



# District Newsletter

## 2023 IRRIGATION SEASON



As the weather gets warmer, we expect to begin irrigation start up procedures in late March. Once your Irrigation Assessment has been paid, you can expect to receive water at your meter the first week of April barring any unforeseen setbacks. Cans/turnouts will not be turned on until the assessments are paid in full.

## PUMPING PLANT UPGRADE PROJECTS

Phases 1 and 2 of our Motor Control Center (MCC) Replacement Project on the Federal Irrigation System have been completed and are within budget. These phases included our primary 'LC' Pumping Plant down on the lake and the next largest 'A' Pumping Plant.

Phase 3 is currently underway and includes 'B', 'C', 'D', and 'F' Pumping Plants. As of the printing of this newsletter, this phase is within budget, projected to be substantially completed in March and on time for irrigation start up, weather permitting of course. These three phases of MCC replacements at the pumping plants will serve and account for 91% of our total irrigated lands.



## Rules of Thumb for Water Use on Lawns and Gardens

- One deep watering is much better than watering several times lightly.
- Lawns need about 1 inch of water each week. If it is hot, apply an inch of water every 3 days.
- Watering to a depth of 4-5 inches encourages deeper, healthier root development. It also allows longer periods between watering.
- To measure the water, put an empty tuna can on the lawn while watering. Stop watering when the can is full.
- Early morning or night is the best time for watering to reduce evaporation.
- Leave the grass clippings to decompose on the lawn. Annually, this will provide nutrients equivalent to one or two fertilizer applications. Keep grass at least two inches high to shade roots and hold moisture.

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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 and will result in having your domestic water shut off until corrected.
- 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 the benefited property owners 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.
- 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.



## 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 on the example below.

	Allotment (cu. ft.)	Previous Used	Current Use	Total Used	Balance	% Allotment Used
<b>Irrigation Allotment</b>	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 \$5.214 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 if your PSI is greater than 70.

