



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER
AZTEC

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State Engineer

100 Gossett Drive, Suite A
Aztec, New Mexico 87410

July 8, 2026

Ditch and City Pump Officials,

RE: Monitoring Animas River Flows and Preparing for Potential Rotations

To Whom It May Concern:

Flows on the Animas River have continued to decline and are currently measuring approximately 200 cfs at the USGS gage near Cedar Hill and approximately 25 cfs at the USGS gage at Farmington. While these flows remain above the thresholds identified in the attached *Animas River Ditch Rotation Schedule 2026*, current conditions warrant close monitoring. Although current flows remain above the rotation thresholds, runoff this year has behaved differently than in many previous years due to extreme drought conditions, depleted snowpack, and atypical temperature patterns. As a result, river conditions could change rapidly, and preparations for potential rotations are prudent at this time.

During past shortages, the Animas River water users have collectively and voluntarily chosen to implement a cooperative rotation schedule as a preferred alternative to a priority call on the Animas River. The schedule consists of four groups of ditches, each taking three days OFF and nine days ON. This cooperative approach has successfully allowed water users to share shortages and, to date, has avoided the need for formal priority administration on the Animas River.

Prior to 2025, the rotation generally became less effective by the third rotation cycle. The Interstate Stream Commission used RiverWare modeling to evaluate and revise the ditch groupings, resulting in a schedule estimated to reduce modeled shortages by approximately 20.1 percent compared to the previous schedule. It was successfully implemented in 2025 and is recommended for continued use.

At this time, no rotations are being implemented, and OSE is not administering a priority call on the Animas River. However, should river conditions continue to decline and approach the rotation thresholds, OSE intends to contact the participants in Group 1 to discuss an appropriate start date and assist in coordinating the rotation.

As in previous years, OSE is prepared to assist by:

- Facilitating communication among participating water users;
- Maintaining OSE's diversion measurement stations and ensuring that they continue to report to the OSE Real Time Measurement website (<https://meas.ose.state.nm.us/district5.jsp>); and

Animas River Ditch Rotation Schedule 2026

Rotations may begin when the Animas River USGS Gage Near Cedar Hill reaches a critical threshold of approximately 150 cfs OR the Animas @ Farmington gauge reaches approx. 20 cfs

Animas River Rotation Schedule 2026

	Participants	Days 1-3	Days 4-6	Days 7-9	Days 10-12
Group 1	Lower Animas	OFF	ON	ON	ON
	Eledge	OFF	ON	ON	ON
	Ranchmans Terrel	OFF	ON	ON	ON
Group 2	Twin Rocks	ON	OFF	ON	ON
	Cedar Hill	ON	OFF	ON	ON
	Farmers Irrigation	ON	OFF	ON	ON
	Kello Blancett	ON	OFF	ON	ON
	City of Farmington Pump 2	ON	OFF	ON	ON
Group 3	Ralston	ON	ON	OFF	ON
	Graves Atteberry	ON	ON	OFF	ON
	Stacey	ON	ON	OFF	ON
	Sargent	ON	ON	OFF	ON
	Farmington Echo	ON	ON	OFF	ON
Group 4	Aztec	ON	ON	ON	OFF
	Halford Independent	ON	ON	ON	OFF
	North Farmington	ON	ON	ON	OFF

Note: City of Farmington Pump 2 is the Penny Lane River Pump.

	<u>Turns off (8 pm)</u>	<u>2nd rotation (Turn off 8pm)</u>	<u>3rd rotation (Turn off 8pm)</u>	<u>4th rotation (Turn off 8pm)</u>
Group 1	TBD on or after 7/13/2026			
Group 2				
Group 3				
Group 4				

All entities shall not exceed their adjudicated maximum diversion rate.

Groups turn off for 3 days (72 hrs) then turn on for 9 days. If the river is still short, we continue another round of rotations.

Farmer Irrigation Ditch
Special Board Member's Meeting Minutes

A special Board meeting was called on 7/16/2026 @ 6:30 pm to add a new Board Member.
On 7/13/2026, David Elder and John Lofgren appointed Leah Cargile to fulfill Dale Rhodes' position in District 2.

Leah accepted the position.

John Lofgren also stepped down as Board President on 7/13/2026 via text. He stated that he would put his resignation in writing and email it to us.

David and Leah called a special meeting on 7/16/2026 @ 6:30 pm to appoint a new Board Member.

We discussed several candidates, and decided on Barry Phelps as the new Board Member.
Barry accepted the position for District 1.

David and Leah discussed hiring Valerie (the Parliamentary)

To help us write and organize the Irrigation By-Laws for the amount of \$750.00.

With the stipulation that everything be approved by the Board and possibly the Attorney, we approved this because we thought it prudent.

We will use last night's minutes to add Leah Cargile and Barry Phelps as signers on the bank account.

We will call another special meeting this month or at the beginning of August to decide the Board Members roles.

District 1 - Barry Phelps 505-330-7304

District 2 - Leah Cargile 505-860-7853

District 3 - David Elder 505-330-8694