



CONSOLIDATED IRRIGATION DISTRICT No. 19
120 N GREENACRES ROAD, SPOKANE VALLEY WA 99016
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Consolidatedirrigation.com

FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER



METER READING/IRRIGATION TURN OFF

The District will begin reading water meters October 12, 2015. We urge owners with separate irrigation valves to turn off those valves prior to that date. The stop and drain valve should be turned one quarter (1/4) turn clockwise to shut water off. It's the Homeowners responsibility to insulate there water meter from freezing. Homeowners are responsible for turning on and off their own irrigation. Owners are also responsible for the protection of the outlet piping and valves including damage from freezing. Separate irrigation services need to be turned off by closing the below ground stop and drain valve (long wrench required). The separate irrigation services do not need to be insulated.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

There are emergencies such as mainline breaks, construction of new facilities and water quality issues that require the District to contact our customers in a timely manner. We therefore request that you furnish a contact phone number for us in case of such instances.

COLD WEATHER TIPS

- (1) **Insulate the meter box properly** (after domestic meters have been read). Insulation sealed in a plastic bag or a piece of Styrofoam placed over the top of the meter and tightly against the sides of the meter box are good methods of insulation. Do not wrap the meter or pipes.
- (2) **Remove hoses from outside faucets** and be sure they are drained and shut off. Also, make sure your underground sprinkler system is drained.
- (3) **In extremely cold weather**, a pencil size stream of water left running will help prevent your service line from freezing.
- (4) **If you plan on leaving for the winter months** you may wish to winterize your home, draining all water. Call us for advice and/or assistance.
- (5) **Make sure your irrigation valve has been** shut off and your system drained.

IMPORTANT SPRINKLER SYSTEM BLOW-OUT INFORMATION

If a sprinkler system is blown out incorrectly, contaminated water may be forced back into the water system. Contamination could include decayed vegetation or other organic materials which may cause illness. Bad water samples may also result from improper system blow outs. Please make sure backflow assemblies are installed properly and the main shut off valve is closed prior to blowing out your system. A little care will prevent a potential serious health risk and save the District costs of responding to a contamination event. Your cooperation is appreciated.

TEMPORARY CHLORINATION

The District will be temporarily chlorinating the water system north of the Spokane River for the period October 19, 2015 through November 20, 2015. We hope that by taking this proactive approach, our water samples will all be free of any coliform bacteria contamination introduced by sprinkler system blow-outs. Positive coliform samples affect the District's status with the Washington State Department of Health and could result in permanent chlorination.

The amount of chlorine injected into the water system will be small (0.10 to 0.20 parts per million). At that concentration level, taste and odor should not be detected.

AQUIFER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION

Thirty - four (34) pumps located at eleven (11) different sites throughout the District draw water from the Spokane Valley/Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Water is pumped directly into the distribution system. The water table varies from 60 - 110 feet below the ground surface. Because our soils are porous, the aquifer is susceptible to contamination from materials dumped or spilled on the ground surface. Please do your part to help protect our sole source aquifer by disposing of hazardous materials properly.

We all benefit from having a clean and abundant water source. Let's make sure we protect it for present and future generations.

Several homeowners have questioned whether our aquifer levels are declining. Our well depths have been charted from the District's first year of operation in 1966. Normally the aquifer levels fluctuate 8'-10' with the highest in late spring and the lowest in late fall. In years of drought the levels may drop another 5'- 8' but build back up as the weather pattern normalizes.

The aquifer levels are very stable overall. We do not anticipate any problems with declining aquifer levels in the future. We should all do our part on conserving the natural resource that lies below.

GENERAL SYSTEM INFORMATION

We thought you might be interested in a few basic facts about the water system which serves you. Water is pumped from the underground aquifer and is carried to you via 170 miles of buried pressure pipe (6” to 24” in diameter). Regulating and storage tanks control the system pressure which varies between 50 psi and 95 psi. Our system capacity is approximately 79,000 gallons per minute or 113 million gallons per day.

Presently we serve approximately 8,000 individual domestic accounts and provide irrigation service to approximately 7,600 acres. To insure the quality of our supply, twenty seven water samples are taken each month throughout the system. Because the aquifer is vulnerable to contamination, we ask that you help protect it by (1) safely storing unused chemicals, following directions for their proper use and disposal (For Information Call Spokane Solid Waste Management 509-625-7895). (2) don’t pour anything on the ground that you wouldn’t want to drink, (3) don’t over fertilize lawns and gardens, and (4) blow out your sprinkler systems properly.

WATER QUALITY

Consolidated Irrigation continually monitors the water supply to insure its purity and quality. Over 80 substances (required by EPA and State Dept. of Health) are tested for. Listed below are ongoing programs that help protect and insure our water quality.

Programs for Protecting Water Quality

Wellhead Protection Program to protect the District’s groundwater resources.
Cross Connection Control Program to protect the District’s water from contamination.
Chemical and Bacteria Monitoring Program to ensure that the water is safe.
Reservoir Maintenance and Inspection Program to protect distribution system water quality.
Flushing of “Dead End” lines to prevent stagnant water and taste and odor problems.
American Water Works Association (AWWA) Member – this is a professional organization committed to delivering safe and reliable drinking water.

BILLING INFORMATION

Commercial accounts are billed monthly. All other customers are charged on an annual assessment basis. The assessment is included on the property tax statement along with other assessment charges and is payable one-half on or before April 30 and the second one-half on or before October 31. The property tax statement is sent out by the Spokane County Treasurer. Any spring or fall excess charges are billed directly by the District.

DISTRICT DIRECTOR ELECTION

Director elections will be held for Division Nos. 1 and 2 in December of this year. A Petition of Nomination must be filed by 5:00 pm November 2, 2015. Each candidate must obtain a minimum of 10 signatures from landowners within said Division and candidate must be a landowner in the Division he/she is petitioning. Please refer to RCW 87 or our Bylaws posted on the District website for further information.

PRESENT DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Division No.1	Paul Schultz	Division No.4	John Koch
Division No.2	Steve Schultz – President	Division No.5	Dan Evans – Vice President
Division No.3	Denis McLaughlin		
	Shane Sheppard- Manager		

DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings are held at 7:00 P.M. on the 2nd Wednesday of each month with the exception of the December meeting which is held on the 3rd Monday. All meetings are held at the District Office. If you have any questions regarding the operation or policies of the District feel free to contact our office on Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.