

(Revised 9/5/2021 per board decision)

## **REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR IRRIGATION COOPERATIVES WITHIN THE UNIT B IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

### **Definition of an Irrigation Cooperative**

An Irrigation Cooperative is a group of Ranchettes (parcels smaller than 5.01 acres) serviced by a common turnout, which agree by contract to abide by the following regulations designed to balance the water costs and the service requirements for small users.

### **Purpose of the Irrigation Cooperative**

An Irrigation Cooperative helps the Water District meet the needs of small landowners without increasing the cost of service. It also promotes a better understanding of the proper use of a shared irrigation line, defining each member's responsibilities for the maintenance and operation of their co-owned irrigation system and meter.

### **Formation of or Amendment to an Irrigation Cooperative**

(Revised 9/5/2021 as per motion of 9/5/2021)

The number of Cooperatives per turnout shall be one. All ranchettes within the service area of a single turnout shall have the right to participate in the cooperative formed for that turnout.

Blank contract forms may be obtained at the district office upon request. The district will record the contract at the Yuma County Recorder's office. There shall be a fifty-dollar \$50.00 recording fee, payable to the district.

### **Ordering of Water**

All regulations governing the ordering of water set forth in section 2 of the District's policy manual shall apply to Irrigation Cooperatives, in addition to the following regulations:

The collective owners shall be viewed as a single entity by the District. It shall be the responsibility of the several owners to choose an individual to act as their agent when ordering and receiving water deliveries.

Irrigation Cooperatives shall be responsible for the coordination of water orders between its members. Any conflict of water orders scheduling between cooperative members shall be settled by the Manager within the water schedule. It is the responsibility of the cooperative to make sure all members wanting water are ready and available to receive it before accepting a head of water. Any member not ready or available to receive water shall have to wait until the next week before water will be available to the cooperative again.

### **Delivery of Water to Irrigation Cooperatives** (Revised 9/5/2021)

All regulations set forth in section 3 of the District's policy manual shall apply to Irrigation Cooperatives when receiving water, in addition to the following regulations:

The District Manager shall schedule water deliveries to Cooperatives based on the water orders received from each cooperative. It shall be the responsibility of the Cooperative membership to arrange the order in which they irrigate.

Irrigation Cooperatives shall receive a water delivery one time per week only. Any members of the Cooperative not receiving water during the time it is within the turnout will be required to wait until the next week before receiving water. The only exception being the re-irrigation of the same ground. This exception shall not include yards, family gardens, or other non-commercial uses. Commercial gardens of two acres or more, shall qualify for the exception for a period of two weeks after planting, totaling no more than six weeks per year. Pastures and small cropped areas shall qualify for the exception for one week after planting. Any abuse of this regulation will result in the exclusion of the exception for re-irrigation.

The Ditch rider shall notify the individual set forth by the Cooperative membership, (coop manager) as to the time of delivery and the individuals scheduled for irrigation. It shall be the responsibility of the Cooperative to organize and notify the members to be ready to receive their water. If the primary cooperative manager is not available, the ditch rider will contact the secondary coop manager. The operators of farmlands that are

also in a Co-op may apply to the District Board of Directors for an exemption to allow the District to act as manager for “Co-op Farmlands” instead of the Co-op Manager. In these cases the following is required.

- (1) The “Co-op Farmland” must, in conjunction with other land provide at least 50% of the individual’s income.
- (2) The “Non Co-op” must take water either before or after the Co-op Members. Water will only be delivered to the Co-op one time per week with the exception of re-irrigation of the same ground.
- (3) Any stipulation on the Co-op Manager’s water order will be used by the District Manger to schedule water for the turnout.

The first irrigator to receive water shall check the ditch or pipeline for open gates. If a check gate is used to check water off before the end of the structure, the first irrigator below the check shall also have the responsibility of checking for open gates. Each succeeding irrigator shall be responsible for open gates. Each succeeding irrigator shall be responsible for their own gates. The final irrigator shall have the responsibility of notifying the ditch rider of the time off, the time for each parcel.

Charges for water are assessed to the landowners who have been scheduled for deliveries. It is the responsibility of the cooperative members to inform the District of any changes to the scheduled delivery (cancellations or additions). This must be done within 24 hours after the water delivery. All water delivered will be charged for and no water usage will be charged to any lands which are not eligible to receive water.

If within the service area of a single turnout there is a Cooperative membership, and one or more non-member parcels, the manager shall make every effort to schedule their deliveries together. If a water user within a particular turnout repeatedly fails to cooperate, the Manager may assess a fifty-dollar (\$50.00) gate charge for one or all the parties involved.

### **Water Measurements and Charges**

Water charges shall be based on cubic feet per second, the value used shall be determined by the past uses, or propeller meters where available. If charges are determined by the past use method the acre feet charged for any irrigation shall equal.

$$\text{cfs} \times \text{hour} \times .0826 = \text{Acre feet used (to the nearest hundreds)}$$

If charges are determined by a District meter, the acre feet charge for any irrigation shall equal.

$$\frac{\text{total acre feet}}{\text{irrigated acres}} = \text{Acre feet per acre}$$

If there is no historic use, on which a cfs rate can be based, and a District meter is not available, or the use data is disputed by a Cooperative, or any member of a Cooperative, the District Board of Directors reserves the right to require the installation of a meter, at the expense of the Cooperative members. The meter will be operated and owned by the Cooperative members, and maintained by the District, any expense occurred by the District shall be repaid by the Cooperative members. When a new parcel joins an existing cooperative which has installed a meter the new members shall on a per acre bases, reimburse the other parcel owners for the cost of the meter installation.

### **Maintenance and Operation of Cooperative Irrigation Systems**

All landowners shall share responsibility of the cost of maintaining the irrigation system servicing their land. If a gate must be closed to irrigate a certain parcel, the owner of that parcel shall share responsibility for the maintenance of the gate, on a per acre basis, with other landowners which meet the same test.

Such maintenance shall include:

- (1) Maintenance of gates, and check gates.
- (2) Repair of concrete structures.
- (3) Replacement of gates.
- (4) Weed Control
- (5) Installation of a new structure.

(6) Damage resulting from improper or negligent operation of the irrigation system.

**Non-Cooperative Ranchettes**  
**Amended as per Board Motion Oct. 5, 1993**

Any Cooperative or cooperative member, not wishing to abide by the regulations for Irrigation Cooperatives has the right to withdrawal from a cooperative and pay the non-coop rate.

It shall be the responsibility of the Manager to make the Board of Directors aware of any cooperative or cooperative member which refused to abide by these regulations. The Board shall schedule further discussion and or action, for the next regular monthly Board meeting where public comment will be heard by the board. Any action taken by the Board may be reviewed at the request of the parcel owners at the next regular Board meeting.

**Water Rates**  
**(Water year 2022-2023)**

See appendix D

**District Policies**

Members of Irrigation Cooperatives shall be subject of all regulations and policies set forth in the policy manual.

The District Board of Directors reserves the right to revise policies and regulations as necessary.



