

Winter Farm Metropolitan Districts Nos. 1 – 3: Irrigation Water Fees FAQ

Why have my irrigation rates increased by \$105.00 per year?

In 2008, Winter Farm Metropolitan District No. 1 (the “District”) set the annual irrigation fee at \$200 per year, per lot. The water fees support the costs associated with District’s operation and maintenance expenses including, but not limited to, the operation and maintenance of the District’s irrigation system, the District’s ground maintenance services, including irrigation and landscaping of the open spaces in Winter Farm Metropolitan Districts Nos. 1 – 3, and any other budgeted general fund expenditures of the District. The current budget is running a deficit. The law requires us to balance our budget. Deficits were formerly covered by the development of lots but there is no more income from that source. The minimum amount of money needed to balance the budget is \$105.00 per lot. There are no reserves built into this increase. The rate increase amounts to approximately \$15.00 per month throughout the 7 month watering season and is considered to be in line with other special districts providing non-potable water.

I thought water was unlimited, why are watering restrictions being imposed?

The District never intended to have an unlimited supply of water delivered to residents. The entire Front Range is experiencing drought conditions. Most northern Front Range municipalities have mandatory water restrictions starting April 1st. The District finds it prudent to have rules in place for dealing with drought and to ensure the continued supply of non-potable water in the future. The current three day per week watering schedule is more than adequate for irrigation.

Can I disconnect my irrigation line from the District and use the Town of Windsor's water?

No. Pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement between the Town of Windsor and the District, the District agreed to construct an irrigation water system and to provide irrigation water to the property within the boundaries of Winter Farm Metropolitan Districts Nos. 1 – 3. Section 4.2.6 of the District’s Water Rules and Regulations prohibits the irrigation of your property other than with the District’s irrigation water unless approved by the District. Section 4.1 of the Water Rules and Regulation also prohibits the tampering with the District’s Irrigation Water System, including unauthorized turn-off of the water service without District consent. Persons violating this rule are subject to a \$1,000 fine, plus any expense, loss or damage to the District’s Irrigation Water System, and shall be prosecuted to the full extent of Colorado law.

What happens if I refuse to pay my bill?

When a customer is 15 days late in paying any charges due to the District, the District shall assess an interest charge at the rate of one percent (1%) per month on the unpaid balance. When payment is more than 30 days late, the District may, in its sole discretion and following the opportunity for a hearing on the matter, terminate service to any customer. Termination of the District’s irrigation water services does not authorize the customer to connect to the Town’s potable water supply for irrigation purposes. For any accounts that are past due for more than six months, the District may certify those amounts outstanding for more than six months and in excess of \$150 to the Weld County Treasurer for collection in the same manner as taxes are collected and paid to the Treasurer. The customer shall be responsible for all District collection costs including, but not limited to, all legal, court, disconnection, and other costs necessary to or incidental to the collection of delinquent fees.