

Irrigation Water – 2019

We, the CE HOA Board, are reaching out to all Countryside Estates residents with an update and reminder regarding irrigation water supply. Many of our neighbors are new to the community and this quick summary of the irrigation requirements and regulations that we ask all residents to follow to help keep things running smoothly.

There have been several interruptions in irrigation water service this summer. While a few of those have interruptions been for service purposes, most have been due to either a lack of water coming into the system (supply issues) or excess peak demand.

Supply issues: Water arrives at the northeast corner of Countryside via an irrigation ditch. It enters a small supply vault that our pumping system draws the water from. Potential issues including debris in the ditch and sudden heavy use by others upstream can limit supply to our water source. These are uncontrollable and unmeasurable challenges that are part of the desert irrigation supply culture that we do our best to manage. In the end it does create a level of inconsistent supply.

Demand Issues: The system supplies water to the 10 acres of common area within Countryside as well as all 92 homes starting each year about April 15 and ending about October 15. Countryside has a water share allotment that barely covers the estimated needs of the total irrigated area of the community. Heavy watering of both the common area and private property during the hotter portion of the season can strain or exceed those supply limits.

Supply and demand issues combined with the size and design of the system can result in shut-downs when the water levels in the supply vault fall to critically low levels. In short, the system as designed is not capable of delivering enough water to meet peak irrigation demand in Countryside Estates subdivision.

These excess demand issues require us to request that each resident follow a few guidelines when establishing their own individual watering schedules:

1. Follow an “every-other-day” watering schedule. Odd address residents water on odd dates and even address residents on even dates. This irrigation supply system has been in place for over a decade and uses a ditch delivery system put place over 80 years ago. Demand is much greater than anticipated then. An odd/even schedule greatly reduces the issues related to excess demand providing a consistent source of irrigation water.
2. Avoid watering exclusively during the early morning hours (5:00 a – 8:00 a) if at all possible. A majority of the system delivery failures have been in the early morning hours when too many homeowners are watering. We are working with the current landscape contractor to reduce community watering during those hours as well.
3. Don‘t overwater your lawn! Many homeowners overwater their lawns, some on a daily basis. Guidelines for watering in Idaho can be found at various locations on-line and can be a great tool. Here is a fine example: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/idpmsbr5464.pdf>

Following these simple guidelines will also help to reduce HOA costs associated with reacting to system shut-downs while reducing the wear and tear on the delivery system. For those of you that employ yard care and maintenance service, please pass on these requests to your services.

***Thank you from your Countryside Estates HOA Board, representing all of our residents.***