

Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD)

2026 Irrigation Season

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO MRGCD IRRIGATORS

WATER BANK—LEASE

The MRGCD established the Water Bank rule to allow landowners with severed water rights to enter a lease agreement with the MRGCD to continue to irrigate under surplus water supply conditions. There is insufficient supplemental water to augment the flow of the Rio Grande to provide for all irrigators this season. Therefore, the MRGCD is informing Water Bank users that Water Bank—Water Lease deliveries are hereby curtailed for the 2026 irrigation season. Click [HERE](#) for access to Revised Rule No. 23 Water Bank Rules.

ALTERNATE CURTAILMENT LOCATION (ACL) PROCEDURE

The MRGCD's Alternate Curtailment Location (ACL) procedure provides irrigators who have other irrigated lands with an option to dry out those lands in order to continue irrigating their lands with severed water rights. An ACL applicant must designate the area to be curtailed to move water from land that is currently irrigated to land with severed water rights. Administration of ACLs is facilitated through the Water Bank—ACL Application and Agreement. Approved ACLs may receive water delivery according to the terms of the Agreement. If you are interested in an ACL, please contact the Assessments Department to schedule an appointment.

CURTAILMENT COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

The MRGCD is concerned that not all terms and conditions of Water Bank—ACL Agreements were followed during the 2022 irrigation season, and either due to negligence or misunderstanding, lands that were to be curtailed were incidentally irrigated. For better enforcement of both Water Lease curtailment and ACL rules, field borders separating curtailment areas from irrigable lands must be installed according to MRGCD specifications and approved by MRGCD staff. Additional precautions may be required by MRGCD staff to ensure separation of irrigable lands from curtailment areas. MRGCD staff will perform routine inspections throughout the season to ensure compliance. Inspections may include but are not limited to a review of field conditions, a check of field borders, an evaluation of on-farm delivery systems, soil moisture testing and monitoring, water measurement, and aerial surveillance. Failure to comply with ACL specifications or to allow inspections by MRGCD staff may result in suspension of water delivery, up to termination of the

Water Bank—ACL Agreement. Any Water Bank—Lease holder who illegally irrigates during curtailment will be subject to the penalties described in Revised Rule No. 23 Water Bank Rules.

WATER SERVICE CHARGE (WSC)

MRGCD Irrigation Logbooks have identified delinquent properties and other issues with properties. Irrigators are highly encouraged to verify their property status prior to the start of the season to avoid delays to water delivery. If you are concerned there may be an issue with your property, please contact the Assessments Department at 505-247-0234 or assessments@mrgcd.us.

Click [HERE](#) to make a WCS payment online.