

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT NOTICE OF FEE INCREASE

This letter is a notice to our patrons of a fee increase for the 2015 irrigation season. Here is a list of the fees. All customers get a base fee, O&M fee, one improvement fee (depending on whether you are on the Irrigon system or main canal), and the legal fee. If you are on a district-pressurized system, you have that fee as well.

Base/Customer fee	\$350.00	Every customer/delivery has this fee
O&M Fee	\$ 52.00	Per acre or portion of an acre
Improvement Fee	\$ 14.50	Irrigon pressurized delivery system
Improvement Fee	\$ 9.50	Main canal delivery system
Legal Fee	\$ 7.00	Per acre / one acre minimum
Pressurized fee	\$ 25.00	Per acre / one acre minimum

This increase represents \$50 on the base/customer fee and \$5 per acre on improvements over the 2014 fees. The 2014 O&M Fee was \$50 per acre plus a \$2 special assessment at the end of the season to cover extraordinary pumping costs due to the drought.

The Board does not make this decision lightly. We know the cost of water is rising for you, as it is for the District as a whole to meet the needs of our customers. Here are the two main issues that the Board has addressed in determining the need for such an increase:

- 1) New fish screens and mainline renovation for the Irrigon Pump Station - \$700,000. The District is doing some of the pipe replacement work now with costs coming from the District budget. We are taking a \$500,000 15-year loan to pay for the screens and penstock pipe lining. We share that station with the Stanfield Stahl Hutterian Brethren. Permits have been filed and the screening structure has been substantially built (you can see it at Ross Machine in Hermiston). We are waiting for the Corps of Engineers permit, so anticipate installation of the new screens during the winter of 2015-2016.
- 2) Conservation needs – The District continues to face decreasing flows in the Umatilla River and relies more and more on pumping its supply for the main canal from the Columbia River. As our cost of delivering water goes up, the amount of water available to us is decreasing. We are applying for grants and making plans to start piping the open laterals. By enclosing these laterals and changing to more modern irrigation systems (eventually eliminating flood irrigation), we will be able to conserve water. We plan to start enclosing the Boardman laterals this coming winter 2015-2016. We are applying for grants and low interest loans for this project in addition to the customer increase noted above.

2015 Budget (Compared to 2014)

Description	2014 Amount	2015 Amount
Total Income	\$ 1,113,600	\$ 1,201,600
Expenses		
Labor & Benefits	\$ 442,925	\$ 454,865 (health care impact)
Administrative	\$ 173,885	\$ 172,535
Operations	\$ 376,620	\$ 364,000 (inventory carryover)
Payments/Capital/Reserves	\$ 120,170	\$ 210,200



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lbaum@WestExtension.com

GREAT NEWS!! West Extension Irrigation District is finally on-line. Our website is still under construction and it has been fun seeing it all come together. If you want to visit us online, go to

www.WestExtension.com

Check back often to see the website in its final stages and for updates and announcements. Eventually our goal is to be able to post information on the website that is important and timely: start-up dates, outages, events, etc.

The next thing we are working on is the ability to take payments from debit and credit cards. It has been a process that may seem too long in the making for many of you. What has been holding us back is the cost of the transactions. We have been searching for a quality vendor that is affordable to you. There will be a fee per transaction that will be determined when we finalize the process. More info to come!

Another exciting addition to our bookkeeping department is the ability to send out statements by email. This will save paper and postage, and deliver your statement to you more quickly than the post office. All you need to do for this service is let me know your email address. Then I can update our system and the process will begin!

In order to serve you better, I am asking everyone to update their information in order to keep my files as current as possible. Especially with many people switching from house phones to cell phones, it has been difficult to reach some people when the need arises.

Tear here and return to District office or email the information to me:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone#: _____

Email address: _____

Please send by email: Statement Newsletter

West Extension Irrigation District

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541-922-3815

January 20, 2015

MAIN CANAL & LATERAL CLEANING **PRISON INMATE LABOR CREWS**

We are starting the manual cleaning of the open ditches and the concrete work on the main canal throughout the District. We will bring in the labor crews from Two Rivers Correctional Institution (the prison inmate work crews). This is the 15th year that we have used the Inmate Program for cleaning of the laterals and 2nd year for the main canal work. We have been very pleased with the work in both time and value to the District.

The crews will start Monday, February 2. Information about their work:

- Crew work hours will generally be from 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- The work is scheduled for 6 weeks, finishing on Friday, March 13 (please note that missed days due to bad weather will extend the ending date)
- There will be no work on President's Day, February 16.
- They will be on the lateral or canal right-of-way
- A District employee and a prison guard will be with them at all times
- The work crew will be clearly identifiable
- These are low security inmates, specifically selected for this work

If you live along the main canal or an open lateral and want to be notified a day in advance of the prison labor crew working along your property, please call the District office at 541-922-3814. We will put you on the notification list. You need to call in each year that you want to be notified, as we don't keep records from year to year.

Thank you, and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Ray Akers, Operations Manager

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT CITY OF HERMISTON



RECYCLED WATER PROJECT

The West Extension Irrigation District (WEID) and the City of Hermiston have partnered with federal and state agencies to reclaim highly treated municipal wastewater for agricultural purposes. This water, treated to Class A quality, will be released to the WEID main canal beginning in 2015. There, it will be mixed with canal river water and delivered down the 27-mile long WEID canal to its customers.

The amount of water is small, relative to the WEID canal's typical delivery. There will be 3 – 3.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water coming from the City into a canal carrying between 100 and 150 cfs. For WEID, every drop counts. WEID annually has water shortages and relies on pumping its water from the Columbia River during late spring, summer and early fall.

Safeguards are in place to protect the users of the WEID water. A contract between the City, Bureau of Reclamation and the District assures water must meet food quality standards and does not jeopardize existing agricultural exemptions. Permits have been issued by Reclamation and are expected soon from DEQ. The City has fail-safe processes and strict monitoring protocol in place so that no untreated water will go to the WEID canal.

For many decades, WEID has received a portion of the City's Class C water due to its release to the river upstream of the WEID's Umatilla River diversion. WEID is pleased that the City has invested \$17.2 million to upgrade to a membrane bioreactor plant that increases the quality of its recharge to Class A standards and it can now receive the water directly into its canal.

FACTS ABOUT CLASS A RECYCLED WATER:

- It is safe to use recycled water.
- Incidental and direct contact with Recycled Class A water is safe.
- It is produced according to strict standards.
- Strict monitoring of the treatment assures that standards are continuously met.

USES OF RECYCLED WATER:

- Agricultural uses (its intended use)
- Used by certified organic farmers
- Horticulture including flowers, gardens, shrubs and trees
- Irrigation of parks, golf courses, school fields, and other public areas
- Industrial uses
- Environmental uses
- Wetland areas

West Extension Irrigation District

P. O. Box 100 Irrigon, Oregon 97844
541-922-3814 541-922-9775 (fax)
westex@oregontrail.net

Please find the 2014 water use / meter reading post card enclosed. We find that the meters are useful to keep us all informed as to water use. Not only is it for the District benefit, but for you as a landowner to understand how much water you are applying and assuring your system is operating as you expect it to. The District's overall goal of a fully metered system is still valid. It will take years, but we are making progress little by little.

This letter is a reminder that the irrigation meter to your property is your responsibility. It must be in working order during the irrigation season. There are things you can do to assure your meter continues to work for you and it has a long and useful life:

- 1) Check it regularly to assure it is working properly. All gages should be moving and propellers (if part of your meter) should spin easily.
- 2) If it seems to drag or is not working, check for obstructions. If nothing is found, a bearing or gear may be worn out.
- 3) The pipe holding the meter should be drained at the end of the irrigation season or when not in use, especially over the winter when freezing may cause damage. Meters pulled for storage over winter should be drained and blocked so dust, dirt and rodents don't enter while being stored.
- 4) Propeller meters will benefit from lubrication of moving parts. Go on-line to find out more about maintaining your meter.

McCrometer meter - www.mccrometer.com/library/pdf/24517-11.pdf

Hersey meter - www.muellersystems.com/docs/pdf.2/MVR11-08-2010.pdf

Sensus meter 1 1/2 -inch W120 DR - <http://old.sensus.com/water/pdf/tm838.pdf>

Sensus meter 2-inch W160 DR - <http://old.sensus.com/water/pdf/tm812.pdf>

ACCESS TO READING THE METERS

It is necessary for the District personnel to have safe access from the irrigation mainline to read your meter. The Board recently passed a policy requiring access to be provided and stated that having access blocked will put the property on a water shut-off list until access is provided. If the property is fenced, a 4 – foot gate near the meter is needed to provide such access. We can put a District lock on the gate, if needed. Contact the District office if you need further information.

We have reviewed your meter and its location and find the following:

_____ Access is provided.

_____ Access is not provided. Please install a gate by April 1, 2015

_____ Other _____