

EVERGREEN METRO DISTRICT

2021 IRRIGATION SEASON FORECAST

Effective Date: April 1, 2021

The EMD irrigation season begins in May and concludes at the end of October.

This notice is the District's official notification to all customers that once Drought level 2 is announced, penalty rates are in effect. There will be no grace period for this notification.

Customers and contractors need to know what the outlook for the water supply for the 2021 irrigation season is so that decisions on landscaping, gardens, tree planting, etc. can be made early. The District cannot eliminate the risks of drought conditions. The District, also, cannot guarantee that watershed conditions in April or May will remain constant throughout the irrigation season. Individual storm events, or a lack thereof, can positively or negatively affect drought conditions. The intention of the District is to help all customers minimize their risks from a drought condition that could occur later in the irrigation season. The District will notify the customers of all information at our disposal related to drought conditions and response. It is the customer's responsibility to be aware of weather and climate trends that are publicly available.

The upper Bear Creek Watershed, including Evergreen, entered 2021 in severe drought condition. All of the projection data sets used by the District to evaluate and forecast irrigation season water availability indicate that drought conditions will remain in place during the 2021 irrigation season. As a result, the District will enter the irrigation season in Drought Level 1, with the distinct possibility that Drought Level 2 may be called by May 1st.

As of April 2nd, the stream flow of Bear Creek at the Morrison gauge is about 13 Cubic Feet per Second (CFS). The snow storms that hit the area during the middle of March resulted in approximately 4" of snow water equivalent to the Echo Lake SNOTEL site which is an increase from 82% of normal to 118%, and an increase of precipitation accumulation from 6.9" (79% of normal) to 11.6" (105% of normal). However, the U.S. Drought Monitor places the Jefferson County area in Moderate to Severe drought, and predictions for warmer and drier weather remain in the forecast. That means that the available snowpack in the upper watershed will degrade and runoff quickly and we will be reliant on individual snow and rain events to provide additional water supply.

Once peak snowmelt and runoff have occurred, the District will continue to monitor streamflow readings, the Colorado Drought Monitor and long term weather forecasts. Any significant change to the available water supply may result in a declaration of a Drought Response Level 2 or 3.

Your Evergreen Metro District bill is comprised of both a flat fee (base rate) and a usage charge.

- The District bills water used from the prior month.
- Each customer is billed at a rate of \$3.30* per thousand gallons of water used, up to 14,000 gallons, per tap equivalent.
- Residential accounts have one tap equivalent.
- All water used over 14,000 gallons each cycle is billed at a higher tiered level.
- The current level 2 drought penalty rate for higher tiered billing is \$15* per thousand gallons used over 14,000. The Board of Directors will be considering proposed increases in the drought penalty rates for 2021 at a Public Hearing to be held on April 28th.

**Please see District website for current rates for Kittredge Sanitation and Water District.*

For a complete listing of District water rates please visit our website at www.evergreenmetro.org. For an explanation of the billing process please call the Administration office at 303-674-4112.

Background Information:

Stay current with the latest information, including watering restrictions, by following us on Facebook (Evergreen Metropolitan District) or checking out our website. For more information about drought conditions and water precipitation check out the following resources

www.drought.gov

www.water.weather.gov.

<https://climate.colostate.edu/drought>