



# Irrigation and Hydrology Update

## May 2026



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

[Find my  
ISO](#)

[Gauge  
Readings](#)

[Irrigator  
FAQs](#)

[Schedule  
my Water](#)



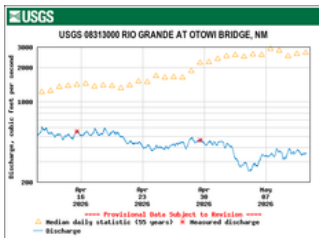
# MRGCD IRRIGATOR QUICK FACTS

## May 2026

### WATER SUPPLY

Flow at the Rio Grande at Otowi gage is 350 cubic feet per second (cfs). Low snowpack conditions driven by unseasonably warm temperatures across the basin, have resulted in limited spring runoff. Reduced runoff has required rotational irrigation deliveries, even early in the irrigation season.

The MRGCD is 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 May 11, 2026



## 350 cfs

Compared to 1200 cfs on May 11, 2025

### BOARD REVIEWS STORAGE RESOLUTION AT MAY MEETING

A resolution concerning the priority of El Vado's storage rights was discussed during Mr. Vado's board meeting. The resolution is intended to provide transparency regarding MRGCD's understanding of existing water rights, storage operations, and operational responsibilities, while reaffirming MRGCD's commitment to proactive water management throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley. Public input will be accepted through our website, and the resolution will also be discussed at upcoming farmer meetings. Review the resolution [here](#).



» LEARN MORE

### 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](#).



### SAVE THE DATE

MRGCD COMMUNITY & FARMERS INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Upcoming 2026 Irrigation Season Meetings:

- Sandoval County: May 28, 9-noon  
Village of Corralito, 600 Street Rd, Corralito
- Bernalillo County: June 4, 9-noon  
Village of Las Banderas Village Park, 6750 Rio Grande Blvd, APO
- Valencia County: June 18, 9-noon  
Village of Las Lunas, 7000 Main St, Las Lunas
- Socorro County: June 24, 9-noon  
Socorro Community Center, 200 N 6th Street

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.MRGCD.COM](#) OR CALL 505.762.2222. THE ONLY SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR THE MRGCD WILL BE THE MRGCD WEBSITE. VISIT [WWW.MRGCD.COM](#) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



### IRRIGATION GUIDELINES & WATER DELIVERY PRACTICES

Water is a shared and limited resource in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. These guidelines are intended to help irrigators use water efficiently, maintain delivery systems, and work cooperatively with neighbors and MRGCD staff.

- WATCH YOUR WATER**
  - Monitor water closely during delivery
  - Report leaks or delivery issues to your RD
  - Do not leave water unattended while irrigating
  - Watch for leaks, cracked pipes, sandbars, and breaks
- USE WATER RESPONSIBLY**
  - Apply only the amount your crop needs
  - Don't flood your neighbors
  - Prevent excessive field drainage
  - Promote efficient practices and avoid waste
- MAINTAIN YOUR SYSTEM**
  - Maintain efficient on-farm irrigation systems
  - Have delivery lines installed and tested
  - Systems should be right of right at least an inch per hour
  - Apply treatment products from field to required delivery
- COORDINATE WATER DELIVERY**
  - Stay in contact with your RD regarding availability
  - Take notice when an off-farm delivery operation may be limited
  - Coordinate with neighbors about sharing community ditches
  - Don't divert flow from other irrigators' rights
- BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS**
  - Respect neighboring and downstream water users
  - Water applied and promptly flow to intended water recipient
  - Have your property clear of weeds that impede flow
  - Have your property clear of debris that impede flow
- FOLLOW THE RULES**
  - Obey all posted and unposted rules
  - Do not take water without authorization or usage limits
  - Obeying the rules is essential to the operation of delivery
  - Water is Limited • Responsibility is Shared

### SAN JUAN CHAMA WATER

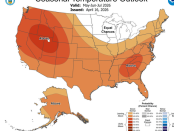
The San Juan-Chama (SJC) Project imports water from the San Juan River Basin into the Rio Grande Basin. Because it originates outside the basin, SJC water is not subject to the Rio Grande Compact. During the irrigation season, MRGCD receives monthly allocations of SJC water based on how much water the 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 40% 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

Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

