

Raw Water available to Acreage Owners

Eastern Irrigation District

This booklet is being provided as a quick resource regarding raw water supplied by the Eastern Irrigation District (EID/District) under agreement to acreage owners. For detailed information please reference your agreement, the *Irrigation Districts Act*, and applicable bylaw and policy documents on the District website found under the Information tab.

Raw water is suitable for watering
lawns, trees, and gardens.

Raw water is not potable water.

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Raw Water Use

Water is diverted from the Bow River at the Bassano Dam, under established licenses issued by the Government of Alberta. This raw water is conveyed through an intricate network consisting of 608 km of canals, 1,351 km of pipelines, 1,964 km of drains, 2,500 control structures, and 13 storage reservoirs, ultimately to all municipalities and irrigation farms, and by agreement to industries, acreages, habitat stewards, and wetland stewards within the EID / County of Newell.

Delivery of raw water to agreement holders occurs during the District's irrigation season, which dates are determined based on river supply, weather conditions, construction and operations considerations, and irrigator (farmer) demand. A typical irrigation season may run from early May to early October. For raw water needs outside this time frame, both irrigators and agreement holders are encouraged to construct their own storage amenities.

Delivery of raw water is subject to restrictions and stoppages caused by the capacity, operation, and repair of the District's irrigation works, the administration of the District, a shortage of water in the Bow River, or for any other cause beyond the District's control.

Water Agreements as compared to Irrigation Acres

Irrigated farmland has irrigation acres assessed to the property. Subject to water availability, an irrigator has the right to receive water for irrigation purposes on their assessed irrigation acres. Irrigators may purchase irrigation acres from the District. Following satisfaction of various requirements, the assessment roll is then amended to add the irrigation acres assessed to the property. Irrigation acres are:

- governed by the *Irrigation Districts Act (IDA)*, and several District bylaws and policies,
- recorded for irrigation method (ex. pivot, wheel lines, etc.), crop type, and amount of irrigation water used,
- mapped on the District's GIS system confirming where the farmer may irrigate on the parcel and where they may not, and
- placed on parcels of land which contain a minimum of 40 acres.

Residential acreages, on the other hand, are parcels of land containing no assessed irrigation acres yet may receive raw water by way of agreement with the EID.

Water Agreements

Irrigation districts convey water to maintain and promote the economic viability of the district; supporting a multi-use philosophy of water being conveyed for more than irrigation purposes. The District's Fees Bylaw categorizes and defines rural use of raw water, for purposes other than assessed irrigation acres, under the following three main categories:

- Household Purposes
- Rural Water Use Purposes:
 - Farmyard Water
 - Livestock Water
 - Agri-Business
 - Country Residential
 - Industrial
 - Combination
- Other Purposes:
 - Municipal – Residential Lot
 - Agricultural
 - Commercial
 - Industrial
 - Habitat
 - Recreation

All residential acreages receiving raw water from the EID are administered under:

- **Household Purposes Agreements, or**
- **Rural Water Use Purposes – Country Residential Agreements.**

(See next page for additional information.)

Farmyard Water, Livestock Water, and Combination agreements are designed for irrigators and are not available to residential acreage owners. Agri-Business, Industrial, and Other Purposes agreements also have specific requirements that must be met to hold these types of customized agreements.

Individual agreements will vary based on whether the parcel is served by a pressurized pipeline, non-pressurized pipeline, or canal system, and on the amount of acre-feet of raw water use permitted. As well, each parcel under agreement will have a designated point of delivery.

Residential acreages are not eligible to receive raw water if:

- an agreement has not been signed with the EID,
- raw water to the parcel has been shut off due to nonpayment, or
- no District infrastructure exists in the area to serve the requesting parcel.

Water Agreements (continued)

Household Purposes Agreements

- allow for the use of raw water for the purposes of human consumption, sanitation, fire prevention, and watering animals, gardens, lawns, and trees ("**household purposes**"), with the user being responsible for water treatment.
- permit up to 1 acre-foot / 1,250 cubic meters of raw water per year to be used.

Rural Water Use Purposes – Country Residential Agreements

- allow for the use of raw water on a parcel not having irrigation acres and for uses other than household purposes.
- current agreements permit up to 2 acre-feet of raw water per year to be used (for context, this volume would allow watering of up to 2 acres with 12 inches of water).

If you require further information on what kind of raw water use is permissible under your agreement or if you are unsure of which type of agreement you have with the District, please contact the EID office.



Obtaining a Water Agreement

If you currently do not have an agreement for raw water on your acreage and require one, or if you are considering subdividing a parcel of land to create an acreage and would like an agreement for raw water, please contact the EID office.

A number of requirements for new agreements will need to be met, including:

- there must be adequate raw water available in that area of the District's system prior to the agreement being issued.
- the proposed acreage may not be irrigated for agricultural purposes.
- if the acreage is being subdivided from irrigated farmland, the owner of the irrigated farmland must return a minimum of two (2) "irrigation acres" to the EID; an applicable annual fee for the Household Purposes or Country Residential agreement will also be applied to the acreage agreement.
 - All irrigation acres must be removed (sold or transferred) from the proposed subdivision, subject to District approval.
- in instances where there are no extra or existing irrigation acres to return to the District, a hookup fee as outlined in the Country Residential Subdivision Policy will be applied, as well as the annual fee for the Household Purposes or Country Residential agreement.
- the applicant must provide a registrable easement and utility right-of-way for the conveyance of raw water from EID infrastructure to the proposed subdivision, if applicable.
- all costs associated with the conveyance of raw water from the EID infrastructure to the proposed lot are the responsibility of the applicant.



Billing

If you already have an agreement, you are being billed an annual fee for the conveyance of your raw water:

- directly from the EID (invoices are mailed in March), OR
- though the County of Newell tax billing (a notation is made under the Local Improvement header on the tax notice).

The fee is based on the type of agreement, whether the raw water is served through a pressurized system or not, and the amount of raw water permitted to be used.

When invoiced directly by the EID, it is required that payment be made in full by April 30th of each year or by the due date specified. To encourage prompt payment, a discount is applied to each account paid by April 30th or within 30 days of the date of invoice. In the event of a past due amount, a penalty of 1% per month, compounded monthly (12.67% per annum) is added to the account until the amount is paid in full. In the event a fee is not paid in full by the specified date, the agreement may be cancelled or otherwise suspended by the District. To reinstate the service, a penalty is applied, plus any outstanding amount on the agreement holder's account and any costs incurred by the District in collecting, cancelling, discontinuing, suspending, and reinstating the service.

Payment options with the District include online banking, cheque, credit card, debit, or cash.

Contact

For further information on the summaries contained within this booklet, refer to the bylaws and policies on the District website at www.eid.ca under the Information tab, your water agreement, or contact:

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