

Policy Guidelines:

When an irrigator comes to the District with a development that will or has improved his irrigation farm operation and will:

- improve the District’s infrastructure, OR
- save a significant amount of water,

the District may cost-share the project with the irrigator. Projects require the approval of the Board by resolution.

The guidelines to determine the cost-sharing/District contribution are as follows:

A. Infrastructure Grant

- 1.0 Improvement to the District’s infrastructure, reduction of the District’s infrastructure, (on the landowner’s timeline), not part of a District project:
50/50 cost share up to \$15,000 District share per quarter section; this includes:
- adding turnouts
 - changes to existing turnouts
 - canal or drain crossings for cattle or machinery

B. Drain & Canal Relocations

- 1.0 Where the landowner requests a drain or canal to be relocated (on his timeline, not part of a capital project). If the District feels the relocation is practical the District will cost-share the construction of the new drain or canal:
Must have Board approval prior to work being done,
work must be carried out or supervised by District staff.
75% EID / 25% landowner basis
 Maximum District contribution.....\$50,000
- 2.0 Eligible costs include excavating of the new canal or drain, and leveling of the banks of the existing drain or canal.
- 3.0 Hauling of material to fill in the old canal or drain is the landowner’s responsibility.

C. Converting to a More Efficient Method of Irrigation (on the landowner’s timeline):

- 1.0 Uncontrolled surface irrigation to machine leveled/improved surface irrigation.
 Maximum District contribution.....50/50 up to \$18,000
- 2.0 Gated pipe or permanent head ditch with controlled outlets.
 Maximum contribution.....50/50 up to \$3,000
- 3.0 Eliminating spill past pump by moving delivery or piping to pump site.
 Maximum contribution.....50/50 up to \$12,000

Farm Improvement Policy

- 4.0 Surface irrigation to side-roll wheel moves.
 Irregular shaped parcel of land.....No contribution
 Rectangular shaped parcel, maximum District contribution.....\$50/acre

- 5.0 Side-roll wheel moves to low pressure pivot.
 Maximum District contribution is either:
\$100/acre minus \$500/acre for irrigation acres outside of wetted area of pivot, or
\$100/acre plus the amount per acre set out in the prevailing Capital Assets Charges Bylaw
 for Irrigation Acres Purchased by the District.

- 6.0 Surface irrigation to low pressure pivot.
 Maximum District contribution is either:
\$100/acre minus \$500/acre for irrigation acres outside of wetted area of pivot, or
\$100/acre plus the amount per acre set out in the prevailing Capital Assets Charges Bylaw
 for Irrigation Acres Purchased by the District.

- 7.0 Surface irrigation to sub-surface irrigation.
 Maximum District contribution is either:
\$100/acre minus \$500/acre for irrigation acres outside of wetted area, or
\$100/acre plus the amount per acre set out in the prevailing Capital Assets Charges Bylaw
 for Irrigation Acres Purchased by the District.

- 8.0 Other improvements resulting in on-farm efficiency gains, such as: variable rate pivot, new pivot panel, pivot
 nozzle upgrades, drag hoses, pump upgrades, replacement of old pivots with new pivots.
 Maximum District contribution is one of the following:
the value of the upgrade, as verified by receipt, to a maximum of \$100/acre, or
\$100/acre minus \$500/acre for irrigation acres outside of the wetted area of the pivot, or
\$100/acre plus the amount per acre set out in the prevailing Capital Assets Charges Bylaw
 for Irrigation Acres Purchased by the District.

- 9.0 Conversion to low pressure pivot corner-arm, small low pressure pivot or subsurface irrigation on corners
 which already have assessment. Only applicable to acres not previously classified as pivot.
 Maximum District contribution.....\$700/acre

- 10.0 On farm work to accommodate more efficient irrigation, such as leveling or filling in old head ditches, field
 drains and dugouts, and brushing willow trees; all which are in the path of a pivot:
Must have Board approval prior to work being done;
does not include hauling of material (landowner must provide material); and
work must be carried out or supervised by District staff.
 Maximum District Contribution.....50:50 up to \$12,000

- 11.0 Pivot crossing on small canals or drains:
District will install at no cost to the landowner;
Landowner may choose between culverts or bridges (and if choosing bridges and culverts
 are cheaper, pay for the lesser of the two);
landowner must also pay for importing of backfill if no material is available.

In all instances:

- applications may only be made by the registered owner of the parcel;
- irrigation acres owned by the applicant are to be moved from any existing locations within the same EID water delivery system into the area that will be irrigated under the efficiency improvement prior to any additional irrigation acres being considered;
- all payments by the District are made at the completion of the installation by the landowner
 - the District will reduce the payment by the amounts owing the District for the installation of any new facilities required to allow for the on-farm improvements and/or capital asset charges;
- the maximum lifetime contribution by the District per acre parcel is \$100/acre, excluding corner conversions and cost-share grants; parcels where grants have previously been approved may be eligible for the difference of the \$100/acre under pivot and \$700/acre under corner-arm on future farm improvements.
 - e.g. if a Farm Improvement Grant has never been issued for the parcel, the irrigator may receive \$100/acre under pivot and \$700/acre under corner-arm on any acres included in the improvement
 - e.g. if a Farm Improvement Grant has been issued for the parcel on a flood to wheels conversion of \$42/acre, the irrigator may receive the remaining \$58/acre under pivot and \$658/acre under corner-arm on a future improvement;
- grants paid per acre will be calculated by the existing acres on the assessment roll as of the beginning of the Farm Improvement Policy program in November 1999;
- terminable acres are not eligible to receive a Farm Improvement Grant; this includes acres that were converted from terminable to irrigation;
- parcels that have previously received an Infrastructure Cost-Savings Grant are not eligible to receive a conversion grant through the Farm Improvement Policy; and
- for each fiscal year that this Policy is in force, the Board will approve an annual budget for Farm Improvement grant expenses. At each Board meeting, where Farm Improvement grant applications are to be considered, administration will provide the Board with a report showing the value of Farm Improvement grants approved by the Board during that fiscal year compared to the current annual budget for Farm Improvement grant expenses. The Board will discontinue approving Farm Improvement grant applications when any further approval will cause the budget to be exceeded. Any application not considered by the Board due to budget restrictions will be presented to the Board for consideration, in the order in which the completed application was received, once a budget for Farm Improvement grant expenses has been approved for the following year.

In Addition:

- An application for a grant under Part C sections 4.0, 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 will be considered for completed projects only. Satisfactory proof of project completion must accompany each application. A grant payment will be based on a survey or inspection conducted by the District.
- With proof of date of installation, applications will be considered on a 2 year retroactive basis; with any approvals based on the grant values at the time of the on-farm improvement or upgrade.

Farm Improvement Policy

- Irrigation acres sold back to the District and then re-purchased for the same location must be repurchased at the same values as when they were sold, or the current rate, whichever is higher.
- If penalized for keeping acres with a prior Farm Improvement, and now applying for a Farm Improvement on those same acres, the penalty will be returned if the landowner is the same.