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File \_\_\_\_\_

May 4, 2020

Dear Irrigator:

### RE: WATER ORDERING

This letter is a reminder that irrigators must contact their ditchrider(s) when ordering water for their irrigation systems or shutting them off. **If you are ordering water and communicating shutoffs to your ditchrider, thank you for your cooperation and we trust that you will continue to do so.** This information is an essential part of the BRID's operations and planning. The level of communication seems to be deteriorating in some areas, largely those with few open canals, and must improve. It may seem like there is no need to order water on a pipeline since the water is always there, but when you take water without ordering, you are stealing it from other irrigators further downstream on the canal that feeds your pipeline.

The ditchriders make every effort to deliver water as soon as possible after it is ordered, but all irrigators should order water the day before they plan to irrigate to ensure that their water arrives on time. To ensure that you receive water when you need it, the order must be placed 24 hours in advance. Irrigators are also reminded that they are required to give 24 hours advance notice of shutoffs whenever possible.

Most irrigators who attended area meetings and the annual meeting earlier this year voiced strong support for the need to order water on and off 24 hours ahead. This is part of the reason why the allotment was changed this year. At the April 22, 2020 regular board meeting, the board approved of lowering the limit for sprinkler irrigation methods (pivots, wheel lines) to 20" per acre, with the ability to purchase up to an additional 4" per acre for \$4.00. The limit for flood irrigation remains at 24" per acre, also with the ability to purchase up to an additional 4" per acre for \$4.00. The ability to pool your total allotment has not changed. The Board and Management will also look at enforcing further penalties on those who ignore the BRID's policies and bylaws concerning water ordering.

If a system is recorded as being in use, and the shutoff time is not communicated, the shutoff time will not be recorded until the ditchrider notices that your system is off. This will result in the running time being recorded as longer than the actual usage, which may result in the recorded usage exceeding the allotted limit. In discussions with other irrigation districts, most of which have a limit lower than the BRID's previous limit of 24", it was discovered that their level of compliance is much higher. The odds of running out of water due to lack of communication with your ditchrider are much greater with a lower limit.

Irrigators should be able to contact their ditchrider(s) and receive a response between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and 7:00 A.M. to noon on Saturdays. They are not expected to make deliveries on Sundays. Messages, whether by phone or text, can still be sent at any time but the ditchriders are not expected to respond before 7:00 A.M. or after 7:00 P.M. Contacting your ditchrider by texting is encouraged as the preferred method of communication, as it ensures that a record of communication exists between both parties.

We trust that we will have your cooperation with our efforts to maintain accurate water use information and the efficient operation of the district.

Sincerely,  
The Board of Directors of the Bow River Irrigation District