

# IRRIGATION INFORMATION



## ALLOCATION

The annual allocation of water stored in Elephant Butte Reservoir at the beginning of each irrigation season is determined through coordination between Elephant Butte Irrigation District (EBID), El Paso County, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

## ALLOTMENT

Each year, the EBID Board of Directors (BOD) announces the water allotment per water-righted acre at the start of the irrigation season. As the total annual water allocation to EBID increases, the allotment provided to fully paid farmer rate accounts also increases.

## ASSESSMENT

Each year, the EBID Board of Directors reviews and approves the District's fiscal budget, which covers annual operations and maintenance costs. Based on this budget, the Board establishes an assessment charged to members, calculated according to the number of water-righted acres within the District. The annual tax assessment is determined and approved by the BOD for farm tracts. The assessment rates may be set to include all the allotted water for EBID at the time of payment.

The annual assessment is a charge to landowners within the boundaries of EBID who have water-righted acres as defined by the New Mexico State Statutes.

- **Section 73-11-29 NMSA** makes it clear that the assessments are for the operating costs of the District and can be assessed upon the landowner with water-righted acres within the boundaries of EBID, regardless of the amount of water available, allotted, or received.
- **Section 73-11-30 NMSA** provides that whenever the assessments remain unpaid, or any balances/charges for water delivered are unpaid, the assessments are levied upon and are the responsibility of the EBID landowner.
- **Section 73-11-36 NMSA** allows the District to use the revenue laws for assessment levying and collecting taxes on real estate when it seeks to collect.
- **Section 73-11-48 NMSA** states that in lieu of bringing suit for collection of assessment and charges, the BOD of any irrigation district may elect to declare forfeited the water rights on any land less than two acres within the district for which assessments and charges are delinquent and on which irrigation district water has not been used for a period of three years.

**Annual assessments become delinquent February 1 and begin to accrue interest as of that date.**

## PAYMENTS

Payment of the annual tax assessment allows members to order and receive water during the annual irrigation season. Farm members may place water orders based on the total allotment established each year by the EBID Board of Directors. Flat-rate members are permitted to irrigate once during the designated flat-rate irrigation weekend.

The EBID Board of Directors continually evaluates available water resources throughout the irrigation year. Any water requested by a farm member in excess of their annual allotment must be purchased from, or transferred by, another EBID member with a paid account before a water order can be placed.

**Farm members who want to buy or sell water should contact the EBID Tax Department.**

While EBID assists with water transfers between member accounts, EBID does not guarantee the sale or purchase of water in any given year. All water sales and purchases are driven solely by EBID members.

## RENTER AGREEMENTS

Renter Agreements must be completed, signed, and submitted to EBID annually. This ensures the landowner's authorization is properly documented, allowing another member to place orders and use the surface water.

**ATTN FARM MEMBERS:**  
Contact the EBID  
Tax Department to  
for more information  
on selling or purchasing  
water on an annual basis.

Elephant Butte irrigation District | 530 S. Melendres St, Las Cruces, NM | 575-526-6671 | [www.ebid-nm.org](http://www.ebid-nm.org)

Josh Smith - Treasurer/Manager | [jsmith@ebid-nm.org](mailto:jsmith@ebid-nm.org)

Visit the [EBID website](http://EBID website) for links to weather information and forecasts,  
important information regarding water allotment, and annual irrigation schedules.

# IRRIGATION SURFACE WATER

## Beneficial Use



The EBID Board of Directors continues to evaluate the available surface water supply and members' intent to use that water. Managing this process requires a combination of planning and science. It involves coordinating the amount of water stored in Elephant Butte Reservoir and the amount allocated by the Bureau of Reclamation, the diversion and delivery of water by EBID, and the timing and intent of use by EBID members.

The challenge is to align this information with farmers' needs and the water available to meet those demands. To help the Board make informed decisions about water quantities and ensure water is put to beneficial use, **your assistance is needed.**

### EBID FARM MEMBERS

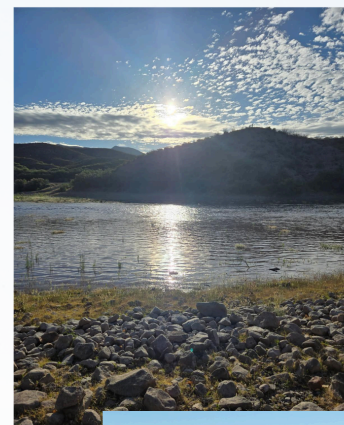
- *Is your account paid in full and eligible to receive your annual water allotment? (EBID members must pay assessments annually. Payment establishes that the account is current and in good standing and enables the water to be used for beneficial purposes.)*
- *Do you intend to order water to apply to your land? (If a farm member chooses not to use this water, it may be sold and transferred to another farm member for their use.)*



**If you answered "NO" to either of the questions above, you should consider selling your water. DOING SO HELPS EBID ENSURE THAT ALL WATER IS PUT TO BENEFICIAL USE.**

### INTERESTED IN SELLING WATER?

**EBID farm members who have paid the annual assessment but DO NOT intend to order or use water should contact the EBID Tax Department and express their interest in selling the water** available to their account. Provide your EBID account number, name, number of acres, and contact telephone number when contacting the Tax Dept. EBID maintains a list of interested sellers and will coordinate by connecting them with EBID farm members interested in purchasing water. **All payments for these transactions are made directly between the participating farm members.**



### INTERESTED IN BUYING WATER?

Farm members who are interested in purchasing water should contact the EBID Tax Department. Members will be provided with information regarding available water. EBID maintains a list of members interested in selling water, and staff assists in coordinating connections between buyers and sellers. Once payment for the applicable water assessment is completed, the purchased water will be transferred to the member's farm account, allowing it to be put to beneficial use.



### HAVE QUESTIONS???

**Contact:** Leah Diaz, Financial Director, 575-993-2437  
EBID TAX OFFICE: 575-993-2475 / 575-993-2696