

Customer Guidance: Flow Rate vs. Irrigation Capability

Understanding Water Allocation

Your water right is defined by two limits:

- **Maximum Flow Rate (GPM)** – how fast you can take water
- **Total Volume** – how much water you can use over time

If your system requires more flow than you are allocated, you must modify your system—
not exceed your limit.

Typical Irrigation Requirements by Flow Rate

Available Flow (GPM)	What It Can Realistically Support	Notes / Limitations
1–10 GPM	Drip irrigation, small gardens	Not suitable for sprinklers; storage strongly recommended
10–25 GPM	Small drip systems, limited sprinklers	May run 1–2 small sprinkler zones at a time
25–50 GPM	Small to mid-size sprinkler systems	Requires zone management
50–100 GPM	Standard sprinkler systems	Can run multiple zones depending on design
100+ GPM	Large irrigation systems, pivots	Typically agricultural scale

- Most sprinkler systems require **30–80+ GPM** to operate effectively.
 - If you are allocated **less than that**, your system will not function properly *without modification*.
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When Your Flow Rate Is Too Low

Shareholders have 3 Options

1. Install a Storage Tank (Recommended)

- Pump water **slowly (within your GPM limit)** into a tank
- Use stored water to run sprinklers at higher flow

Example:

- Allocation: 9 GPM
- Pump fills tank all day
- Sprinklers run at 40 GPM from storage

Most effective solution

Fully compliant

Works with existing systems

2. Convert to Low-Flow Irrigation

- Drip systems
- Micro-sprayers
- Zone-based watering

Lower cost upfront

May not cover large acreage

3. Redesign Your System

- Break into smaller zones
- Reduce sprinkler demand
- Increase efficiency

Works for moderate shortages

Doesn't solve very low GPM (like 9 GPM)

What Will NOT Be Allowed

To ensure fairness and system sustainability, the following are strictly prohibited:

- Exceeding your assigned GPM limit at any time
 - Temporarily increasing flow to run sprinklers
 - Using pump capacity as justification for higher diversion
 - Tampering with measurement or control systems
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Why This Policy Exists

This program ensures:

- **Fair distribution** among all water users
- **Accurate measurement and accountability**
- **Protection of limited water resources**
- **Consistency and enforceability across the district**

Using a Water Storage Tank for Low Flow Allocations

When your water allocation is too low to run sprinklers directly, a storage tank allows you to store water slowly and irrigate at higher flow rates.

Continuous Filling

High Flow Irrigation



9 GPM (Within Your Allocation)

How It Works:

40 GPM (For Sprinklers)

1. Pump water continuously at your allowed flow rate (e.g., 9 GPM).
2. Store the water in a large tank.
3. Irrigate from the stored water at a higher flow rate.

 <p>Stay Within Allocation Limit</p>	 <p>Operate Sprinklers Efficiently</p>	 <p>Avoid Overage Charges</p>
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