



Lake Chelan Reclamation District News

2021 IRRIGATION SEASON



Spring is upon us and we expect to begin our irrigation start up procedures in March. Once your Irrigation Assessment has been paid, you can expect to receive water at your meter on or before April 1st barring any unforeseen setbacks. Cans/turnouts will not be turned on until the assessments are paid in full.

IRRIGATION UPGRADES

The District has issued Revenue Bonds in the amount of \$6.75 million which provides the necessary funding for major capital improvements. These improvements are per the “10-year Capital Improvement Plan” adopted in 2017 by the Board of Directors. As part of the bond financing process, the District received a national rating of A+. The Bonds (financed over 20-years) achieved a True Interest Cost of 1.93%.

Irrigation Upgrades and Capital Improvements for 2021 - All (9) stations of our Pump Control Panel/SCADA System Upgrades have been completed, and the most noticeable benefit has been the new automatic restart capabilities in the event of a power failure. We have seen a dramatic decrease in employee overtime associated with the need to restart the system by hand when a power bump shuts down the system. In the past a system restart would sometimes require up to 10 man hours. Phase 1 (LC pumping plant) of our Motor Control Center (MCC) Replacement Project will be completed by startup in April this year. Bidding for phase 2 (A pumping plant) will take place this spring with construction next winter. This total project was projected for \$10 million over 10 years but we are anticipating completing the total project in a more timely 6 to 7 years if all goes well.

IRRIGATING FROM THE DOMESTIC SYSTEM

If you irrigate from the domestic system, your irrigation allotment is available only between April 1st and October 15th, and will appear on your Utility Bill as shown below.

	Allotment (cu. ft.)	Previous Used	Current Use	Total Used	Balance	% Allotment Used
Irrigation Allotment	36590	22917	6604	29521	7069	81

If your Annual Assessment is not paid by April 1st, you will not get an irrigation allotment on your Utility Bill. Therefore, any water you use above your normal allotment, will be billed at the normal rate of \$4.93 per 100 cubic feet.

Several water users over the past year have run into unnecessary excess water charges due to the usage of their entire irrigation allotment before the irrigating season was complete. The water bills are designed to keep you aware of the irrigation allotment on your meter and the balance remaining. It is important that you monitor this allotment and manage your irrigation use accordingly.



Using the domestic water for irrigating **REQUIRES** you to have a double check valve assembly (DCVA) installed as per District Standards. Annual testing ensures that your device is operating properly. You will also need a pressure reducing valve (PRV) to protect your pipes.



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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT USING THE FEDERAL IRRIGATION WATER

- Water may only be used on lands classified as "Irrigable" by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation. Maps showing the irrigable acreage are available in our office.
- The water is **NOT POTABLE** and cannot be consumed.
- Water will **NOT** be turned on until you've paid your assessment.
- Connecting an irrigation water line to the domestic water is a direct cross-connection, a violation of state law, even if separated by a valve and will not be allowed under any circumstance.
- Your annual allotment is **36 inches** of water, per irrigable acre.
- All plumbing after the turnout is the responsibility of the property owner to design, install and maintain. Please use a Romac coupler or union to connect to the outside valve.
- The system allows for **1 Cubic Foot per minute (CFM), per acre.**
- If you exceed your (CFM) allowance, your water will be shut off. This rule is crucial to abide to, in order for us to keep enough water in our tanks to service everyone in the District.
- **SHARED TURNOUTS:** Irrigation turnouts are often shared by multiple owners. It is up to each property owner to file agreements for maintaining any shared service mainlines and for having easements in place to access the irrigation water. LCRD is only responsible for providing water to the meter.
- **IRRIGATION EXCESS:** LCRD will read the meters at the end of October for a final read. If you have used more water than you are allotted, you will receive an irrigation excess bill on December 1st. If you are on a shared turnout, then the total excess amount will be divided by acreage and a portion is assigned to each property owner.
- Our policy states that you design your own private irrigation system. We recommend the installation of a filter system, a pressure reducing valve and pressure gauges. It is your responsibility to protect your own system from potential damage and pressure spikes.
- Never try reducing flow by partially opening the outside valve. Doing so will destroy the valve over time. Either it's fully open or it's fully closed.
- The irrigation system is not designed for frost protection or for fruit cooling purposes. The irrigation season will not be forwarded or extended for these purposes.
- All of the District's irrigation mainlines and turnouts are within a 50-foot easement benefiting the Federal Bureau of Reclamation. They are called out as "25 feet on each side of the irrigation pipe as it lays". No buildings or permanent structures may be placed upon these easements.

