



*Water - Your Most Valuable Resource*

## **Rules and Regulations Governing Water Distribution and Canal Maintenance**

(Adopted February 10, 2022)

### **Main Office**

2907 South Maple Ave  
Fresno, CA 93725  
(559) 233-7161

Monday - Friday  
7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

### **Water Operations**

After Normal Business Hours Daily  
\*\*during water season\*\*

(559) 323-2718



# Mission

The Fresno Irrigation District's mission is to **PROTECT** and **MANAGE** the surface and groundwater resources of the District in order to meet the present and future water needs of the people and lands within the District.

Fresno Irrigation District (FID) works in partnership with the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency to ensure sustainable groundwater conditions across FID.

FID encourages all growers to use surface water supplies when they are available to conserve groundwater until it is needed.

When installing drip irrigation systems, it's important for FID growers to keep and maintain their flood irrigation lines. Flood flows can be diverted to growers for furrow irrigation, helping water percolate into the aquifer which supports groundwater recharge and sustainability.

FID strives to provide excellent customer service and treat all customers respectfully. Growers and landowners are expected to communicate with District staff in a professional manner. Concerns should be addressed to the Water System Supervisor, Watermaster or Assistant General Manager of Operations.

**Spanish:** Este documento contiene información importante sobre su agua superficial. Comuníquese con el Distrito de Irrigación de Fresno al 559-233-7161 o visite el sitio de internet de FID (por sus siglas en inglés) para obtener una copia del documento en español.

**Hmong:** Cov ntaub ntawv no muaj cov ntaub ntawv tseem ceeb txog koj cov dej saum npoo av. Thov hu rau Lub Nroog Fresno Kev Ywg Dej ntawm 559-233-7161 los sis mus saib hauv FID tus vev xaib txhawm rau kom luam ib daim ntawv hauv lus Hmoob.

**Punjabi:** ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਵਿੱਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਸਤਰ ਦੇ ਪਾਣੀ ਬਾਰੇ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸ਼ਾਮਲ ਹੈ। ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਲਈ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਫਰਿਜ਼ਨੋ ਇਰੀਗੇਸ਼ਨ ਡਿਸਟ੍ਰਿਕਟ ਨਾਲ 559-233-7161 &#39;ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ FID ਦੀ ਵੈੱਬਸਾਈਟ &#39;ਤੇ ਜਾਓ।

## CONTACT US

To find more information and to stay up to date, go to [fresnoirrigation.com](http://fresnoirrigation.com) and sign up to receive our email alerts.



# Table of Contents

<b>Rule</b>	<b>Number</b>
Authorization	
Control of the System.....	1
Ownership of Canal System.....	2
Water System Operator Responsibilities.....	3
Handling of Disputes.....	4
Water Allotment.....	5
Water Allotment Exceptions.....	6, 7, 8
Rotation Schedules.....	9,10
Water Deliveries.....	11, 12, 13
Water Delivery for Low Flow (Drip/Micro) Irrigation.....	14
Water Exchange and Transfers.....	15, 16, 17
Determination of Safe Operating Levels of Canals.....	18
Pumping from Canals.....	19
Private Trash Racks, Screens and Grates.....	20
Service to Private/Community Lateral.....	21, 22, 23, 24
Requests for Water Service.....	25
Rights-of-Way.....	26
Encroachments.....	27
Access to Lands.....	28
Well Measurements.....	29
Tampering with Facilities.....	30
Damaging Facilities.....	31
Unauthorized Installation.....	32
Landowner/Water User Responsibilities.....	33, 34
Personal Liability.....	35
Trash and Debris.....	36
Discharges into Canal.....	37

# **Control and Operation of the Water Distribution System**

## **Authorization**

Section 22257 of the California Water Code states in part as follows: “Each District shall establish equitable rules for the distribution and use of water which shall be printed in convenient form for distribution in the District.”

The Rules and Regulations set forth hereafter have been approved and adopted by the Fresno Irrigation District Board of Directors and are intended to fulfill the requirements of Section 22257 of the California Water Code. Further, these Rules and Regulations cancel and supersede those Fresno Irrigation District Rules and Regulations dated December 23, 1985. Refusal to comply with the requirements of or transgression of the stated Rules and Regulations may result in sanctions, including but not limited to denials of water service, being imposed by the District until full compliance has been made as stated in Fresno Irrigation District Policy 400-205 – Enforcement of District’s Rules and Regulations.

Initial distribution of these Rules and Regulations, to individual landowners/water users, shall be at the beginning of the 2022 water season. Copies of the Rules and Regulations shall be available thereafter in the District office and on the District website at: [www.fresnoirrigation.com/rules-and-regulations-2022](http://www.fresnoirrigation.com/rules-and-regulations-2022).

## **Control of the System**

**Rule 1:** All matters relating to the distribution of water and the maintenance of the District's canals, ditches, and conduits shall be under the general supervision of the District's General Manager acting under the authority and direction of the Board of Directors.

## **Ownership of Canal System**

**Rule 2:** Certain diversion works, canals, and conduits, headgates, and other structures owned by the Fresno Irrigation District were acquired by virtue of a deed from the Fresno Canal and Land Corporation to the Fresno Irrigation District dated May 16, 1921, and recorded on May 17, 1921, in Volume 107, page 1, Official Records of Fresno County, California. Others were acquired by prescriptive use, grants, and various forms of conveyance agreements. All are dedicated to public use and are under the exclusive control of the elected Board of Directors acting through the General Manager and staff of the District.

## **Watermaster, or Designated Alternate/Water System Operator Responsibilities**

**Rule 3:** Water Operations Supervisors and Water System Operators will be assigned to operational areas within the District and will have the responsibility of enforcing District rules and directives.

The Water System Operators will be responsible for the coordination of landowner/water user requests, and will schedule water deliveries to landowners/water users will be performed by Water System Operators under the direction of the Water Operations Supervisors or Watermaster.

## **Handling of Disputes**

**Rule 4:** When landowners/water users cannot resolve differences or controversies with the Water System Operator, the Water Operations Supervisor, the Watermaster, they are expected to discuss the problem with the Assistant General Manager of Operations or the District's General Manager prior to asking the Board of Directors for final determination. The Board of Directors reserves the authority to act as the final level of appeal on differences and controversies between landowners/water users and District employees.

## **Water Allotment**

**Rule 5:** Each acre of land on water service within the District shall be allotted a monthly minimum allotment of water consisting of 0.39 acre-feet per month, deliverable at the rate of one cubic foot (7½ gallons) per second, for each ten acres of water service land for a period of 24 hours twice each month or 48 hours once each month. The District may, if operational conditions warrant, vary the time and flow rate as long as the water user is afforded a reasonable opportunity to utilize their monthly allotment of water.

## **Water Allotment Exceptions**

**Rule 6:** District personnel are not authorized nor are they responsible for the diversion into and dispersion throughout the lands within the Free Water County Water District which has its own separate water entitlement within the Fresno Irrigation District water rights.

**Rule 7:** By Board Policy, at the start of each water season, the Board of Directors will make an allocation of water to those annexed lands that were formally Trimmer Springs, Dry Creek and Round Mountain Districts and establish the volumetric charge for water delivered to the annexed lands. Thereafter, the water users within those annexed areas may purchase up to said allotment of water by submitting a request and paying for such water in advance. Delivery of such water shall thereafter be subject to the control of the Watermaster, or designated alternate. Annexed lands are not eligible to receive Kings River water.

**Rule 8:** From time to time, the Board of Directors may authorize entering into contractual agreements with entities or individuals for the delivery of water on an alternate delivery schedule.

## **Rotation Schedules**

**Rule 9:** Rotation schedules which set forth each landowner's rate of flow, day or days of the month, and duration of delivery shall be prepared by District staff under the direction and supervision of the Assistant General Manager of Operations, or

designated alternate. The rotation schedules shall be prepared prior to the beginning of each water season and landowners taking delivery and utilizing water from the District's canals, ditches and conduits shall be informed by the Water System Operator of the delivery dates, length of time, and amount of water allocated to each landowner or group of landowners during each rotation period. The District reserves the right to revise the rotation schedule at any time during the water season.

**Rule 10:** Any landowner or water user who does not comply with the delivery dates specified in the regular rotation schedule and uses water out of turn without the permission of their assigned Water System Operator, shall forfeit the regular scheduled delivery for that particular rotation period and if the out of turn use is in addition to the regular scheduled delivery for that period, the landowner/water user shall forfeit the right to use water during the following rotation period.

## **Water Deliveries**

**Rule 11:** Water deliveries, under the rotation schedules, shall be made on the basis of continuous and steady use of water during all days and nights, including holidays and Sundays. It shall be incumbent upon the landowners to utilize water during full allotted time and to relinquish the water at the end of the scheduled time period unless otherwise approved by the Water System Operator. In order to prevent waste of water and prevent breaks, it is mandatory that every water user no-

tify the Water System Operator by noon the day before the scheduled shutoff time if diversion of water must be reduced or discontinued prior to the scheduled shut off time.

**Rule 12:** The Water System Operator will make effort to maintain an adequate flow of water in each lateral system to meet anticipated demands. However, changes in water use due to temperature variation, improper coordination by upstream users during water changes, local runoff from precipitation, spill water from other lateral systems, canal or pipeline breaks, and other emergencies may cause unavoidable fluctuations and interruptions in flow. It is expected that a water user will notify the Water System Operator if water is not available at the time the rotation period begins or if the flows is interfered with during the period. It is also expected that all water users will cooperate with the Watermaster, or designated alternate, Water Operations Supervisor, and/or the Water System Operator in determining the cause of the interruption and will, to the extent practical, assist in correcting the problem.

**Rule 13:** No additional time shall be granted to water users who fail to use the water continuously when available during the allotted time. If a water user fails, neglects, or refuses to use the water during the period assigned on the schedule, it shall not be a valid basis for claiming the right to use water at any other subsequent time. However, if such failure to use water is due to circumstances beyond the control of the water user, particularly

if caused by the unavailability of water, the District shall endeavor to make-up the lost time if it can be done without unreasonably interfering with the scheduled delivery of water to other water users. Any such water user who is unable to divert the full allotment of water shall promptly notify the Water System Operator, or designated alternate of the desire to divert the remainder of the allotment.

## **Water Delivery for Low Flow (Drip/Micro) Irrigation**

**Rule 14:** Landowners/water users that utilize their surface water allotments via a drip/micro irrigation system must enter into a Low Flow Irrigation Agreement with the District's Engineering Department. Lands that are provided water service by this method of irrigation will be assessed by the District at a Water Service Rate of assessment. Irrigation by this method is provided by the District without scheduled water days, but must be coordinated and approved by the Water System Operator and delivery shall be on a volumetric basis. The water utilized cannot exceed the landowner/water users allotment per Rule 5. The District will not be responsible for any trash, debris, silt, or other earthen matter which may flow or accumulate in the water or any interference or decrease in the operating capacity of any private pump installations or irrigation system. If a prescreening water device is installed, it must be located outside of the District right-of-way.

## Water Exchanges and Transfers

**Rule 15:** Landowners may be permitted to exchange water delivery dates (water turns), within a water service area if authorized by the Watermaster, or designated alternate, provided any such exchange does not create an operational problem or unreasonably interfere with the regular rotation schedule.

**Rule 16:** Landowners may be permitted to transfer water from one parcel to another, provided both parcels have a water allocation and any such transfer will not unreasonably interfere with the regular rotation schedule and will not exceed the safe operating capacity of any canal, ditch or conduit as determined by the Watermaster, or designated alternate. Transfer of water allotments under this rule may be granted for only one water season and must be reapproved for any subsequent water season. Water cannot be permanently sold by one landowner to another, nor can it be transferred for use beyond the boundaries of the District, except those which are presently classified as "water rental" lands. Permanent transfers will not be approved. The following criteria regarding landowner status is applicable:

**Different Landowner:** As a general rule, the transfer of water allotment from one landowner to another landowner whether on the same lateral or on a different lateral must be approved by the Watermaster. However, short term transfers of 30 days or less on the same lateral system may be authorized by the Water System Operator.

**Same Landowner:** Transfers of water along the same lateral need only be approved by the Water System Operator if the water allotment belongs to the same landowner. In cases where a landowner requests to transfer its allotment to lands served from a different lateral, approval must first be obtained from the Watermaster, or designated alternate.

**Rule 17:** Any District landowner who does not have a water allocation and who wishes to temporarily acquire a share of water from another District landowner who has a water allocation, on a year-to-year basis, should contact the Watermaster, or designated alternate, for preapproval and payment. Any water assignment may not be finally approved until the Watermaster, or designated alternate, determines such transaction will not interfere with the regular rotation schedule or exceed the safe operating capacity of any canal or conduit. Water cannot be permanently or otherwise assigned, transferred and/or sold by one landowner to another, nor can it be transferred for use beyond the boundaries of the District, except to those which are presently allocated and which are classified as "water-rental" lands. Water allocations cannot be permanently or otherwise assigned, transferred or sold to lands that have been annexed since September 1963.

## **Determination of Safe Operating Level in Canals**

**Rule 18:** It must be recognized that some lands

within the District cannot be served by gravity flow and that the irrigation of such lands will necessitate the use of lift pump. The water level in any District canal, ditch or conduit shall not be raised to an unsafe height for the purpose of providing gravity service to high elevation lands or delivery facilities. The Watermaster or Water Operations Supervisor shall determine the safe levels to which water may be raised for the purpose of providing gravity service. Diversions which jeopardize the safe operations of District facilities, or interfere with service to others, shall not be permitted.

## **Pumping from Canals**

**Rule 19:** All landowners/water users who pump from canals, ditches, or conduits belonging to the District for the purpose of irrigating land that is too high to be served by gravity water, shall be governed in all respects by the rules and regulations applicable to landowners and water users under gravity service. The District will not be responsible for any trash, debris, silt, or other matter which may flow or accumulate in the water, or any interference or decrease in the operating capacity of any private pump installations or pipelines. Private pumping facilities must be installed on a stand offset from District facilities. The exact locations and tie-ins are subject to approval by the General Manager, or designated alternate.

## **Private Trash Racks, Screens, and Grates**

**Rule 20:** The District allows landowners/water users

to install a removable trash rack/grate/screen on the turnout gate that services their land, which may be necessary for private lift pump systems or drip/micro irrigation systems. The exact locations and installation of racks/grates/screens are subject to approval by the Watermaster and/or, Chief Engineer, or designated alternate. The District only installs and maintains trash racks/grates/screens on District turnouts or other District-owned facilities. The District maintains landowner/water user turnout gates/valves, and any damage caused by the removal of a landowner/water user trash rack/screen/grate for maintenance of the turnout gate/valve will not be the responsibility of the District. The District reserves the right to remove private racks/grates/screens at its sole discretion.

## **Service to Private/Community Laterals**

**Rule 21:** All Water System Operators will provide limited service to water users who receive their deliveries through private/community-owned facilities by informing and advising such users of their water days and allotted time for each rotation period.

**Rule 22:** Water allotments of landowners/water users who utilize private/community-owned canals, ditches or conduits shall be delivered to the head of these facilities by the Water System Operator. It shall be incumbent on the owners and/or users to control the actions of individuals taking water from private/community-owned canals,

ditches or conduits. The same authority and jurisdiction granted to Water System Operators in the operations of canals, ditches and conduits owned by the District, is not applicable to those that are privately/community-owned.

**Rule 23:** The District will not knowingly, nor is a Water System Operator authorized to deliver water to a private/community-owned ditch, pipeline, or other conduit that is not reasonably clean, free of leaks, obstructions and has sufficient capacity to carry the flow of water.

**Rule 24:** In the event of a dispute among owners of a private lateral, the Watermaster, or designated alternate, has the right to terminate water delivery to the head of the private/community lateral until any deficiencies have been addressed, and any dispute/disagreements have been resolved between landowners/water users of the private/community lateral per California Water Code § 7000 to 7010.

## **Request for Water Service**

**Rule 25:** Landowners within the District who are not presently receiving water from the District's distribution system, but desire to do so, shall be required to provide the necessary facilities to transport water from the District's system to their lands. The necessary facilities within the District's canal/pipeline and right-of-way/easement must conform with District standards and be approved by the Chief Engineer. Requests for new water

service must be submitted to the District's Assessor-Collector. If the request or requests are approved by the Board of Directors during its Board of Equalization sessions, the Watermaster, or designated alternate, will make the necessary arrangements and schedule the delivery of water to the lands to be irrigated. If the new water service will be through a connection to an existing private/community lateral, the landowner requesting the new service must provide written permission from the landowner/water users of the private/community lateral.

## **Rights-of-Way**

**Rule 26:** Rights-of-way and easements for canals, ditches, and pipelines/conduits owned or controlled by the District include the land actually occupied by the canal, ditch, or pipeline/conduit, and such land on both sides thereof, as is reasonably necessary for the maintenance and operation of such canals, ditches, and pipelines/conduits, including rights under Water Code § 22438. Widths of easements vary with the size of the canal/ditch/pipelines/conduits and other factors. Specifications and standard dimensions for easements may be obtained from the Chief Engineer. Rights-of-way and easements for conduits (pipeline) which have been substituted for open canals and ditches owned by the District and which have been acquired either by voluntary agreement with the landowner or by legal process have been recorded in Official Records of Fresno County, California.

## **Encroachments**

**Rule 27:** No trees, vines, shrubs, corrals, fences, buildings, bridges, or any other type of encroachment shall be planted or placed in, on, over, or across any District canal, ditch, conduit or the right of way therefore except pursuant to specific written authority of the General Manager, or designated alternate. Any such encroachment of an unusual or extraordinary nature, shall be approved by the Board of Directors. Any unauthorized encroachment may be removed by the District at the expense of the encroacher.

## **Access to Lands**

**Rule 28:** The authorized agents and employees of the District shall have reasonable access at all times to all lands irrigated from the District's distribution system for the purpose of maintaining, operating, or inspecting the canals, ditches, and conduits and the flow of water therein and for the purpose of ascertaining the acreage of crops on lands irrigated or to be irrigated. If the District holds a right of way or easement across private land for the operation and maintenance of a canal or other facilities, the law provides that the District shall have certain secondary rights, such as the right to enter upon the property on which the right of way or easement is located to make repairs and do such things reasonably necessary for the full exercise of the easement rights.

## Well Measurements

**Rule 29:** If requested, landowners shall be expected to allow District employees to enter upon their property and measure the depth of water in their private wells for the purpose of determining the conditions of the groundwater within the District, Measurements in selected observation wells are made and recorded by District personnel, in furtherance of a well measurement program begun in 1921.

## Tampering with Facilities

**Rule 30:** Landowners or water users who, by opening, closing, or otherwise interfering with regulating gates or devices, cause any fluctuations in the flow of water in the District's distribution system or cause any over-flows, breaks or damage of any kind, shall be responsible to the District for the expense and damage caused thereby, and may be liable to others that may be adversely affected. Watermaster, designated alternate, or Water Operations Supervisor, can terminate the water delivery for the remainder of the existing scheduled water days. Where water control devices are operated by a landowner/water user in accordance with specific instructions from an authorized District representative or in cases of an emergency nature when immediate adjustment or other corrective action will prevent overflows, breaks, crop loss or other property damage, the person making such adjustments or taking corrective action shall not be deemed to be in violation of this rule. Any such emergency action or adjustments shall

be reported forthwith to the Watermaster, or designated alternate.

## **Damaging Facilities**

**Rule 31:** No person shall make an opening, cut, plow, shank, deep till, level, disc down, scrape, remove cover, rip, or otherwise damage or weaken any canal, ditch, conduit or the ground surrounding the canal/ditch/conduit owned or controlled by the District without written approval of the General Manager, or designated alternate. Any such approval to open, cut, plow, shank, deep till, level, disc down, scrape, remove cover, rip or otherwise disturb any District canal, ditch or conduit or the ground surrounding the canal, ditch or conduit shall contain requirements for the restoration of such canal, ditch, conduit or surrounding ground to its original condition or better. The District reserves the right to seek restoration and monetary damages as provided by law for any unauthorized damage done to its system.

## **Unauthorized Installation**

**Rule 32:** No delivery gate, pipe, siphon, discharge/backflush pipe, bridge, or any other structure or device shall be installed or placed in any canal, ditch or conduit owned by the District without express written permission from and must be in strict compliance with plans and specifications approved by the General Manager, or designated alternate. Any such structure or device installed on a District canal, ditch or conduit without approval may be removed by the District at the expense of the owner.

## Landowner/Water User Responsibilities

**Rule 33:** Water users who waste water delivered by the District, either willfully, carelessly or due to defective or inadequately maintained or monitored privately-owned ditches, conduits, or structures, or because of inadequate preparation of the land for irrigation, may be refused further services until such conditions are remedied. Any waster or other improper use of water shall be reported to the Watermaster, or designated alternate, and the landowner/water user may be refused further water service.

**Rule 34:** When water is delivered to a landowner/water user, the landowner/water user shall be responsible for the water at all times after it leaves any canal, ditch or conduit owned by the District. It is expected that the landowner/water user or its designated representative monitor the water delivery to the property being irrigated throughout their scheduled water day(s). The District will not be responsible or liable for any damage caused by negligence or careless use of water by any landowner/water user or the result of failure on the part of the landowner/water user to maintain any ditch, pipeline or other facility for which the landowner/water user is wholly or in part responsible. The Watermaster, or designated alternate, may take action to refuse further water service to the landowner/water user. It is incumbent on all landowners/water users to prevent hazardous conditions, mosquito nuisances, rodent habitat or damage to the property of others.

## **Personal Liability**

**Rule 35:** Any person entering upon District property or District right of way, does so at their own risk and assumes all risks associated therewith and by such action accepts the responsibility for any damage to District or private property resulting therefrom.

## **Trash and Debris**

**Rule 36:** No tires, trash, debris, litter, garbage, prunings, brush, grass, dairy waste, dead animals, herbicides, pesticides, or any other material which is injurious to health, or which pollutes or degrades the quality of water or which obstructs the flow of water, shall be placed, emptied, discharged, thrown, or be allowed to slide, flow, wash or be blown in any canal, ditch or conduit belonging to the District. All District employees shall promptly report any violations of this rule to the District's Watermaster, or designated alternate, who will take appropriate action. Debris shall not be piled up against or be placed adjacent to outside slope of raised canal embankments in an effort to promote embankment integrity, maintenance/inspection access, and reduce damage from rodents. The District reserves the right to take appropriate action including legal action as necessary and seek restitution in all incidents of this nature as noted above.

## **Discharges into Canals**

**Rule 37:** No person, firm, company, corporation

or agency shall be permitted to discharge, pump, siphon, or drain surplus irrigation water (tail-water), storm water, wastewater, or any other water, including but not limited to well water, into any District canal, ditch, or conduit on a long-term basis, without the express written consent of the Board of Directors. Any requested short-term discharges requires authorization from the General Manager, or designated alternate. Any such written authorization shall include the manner, method, limitations, and terms and provision for the District's control and regulations of the approved discharge. Any such discharges which results in pollution or contamination of the District facilities, shall be immediately reported to the Watermaster, or designated alternate, for appropriate action.

State of California )

) S.S.

County of Fresno )

I hereby certify that the foregoing Rules and Regulations were adopted by the Board of Directors of the Fresno Irrigation District at a regular meeting held February 10, 2022.



Bill Stretch

General Manager/Secretary of the Board of Directors  
FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

# Water Measurements and Equivalents

## Rate

1 cubic foot per second (c.f.s.)  
= 7.48 gallons per second  
= 448.8 gallons per minute  
= 26,928 gallons per hour  
= 646,272 gallons per day  
= 40 miners inches

## Volume

1 cubic foot per second (c.f.s.)  
For 1 hour = .9917 acre inch  
For 12 hours = .9917 acre-feet AF.  
For 24 hours = 1.9835 acre-feet  
For 30 days = 59.5 acre-feet  
1 acre foot = 325,828.8 gallons  
1 acre foot = 43,560 cubic feet  
10¢ per 1,000 gallons = \$32.57 per acre-foot  
1,000 gallons = .003 acre-foot  
1,000,000 gallons = 3.07 acre-feet  
1 acre-foot = Amount of water require to cover 1  
acre to a depth of 1 foot  
Family of 5 uses 1 acre-foot per year.

