



Irrigation and Hydrology Update

August 2026

**Report reflects data obtained on August, 8 2026
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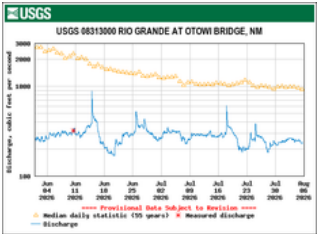
MRGCD IRRIGATOR QUICK FACTS

August 2026

WATER SUPPLY

Flow at Otowi is 235 cfs, approximately one-quarter of the average flow for this time of year. Recent monsoon storms have provided brief increases in supply, but localized rainfall and dry basin conditions have limited inflows to short-lived events that have been insufficient to fully meet Middle Valley Irrigation demand. More than 80 river miles remain dry, including nearly 13 miles through Albuquerque. Without significant rainfall, river conditions are expected to remain challenging.

This irrigation season has been characterized by exceptionally low Rio Grande flows throughout the basin. Cochiti Dam releases recently declined to approximately 150 cfs, one of the lowest releases since Cochiti Reservoir began operating in the 1970's.



OTOWI

On August 5, 2026



246 cfs

Compared to 231 cfs
on Aug 5, 2025

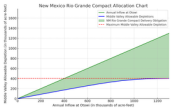


MONSOON SEASON

Monsoon season can bring both opportunity and uncertainty. Staying informed and being ready to irrigate when water is available helps us make the most of every drop.

- **Be ready to irrigate.** If widespread rainfall increases river flows, irrigation opportunities may become available with little notice. Be prepared to take water when it's offered.
- **Storms can impact infrastructure.** Heavy rainfall can wash debris into canals, cause sediment buildup, damage structures, or create other operational issues that require immediate attention.
- **Stay informed.** Follow [MRGCD operational updates](#) for the latest information on irrigation deliveries, storm impacts, cleanup efforts, and any temporary changes affecting your area.
- **Expect changing conditions.** Water availability and operations can change quickly during monsoon season as crews respond to weather and river conditions.

RIO GRANDE COMPACT



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

PRIOR AND PARAMOUNT OPERATIONS

As of August 5, MRGCD has operated under Prior and Paramount (P&P) restrictions for approximately 50 days this irrigation season and remains in P&P-only operations. Prior and Paramount lands are agricultural lands of the six Middle Rio Grande Pueblos that hold the most senior water rights in the region. During severe water shortages, MRGCD works with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to deliver the amount of water necessary to meet the agricultural demand of those lands in accordance with federal law and MRGCD policy recognizing those senior water rights.

When available river supplies are insufficient to meet both the demand of Prior and Paramount lands and the irrigation demands of other lands within MRGCD, deliveries to non-Pueblo lands upstream of Isleta are restricted. South of Isleta, irrigation depends largely on available return flows, drain water, and localized rainfall. As a result, water may be available in some areas but not others, depending on river conditions, canal levels, conveyance losses, and the ability to move water through the irrigation system from the point of diversion to the point of delivery.

Non-Pueblo irrigators should continue to anticipate extended intervals between deliveries and be prepared to accept water immediately when rainfall or changing river conditions create short-term delivery opportunities. Even when Prior and Paramount restrictions are lifted, only a limited amount of water may be available for non-Pueblo irrigation, and deliveries will continue to depend on available supply and system conditions.

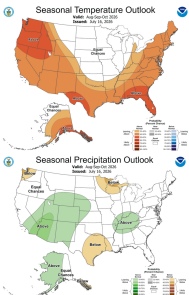
SAN JUAN CHAMA WATER

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 2024.

In addition to the approximately 1,800 AF received in November 2025, MRGCD has received approximately 5,300 AF of SJC water during the 2026 irrigation season. While helpful, the volume accumulated to date is about 25% of MRGCD's full allocation and is not sufficient to provide a meaningful supplemental release across the MRGCD.

At the May Board meeting, staff discussed the operational challenges of using the limited volume currently in storage, noting that a release would provide only short-term benefits and would not substantially supplement supplies across the District. The Board deferred to staff recommendation to carry the water over and continue accumulating SJC supplies for future use when a larger volume can provide greater operational benefit.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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