

HAMMOND CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

790 CR 4990

BLOOMFIELD, NM 87413

505-632-3043

320-9068, 320-9441, 320-1112(Cell)

Website: www.hammondcon.org

Email: hcd@peoplepc.com

2008 REGULATIONS FOR WATER USERS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all landowners who cooperated in keeping the gates open last season on the canal right of way. Opening and closing gates is very time consuming for O&M personnel and we would ask that you do the same again this year.

IRRIGATION SEASON:

Water is scheduled for distribution in the District from approximately April 15 through October 15.

OFFICE HOURS:

The District will maintain an office at 790 CR 4990, Bloomfield; all records will be kept there. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Landowners may call the office during these hours. In case of emergency please call 320-9068, 320-9441 or 330-1112. **Water orders will not be accepted from the telephone.**

ACCOUNT CHARGE, ASSESSMENT, AND WATER CHARGE:

The annual account charge is \$60.00 per landowner. All District landowners with Class "A" serviced land must pay \$18.50 per acre for water whether it is used or not. The annual Class "A" assessment is \$12.00 per acre on serviced land. The billing for the account charge, water and assessment is enclosed. The water, account charge and any balance forward on the 2008 billing is due by April 1, 2008 and the assessment is due by September 1, 2008. **In 2009 there will be a rate increase for water to \$19.00 per acre and assessment \$12.50 per acre.**

PAYMENTS:

Please pay by check or money order to Hammond Conservancy District, 790 CR 4990, Bloomfield, NM 87413. The Board of Directors has authority under state law to levy fees as necessary for maintenance of the canal system. Water users who are delinquent will not receive water and may be

subject to legal action. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

WATER ORDERS AND MANAGEMENT:

Water delivered to Class "A" land must be measured in order to facilitate accurate and equitable distribution and accounting of water within the District. New Mexico statutes require that water be paid for in advance of use. Water is measured in cubic feet of water per second of time (CFS) or often referred to as second feet. One CFS for twelve (12) hours is one acre-foot; one CFS for twenty four (24) hours is two acre-feet. **Water is delivered for a 24-hour period and should be put to beneficial use for a 24-hour period.** Water over seasonal allotment will not be delivered.

WATER ORDER CARDS MUST BE IN THE CARD BOX BY 8:00 AM FOR WATER TO BE DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING DAY (24 HOUR NOTICE). We must have a signed card for every order. Water orders will not be accepted for Sundays, Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Labor Day. Water users should include turnout number on water order cards. The District will provide a water delivery record at the end of the irrigation season upon request.

Unauthorized pumping or siphoning of water from canals for any purpose is considered illegal use of project water and will not be allowed. In

the State of New Mexico, Conservancy Districts have powers available by law to enforce rules and regulations that have been adopted (73-14-49 to 73-

14-53 NMSA 1978). Pumps or siphons on the canal will be removed to the District Office, unless an official license agreement is on file at Hammond. The Board reserves the right to stop water delivery to any water user for improper distribution of water to ineligible land or for any unauthorized use of water (water which was not ordered). It is difficult to administer and execute the District's Water Management Plan with unauthorized use of water.

The District will not allow the use of check boards or any other obstructions in the canals or head gates that alter the flow of water, with the exception of use by District personnel. Any person or public corporation willfully failing to comply with this regulation shall be liable for any damages to project works, which may be a result of their own negligence or misuse of the works.

Every water user is responsible for the proper use of water ordered and for its return to the river; to let water run onto a neighbor may cause hard feelings, damage, and/or legal action. **Water should not be ordered if it will not be put to beneficial use.** Excessive runoff causes soil erosion and potential water quality problems and is not in the best interest of the District. Water cannot be shut off and allowed to back up into and perhaps overload and overflow the canal.

All landowners having fish in irrigation ponds or ponds that are fed by project water, please notify the district by letter.

CANALS ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR BATHING, SWIMMING, BOATING, OR ANY OTHER RECREATIONAL PURPOSE. Any such activity is a trespass. Persons who engage in such activity are subject to maximum penalty allowed by law.

The District will not be held liable for livestock injured or lost in canals or on the canal right of way.

RECLAMATION REFORM ACT (RRA):

All landholders (owner, part-owner, or lessees) of 240 acres or more within any or all reclamation projects west wide, are required to file RRA forms. All necessary reporting forms must be on file prior to delivery of water from project facilities.

Please contact the office for further information on rules and regulations regarding this policy.

RIGHT OF WAYS:

The operation and maintenance road along the canal is not a public right-of-way. The landowner has the right and authority to prevent anyone from trespassing except the Hammond Conservancy District, Department of Interior, and Bureau of Reclamation personnel in the performance of duties and inspections. Each water user must have access to a head gate. If other than the landowner has a need to use the O&M road, an agreement with the landowner must be made. All gates across the O&M road must be free-swinging. This is the road that ditch riders travel to service the canal. **Gates should be left open during irrigation season whenever possible.** In the event that gates are locked, please provide District personnel a key. All crossings that have not been approved by the Board of Directors, with an agreement secured, will be removed from the right-of-way.

SUBDIVISIONS OR PIPELINE SYSTEMS:

Four or more landowners using the same distribution line will be recognized as a "subdivision" or pipeline system. The group must organize, choose a name and appoint a water master. **The Water master shall be responsible for placing all water orders, collecting all individual landowner charges and mailing total charges to the District.** There will be no water turned out the head gates until 100 percent of all the individual landowner charges are paid in full.

Should Class "A" land be subdivided, it is the responsibility of the landowner to provide further distribution of water through existing head gates. The District will install no additional head gates for this purpose. **A water distribution plan is required for transfers, splits or any gifting of land.**

HEAD GATE POLICY:

The head gate policy addresses several issues, one of which allows for new head gate installations upon formal Board approval. If approved the landowner would bear the full expense of the head gate and installation costs as determined by the Board. The landowner must provide a signed work order and prepayment is required. Installations

would be completed by District personnel or a Board designated party.

WATER BANK:

A water bank is essentially a water management system, which allows distribution of water within the District by moving water from areas where it is not being used to areas of need. A water bank provides the mechanism to quantify water rights and track the use of water. It is a simple concept and will not affect the rights or responsibilities of landowners within the District. Water may be banked in one to five year increments. For more information on leasing water contact the District office. In the event of a water shortage or severe drought, the water bank may not be available for that season.

WATER TRANSFERS:

Water may neither be resold nor used for any purpose other than agricultural irrigation, nor transferred from a parcel of Class “A” land to another parcel of Class “A” unserved land without consent of the Board. **Water is appropriated to land by classification and is to be used only on land specified as Class “A” land and designated to receive project water.** The District has a permanent and temporary water transfer policy; for additional information contact the District Office.

HAMMOND BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

R. Russell Smith, President
Dan Smeal, Sec-Treas
George W. Riley III, Director
Kent Roberts, Director
Alan Vaughn, Director

DEED TRANSFER FEE:

Effective December 1, 2005 is a Deed Transfer Fee of \$750.00 per transfer for conveyances of any real property with an allotment of project water within the District boundaries. Payment is required prior to the release of project water from Hammond Conservancy District canals by the District for the benefit of said transferred lands. As of February 2007 the District will allow an exemption of the deed transfer fee on deed transfers for an immediate member of a landowner’s family. Immediate members of family would include spouse, children, grandchildren or parents only.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS:

The Hammond Conservancy District Board of Directors meets the first Thursday of each month at the Hammond District Office at 7:30 pm. If the monthly business meeting falls on a holiday, the meeting will be rescheduled for the next Thursday. All landowners and interested persons are welcome to attend.

NOTICE:

The District has recently activated a website (<http://www.hammondcon.org>) that provides more information related to water management and local water issues. All HCD water users are encouraged to review the site and provide feedback and contributions.

OPERATING PERSONNEL:

Ken Griner, Supervisor
Larry Chavez, Ditch rider
Teresa Lane, Manager