



Patron Communication
March 31, 2025

Dear Patrons:

As all Central Oregonians know, the weather in our region is highly variable with both favorable and unfavorable impacts. The good news from our weather is that the snowpack is above average this year. The three Oregon SNOTEL sites that we monitor most closely, Cascade Summit, Irish Taylor and Summit Lake, show an average Snow Water Equivalent equal to 136% of the 1991-2020 median value. This is good news and based on the SNOTEL data it appears we should have a full season of irrigation water.

The unfavorable impact of the wet weather that has resulted in the above average snowpack is that it has slowed construction of Phase II of the Main Canal Piping Project. K&E Construction reports that due to the abnormally wet conditions this winter, and the tight confines of the project as construction progresses through Woodside Ranch, they have been forced to use the existing canal as the haul road to haul off trench spoils and to haul back crushed rock to grade the trenches and backfill for the new pipe. As a result, the haul roads have turned into muddy soup and are almost impassable. The trucks are forced to go extremely slow for safety reasons and to avoid splashing and pushing mud into the adjacent yards. The fluctuation of temperatures, from freezing to warm, has also slowed K&E's ability to weld the pipe sections together, which has reduced the amount of pipe that can be installed each day.

In addition to the weather impacts, delays in pipe delivery due to manufacturing issues have had a negative impact on the schedule. K&E has been working six days a week and overtime to try and maintain our originally scheduled completion date of April 30th, however, the latest round of rain and snow has caused K&E to request that the District extend the substantial completion date until May 31st.

The Board will need to officially extend the contract at its April meeting; however, we are advising Patrons who need to plan for seed and fertilizer applications that we anticipate water will be turned on at the river on May 31st. If the weather cooperates over the next few weeks, and K&E can make up some time, we will let you know if the water turn on date can be moved up.

Please contact the office or the board member of your district zone if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Colin Wills
District Manager