flow) and subjective estimates of unconfirmed consumption.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Clear policies exist to identify all known unauthorized uses of water. Staff and procedures exist to provide enforcement of policies and detect violations. Each occurrence is recorded and quantified via formulae (estimated time running multiplied by typical flow) or similar methods. All records and calculations should exist in a form that can be audited by a third party.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Unauthorized Consumption" component:		<u>to qualify for 5</u>: Use accepted default of 0.25% of volume of water supplied. <u>to qualify for 2</u>: Review utility policy regarding what water uses are considered unauthorized, and consider tracking a small sample of one such occurrence (ex: unauthorized fire hydrant openings)	<u>to qualify for 5</u>: Use accepted default of 0.25% of system input volume <u>to qualify for 4</u>: Review utility policy regarding what water uses are considered unauthorized, and consider tracking a small sample of one such occurrence (ex: unauthorized fire hydrant openings)		<u>to qualify for 5</u>: Utilize accepted default value of 0.25% of volume of water supplied as an expedient means to gain a reasonable quantification of all such use. This is particularly appropriate for water utilities who are in the early stages of the water auditing process.	<u>to qualify for 6 or greater</u>: Finalize policy updates to clearly identify the types of water consumption that are authorized from those usages that fall outside of this policy and are, therefore, unauthorized. Begin to conduct regular field checks. Proceed if the top-down audit already exists and/or a great volume of such use is suspected.	<u>to quality for 8</u>: Assess water utility policies to ensure that all known occurrences of unauthorized consumption are outlawed, and that appropriate penalties are prescribed. Create written procedures for detection and documentation of various occurrences of unauthorized consumption as they are uncovered.		<u>to qualify for 10</u>: Refine written procedures and assign staff to seek out likely occurrences of unauthorized consumption. Explore new locking devices, monitors and other technologies designed to detect and thwart unauthorized consumption.		<u>to maintain 10</u>: Continue to refine policy and procedures to eliminate any loopholes that allow or tacitly encourage unauthorized consumption. Continue to be vigilant in detection, documentation and enforcement efforts.
Customer metering inaccuracies:	select n/a only if the entire customer population is unmetered. In such a case the volume entered must be zero.	Customer meters exist, but with unorganized paper records on meters; no meter accuracy testing or meter replacement program for any size of retail meter. Metering workflow is driven chaotically with no proactive management. Loss volume due to aggregate meter inaccuracy is guesstimated.	Poor recordkeeping and meter oversight is recognized by water utility management who has allotted staff and funding resources to organize improved recordkeeping and start meter accuracy testing. Existing paper records gathered and organized to provide cursory disposition of meter population. Customer meters are tested for accuracy only upon customer request.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Reliable recordkeeping exists; meter information is improving as meters are replaced. Meter accuracy testing is conducted annually for a small number of meters (more than just customer requests, but less than 1% of inventory). A limited number of the oldest meters are replaced each year. Inaccuracy volume is largely an estimate, but refined based upon limited testing data.	Conditions between 4 and 6	A reliable electronic recordkeeping system for meters exists. The meter population includes a mix of new high performing meters and dated meters with suspect accuracy. Routine, but limited, meter accuracy testing and meter replacement occur. Inaccuracy volume is quantified using a mix of reliable and less certain data.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Ongoing meter replacement and accuracy testing result in highly accurate customer meter population. Testing is conducted on samples of meters of varying age and accumulated volume of throughput to determine optimum replacement time for various types of meters.	Ongoing meter replacement and accuracy testing result in highly accurate customer meter population. Statistically significant number of meters are tested in audit year. This testing is conducted on samples of meters of varying age and accumulated volume of throughput to determine optimum replacement time for these meters.	Good records of all active customer meters exist and include as a minimum: meter number, account number/location, type, size and manufacturer. Ongoing meter replacement occurs according to a targeted and justified basis. Regular meter accuracy testing gives a reliable measure of composite inaccuracy volume for the customer meter population. New metering technology is embraced to keep overall accuracy improving. Procedures are reviewed by a third party knowledgeable in the M36 methodology.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Customer meter inaccuracy volume" component:	If n/a is selected because the customer meter population is unmetered, consider establishing a new policy to meter the customer population and employ water rates based upon metered volumes.	<u>to qualify for 2</u>: Gather available meter purchase records. Conduct testing on a small number of meters believed to be the most inaccurate. Review staffing needs of the metering group and budget for necessary resources to better organize meter management.	<u>to qualify for 4</u>: Implement a reliable record keeping system for customer meter histories, preferably using electronic methods typically linked to, or part of, the Customer Billing System or Customer Information System. Expand meter accuracy testing to a larger group of meters.		<u>to qualify for 6</u>: Standardize the procedures for meter recordkeeping within an electronic information system. Accelerate meter accuracy testing and meter replacements guided by testing results.		<u>to qualify for 8</u>: Expand annual meter accuracy testing to evaluate a statistically significant number of meter makes/models. Expand meter replacement program to replace statistically significant number of poor performing meters each year.		<u>to qualify for 9</u>: Continue efforts to manage meter population with reliable recordkeeping. Test a statistically significant number of meters each year and analyze test results in an ongoing manner to serve as a basis for a target meter replacement strategy based upon accumulated volume throughput.	<u>to qualify for 10</u>: Continue efforts to manage meter population with reliable recordkeeping, meter testing and replacement. Evaluate new meter types and install one or more types in 5-10 customer accounts each year in order to pilot improving metering technology.	<u>to maintain 10</u>: Increase the number of meters tested and replaced as justified by meter accuracy test data. Continually monitor development of new metering technology and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to grasp opportunities for greater accuracy in metering of water flow and management of customer consumption data.

Grading >>>	n/a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Systematic Data Handling Errors:	Note: all water utilities incur some amount of this error. Even in water utilities with unmetered customer populations and fixed rate billing, errors occur in annual billing tabulations. Enter a positive value for the volume and select a grading.	Policies and procedures for activation of new customer water billing accounts are vague and lack accountability. Billing data is maintained on paper records which are not well organized. No auditing is conducted to confirm billing data handling efficiency. An unknown number of customers escape routine billing due to lack of billing process oversight.	Policy and procedures for activation of new customer accounts and oversight of billing records exist but need refinement. Billing data is maintained on paper records or insufficiently capable electronic database. Only periodic unstructured auditing work is conducted to confirm billing data handling efficiency. The volume of unbilled water due to billing lapses is a guess.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Policy and procedures for new account activation and oversight of billing operations exist but needs refinement. Computerized billing system exists, but is dated or lacks needed functionality. Periodic, limited internal audits conducted and confirm with approximate accuracy the consumption volumes lost to billing lapses.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Policy and procedures for new account activation and oversight of billing operations is adequate and reviewed periodically. Computerized billing system is in use with basic reporting available. Any effect of billing adjustments on measured consumption volumes is well understood. Internal checks of billing data error conducted annually. Reasonably accurate quantification of consumption volume lost to billing lapses is obtained.	Conditions between 6 and 8	New account activation and billing operations policy and procedures are reviewed at least biannually. Computerized billing system includes an array of reports to confirm billing data and system functionality. Checks are conducted routinely to flag and explain zero consumption accounts. Annual internal checks conducted with third party audit conducted at least once every five years. Accountability checks flag billing lapses. Consumption lost to billing lapses is well quantified and reducing year-by-year.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Sound written policy and procedures exist for new account activation and oversight of customer billing operations. Robust computerized billing system gives high functionality and reporting capabilities which are utilized, analyzed and the results reported each billing cycle. Assessment of policy and data handling errors are conducted internally and audited by third party at least once every three years, ensuring consumption lost to billing lapses is minimized and detected as it occurs.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Systematic Data Handling Error volume" component:		<u>to qualify for 2</u>: Draft written policy and procedures for activating new water billing accounts and oversight of billing operations. Investigate and budget for computerized customer billing system. Conduct initial audit of billing records by flow-charting the basic business processes of the customer account/billing function.	<u>to qualify for 4</u>: Finalize written policy and procedures for activation of new billing accounts and overall billing operations management. Implement a computerized customer billing system. Conduct initial audit of billing records as part of this process.		<u>to qualify for 6</u>: Refine new account activation and billing operations procedures and ensure consistency with the utility policy regarding billing, and minimize opportunity for missed billings. Upgrade or replace customer billing system for needed functionality - ensure that billing adjustments don't corrupt the value of consumption volumes. Procedurize internal annual audit process.		<u>to qualify for 8</u>: Formalize regular review of new account activation process and general billing practices. Enhance reporting capability of computerized billing system. Formalize regular auditing process to reveal scope of data handling error. Plan for periodic third party audit to occur at least once every five years.		<u>to qualify for 10</u>: Close policy/procedure loopholes that allow some customer accounts to go unbilled, or data handling errors to exist. Ensure that billing system reports are utilized, analyzed and reported every billing cycle. Ensure that internal and third party audits are conducted at least once every three years.		<u>to maintain 10</u>: Stay abreast of customer information management developments and innovations. Monitor developments of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and integrate technology to ensure that customer endpoint information is well-monitored and errors/lapses are at an economic minimum.
SYSTEM DATA											
Length of mains:		Poorly assembled and maintained paper as-built records of existing water main installations makes accurate determination of system pipe length impossible. Length of mains is guesstimated.	Paper records in poor or uncertain condition (no annual tracking of installations & abandonments). Poor procedures to ensure that new water mains installed by developers are accurately documented.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Sound written policy and procedures exist for documenting new water main installations, but gaps in management result in a uncertain degree of error in tabulation of mains length.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Sound written policy and procedures exist for permitting and commissioning new water mains. Highly accurate paper records with regular field validation; or electronic records and asset management system in good condition. Includes system backup.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Sound written policy and procedures exist for permitting and commissioning new water mains. Electronic recordkeeping such as a Geographical Information System (GIS) and asset management system are used to store and manage data.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Sound written policy exists for managing water mains extensions and replacements. Geographic Information System (GIS) data and asset management database agree and random field validation proves truth of databases. Records of annual field validation should be available for review.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Length of Water Mains" component:		<u>to qualify for 2</u>: Assign personnel to inventory current as-built records and compare with customer billing system records and highway plans in order to verify poorly documented pipelines. Assemble policy documents regarding permitting and documentation of water main installations by the utility and building developers; identify gaps in procedures that result in poor documentation of new water main installations.	<u>to qualify for 4</u>: Complete inventory of paper records of water main installations for several years prior to audit year. Review policy and procedures for commissioning and documenting new water main installation.		<u>to qualify for 6</u>: Finalize updates/improvements to written policy and procedures for permitting/commissioning new main installations. Confirm inventory of records for five years prior to audit year; correct any errors or omissions.		<u>to qualify for 8</u>: Launch random field checks of limited number of locations. Convert to electronic database such as a Geographic Information System (GIS) with backup as justified. Develop written policy and procedures.		<u>to qualify for 10</u>: Link Geographic Information System (GIS) and asset management databases, conduct field verification of data. Record field verification information at least annually.		<u>to maintain 10</u>: Continue with standardization and random field validation to improve the completeness and accuracy of the system.
Number of active AND inactive service connections:		Vague permitting (of new service connections) policy and poor paper recordkeeping of customer connections/billings result in suspect determination of the number of service connections, which may be 10-15% in error from actual count.	General permitting policy exists but paper records, procedural gaps, and weak oversight result in questionable total for number of connections, which may vary 5-10% of actual count.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Written account activation policy and procedures exist, but with some gaps in performance and oversight. Computerized information management system is being brought online to replace dated paper recordkeeping system. Reasonably accurate tracking of service connection installations & abandonments; but count can be up to 5% in error from actual total.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Written new account activation and overall billing policies and procedures are adequate and reviewed periodically. Computerized information management system is in use with annual installations & abandonments totaled. Very limited field verifications and audits. Error in count of number of service connections is believed to be no more than 3%.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Policies and procedures for new account activation and overall billing operations are written, well-structured and reviewed at least biannually. Well-managed computerized information management system exists and routine, periodic field checks and internal system audits are conducted. Counts of connections are no more than 2% in error.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Sound written policy and well managed and audited procedures ensure reliable management of service connection population. Computerized information management system, Customer Billing System, and Geographic Information System (GIS) information agree; field validation proves truth of databases. Count of connections recorded as being in error is less than 1% of the entire population.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Number of Active and Inactive Service Connections" component:	**Note: The number of Service Connections does <u>not</u> include fire hydrant leads/lines connecting the hydrant to the water main**	<u>to qualify for 2</u>: Draft new policy and procedures for new account activation and overall billing operations. Research and collect paper records of installations & abandonments for several years prior to audit year.	<u>to qualify for 4</u>: Refine policy and procedures for new account activation and overall billing operations. Research computerized recordkeeping system (Customer Information System or Customer Billing System) to improve documentation format for service connections.		<u>to qualify for 6</u>: Refine procedures to ensure consistency with new account activation and overall billing policy to establish new service connections or decommission existing connections. Improve process to include all totals for at least five years prior to audit year.		<u>to qualify for 8</u>: Formalize regular review of new account activation and overall billing operations policies and procedures. Launch random field checks of limited number of locations. Develop reports and auditing mechanisms for computerized information management system.		<u>to qualify for 10</u>: Close any procedural loopholes that allow installations to go undocumented. Link computerized information management system with Geographic Information System (GIS) and formalize field inspection and information system auditing processes. Documentation of new or decommissioned service connections encounters several levels of checks and balances.		<u>to maintain 10</u>: Continue with standardization and random field validation to improve knowledge of system.
	Note: if customer water	Gradings 1-9 apply if customer properties are unmetered, if customer meters exist and are located inside the customer building premises, or if the water utility owns and is responsible for the entire service connection piping from the water main to the customer building. In any of these cases the average distance between the curb stop or boundary separating utility/customer responsibility for service connection piping, and the typical first point of use (ex: faucet) or the customer meter must be quantified. Gradings of 1-9 are used to grade the validity of the means to quantify this value. (See the "Service Connection Diagram" worksheet)									<u>Either of two conditions can be met for a grading of 10</u>:

Grading >>>	n/a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Average length of customer service line:	meters are located outside of the customer building next to the curb stop or boundary separating utility/customer responsibility, then the auditor should answer "Yes" to the question on the Reporting Worksheet asking about this. If the answer is Yes, the grading description listed under the Grading of 10(a) will be followed, with a value of zero automatically entered at a Grading of 10. See the Service Connection Diagram worksheet for a visual presentation of this distance.	Vague policy exists to define the delineation of water utility ownership and customer ownership of the service connection piping. Curb stops are perceived as the breakpoint but these have not been well-maintained or documented. Most are buried or obscured. Their location varies widely from site-to-site, and estimating this distance is arbitrary due to the unknown location of many curb stops.	Policy requires that the curb stop serves as the delineation point between water utility ownership and customer ownership of the service connection piping. The piping from the water main to the curb stop is the property of the water utility; and the piping from the curb stop to the customer building is owned by the customer. Curb stop locations are not well documented and the average distance is based upon a limited number of locations measured in the field.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Good policy requires that the curb stop serves as the delineation point between water utility ownership and customer ownership of the service connection piping. Curb stops are generally installed as needed and are reasonably documented. Their location varies widely from site-to-site, and an estimate of this distance is hindered by the availability of paper records of limited accuracy.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Clear written policy exists to define utility/customer responsibility for service connection piping. Accurate, well-maintained paper or basic electronic recordkeeping system exists. Periodic field checks confirm piping lengths for a sample of customer properties.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Clearly worded policy standardizes the location of curb stops and meters, which are inspected upon installation. Accurate and well maintained electronic records exist with periodic field checks to confirm locations of service lines, curb stops and customer meter pits. An accurate number of customer properties from the customer billing system allows for reliable averaging of this length.	Conditions between 8 and 10	a) Customer water meters exist outside of customer buildings next to the curb stop or boundary separating utility/customer responsibility for service connection piping. If so, answer "Yes" to the question on the Reporting Working asking about this condition. A value of zero and a Grading of 10 are automatically entered in the Reporting Worksheet . b). Meters exist inside customer buildings, or properties are unmetered. In either case, answer "No" to the Reporting Worksheet question on meter location, and enter a distance determined by the auditor. For a Grading of 10 this value must be a very reliable number from a Geographic Information System (GIS) and confirmed by a statistically valid number of field checks.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Average Length of Customer Service Line" component:		to qualify for 2: Research and collect paper records of service line installations. Inspect several sites in the field using pipe locators to locate curb stops. Obtain the length of this small sample of connections in this manner.	to qualify for 4: Formalize and communicate policy delineating utility/customer responsibilities for service connection piping. Assess accuracy of paper records by field inspection of a small sample of service connections using pipe locators as needed. Research the potential migration to a computerized information management system to store service connection data.		to qualify for 6: Establish coherent procedures to ensure that policy for curb stop, meter installation and documentation is followed. Gain consensus within the water utility for the establishment of a computerized information management system.		to qualify for 8: Implement an electronic means of recordkeeping, typically via a customer information system, customer billing system, or Geographic Information System (GIS). Standardize the process to conduct field checks of a limited number of locations.		to qualify for 10: Link customer information management system and Geographic Information System (GIS), standardize process for field verification of data.		to maintain 10: Continue with standardization and random field validation to improve knowledge of service connection configurations and customer meter locations.
Average operating pressure:		Available records are poorly assembled and maintained paper records of supply pump characteristics and water distribution system operating conditions. Average pressure is guesstimated based upon this information and ground elevations from crude topographical maps. Widely varying distribution system pressures due to undulating terrain, high system head loss and weak/erratic pressure controls further compromise the validity of the average pressure calculation.	Limited telemetry monitoring of scattered pumping station and water storage tank sites provides some static pressure data, which is recorded in handwritten logbooks. Pressure data is gathered at individual sites only when low pressure complaints arise. Average pressure is determined by averaging relatively crude data, and is affected by significant variation in ground elevations, system head loss and gaps in pressure controls in the distribution system.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Effective pressure controls separate different pressure zones; moderate pressure variation across the system, occasional open boundary valves are discovered that breech pressure zones. Basic telemetry monitoring of the distribution system logs pressure data electronically. Pressure data gathered by gauges or dataloggers at fire hydrants or buildings when low pressure complaints arise, and during fire flow tests and system flushing. Reliable topographical data exists. Average pressure is calculated using this mix of data.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Reliable pressure controls separate distinct pressure zones; only very occasional open boundary valves are encountered that breech pressure zones. Well-covered telemetry monitoring of the distribution system (not just pumping at source treatment plants or wells) logs extensive pressure data electronically. Pressure gathered by gauges/dataloggers at fire hydrants and buildings when low pressure complaints arise, and during fire flow tests and system flushing. Average pressure is determined by using this mix of reliable data.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Well-managed, discrete pressure zones exist with generally predictable pressure fluctuations. A current full-scale SCADA System or similar realtime monitoring system exists to monitor the water distribution system and collect data, including real time pressure readings at representative sites across the system. The average system pressure is determined from reliable monitoring system data.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Well-managed pressure districts/zones, SCADA System and hydraulic model exist to give very precise pressure data across the water distribution system. Average system pressure is reliably calculated from extensive, reliable, and cross-checked data. Calculations are reported on an annual basis as a minimum.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Average Operating Pressure" component:		to qualify for 2: Employ pressure gauging and/or datalogging equipment to obtain pressure measurements from fire hydrants. Locate accurate topographical maps of service area in order to confirm ground elevations. Research pump data sheets to find pump pressure/flow characteristics	to qualify for 4: Formalize a procedure to use pressure gauging/datalogging equipment to gather pressure data during various system events such as low pressure complaints, or operational testing. Gather pump pressure and flow data at different flow regimes. Identify faulty pressure controls (pressure reducing valves, altitude valves, partially open boundary valves) and plan to properly configure pressure zones. Make all pressure data from these efforts available to generate system-wide average pressure.		to qualify for 6: Expand the use of pressure gauging/datalogging equipment to gather scattered pressure data at a representative set of sites, based upon pressure zones or areas. Utilize pump pressure and flow data to determine supply head entering each pressure zone or district. Correct any faulty pressure controls (pressure reducing valves, altitude valves, partially open boundary valves) to ensure properly configured pressure zones. Use expanded pressure dataset from these activities to generate system-wide average pressure.		to qualify for 8: Install a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System, or similar realtime monitoring system, to monitor system parameters and control operations. Set regular calibration schedule for instrumentation to insure data accuracy. Obtain accurate topographical data and utilize pressure data gathered from field surveys to provide extensive, reliable data for pressure averaging.		to qualify for 10: Annually, obtain a system-wide average pressure value from the hydraulic model of the distribution system that has been calibrated via field measurements in the water distribution system and confirmed in comparisons with SCADA System data.		to maintain 10: Continue to refine the hydraulic model of the distribution system and consider linking it with SCADA System for real-time pressure data calibration, and averaging.

Grading >>>	n/a	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
COST DATA											
Total annual cost of operating water system:		Incomplete paper records and lack of financial accounting documentation on many operating functions makes calculation of water system operating costs a pure guesstimate	Reasonably maintained, but incomplete, paper or electronic accounting provides data to estimate the major portion of water system operating costs.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Electronic, industry-standard cost accounting system in place. However, gaps in data are known to exist, periodic internal reviews are conducted but not a structured financial audit.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Reliable electronic, industry-standard cost accounting system in place, with all pertinent water system operating costs tracked. Data audited periodically by utility personnel, but not a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).	Conditions between 6 and 8	Reliable electronic, industry-standard cost accounting system in place, with all pertinent water system operating costs tracked. Data audited at least annually by utility personnel, and at least once every three years by third-party CPA.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Reliable electronic, industry-standard cost accounting system in place, with all pertinent water system operating costs tracked. Data audited annually by utility personnel and annually also by third-party CPA.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Total Annual Cost of Operating the Water System" component:		to qualify for 2: Gather available records, institute new financial accounting procedures to regularly collect and audit basic cost data of most important operations functions.	to qualify for 4: Implement an electronic cost accounting system, structured according to accounting standards for water utilities		to qualify for 6: Establish process for periodic internal audit of water system operating costs; identify cost data gaps and institute procedures for tracking these outstanding costs.		to qualify for 8: Standardize the process to conduct routine financial audit on an annual basis. Arrange for CPA audit of financial records at least once every three years.		to qualify for 10: Standardize the process to conduct a third-party financial audit by a CPA on an annual basis.		to maintain 10: Maintain program, stay abreast of expenses subject to erratic cost changes and long-term cost trend, and budget/track costs proactively
Customer retail unit cost (applied to Apparent Losses):	Customer population unmetered, and/or only a fixed fee is charged for consumption.	Antiquated, cumbersome water rate structure is used, with periodic historic amendments that were poorly documented and implemented; resulting in classes of customers being billed inconsistent charges. The actual composite billing rate likely differs significantly from the published water rate structure, but a lack of auditing leaves the degree of error indeterminate.	Dated, cumbersome water rate structure, not always employed consistently in actual billing operations. The actual composite billing rate is known to differ from the published water rate structure, and a reasonably accurate estimate of the degree of error is determined, allowing a composite billing rate to be quantified.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Straight-forward water rate structure in use, but not updated in several years. Billing operations reliably employ the rate structure. The composite billing rate is derived from a single customer class such as residential customer accounts, neglecting the effect of different rates from varying customer classes.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Clearly written, up-to-date water rate structure is in force and is applied reliably in billing operations. Composite customer rate is determined using a weighted average residential rate using volumes of water in each rate block.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Effective water rate structure is in force and is applied reliably in billing operations. Composite customer rate is determined using a weighted average composite consumption rate, which includes residential, commercial, industrial, institutional (CII), and any other distinct customer classes within the water rate structure.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Current, effective water rate structure is in force and applied reliably in billing operations. The rate structure and calculations of composite rate - which includes residential, commercial, industrial, institutional (CII), and other distinct customer classes - are reviewed by a third party knowledgeable in the M36 methodology at least once every five years.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Customer Retail Unit Cost" component:		to qualify for 2: Formalize the process to implement water rates, including a secure documentation procedure. Create a current, formal water rate document and gain approval from all stakeholders.	to qualify for 4: Review the water rate structure and update/formalize as needed. Assess billing operations to ensure that actual billing operations incorporate the established water rate structure.		to qualify for 6: Evaluate volume of water used in each usage block by residential users. Multiply volumes by full rate structure.	Launch effort to fully meter the customer population and charge rates based upon water volumes	to qualify for 8: Evaluate volume of water used in each usage block by all classifications of users. Multiply volumes by full rate structure.		to qualify for 10: Conduct a periodic third-party audit of water used in each usage block by all classifications of users. Multiply volumes by full rate structure.		to maintain 10: Keep water rate structure current in addressing the water utility's revenue needs. Update the calculation of the customer unit rate as new rate components, customer classes, or other components are modified.
Variable production cost (applied to Real Losses):	Note: if the water utility purchases/imports its entire water supply, then enter the unit purchase cost of the bulk water supply in the Reporting Worksheet with a grading of 10	Incomplete paper records and lack of documentation on primary operating functions (electric power and treatment costs most importantly) makes calculation of variable production costs a pure guesstimate	Reasonably maintained, but incomplete, paper or electronic accounting provides data to roughly estimate the basic operations costs (pumping power costs and treatment costs) and calculate a unit variable production cost.	Conditions between 2 and 4	Electronic, industry-standard cost accounting system in place. Electric power and treatment costs are reliably tracked and allow accurate weighted calculation of unit variable production costs based on these two inputs and water imported purchase costs (if applicable). All costs are audited internally on a periodic basis.	Conditions between 4 and 6	Reliable electronic, industry-standard cost accounting system in place, with all pertinent water system operating costs tracked. Pertinent additional costs beyond power, treatment and water imported purchase costs (if applicable) such as liability, residuals management, wear and tear on equipment, impending expansion of supply, are included in the unit variable production cost, as applicable. The data is audited at least annually by utility personnel.	Conditions between 6 and 8	Reliable electronic, industry-standard cost accounting system in place, with all pertinent primary and secondary variable production and water imported purchase (if applicable) costs tracked. The data is audited at least annually by utility personnel, and at least once every three years by a third-party knowledgeable in the M36 methodology.	Conditions between 8 and 10	Either of two conditions can be met to obtain a grading of 10: 1) Third party CPA audit of all pertinent primary and secondary variable production and water imported purchase (if applicable) costs on an annual basis. or: 2) Water supply is entirely purchased as bulk imported water, and unit purchase cost serves as the variable production cost.
Improvements to attain higher data grading for "Variable Production Cost" component:		to qualify for 2: Gather available records, institute new procedures to regularly collect and audit basic cost data and most important operations functions.	to qualify for 4: Implement an electronic cost accounting system, structured according to accounting standards for water utilities		to qualify for 6: Formalize process for regular internal audits of production costs. Assess whether additional costs (liability, residuals management, equipment wear, impending infrastructure expansion) should be included to calculate a more representative variable production cost.		to qualify for 8: Formalize the accounting process to include direct cost components (power, treatment) as well as indirect cost components (liability, residuals management, etc.) Arrange to conduct audits by a knowledgeable third-party at least once every three years.		to qualify for 10: Standardize the process to conduct a third-party financial audit by a CPA on an annual basis.		to maintain 10: Maintain program, stay abreast of expenses subject to erratic cost changes and budget/track costs proactively

Water Audit Report for: Los Alamos County (NM3500115)
Reporting Year: 2023 | 1/2023 - 12/2023
Data Validity Score: 72

Water Loss Control Planning Guide

	Water Audit Data Validity Level / Score				
Functional Focus Area	**Level I** (0-25)	**Level II** (26-50)	**Level III** (51-70)	**Level IV** (71-90)	**Level V** (91-100)
Audit Data Collection	Launch auditing and loss control team; address production metering deficiencies	Analyze business process for customer metering and billing functions and water supply operations. Identify data gaps.	Establish/revise policies and procedures for data collection	Refine data collection practices and establish as routine business process	Annual water audit is a reliable gauge of year-to-year water efficiency standing
Short-term loss control	Research information on leak detection programs. Begin flowcharting analysis of customer billing system	Conduct loss assessment investigations on a sample portion of the system: customer meter testing, leak survey, unauthorized consumption, etc.	Establish ongoing mechanisms for customer meter accuracy testing, active leakage control and infrastructure monitoring	Refine, enhance or expand ongoing programs based upon economic justification	Stay abreast of improvements in metering, meter reading, billing, leakage management and infrastructure rehabilitation
Long-term loss control		Begin to assess long-term needs requiring large expenditure: customer meter replacement, water main replacement program, new customer billing system or Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) system.	Begin to assemble economic business case for long-term needs based upon improved data becoming available through the water audit process.	Conduct detailed planning, budgeting and launch of comprehensive improvements for metering, billing or infrastructure management	Continue incremental improvements in short-term and long-term loss control interventions
Target-setting			Establish long-term apparent and real loss reduction goals (+10 year horizon)	Establish mid-range (5 year horizon) apparent and real loss reduction goals	Evaluate and refine loss control goals on a yearly basis
Benchmarking			Preliminary Comparisons - can begin to rely upon the Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) for performance comparisons for real losses (see below table)	Performance Benchmarking - ILI is meaningful in comparing real loss standing	Identify Best Practices/ Best in class - the ILI is very reliable as a real loss performance indicator for best in class service

For validity scores of 50 or below, the shaded blocks should not be focus areas until better data validity is achieved.

Once data have been entered into the Reporting Worksheet, the performance indicators are automatically calculated. How does a water utility operator know how well his or her system is performing? The AWWA Water Loss Control Committee provided the following table to assist water utilities is gauging an approximate Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) that is appropriate for their water system and local conditions. The lower the amount of leakage and real losses that exist in the system, then the lower the ILI value will be.

Note: this table offers an approximate guideline for leakage reduction target-setting. The best means of setting such targets include performing an economic assessment of various loss control methods. However, this table is useful if such an assessment is not possible.

General Guidelines for Setting a Target ILI (without doing a full economic analysis of leakage control options)

Target ILI Range	Financial Considerations	Operational Considerations	Water Resources Considerations
1.0 - 3.0	Water resources are costly to develop or purchase; ability to increase revenues via water rates is greatly limited because of regulation or low ratepayer affordability.	Operating with system leakage above this level would require expansion of existing infrastructure and/or additional water resources to meet the demand.	Available resources are greatly limited and are very difficult and/or environmentally unsound to develop.
>3.0 -5.0	Water resources can be developed or purchased at reasonable expense; periodic water rate increases can be feasibly imposed and are tolerated by the customer population.	Existing water supply infrastructure capability is sufficient to meet long-term demand as long as reasonable leakage management controls are in place.	Water resources are believed to be sufficient to meet long-term needs, but demand management interventions (leakage management, water conservation) are included in the long-term
>5.0 - 8.0	Cost to purchase or obtain/treat water is low, as are rates charged to customers.	Superior reliability, capacity and integrity of the water supply infrastructure make it relatively immune to supply shortages.	Water resources are plentiful, reliable, and easily extracted.
Greater than 8.0	Although operational and financial considerations may allow a long-term ILI greater than 8.0, such a level of leakage is not an effective utilization of water as a resource. Setting a target level greater than 8.0 - other than as an incremental goal to a smaller long-term target - is discouraged.		
Less than 1.0	If the calculated Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) value for your system is 1.0 or less, two possibilities exist. a) you are maintaining your leakage at low levels in a class with the top worldwide performers in leakage control. b) A portion of your data may be flawed, causing your losses to be greatly understated. This is likely if you calculate a low ILI value but do not employ extensive leakage control practices in your operations. In such cases it is beneficial to validate the data by performing field measurements to confirm the accuracy of production and customer meters, or to identify any other potential sources of error in the data.		