



Irrigation and Hydrology Update

Dec/Jan 2025



**Report reflects data obtained on December 11th, 2025;
refer to direct links for current listings*

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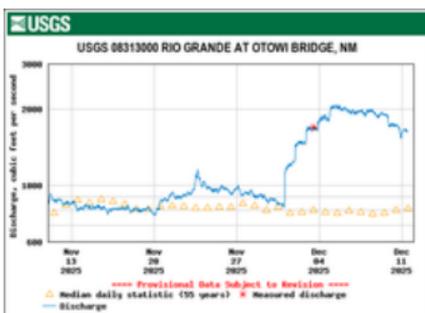
MRGCD IRRIGATOR QUICK FACTS

Dec/Jan 2025

WATER SUPPLY

Flow at the Rio Grande at Otowi gage is currently about 1,600 cubic feet per second (cfs). A large percentage of the measured flow at Otowi today is unused Prior and Paramount water that was stored in Abiquiu Reservoir for the priority lands of the Six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos for the 2025 irrigation season. This water is now being released from Abiquiu for delivery to Elephant Butte so it can be included in New Mexico's 2025 Compact accounting.

Releases of this stored water are expected to be completed by December 18. After the storage releases end, flow measured at Otowi will be mostly natural river flow, closer to 600 cfs. The middle valley should expect to see river flows decline over the coming weeks.



OTOWI On December 11, 2025



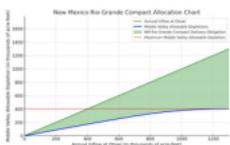
1,600 cfs

Compared to 650 cfs on December 11, 2024.

VIEW THE RIO GRANDE COMPACT FACT SHEET, DEVELOPED BY THE NM OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER



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](#).

Save the Date: 2026 Farmers & Irrigators Meetings

Join the MRGCD board and staff to discuss this past irrigation season and what's ahead for 2026. There will be a meeting held in all four counties within the District.

Click on the flyer for more information.



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 39% of a full allocation for 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. MRGCD received one final allocation in November of about 1,800 acre-feet and will carry that water into 2026.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

