



Irrigation and Hydrology Update

July 2025

**Report reflects data obtained on JULY 8, 2025 :
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MRGCD IRRIGATOR QUICK FACTS

July 2025

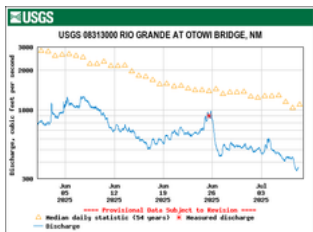
WATER SUPPLY

Flow measured at the Rio Grande at Otowi gage is about 370 cfs, less than half of what is needed to meet the needs of MRGCD farmers and their crops.

The river in Albuquerque is at serious risk of drying —this would be only the second time in 40 years.

Certain Pueblo lands carry priority right over all other lands of the MRGCD. If the Bureau of Indian Affairs determines that the river flow is not enough to meet the needs of these lands, then all non-pueblo lands north of Isleta Pueblo will be curtailed.

Farmers should plan for little to no water availability during the summer and fall if seasonal rainfall does not return.



OTOWI

During the second week of July



370 cfs

Compared to 477 cfs on July 8, 2024.

WATER STORAGE

MRGCD has released all of its available San Juan Chama water and can no longer supplement low river flows.

Native Rio Grande water storage is NOT available in 2025 due to Rio Grande Compact debt status. An exception is made for Prior and Paramount Lands of the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos which carry a senior right.

The Bureau of Reclamation, ABQ Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority and the MRGCD reached an agreement to allow storage of Native Rio Grande water in the Water Authority's allotted space in Abiquiu Reservoir for up to 10 years. The ability to store depends on Compact status.

The agreement allows for up to 100,000 acre-feet of combined storage for Prior and Paramount Lands and usable water in the Abiquiu Reservoir.

While this arrangement will help supplement MRGCD's storage needs while El Vado is under construction, **the usage of this space must still adhere to the Rio Grande Compact, which will place limitations on the timing and amount of water that can be stored.**

RIO GRANDE COMPACT



New Mexico ended 2024 with an estimated cumulative Rio Grande Compact debt **123,500** acre feet. To read more about the Rio Grande Compact, click [here](#).

STORMS & INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES



Recent rain events throughout the District provided welcomed relief for some farmers and irrigators; however, the high-intensity storms did cause damage to our infrastructure and disruption of irrigation deliveries.

These storms have caused substantial erosion and sediment accumulation, requiring our team to suspend operations of several facilities in the Belen Division. Crews have been working diligently to restore operations.

MRGCD ISOs will keep water users aware of changes as we continue repairs and monitoring weather and its impacts. For up-to-date notices on weather and its impact on MRGCD's infrastructure and water deliveries, visit [our website](#).

SAN JUAN CHAMA WATER

San Juan Chama water was the only storage water available to all of the MRGCD in 2025. San Juan-Chama water is not subject to the rules of the Rio Grande Compact because it is imported from another river basin.

Poor snowpack conditions in that basin have resulted in 23% of a full allocation for 2025 as of June 15th. If the basin receives rain inflows then the MRGCD may get another small allocation in July, but it is unlikely to change the season outlook.

MRGCD began releasing its SJC water from storage on June 16th and had released all of its available SJC water by July 6th. MRGCD is now dependent on natural river flow for an irrigation water supply.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

