



# Eastern Irrigation District

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August 25, 2017

Water Users,

**Re: Amendment to Maximum Water Delivery Bylaw**

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As set by bylaw in 2016, the Board of Directors has set the maximum amount of water that may be delivered by the District to each acre entitled to receive water for irrigation purposes, at twenty-four inches (24") per acre. The conditions to date in 2017 have been hotter, drier and windier than normal increasing the demand for irrigation water in some areas of the District and for some crops. The District, through efficiency gains over the last several years along with sufficient water being supplied from the Bow River to meet irrigation water demands, has maintained its reservoirs full. This has resulted in the ability for this year to supply additional water for irrigated crop production without materially increasing the risk of depleting the water supply in the reservoirs. A temporary maximum has been set at twenty-seven inches (27") **for 2017 only**, and **for crop production only**, with **no** water being supplied in excess of 24" for fall irrigation purposes.

This has been a very fortunate year with above average snowpack this past winter/spring, providing for strong water supplies from the river through to the end of July; and should be used as a reminder and learning year of the hot dry weather conditions that can persist for consecutive years. If we had experienced average or below average snowpack this year it would have resulted in a markedly different outcome with reservoirs depleted much more just to provide the 24". Efficient use of water and crop management every year should be a priority to minimize the chance of exceeding 24" while still providing adequate irrigation for crops.

It is important to communicate with your Water Operator for on/off requests of your irrigation systems, to determine flows and agree on flows early in the irrigation season to avoid disagreements, and to address any issues early in the year. If you have any concerns in this regard, please contact your Water Operator or Divisional Superintendent. For real time water usage information of your irrigation, access the District's free online tool "[irma](#)", which may be viewed on your phone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer. This app, which is used by our Operations staff, is based on GIS mapping of your parcels and indicates water flows, on/off's and water used to date. Call Mark Porter, Information Services Technologist, at (403) 362-1400 to get signed up.

Yours truly,

EASTERN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

  
Ivan Friesen  
General Manager