

SWCD Water Information 101

The District holds water rights covering over 17,000 acres. The use of water under a water right is restricted to the terms and conditions described in the water right certificate, place of use, point of diversion or appropriation, and type of use. For example, if a water right holder establishes the right to irrigate a particular 20-acre tract of land from a specified water source, the water cannot be diverted from a different point or source, nor can it be used to irrigate other land without permission. It cannot be used for any other purpose than the type of use indicated in the water right and it must be used on covered areas once every 5 years.

The water rights are certificated to the District but are appurtenant to a landowner's property. When water rights are placed on your property, SWCD is required by law to enter into a water delivery contract with the landowner and the contract establishes the general terms of our relationship. The Contract customarily requires the District to deliver and the landowner to beneficially use irrigation water, among other terms.

If there is any situation that prevents you from using water on all areas, such as a new building, driveway, or shop facility you have a duty to report that to the district and allow us to transfer the water to keep the water right valid. (see map example) Patrons are responsible to pay District assessments for the contract term or until a successful water rights transfer takes place. Oregon law also allows water rights to be leased as instream water rights to establish flow levels that remain in stream for fish protection, recreational use or to minimize pollution.

Manager's Update

Greetings to all our valued patrons,

As we step into another productive season, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on our collective achievements and outline the exciting developments on the horizon for our District.

Achievements and Acknowledgments Firstly, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your unwavering commitment to responsible water usage. Your efforts have been instrumental in optimizing our water resources, ensuring that every drop is utilized with the utmost efficiency.

Operational Excellence Our team has been working tirelessly to enhance our operational capabilities. The implementation of the Geographic Information System (GIS) has revolutionized the way we manage and monitor water rights and usage. Efforts to maintain canals at a level that provides consistent, efficient delivery of water to you is a constant focus, we should all appreciate the team working so hard for you.

Community Engagement We believe in the power of community, and it's been inspiring to witness the camaraderie among our patrons. Your active participation in District meetings and feedback sessions has provided invaluable insights, helping us to plan for our future.

Looking Ahead As we look to the future, we are excited about the potential for further improvements in our water management practices and our delivery system. We are working tirelessly to complete our watershed plan.

Your Role Your role in this journey is crucial. We encourage you to stay informed about your water rights and responsibilities. Remember, the sustainability of our District depends on the collective action of us all.

In Closing I am optimistic about what we can achieve together. Let's continue to work hand in hand, ensuring a prosperous and water-secure future for our District.

Warm regards, Brent



Santiam Water Control District HAS ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING DISTRICT TIMELINES TO WITHHOLD WATER, COLLECT DELINQUENT ASSESSMENTS AND BEGIN FORECLOSURE PROCEEDINGS

The SWCD Board of Directors has resolved to enforce water delivery withholdings and initiate foreclosure proceedings on delinquent accounts. In accordance with ORS 553.230 (6), water will be withheld starting May 1, 2023, from lands with overdue charges unless an approved payment plan is in place.

Key Actions:

- **Notification:** Delinquent patrons will be informed of potential water withholding and offered a chance to arrange a payment plan.
- **Foreclosure Proceedings:**
 - The resolution is transitioning from a 5-year delinquency triggering foreclosure to 3 years.
 - A 3-year foreclosure timeline is being implemented, affecting accounts delinquent from 2019 to 2022, with respective proceedings beginning from November 1, 2024, to November 1, 2026.
 - Starting with 2023, any delinquency reaching 3 years will trigger foreclosure on November 1 of that year.

This resolution ensures compliance with statutory obligations while providing options for patrons to settle their accounts and avoid foreclosure.

Assessments are due on April 15th annually, the lands are levied in March by Board order placing a lien and the assessments are deemed delinquent on November 1st of the same year if they have not been paid. Lands with a Board approved payment plan are deemed NOT delinquent as that term applies to withholding water.

Board of Directors

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**Board meetings 2nd Monday of each month 2-4 pm.
Upstairs @ 284 E Water St.**

Brent Stevenson, General Manager and Secretary of the Board

Diana Shapiro, Office Manager

John Asman, Field Manager 503-559-2698

Ben Devine, Asst. Field Manager 503-881-4851

Austin Wegner, GIS Analyst

www.Santiamwater.com

Office 503-769-2669

2024 Annual operation and maintenance assessment set at \$32.50 per acre due April 15th

**May 1st – Sept 30 Irrigation season normal delivery. generally, 5.6 gpm per acre
March, April, and October reduced delivery by call in request only.**

Emergency and weekend calls are paid overtime. Please be mindful.