



# FACT SHEET

## SMALL TRACT IRRIGATION

### SMALL TRACT DELIVERY 2009

Drought conditions will continue in the Elephant Butte Irrigation District during the 2009 Irrigation Season. Based on the current forecast, a **24-inch** water allotment has been issued. At this time, Small Tracts <2.0 acres (flat raters) are scheduled for **four irrigations** as described below; however, the EBID Board of Directors may be able to allot additional irrigations if spring runoff reaches the Elephant Butte Reservoir. In 2008, we sampled small tract irrigations in selected areas by measuring deliveries and calculated that small tract irrigators use about 6 inches of water per irrigation. (One important thing to remember about irrigating in this valley is that the clock starts running when you open the head gate and not when it gets to the field or yard). Based on that sampling and on the total allocation of water to the District, the EBID Board of Directors established the following irrigation schedule.

**All water delivery is subject to change and is dependent upon the availability of water.** The following rules and/or procedures apply for all Small Tract Irrigations:

1. The tax assessment for the current year must be paid in full or you are not eligible to take irrigation water.
2. A small tract irrigator may be required (or choose) to irrigate along with a farmer.
3. The days for small tract deliveries are based on regions or areas.
4. Irrigation is on a first come, first served basis, not sequentially by placement along the community ditch.
5. **Water must be taken on the day it is available (Saturday or Sunday) as determined by your Ditchrider.**
6. Water can be taken only one time during the 48-hour Small Tract Weekend.
7. Please refer to the map and/or schedule to determine on which date and/or day you will be able to irrigate.
8. **Please contact your Ditchrider, or EBID at 526-6671 or 524-8003** if you have any questions about the date and/or day you are allowed to take delivery of irrigation water, or to find out in which unit your property is located. The unit information is provided on your tax bill. Also, see the map on the next page.

### BE WATER EFFICIENT

Here are some pointers for you to follow during your irrigation to make the irrigation as efficient as possible and to help conserve water:

- Be sure your ditches are clean (free of debris and overgrown vegetation).
- Do not leave the irrigation unattended.
- Call EBID immediately if you experience a problem.

### WATER THEFT

The Sheriff has advised that he will cite offenders who are caught taking water illegally. If something unusual or improper is happening, contact EBID immediately. EBID will be patrolling during Small Tract Weekends to enforce the rules and procedures described above. When necessary, EBID will contact the Sheriff's Department and request their assistance.

### AVAILABILITY OF WATER

All water delivery is subject to water availability and approval by the EBID Board of Directors. For up-to-date information, stop by our main office at 530 South Melendres Street, check with your Ditchrider, call any of the numbers below, or check the EBID web site, especially after the monthly meeting of the

2009 SCHEDULE	REGION	UNITS
<b>Apr 4-5</b> <b>May 2-3</b> <b>Jun 6-7</b> <b>Jul 11-12</b>	<b>North -            Rincon Valley</b>	<b>1A, 1B</b>
<b>Apr 11-12</b> <b>May 9-10</b> <b>Jun 13-14</b> <b>Jul 18-19</b>	<b>Central -            Northern Mesilla            Valley</b>	<b>2A, 2B,            3A, 3B</b>
<b>Apr 18-19</b> <b>May 16-17</b> <b>Jun 20-21</b> <b>Jul 25-26</b>	<b>South -            Southern            Mesilla Valley</b>	<b>4A, 4B,            5A, 5B,            5C, 6A</b>

Board of Directors (usually the second Wednesday of each month). For more information about EBID policies and procedures, please see the documents on our web site available by clicking on *About EBID*, or ask to see the General Information and/or Water Users handbooks at the main office. The web site also provides a cell phone listing of Ditchrider contact numbers available by clicking on *Contact Us*, and answers to frequently asked questions.

#### Contact EBID:

Main Office: 526-6671  
 Dispatch:  
 • From Las Cruces: 524-8003  
 • From Chamberino: 882-2135  
 • From El Paso: 533-3858  
 Web Site: www.ebid-nm.org

### REASONS TO FORM A DITCH ASSOCIATION

- Group Participation
- Shared Cost
- Purpose
- Efficient Water Use
- Marketability
- United Voice

There is a more formal Community Ditch Association, and a less formal Neighborhood Ditch Association. Contact Richard Bejarano or Henry Magallanez for additional information.

## COMBINATIONS FOR WATER DELIVERY

Various policies and procedures have been established which enable Small Tract Irrigators to:

- Place water orders.
- Allow better coordination for the conjunctive use of both surface and ground water. To allow this, the water righted acreage for two, or more, Small Tract accounts can be combined and considered as one account for water delivery purposes. This allows the irrigators to place a water order (the same as a Farm Tract) for the delivery of water instead of being limited to irrigation on Small Tract Weekends. Water can be moved to and from eligible lands owned by members of the combination.

### Types of Combinations:

#### 1. Flat Rate Combination.

Two or more Small Tract accounts, totaling at least

two or more acres on the same delivery ditch are combined for water delivery purposes only.

2. Farmer-Flat Rate Combination. At least one, or more Small Tract accounts and at least one, or more Farm Tract accounts totaling at least two or more acres on the same delivery ditch are combined for water delivery purposes only.

### Process:

The property owners must jointly complete and submit a Renters Agreement application to the Water Records Department for each irrigation season. Contact the Water Records Department or Richard Bejarano for additional information.

## DITCH ASSOCIATIONS

Associations enable coordination of ditch clean up, maintenance, and water delivery for irrigators on the same ditch system. Additionally, by forming a combination as described above, water can be moved to and from eligible lands owned by Ditch Association Members.

