

SAUCELITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Water Policy

2025-2026 Water Year

APPLICATION FOR WATER

1. All Saucelito Irrigation District water deliveries must be preceded by an accepted "Application for Water" which has been completed by the water user. This application shall indicate the particular land or lands under their ownership or control which are to receive water.
2. Water applications cover the water year, which begins March 1, 2025, runs through February 28, 2026. **Water applications will be accepted at the District office until 4:30 p.m. March 6, 2025.**
3. Applications received or postmarked **after** March 6, 2025, will be assessed a **late penalty of \$250.00.**
4. Property owners may file their own applications; however, **WHEN WATER USERS ARE LEASING PROPERTIES, THE OWNER OF SAID PROPERTY MUST ALSO SIGN THE APPLICATION UNLESS FULL PAYMENT ACCOMPANIES THE ORDER.**
5. All water users must read, sign and return the Water Application indicating that they have read and understand the **WATER POLICY.**
6. **ALL WATER APPLICATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED WITH A DEPOSIT EQUAL TO \$15.00 PER ACRE FOR ALL ASSESSED ACRES.** Applications will not be accepted without the required deposit.
7. Water service will **not** be provided **to any parcel of land or to any person** responsible for delinquent water charges or assessments from a previous year, or any other unpaid charges. Any deviations from this policy will be reviewed by the Board upon application by individual requesting water.

WATER RATES

1. Based upon Bureau of Reclamation water charge policies for 2025 and district operation and maintenance costs, the Board of Directors of the District has set the following water charges, rates, and fees for 2025-2026 water season.

Standby charge	<u>\$ 10.00 per assessed acre</u>
Base water rate	<u>\$ TBA per acre foot</u>
Wheeling fee	<u>\$ 20.00 per acre foot</u>

WATER BILLING PROCEDURES

1. The standby charge (assessed pursuant to California Water Code section 22280) is charged on each assessed acre within the District and is collectable from the **WATER USERS.** \$5.00 per acre of the charge is due on March 6, 2025, and \$5.00 per acre of the charge is due on June 20, 2025. **This standby charge is due and owing notwithstanding whether the water user actually uses water provided by the District.**

2. The District shall bill each water user monthly indicating the acre feet of water used and accrued water charges and fees. Upon receipt of the monthly statement, the water user shall remit the full amount as billed by the 25th of that same month. Failure to make payment in full by the due date shall result in all of the following:
 - Assessment of a 10 percent late penalty on the unpaid charges.
 - Assessment of finance charges equal to 1½ percent per month on the unpaid balance.
 - Termination of water service until such time that the account is paid in full.

THESE PROVISIONS WILL BE STRINGENTLY ENFORCED.

3. The deposit will be refunded to the water user upon written request after final water delivery to the water user during the year. **If water deposit is refunded, the water user will not be entitled to water for the remainder of the contract year.**
4. **The Wheeling Fee will apply to all non-CVP water brought into the District's distribution system for delivery to a water user.**
5. **IMPORTANT NOTE TO LANDOWNERS** - Landowners are advised that any unpaid water charges, including the standby charge that become delinquent will be assessed as a lien against the land to which the water was delivered, as required by the California Water Code. Any lien for delinquent charges against land receiving water will be assessed without regard to who requested water service (i.e. lessee). Water service will not be available to any property upon which delinquent charges exist.

USE OF WATER

1. District water is delivered for agricultural irrigation purposes and other incidental uses. District water may not be delivered for municipal, industrial or domestic use.
2. District water is provided under the requirement that it is put to beneficial use. The District will refuse to continue water deliveries if the water is being used in excess, wasted, or otherwise not utilized in a prudent manner.

WATER ENTITLEMENT

1. When the demand for water is greater than the available supply, the water shall be distributed equitably amongst landowners. This distribution shall be based upon the assessed acreage represented on each individual water application relative to the District's total assessed acreage approved for water during that irrigation season.
2. Any landowner may assign for use within the District their right to the whole or any portion of the water prorated to them.

WATER ALLOCATION POLICY

1. **Water user's allocation shall be pro-rated to each eligible acre of land within the District proportionately according to the latest Assessed Valuation of the land. (California Water Code Section 22250)**
2. **Water user's allocation as described above shall be forfeited back to District control on July 15, 2025, unless the water user notifies District staff prior to such date of his/her intent to utilize the allocation and water user pays for the water by August 1, 2025. If the water user fails to notify District staff prior to July 15, 2025, or pay in full prior to August 1, 2025, the allocated water will be released back to the**

common pool. This Policy may be suspended by the Board in the wetter water year types. Any allocation protected as of August 1, must be used by the end of February or will be lost without refund. No carryover from one water year to the next will be allowed. The District's priority, to the extent possible, for use of the reverted water will be to first meet any irrigation demand within the District; second, directly recharge the groundwater within SID boundaries or in the DCTRA Basins; third, meet irrigation demand in a neighboring District that has an impact on the groundwater levels within SID and fourth bank water for use in SID in a dry year.

WATER TRANSFERS

1. Water users owning or leasing multiple parcels within the District may transfer water without restriction between those parcels.
2. Transfers between entities within the district are allowed subject to completion of a water transfer request signed by both parties. The District will assume no responsibility for collection or disbursing any monies between transferring parties.
3. No landowner or water user can transfer or exchange allocated water outside of the District unless he/she has complied with the District's Groundwater Banking Policy.
4. Water transfers between growers within the Saucelito ID after the water has been reported to the Eastern Tule GSA must be handled by the ETGSA.

WATER ORDERING PROCEDURES

1. Orders for water deliveries or turnoffs must be placed 24 hours in advance between 7:30 A.M. and 9:00 A.M., Monday through Friday. Orders received after 9:00 A.M. cutoff time will be ordered on the following business day. Monday orders must be placed before 9:00 A.M. on Friday. These are U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) regulations under which the Central Valley Project operates. All districts must comply at all times.
2. For daily water changes call 559-784-1208. All water changes must be accepted and approved by office personnel. **ORDERS PLACED IN THE FIELD WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
3. Water changes will be made between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday providing orders comply with Rule Number 1. Transfers will be permitted prior to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday only.
4. **It is the water user's responsibility to see that the meter has been turned on or off as ordered.**
5. Water service to user is subject to full compliance with the Water Ordering procedures set forth herein. Failure to comply will result in a one hundred dollars (\$100.00) charge per violation.

GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION

1. All wells, except those that extract two acre-feet or less per Water Year, shall be registered with the District. Landowners shall register their wells by providing the well information required to complete the Water Service Authorization form provided by the District. Any new groundwater wells shall be registered with the District within 30 days of the filing of a well completion report.
2. Flow meters are required on all active groundwater production wells and must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Have a manufacturer's accuracy specification that is within +/- 2%;

- b.** Include both an instantaneous flow rate in gallons per minute (gpm) and volume totalizer in acre-feet (AF);
 - c.** Be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications (i.e., full pipe recommendations, appropriate upstream and downstream lengths of straight pipe for the selected meter type, etc.);
 - d.** Be accessible for District operators to read.
- 3.** Each Landowner shall have the following options for meeting the flow meter requirements:
 - a.** The meter is installed by the Landowner and the District will retain a contractor to verify the installation meets the manufacturer's specifications. Landowners can select the brand and type of flow meter for the well so long as the above requirements are met; or
 - b.** The District will retain a contractor for meter installations. Landowners can choose to allow the District's contractor to provide and install a Seametrics electromagnetic flow meter on behalf of the Landowner. The Landowner shall reimburse the District for contractor costs and the Landowner will assume ownership of the flow meter. If a Landowner selects this option, they must inform the District in writing.
- 4.** All flow meters shall be inspected and validated by the District's contractor to ensure meter and installation requirements are properly met. Meters on newly constructed wells must be installed and validated by the Districted contractor prior to the use of facilities.
- 5.** If a Landowner fails to comply with the above well registration or meter installation requirements, the District will calculate a monthly estimate of gross groundwater extraction. The calculation will account for all components of a parcel's water budget which includes evapotranspiration, effective precipitation, applied surface water, applied groundwater, irrigation efficiencies, and gross acreage. Landowners shall notify the District of changes in cropped acreage.
- 6.** Meter maintenance and calibration:
 - a.** Routine maintenance and calibration of the flow meter will be the responsibility of the Landowner. Landowners shall notify the District if a meter is removed or replaced so that the District can update the well and meter registration information. The District will notify the Landowner if a meter needs to be repaired. Landowners shall repair the meter within 30 days of the notice.
 - b.** Meter calibration must be performed by a testing facility traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The District can provide Landowners with a list of facilities that meet these requirements.
 - c.** Landowners shall provide the District an initial certificate of calibration that was completed within the last 5 years. If a Landowner fails to calibrate the flow meter based upon the District's requirements, the District will provide written notice to the Landowner that the Landowner has 30 days to calibrate the meter or the District will retain a contractor to calibrate the meter and the Landowner will be obligated to reimburse the District for contractor costs.
 - d.** Landowners shall re-calibrate flow meters at least every 5 years. A new certificate of calibration will be due by January 31st of every fifth year; for example, if the current calibration date is July 15, 2024, a new certificate of calibration will be due January 31, 2029 and every five years thereafter. The most current calibration date and re-calibration due date will be reflected on the Landowners Water Service Authorization form. If a Landowner fails to submit a new certificate of calibration by the due date shown, the District will provide written notice that the Landowner has 30 days to calibrate the meter or the District will retain a contractor to calibrate the meter and the Landowner will be obligated to reimburse the District for contractor costs.
- 7.** Landowners shall provide District staff access to read all meters as needed.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- 1.** The authorized agents of the District shall have free access at all times to land irrigated with District water for the purpose of examining or repairing water delivery facilities and related appurtenances and maintenance of the flow of water therein.

2. Additions or deletions to the distribution system are subject to the review and approval by the District. Provided approval is given, the cost of said addition or deletion shall be paid by the requester in advance to the District. All such additions or deletions will be completed by District employees and under the direction of the District.
3. Those who are contemplating doing work in the vicinity of District pipelines and other facilities are must to contact the District office **prior to the commencement of work.** Anyone causing damage to the District distribution system will be subject to paying for the costs of repairs, including labor, overhead, material, and equipment.
4. Water service may be discontinued without notice upon violation of any of these rules and regulations, in which event service will be restored only upon order of the Board of Directors and upon such conditions as the Board may determine.

DISTRICT LIABILITY

1. The District assumes no responsibility for the quality of water delivered. This water is not intended for human consumption.
2. The District may experience water supply shortages imposed by the United States pursuant to our federal contract during any year. In no event shall any liability accrue against the Saucelito Irrigation District or any of its officers, agents or employees for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from a water supply shortage, drought, or unavoidable cause.

Adopted by: Board of Directors
Saucelito Irrigation District
January 9, 2025