



# Irrigation and Hydrology Update

## March 2026



*\*Report reflects data obtained on March 11, 2026  
refer to direct links for current listings*

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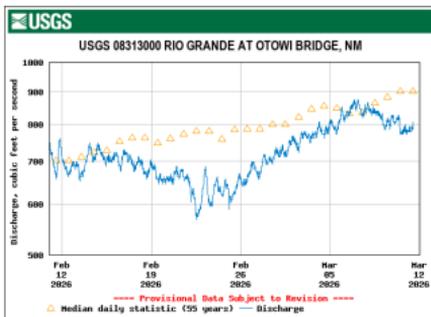
# MRGCD IRRIGATOR QUICK FACTS

## March 2026

### WATER SUPPLY

Flow at the Rio Grande at Otowi gage is currently about 800 cubic feet per second (cfs). Low snowpack conditions driven by unseasonably warm temperatures across the basin, are expected to result in limited spring runoff. Reduced runoff may require rotational irrigation deliveries, even early in the irrigation season.

Following spring runoff, MRGCD will be a run of the river system, relying heavily on rain inflows to continue to meet irrigator needs. Irrigators are encouraged to plan accordingly and remain aware of changing river and weather conditions. Irrigators should expect extended periods between irrigation deliveries this year and the general public can expect extensive drying of the river channel.



### OTOWI

On March 11, 2026



## 800 cfs

Compared to 625 cfs on March 11, 2025

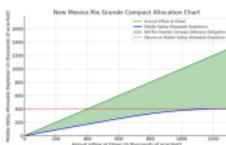
**VIEW THE RIO GRANDE COMPACT FACT SHEET, DEVELOPED BY THE NM OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER**

### Rio Grande Compact and Administration

The Rio Grande Compact is a legally binding agreement between Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas that governs the flow of water through the Rio Grande Compact Basin. The Compact provides water to the states of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas in accordance with the terms of the Compact. The Compact also provides for the allocation of water to the states of Colorado, New Mexico and Texas in accordance with the terms of the Compact.



### RIO GRANDE COMPACT



New Mexico ended 2025 with an **estimated** cumulative Rio Grande Compact debt 132,000 acre feet. To read more about the Rio Grande Compact, click [here](#).

### VIDEOS & RESOURCES

We recently shared an "Irrigator Tips" graphic on our [Facebook page](#) and with our ISOs. Both are great resources for staying up to speed on everything happening at MRGCD.

We also released two videos that provide a behind-the-scenes look at river levels and the startup process.



CLICK HERE TO VIEW A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT START UP IN THE VALLEY



CLICK HERE TO WATCH A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT WHY RIVER FLOWS CHANGE WHEN IRRIGATION SEASON IS OVER

### MRGCD IRRIGATOR TIPS AHEAD OF THE 2026 SEASON



- Know your ISO:** Stay in close contact with your ISO about water availability.
- Billing & Rights Issues:** Ensure water service charge and water rights issues are resolved before scheduling.
- System Maintenance:** Perform necessary repairs on your on-farm delivery system for efficient irrigation.
- Accept Upon Offer:** Be prepared to accept delivery when offered; deliveries may occur at night or on weekends.
- Plan Ahead:** Consider forecasted water shortages when making farming & planting decisions.
- Stay Informed:** Follow updates on MRGCD's website and Facebook page.



### SAN JUAN CHAMA WATER

The San Juan-Chama (SJC) Project imports water from the San Juan River Basin into the Rio Grande Basin. Because it originates outside the basin, SJC water is not subject to the Rio Grande Compact. During the irrigation season, MRGCD receives monthly allocations of SJC water based on how much water the project is producing. A full allocation is 20,900 AF which the MRGCD has not received since 2023.

An allocation of approximately 1,800 AF was received in November 2025 and remains in storage. However, preliminary forecasts indicate MRGCD's 2026 allocation could be as low as 30% of its full allocation, due to low San Juan Basin snowpack.

Managing storage water in small monthly increments presents operational challenges, particularly when the overall volume is projected to be well below a full allocation. District water managers and leadership are carefully evaluating how to use this limited supply in the most responsible and beneficial way.

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

