



# Irrigation and Hydrology Update

## October 2025



*\*Report reflects data obtained on October 14, 2025 :  
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# MRGCD IRRIGATOR QUICK FACTS

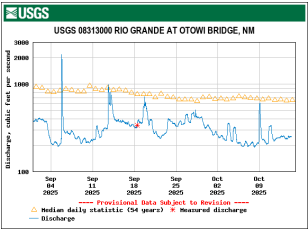
## October 2025

### WATER SUPPLY

Flow at the Rio Grande at Otowi gage is currently about 250 cubic feet per second (cfs)—roughly half the flow typically needed to meet the seasonal irrigation demands of farmers and their crops. However, recent rainfall across the Middle Valley has helped ease irrigation demand and temporarily boosted supply.

The river through Albuquerque has dried several times this summer. This is only the second year in over 40 that has happened. Recent rain inflow has kept the river through Albuquerque connected since mid-September.

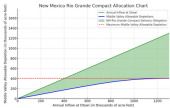
As we move deeper into October, shorter days and cooler nights trigger crop water requirements to fall rapidly. For late season water requests, contact your ISO. Deliveries will be provided as supply and canal conditions allow.



### OTOWI On October 14, 2025



### 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](#).

### 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.**

### ONGOING OPERATIONAL UPDATES

#### LATEST NEWS

US Bureau of Reclamation to Present at Board Meeting

Water Users: Delivery & Operational Updates (Updated Oct. 10)

Water Managers Brace for Dry Conditions Along Sections of the Rio Grande

July Irrigation & Hydrology Update

Alamos de Los Gallegos Acequia Construction Project – June 23 – July 5

**Recent Rain Events and Operations:** Recent, sporadic rain events throughout the District are always welcome. Depending on their intensity and location, however, these inflows can quickly affect both operations and deliveries.

**Infrastructure Impacts:** High-intensity storms may cause significant sediment buildup, which can disrupt operations and force temporary suspensions. Repairs may also be delayed if wet conditions persist.

**Deliveries:** When rainfall occurs in the right areas, it can temporarily increase available water supplies. This allows us to provide deliveries as quickly and efficiently as possible. Water users should be prepared to accept these deliveries on short notice.

**Staying Informed:** For frequent updates on water deliveries and operational changes, please visit our website (see image at left), or follow us on Facebook and X.

### 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 31% of a full allocation for 2025 as of September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Allocations are made monthly based on the volume produced in the basin.

MRGCD began releasing its San Juan-Chama (SJC) water from storage on June 16 and completed releasing its initial allocation by July 6. A small late-season allocation became available only after the river through Albuquerque had already dried and Prior and Paramount-only operations were declared, making an immediate release ineffective. Instead, MRGCD held the water until mid-September, when post-storm conditions allowed a short release to help sustain ongoing irrigation rotations. This week-long release used nearly all of MRGCD's remaining SJC supply.

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

