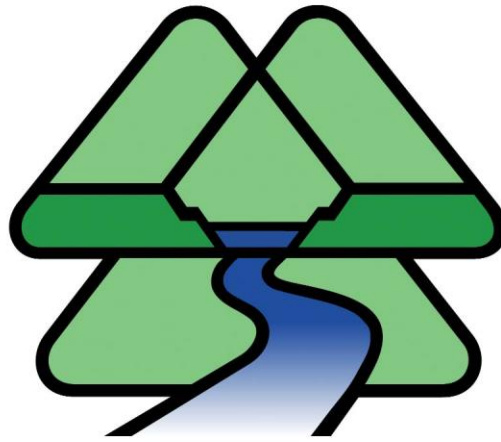


Tri-County Water Conservancy District

Operating Policies



**TRI-COUNTY
WATER**
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

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TRI-COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT OPERATING POLICY

Updated – February 1, 2024

1. GENERAL OVERVIEW:

1.1 The Tri-County Water Conservancy District (District) is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, with authority to levy taxes under limitations established by the State Legislature. The District is governed by a 15 member, judicially appointed, Board of Directors.

1.2 The District distributes domestic water throughout the rural area of the Uncompahgre Valley and is the contracting and sponsoring entity of the Dallas Creek Project, Ridgway Dam, which the District operates and maintains for the Bureau of Reclamation.

1.3 The District's mission is to provide dependable quality service for delivery of domestic water to District customers and to manage, operate, and maintain the Ridgway Dam in the most efficient and economical manner.

2. DEFINITIONS:

Applicant - Any person or organization making application for metered service on the Tri-County Water system.

Application - Request and service agreement for metered service from the Tri-County Water system (Petition).

Board - Tri-County Water Conservancy District Board of Directors

Business - A unit used solely for business activity which does not provide for private living.

Condominium – Residential Multiplex Unit within which each unit can be held in separate ownership.

Demand Tap - Any tap larger than a "Standard Tap".

Director - Any member of the Tri-County Water Conservancy District Board.

Full Use Tap - Any tap purchased and maintained for the purpose of using water from the District's distribution system. Full use implies that the tap can be utilized according to the operating policies of the District.

Limited Use Stock Water Tap - Tap qualified under policies outlined in Section 20 of this policy. Tap is used to provide stock water only.

Meter Setting - Meter, meter yoke, check valve, post, receptacle and meter pit.

Multiple Tap - A standard tap which is authorized by the District to serve domestic water for up to two (2) additional units.

Multiple Unit - Two or more units or combination of units.

Multiplex Unit - Residential structure (i.e. duplex, fourplex, etc.) with more than one unit which has common wall(s) and roof.

Owner - Any person or organization that owns the property or parcel has an approved application, has paid the current fees, and is in compliance with the operating policy.

Plant Investment Fee - Revenue used to fund required upgrades and replacements to facilities.

Residence - A unit primarily used as a residential living space but may be used as a place of business.

RV Park - Commercial business operated solely for the purpose of temporary parking of recreational vehicles.

Semi-structure - Any single structure subdivided into two or more dwellings.

Specifications - Technical requirements for construction of District facilities and infrastructure as approved by the District.

Standard Tap - 3/4" mainline tap with 5/8" X 3/4" meter.

Subdivision - Typically, a division of land into parcels less than 35 acres or a division of land subject to individual county land use code.

Sub-Unit – That part of a unit which shares some common living convenience (i.e. washer/dryer, bathroom, or kitchen) and common interior and/or exterior access.

Tap – The physical connection to District main distribution line. A tap is a right to receive domestic water at a specific location for one parcel subject to District rules and regulations.

Tap Fee - Plant investment fee plus cost of installation of tap and meter setting.

Temporary Living Unit (TLU) – An individual structure such as a yurt or cabin that is occupied on a temporary basis.

Trailer Park - Parcel used for renting mobile or trailer type home sites which are set on permanent or semi-permanent foundations utilizing permanent utilities.

Unit - An individual structure on a permanent or semi-permanent foundation, that has the capability of providing independent living. The major determining factor is if the unit has a kitchen facility that typically contains a stove, refrigerator, and wash basin.

3. ADMINISTRATION:

3.1 The District Board consists of 15 Directors (five representing each of the three counties) that are appointed by the State District Court Judge. The authority of the Board of Directors is set forth by Colorado State Statute.

3.2 The Manager of the District has the authority to hire and fire personnel and to disburse operating funds of the District in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 for any single transaction. Any amount above \$20,000 shall be countersigned by the Assistant Manager or a designated Director.

3.3 The Assistant Manager is authorized to disburse operating funds of the District in amounts not to exceed \$20,000 for any single transaction. Any amounts above \$20,000 shall be countersigned by the Manager or a designated Director.

3.4 The General Manager shall be responsible for prudent and faithful compliance with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Management shall also enforce the policies set forth by the Board. Any known violation of the policies that is not resolved to the satisfaction of the District may cause the District to record with the appropriate County Clerk and Recorder a notification of the violation to appear in the real property records.

(Amended March 21, 2012)

4. WATER TAPS:

The purchaser of a Tri-County Water tap shall provide proof of ownership of the land to be served showing the legal description of the property and must sign a service application / agreement and agree to abide by District Policy. The desired tap location must be specified at this time and the tap is assigned to that parcel or deed. All rights of ownership shall be given the landowner upon purchase and may only be held by the owner of the property to which the tap is tied. Upon payment of appropriate tap fee in full, along with other applicable charges or fees, the District shall proceed with the installation of the tap, provided that materials and services are available. The installation portion of the tap fee shall be determined on a case by case basis.

5. OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE:

5.1 The District shall locate meters to the best advantage of the District for maintenance, access, and reading. The District shall own, operate, and maintain, all meters, pipelines, and appurtenant facilities. Meters shall normally be located at the property line in a county road right of way or at the edge of a private utility easement. No obstructions shall be placed over or in front of a meter that prevents reasonable access from designated roadways or easements for reading and maintenance of the meter. Tampering, modification, damage, or unauthorized use of water is strictly prohibited and subject to fees and penalties as shown in Exhibit A. The customer shall own, operate, and maintain the service line commencing at the outlet side of the meter pit.

5.2 Irrigation ditches or drains which threaten the integrity of a meter setting shall be modified by the applicant, as specified by the District, to protect the meter pit and setting.

6. METER REQUIREMENTS:

6.1 All water delivered to a customer shall be metered. A standard tap and (5/8" x 3/4") meter may serve only one parcel. Said tap may serve one unit, one unit with one or more sub-unit(s), or one unit with a business. For additional units, an owner shall purchase additional taps or the right to serve up to two additional units from the existing meter (see Section 6.2). Minimum fees shall be paid to maintain right of use once a water right has been purchased. A schedule of fees is shown in Exhibit A.

6.2 A standard tap may serve a primary unit and up to TWO additional units at the sole discretion of the District. The owner will be billed based on usage and meter size as shown in Exhibit A. Additional units must be placed on the same single parcel or piece of property referred to by the county assessor as one tax schedule number. The District takes no responsibility for the physical capability of the existing tap to serve the demand with increased volume or pressure and/or the owner's supply lines and plumbing.

Each multiple unit served, shall pay a "plant investment fee" equal to 80% of the current plant investment fee plus any related construction cost. No refunds or credits will be granted for multiple unit(s) rights if they are relinquished because of subdivision of land, non-payment, non-use, change in purveyor, repossession, or the like.

Service for additional units for which a multiple use tap fee has been paid may be converted to one or more standard or demand tap(s). A credit for the tap fee(s) paid will be made toward the current cost of a tap fee upgrade. Any credit in excess of the cost of upgrade will be forfeited. District will certify the tap purchase to the County upon installation of a separate and independent service line.

(Amended April 20, 2011)

Multiple unit rights are tied to the original parcel or piece of original parcel and are owned by the owner of said parcel. These rights are non-transferable or movable from the original parcel. If the primary tap serving the additional units is moved from the original parcel, all rights for service of additional units are forfeited.

(Amended February 21, 2007)

6.3 County planning requirements for subdivision of land generally require guarantee of domestic water service. The District must have the ability to serve (water line in place). The District requires payment in full (tap fee and cost of installation) for guarantee of service. Multiple units on one parcel shall be required to purchase separate taps as a general rule (see Section 6.2 for exception). Residential multiplex unit by definition and any individually owned semi-structure (including residential condominiums) shall be required one tap per unit, subject to discretion of District. All shall pay applicable fees.

6.4 A residence that contains more than one unit, (excluding apartment buildings), will be billed based on usage and meter size and receive service from a single standard tap and meter. The District reserves the right to prohibit this use if it is deemed physically or economically infeasible.

(Amended February 21, 2007)

6.5 A business, commercial development, apartment building or complex, RV park, or trailer park serving four (4) or more independent structures on one parcel and all under one ownership shall be served by a demand tap. The District shall determine meter size and tap fees based on customer demand requirements and District policy. Residential condominiums can be served by a demand tap if the District deems it necessary.

(Amended April 20, 2011)

6.6 Owner in violation of any policy shall be given 30 days from written notice to pay applicable and necessary fees, purchase additional tap(s) or remove any additional unit(s) from the parcel. If the owner does not comply, service shall be discontinued until policy violation is resolved.

(Amended July 17, 2013)

7. INACTIVE TAPS:

7.1 Customers requesting installation of an inactive tap shall review tap location with the District, sign a District work order, and pay any fees required.

7.2 Any taps originally purchased from the District for less than current cost to District for installation, shall pay the difference between the tap fee paid and current cost of installation prior to the installation of the meter.

8. TRANSFER OF TAP OWNERSHIP OR TAP LOCATION:

8.1 Upon the sale or transfer of a parcel of property to which a tap is assigned, the ownership of the tap must be transferred to the new owner. The new owner must provide proof of ownership and submit a signed service agreement to the District prior to receiving service. A transfer fee shall be charged for each ownership transfer established by the deeds.

Any owner in violation of this policy shall be given 30 days from written notice to provide proof of ownership, completed service agreement, and pay applicable and necessary fees. If the owner does not comply, service shall be discontinued until policy violation is resolved.

8.2 An installed tap may be moved to another parcel upon approval of the District and payment by the owner. The scheduled cost of installation fee or the full estimated cost required for moving the tap, whichever is greater, as determined by the District, is due prior to the move. Winter Stock Water taps may not be moved to any other parcel than that for which it was originally assigned.

8.3 An owner of an uninstalled tap may transfer and dedicate a tap to a new location or parcel other than that for which it was originally purchased only upon District approval. District shall determine applicable transfer fee at time of ownership reassignment or transfer. Paragraph 7.2 applies except that any fee deficiency shall be paid at time of transfer.

(Amended July 15, 2015)

9. PURVEYOR CHANGE:

When a property is transferred to another purveyor and the water service is provided by another entity, any District tap assigned to the property shall either be considered forfeited or shall be transferred to that entity's service. The tap may not be transferred or sold to another property or owner.

(Adopted December 14, 1994) (Amended April 20, 2011)

10. RENTALS:

The District shall continue to bill an existing renter as a convenience for the owner. The owner is ultimately responsible for all charges incurred. The owner and renter shall both receive a delinquent statement if a renter becomes delinquent on payment. A service fee shall be charged for the final reading upon renter's termination.

Effective July 20, 2016 the District shall bill only the tap owner once the existing renter's account is terminated.

(Amended July 20, 2016)

11. METER READING AND TERMS FOR PAYMENT:

Meters shall be read every other month (bi-monthly) and bills shall be due 14 days after the reading date.

Customers and owners shall be notified by mail in the form of a delinquent notice of any account balance owing after the billing due date and of pending termination of service and delinquent fees. A scheduled fee as shown in Exhibit A shall be assessed for each delinquent notice issued.

A delinquent fee as shown in Exhibit A shall be assessed as stated on the delinquent notice.

At the discretion of the District, service shall be terminated for any portion of an account still owing at the time of the next billing cycle. In addition to payment of the unpaid bill and delinquent fees, the current billing must be paid before service is restored. Charges incurred for service can be held as a lien upon the property and are not transferable.

(Amended January 14, 2010)

12. WATER RATES AND TAP FEES:

12.1 Tap fees consist of plant investment fee and cost of installing the meter setting. Tap fees are outlined in Exhibit A. Plant investment fees are used to fund necessary infrastructure upgrade and replacements. A minimum charge, dependent on the circumstances, will be assessed regardless of water use. Any Water use shall be charged according to the water rate table in Exhibit A.

12.2 Billing for new taps shall begin on the date of purchase.

12.3 All taps will be billed a minimum fee based on applicable standard, demand, or governmental rate as outlined in Exhibit A.

12.4 A business, commercial development or condominium complex, apartment complex, TLU, RV park, trailer park all under one ownership requiring a demand tap and meter may contain one or more units or sub-units connected to this tap. The owner shall pay a minimum charge plus usage based on the meter size as shown in Exhibit A. The District reserves the right to prohibit this use if considered physically or economically infeasible.

(Amended February 21, 2007)

12.5 Tap fees for commercial developments (as noted in Section 12.4) shall be based on uniform cost per unit or tap fee based on meter size whichever is greatest as shown in Exhibit A. Meter size will be determined by the District based on projected instantaneous peak demand.

12.6 The following shall apply to service through a demand tap to a trailer / RV park, apartment house, commercial and residential condominium, or subdivision:

a.) Trailer / mobile home and RV parks shall have the right to serve the specified number of spaces for which the plant investment fee has been paid. Any further expansion must be reviewed and approved by the District and applicable fees must be paid.

b.) Billing for apartment houses, commercial or residential condominiums, trailer / mobile home and RV parks on a parcel under one ownership shall be based on usage and meter size, as shown in Exhibit A.

(Amended August 29, 2023) (Amended February 21, 2007) (Amended April 20, 2011)

13. PRESSURE REDUCING VALVES OR REGULATORS:

13.1 Effective July 1, 1997, the District will no longer be responsible for the installation, maintenance, or replacement of individual pressure reducing valves or regulators. The District will continue to perform service on regulators subject to the terms herein located in District meter pits, at the owner's request. The District prohibits access in or private use of District meter pits.

13.2 Upon failure of an existing regulator in the District's pit, the District will notify the owner of the failure and replace the failed regulator with a temporary regulator. The owner will then be granted a reasonable amount of time (grace period) to install a regulator in a location in the owner's system such as in a private meter pit or inside the house. If a private regulator is installed by the owner, the District shall be notified by the owner and the owner will be required to sign a waiver of liability form provided by the District prior to removal of the District's temporary regulator. In lieu of installing a private regulator, the owner may elect to sign the waiver of liability and have the temporary regulator removed. Upon expiration of the grace period and if notice from the owner requesting the removal of the District's regulator has not been received, then the temporary regulator may remain in place up to an additional five billing periods and will be assessed a fee as shown in Exhibit A. If at the end of the additional time allotment the owner has not installed a private regulator, service shall be discontinued until the issue is resolved.

(Amended September 6, 2023)

The owner shall have sole responsibility for operation, maintenance, and replacement of their regulator relocated outside of the District's meter pit.

13.3 New tap installations will not include a District owned regulator. The owner of a new installation will be responsible for their own pressure regulation. The District will advise owner of the pressure in the mainline at their location so that he/she can decide if a regulator is necessary. The District encourages the owner to install a regulator on the main service line in the house or in a private pit if they are concerned about the effects of pressure and pressure fluctuations from the District's main water line. In any event, an owner is encouraged to install a pressure gauge in the house to monitor pressures on the house plumbing.

13.4 The District is not responsible for any damages done to person or property due to pressure fluctuation or the failure of a pressure regulation device.

(Amended October 9, 2013)

14. PUMPING CHARGES:

Each tap shall be assessed pumping charges derived from the cost of electricity required to deliver the water to the customer's location. The charges will be based on the number of pump levels required and the number of 1,000 gallons delivered. Current pumping charges are shown in Exhibit A.

15. LEAK ADJUSTMENT:

Leak or loss of water beyond the customer's control as determined by the District shall be considered for a bill adjustment. The customer must notify the District immediately that a leak or loss of water has occurred and request consideration under this provision. Only one billing period per year per tap shall be eligible for an adjustment.

To qualify under the terms of this provision, the leak or loss of water must exceed 2 times the average use as determined by the District. The District may grant a 50% leak adjustment for lost water charges. Pumping charges will not be adjusted. Payment in full must be made prior to the account's next billing date after the leak occurred to qualify for the adjustment.

(Adopted October 18, 1995, Amended March 21, 2012, June 19, 2013, and February 18, 2015)

16. DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS:

Accounts that are delinquent for at least one (1) year and in the amount of at least \$750 shall be repossessed by the District. The District shall give the owner of record a written 30 day notice to pay the delinquent charges to avoid the pending repossession procedures. If the account is not made current during that period, a second notice sent by certified mail shall be issued with another 30 day deadline. The Board shall then take action to repossess the tap at the next regular meeting. All rights of the tap will revert back to the District and the meter setting will be permanently removed. Repossession procedures shall apply to any and all taps. Payment of all charges to date at any time prior to Board action shall reinstate rights to owner. Any tap that has been repossessed must be purchased again by paying a full tap and installation fee according to Policy to regain service.

(Amended June 20, 2012)

17. REFUNDS ON TAP PURCHASES:

As a general rule, the District shall not repurchase taps or refund tap fees. Extenuating circumstances shall be considered on a case by case basis for refund of tap fees.

18. TAP UPGRADE:

When a tap owner requests upgrade and replacement of an existing meter, the owner shall be allowed 2/3 of the tap fees paid to the District prior to January 1, 2001 or 100% of plant investment fees paid since that date credited toward the current plant investment fee for the upgrade. Uninstalled meters will received 100% credit of tap fees paid upon upgrade to larger meter. Tap fee for the upgrade shall be the balance of the plant investment fee plus cost of installation or modification of the tap and meter setting.

19. METER RESET:

Any costs associated with an Owner requested vertical reset (ground level modification) of a meter shall be paid in full by the owner prior to the work being performed by the District. In the event that the Owner has caused the District to reset the meter, the Owner's account shall be assessed all associated costs.

20. WINTER STOCK WATER METERS:

20.1 Meters obtained under the federally funded Winter Stock Water Replacement Program were granted based on the historical use of stock water on the property. The tap fee was paid by the Federal Government as the primary component to provide an alternate water source for winter stock water through District infrastructure. Taps obtained through the Winter Stock Water (WSW) Project shall not be moved from the property for which they were granted.

20.2 Some taps installed for the WSW project qualified for "Limited Use" status granted by the District. They are allowed a variance from paying minimum fees. These taps are strictly used for watering stock and are not connected to any structure or living unit nor committed to any subdivision parcel. Taps granted "Limited Use" prior to January 1, 2000 will retain that status indefinitely or until converted to "Full Use". As of January 1, 2000, "Limited Use" can no longer be acquired from the District.

For taps granted "Limited Use" prior to January 1, 2000, the following conditions apply:

1. When stock water is needed, a fee shall be assessed to turn the meter on, if performed by the District. The owner shall be allowed to turn meter on. Water shall be billed at full rate for the full billing period that water is being delivered. Minimum fees shall not be assessed when meter is not used during the entire billing cycle and the account is paid in accordance with policy.
2. To alleviate damage to the meter, the Owner shall notify the District when stock watering is completed and the meter shall be drained and wire sealed in the off position.
3. All billings must be paid in accordance with normal billing procedures to retain rights. Billings during non-use periods shall be accrued on subsequent bills until payment in full is received.

4. If account remains delinquent for more than 6 months, the “Limited Use” privilege shall be forfeited. Tap shall be repossessed by the District in accordance with Section 16.
5. If the owner of “Limited Use” tap wants to convert it to a “Full Use” tap, then a request in writing and a conversion fee must be submitted to the District. This fee is subject to change without notice by the Board.
6. The conversion fee will be calculated at the beginning of each calendar year. It will be the current conversion fee plus anticipated annual minimum fees for coming calendar year. Any change in minimum will be assessed at the time the fee is adopted.
7. If a “Limited Use Stock Water Tap” is used for purposes other than watering stock without owner notification to the District, then service shall be terminated immediately. It shall automatically be converted to a “Full Use” tap and the conversion fee is due prior to restoration of service.

(Adopted June 14, 1995)

21. SERVICE TRANSFERS:

21.1 Existing water systems and service may be incorporated into the District’s existing system under the following procedures:

- a.) A request from the water system for acquisition by the District is received outlining the systems needs and requirements for transfer of service.
- b.) The District shall inspect the physical system to determine its adequacy for incorporation into the District system and develop requirements, deficiencies, terms, and conditions that may be necessary for transfer.
- c.) Economic feasibility shall be determined by the District for service transfer negotiations.
- d.) The transfer of service for water companies and water lines shall be considered on the merits of each individual case without regard to policies affecting sale of individual water taps. The Board shall determine terms of agreement for transfer of service.

21.2 Transfer of individual service shall be accomplished according to the terms of current Service Area Agreements with respective supplier. The District shall determine terms and conditions for transfer of service regardless of type.

22. EXPANSION OF EXISTING WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM:

22.1 100% of construction costs for line extensions will be recovered by the District. Deposits for total estimated cost due prior to construction.

22.2 Line Extensions will be allowed in public road rights-of-way (ROW) where the County has administrative control and authority in the ROW and/or responsibility for the perpetual maintenance of the ROW. Roadways shall be constructed to the respective County's road standards which will allow for safe ingress and egress and maintenance of the water line and appurtenant facilities.

22.3 Line extensions will be allowed in private easements only if:

- a.) District has a direct and substantial benefit from the construction
(i.e. storage opportunity or improved system hydraulic performance)
- b.) Easement is a minimum 30 feet in width (utility easement only)
- c.) Easement is a minimum 60 feet in width (access and utility easement)

22.4 A minimum of 8 taps per mile of pipe must be purchased prior to construction.

22.5 The District shall provide pipe for extensions along public road ROW outside of County approved subdivisions, only where the District receives a direct and substantial benefit from the construction (i.e. storage opportunity or improved system hydraulic performance).

22.6 The District will extend waterlines through solid rock terrain (at any depth in profile) only if there is a direct and substantial benefit to the District and the developer/owner pays an impact fee as determined by the District prior to construction. Impact fee is required to fund increased costs of perpetual operation, maintenance, and replacement of the line. Pipe shall be constructed according to District specifications for installation of pipelines in rock.

22.7 All line extensions are subject to review and approval by the Board at staff's request.

(Adopted August 17, 2001)(Amended October 8, 2003 and July 19, 2006)

23. DEVELOPMENTS:

23.1 Developers shall submit a plan or plat showing the proposed development and time line for development for the District's consideration.

23.2 Developers shall install main lines, valves, and appurtenances within the subdivision in accordance with District requirements and specifications. The District shall provide full time inspection of materials and method of construction to insure compliance with specifications and standards. The Developer shall pay for said inspection personnel, vehicles, and equipment prior to construction. The developer is required to prepay estimated costs for all materials, equipment, and labor necessary for the District to make the distribution connection for service to the development. Any construction and inspection balance shall be billed or refunded. The Developer shall warranty the system for one year from the date of acceptance by the District.

23.3 The District shall guarantee availability of service upon tap purchase and compliance with policy.

23.4 Proposed developments located where a storage tank would facilitate District operation and/or service, shall be requested to provide the District with an acceptable storage tank site, together with necessary rights-of-way and easements to the site at no cost to the District. The District shall fund the construction of and to the tank at the District's discretion.

23.5 Water line extensions necessary to serve a development shall be paid for by the developer as outlined in Section 22.

23.6 Upgrades to existing District infrastructure for any reason shall be considered on a case by case basis. All upgrades are subject to review and approval by the Board at staff's request.

(Amended July 19, 2006)

24. FIRE HYDRANTS:

24.1 Individuals or groups may purchase fire hydrants to serve their area. The hydrants shall be located on District distribution lines. The District shall install a fire hydrant where there is a possibility that it may perform to a minimum industry standard which is said to be 250 gallons per minute by the National Fire Protection Association. The District shall consider area fire district standards or requirements as they may apply.

(Amended March 17, 2010)

24.2 Fire hydrants shall be situated according to the fire department and/or District's needs. In general, fire hydrants shall be located at major road intersections to accommodate ease of use and access. Fire hydrant requirements shall be determined by county or city policy and fire department or District needs. The District reserves the right to determine location and quantity of fire hydrants as may be necessary.

24.3 Fire hydrants installed along the system's main are owned and maintained by the District. Hydrants shall not be metered but shall be restricted to emergency fire use and periodic flow testing as use can impact the District's capability to serve domestic needs and may damage infrastructure. Fire hydrants installed on private systems or service lines beyond dedicated fire line installations are the responsibility of the owner and water used shall be metered at the District's option. In the event of a fire, water used for fire protection purposes shall not be billed to the customer, however all other water used from a private hydrant shall be billed to the customer. Negative pressure pumping of any and all fire hydrants is strictly prohibited by the District.

24.4 The District does not guarantee a minimum flow or pressure at any fire hydrant. Tap owners and all other beneficiaries of fire hydrants shall also be aware that any fire hydrant located on the District system may not provide sufficient flows for fire protection purposes. The District shall not be held liable for the performance of fire hydrants on the system.

24.5 District owned fire hydrants shall be used only by District employees or qualified professionals representing a fire protection district or department for fire protection purposes only. All other use of fire hydrants is strictly prohibited by the District.

25. DEDICATED FIRE LINE:

25.1 A detector check valve and bypass meter shall be installed on any dedicated fire lines. The valve shall be installed at or near the District's main at the same location as the service meter for the property. Fees for fire line taps are shown in Exhibit A and are additional to any service tap requested.

25.2 No water shall be used on the customer's side of the detector check except for actual fire extinguishing or testing purposes of the fire system. Any violation shall result in the termination of this service. If a fire does occur, the owner shall notify the District as soon as possible. Water used for fire protection purposes shall not be billed to the customer; however, all other water used through a dedicated fire line shall be billed to the customer.

25.3 All facilities up to and through the metering station are the property of the District. Any lines and facilities from this point shall be the responsibility of the owner. Backflow prevention devices shall be installed as required in Section 26.

25.4 The District makes no guarantees for service and the owner shall agree to accept whatever flow and pressure is available at the time of required use.

25.5 Terms and conditions for service are outlined in Dedicated Fire Line Application. Application shall be completed by owner prior to service connection. Fees shall be paid prior to installation of a dedicated fire line tap by the District.

26. BACKFLOW PREVENTION & CROSS CONNECTION CONTROLS:

26.1 Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the District's position regarding prevention of potentially harmful backflow to the District's public potable water delivery system.

The District strictly prohibits cross connection of the public potable water system with any private or public water supply which does not meet minimum general sanitary standards by which the District abides or as set forth by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

This policy is written pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act and Section 11.39 of the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

26.2 Authority:

Sections 25-1-107, 25-1-108, 25-1-109, and 25-1-14 Colorado Revised Statutes, 1973, as amended. Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations (CPDWR), Article 12, Hazardous Cross Connections.

26.3 Additional Definitions:

Backflow Prevention Device - A device that meets applicable specification stated or cited in this standard or as suitable for the proposed use and as approved and accepted by the CDPHE.

Auxiliary Water Supply - Any water supply on or available to a customer's premises other than the District's approved public potable water supply.

Customer - Any person, business, or corporation receiving and using potable water from the District.

Backflow - The flow of water or other liquids, mixtures, gases, or substances into a potable water system from any other source than the intended supply.

Backflow Prevention Device - A device or method designed to prevent backflow as follows:

1. Air Gap - The unobstructed vertical distance through free atmosphere between the lowest opening from any pipe or faucet supplying water to a tank, plumbing fixture, or any other device, and the flood level rim of said vessels. An approved air gap will be at least double the diameter of the supply pipe, measured vertically, above the top of the overflow rim of the vessel, and in no case less than one inch.

2. Pressure and Non-Pressure Type Vacuum Breaker - Device which provides for an atmospheric breaker to prevent water from back siphon. A non-pressure device shall be installed at least 6 inches above the highest outlet or fixture. A pressure type breaker is spring loaded and does not rely on gravity to function.

3. Double Check Valve - This device is an assembly of two internally loaded, specially designed and independently operating check valves together with a tightly closing shut off valve on the upstream and downstream side of the check valves. This type of device is used on all direct or indirect water connections through which pollutants may enter the potable water system under backflow conditions.

4. Reduced Pressure Principle Device - This device is an assembly of two internally loaded, specially designed, and independently operating check valves which also has a mechanically independent, hydraulically dependent relief valve between the check valves specifically designed to maintain a zone of reduced pressure between the two check valves at all times. This assembly must also have tightly closing upstream and downstream valves. This assembly is used wherever a direct or indirect connection is made to a point of use involving any contaminant.

Contamination - Any impairment of the quality of potable water supply which creates a natural hazard to public health.

District System – It is the facilities and pipe transmission and distribution systems for delivery of potable water which are under complete control of the District to a point of connection immediately outside and on the customer's side of the District's meter pit or vault.

Customer System - Facilities and transmission systems beyond the District system including service lines and interior plumbing systems under control of the customer for delivery of potable water.

Containment: Strategy used to contain a backflow condition between the customer system to the District System.

Isolation: Strategy used to isolate a backflow condition *within* the customer system.

26.4 District Responsibilities:

To identify hazardous service connections as outlined in the CDPHE's Cross Connection Control Manual.

There shall be no uncontrolled cross connections to any District system for supply of potable water which does not meet the provisions of the CPDWR.

Require all system users to install and maintain **containment** type Backflow Prevention Devices (BPD's) on services that pose a threat to public health hazard. All demand taps shall have a BPD installed behind the District meter in front of any potential hazard. The District in conjunction with the CDPHE shall determine the need and type of device consistent with the degree of hazard posed by the connection.

Isolation type devices shall be considered on case by case basis.

Inspect and approve the installation of all BPD's.

Retain maintenance records of all BPD's for the last three years. Make records available to the CDPHE for inspection.

26.5 Customers Responsibilities:

Prevent pollutants and/or contaminants from entering the District system by way of the customer system and comply with all CDPHE Cross Connection Control Regulations.

Test and maintain all BPD's. All testing and maintenance shall be performed by a trained and qualified (certified) cross connection control technician. Initial tests shall be performed within 30 days of installation and subsequent tests shall be performed each year (not to exceed 365 days) thereafter. Test results shall be forwarded to the District for their records.

Allow District to inspect BPD(s) or investigate potential hazards to the public water system at any time.

Purchase, install, test, report, maintain, repair, and replace all BPD's.

26.6 General:

BPD's required by the District will conform to the latest **AWWA C-506 Standards for Reduced Pressure Principle and Double Check Valve Backflow Prevention Devices**.

The District shall determine the type of BPD to be installed based on the degree of hazard that is posed by the customer system.

Records of maintenance, overhaul, or replacement will be kept by the customer and a copy of such records shall be forwarded to the District as those records are generated.

The District may disapprove of any existing BPD that may be installed in a customer system given incomplete or improper installation.

The District shall consider by-passes, jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or change-over devices, or any other temporary or permanent connections through which backflow could occur to be cross connections.

The District prohibits any cross connection of the public water supply to any other pipe, fixture, or auxiliary water system which contains water of a quality below minimum general sanitary standards by which the District abides or as set forth by the CDPHE for that water system, whichever is the most stringent.

The District reserves the right to prohibit and deny cross connection of any auxiliary water source with its public potable water supply. The District's will be the ultimate authority in these matters.

Any public water supply system that is cross connected with the District system shall have a backflow prevention policy in place that meets or exceeds the general standards outlined in this policy.

Any cross connection discovered by the District that is not allowed by this policy shall be permanently removed within 24 hours of formal notification or service will be discontinued until such time as the conditions or defects are corrected.

The District shall conduct inspections and surveys of customer's facilities in accordance with the CPDWR, Article 12. The District will exercise reasonable and informed judgment to determine whether conditions or circumstances pose a threat to the public potable water supply and take appropriate action to resolve concerns.

The District shall give written notice requiring installation of an approved BPD(s) at specific location(s) on the customer's premises. The customer shall install the BPD(s) within 30 days of written notice at his own expense. If the customer fails to comply with the request of the District, service will be discontinued by means of a physical break in service.

A BPD shall be installed at any suitable location downstream of the meter which provides for containment protection for the District.

This policy incorporates herein by reference the **Cross-Connection Control Manual** and the **CPDWR** of the CDPHE including all amendments made now and hereafter. Whenever there is a conflict between this policy and the references, the most stringent standard will apply.

(Adopted December 12, 1997)

(Amended June 17, 2015)

27. INDUSTRIAL WATER:

27.1 Water purveyors that contracted for water prior to the construction of Ridgway Reservoir pay the principal and interest plus O&M costs as provided for in the District's repayment contract #7-07-40-L0273 with the Bureau of Reclamation. See individual sale and use contracts for details of sale to water purveyors.

27.2 Industrial water from Ridgway Reservoir shall be leased in one tenth (0.1) acre foot increments. Paragraph 16 Settlement and Operation, Maintenance, & Replacement charges shall be added to base rate shown in “Exhibit A” on annual basis. All three of these rates shall be determined by the Board on an annual basis. The minimum incremental sale shall be one tenth (0.1) acre foot. Augmentation Contracts will be for a period not to exceed 20 years, renewable annually if in good standing, but not to extend beyond December 31, 2049.

(Amended December 13, 2010)

28. RIDGWAY DAM OPERATIONS:

28.1 The District is responsible for the delivery of project water from project works for irrigation of irrigable land within the District, for municipal and industrial purposes, and for the operation and maintenance of the project works under Contract #7-07-40-L0273 executed January 14, 1977 with the Bureau of Reclamation. The purpose of Ridgway Dam is for storage, diversion, salvage, and distribution of the waters of the Uncompahgre River and its tributaries for municipal and industrial use, irrigation of water deficient areas, flood control, enhancement of recreation opportunities, conservation and development of fish and wildlife resources, hydropower, and other miscellaneous purposes.

28.2 The objectives for operation of Ridgway Dam are to perform the duties pursuant to operating standards and procedures (SOP) governing the project in a complete and thorough manner and to address the needs of a multipurpose project with many federal, state, and private entities involved and affected and to strive to accommodate economics, safety, and future objectives.

28.3 Funding for operation and maintenance activities is obtained from the cooperating entities through an O&M charge assessed per acre foot of use based on the type of water delivery (i.e. M&I, Irrigation). This fee can be adjusted annually with prior notice to the entities.

28.4 Ridgway Dam is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. The District operates the Dam and carries liability insurance to insure the actions of District personnel. Reclamation is liable for any damage that occurs due to failure as a result of design and/or construction of the facility and/or catastrophic event.

28.5 The District will release water from Ridgway Reservoir at the Bureau of Reclamation's request for purposes other than irrigation or M&I needs. Releases will be made at the District's discretion and will be contingent on operational needs and circumstances at the time requested. Releases will be made at a specified rate of flow for a specified time frame. The District will be compensated for releases at the rate of \$77.6135 per acre foot plus current O&M and will be paid prior to release.

Exhibit A
Fees and Rate Schedule
(2023)

Fee Schedule:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Leak Detection Assistance | \$ 30 per hour (1 hour minimum) |
| Turn on Limited Use Tap | \$ 20 |
| Ownership Transfer | \$ 20 |
| Delinquent Notices | \$ 5 each |
| Delinquent Fee | \$ 30 |
| Pressure Regulator Fee | \$ 50 per billing cycle (not to exceed 5 billings) |
| Meter Tampering or Damage | \$ All Costs (\$200 minimum) |
| Cut Lock Fee with No Damage | \$ All Costs (\$100 minimum) |
| Returned Check/EFT (ANY Reason) | \$ 25 |
| Reassignment of Uninstalled Meter | \$ 500 with Board Approval |
| Standard Tap Fee | \$ 9,000 plus cost of installation |
| Multiple Unit Tap Fee | 80% of Standard Tap Fee |
| Limited Use Tap Conversion | \$ 2549 |
| Fire Hydrant Installation | Costs Incurred (See Schedule) |

Water Rate Table:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Water Charge | \$ 3.70 per 1,000 gallons plus pumping |
| Government Rate | \$ 3.00 per 1,000 gallons plus pumping |
| Pumping | \$ 0.40 per pump level per 1,000 gallons |
| Augmentation Water (annual rate) | \$ 65.00 per one tenth (0.1) Acre Foot |

Tap Fees and Minimum Charges:

| <u>Meter Size</u> | <u>Plant Investment Fee</u> | <u>Minimum Charge (Bi-monthly)</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 5/8" X 3/4" | \$ 9,000 plus installation | \$ 18.00 |
| 1" | \$ 22,500 plus installation | \$ 50.00 |
| 1 1/2" | \$ 45,000 plus installation | \$ 50.00 |
| 2" | \$ 72,000 plus installation | \$ 50.00 |
| RV Space | \$ 3,600 per space | Meter Minimum plus usage |
| TLU | \$ 3,600 per unit | Meter Minimum plus usage |
| Trailer | \$ 7,200 per space | Meter Minimum plus usage |
| 4" Private Fire Line | Total Cost of Installation | \$ 90.00 |
| 6" Private Fire Line | Total Cost of Installation | \$ 180.00 |