

Caldwell Municipal Irrigation District

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why do I have to pay an irrigation assessment bill?** The assessment you pay each year is not only for the water itself. You are also paying the **tax on the water right** that comes with the property which is regulated by State Code. Most land within the boundaries of Caldwell Municipal Irrigation District is under contractual obligation for the expense of the maintenance of the dams, canals and ditches, as well as the pressurized irrigation system. The pressurized system includes the maintenance of piping, pumps, motors, and electric bills.
2. **What does my irrigation assessment consist of?**
 - Base Assessment = is the fee for the irrigation water.
 - Assessment Expense= is the administrative processing fee.
 - Pressure assessment = is the fee for the maintenance and electricity for the pump stations.(an additional fee may be prorated to any properties who exceed 10,000 sq ft)
3. **What happens if I don't pay the irrigation tax?** Caldwell Municipal levies an irrigation tax against all lands in the District at the end of the irrigation season. Payment is due in full by April 1st of each active year. If past years irrigation amounts are not paid, irrigation water will not be delivered and a \$15.00 past due shut off fee will be applied to the account. It is important for you to understand that Idaho law requires you to pay irrigation taxes just as you are required to pay property taxes. Caldwell Municipal works under Idaho statute title 50-chapter18, 50-1801and 50-1835. If you do not pay your assessment, the District will file a tax lien on your property. If assessments are not paid within three years after recording the delinquency at the County Recorder's Office, Idaho Statue 50-1821 requires the City Clerk of City of Caldwell to issue to the District a tax deed to the property. To avoid the potential loss of title to the property through tax deed sale, the landowner must pay all unpaid liens or assessments. The purchaser of a tax deed at a tax deed sale holds all rights and title that the irrigation district acquired through the assessment and delinquency proceedings. Once the sale is made and a deed of sale is delivered to the purchaser, any further action is between the landowner and the purchaser, not the landowner and the irrigation district.
4. **What are the factors taking part in the assessment amount?** There are many factors that take part in the assessment amount. However the most common situations that affect the assessments are as follows:
 - You could be in a subdivision that did not have pressurized irrigation last season, but does or will for the coming season. Because of power and maintenance costs, pressurized irrigation is more expensive.
 - As building continues in our area, more resources are required by the part of Caldwell Municipal to insure quality water delivery. In order to pay for those resources, Caldwell Municipal occasionally raises the assessments to cover the costs. Caldwell Municipal is a government municipality and strives to work as efficiently as possible on the funds available to limit the need to raise assessments as much as possible.
5. **Do I have pressurized irrigation?** If you have a sprinkler system, yes you do. If you have a standpipe in the back yard, yes you do.
6. **Will the water department come turn on my curb stop for me?** Please check with the company that blew out your sprinklers in the fall to have the curb stop turned back on. CMID is not responsible to go out to your property to turn on the curb stop if your winterization company shut it off in the Fall. It should be left ON at all times. There is a 2 business day turn around time, and a \$15.00 turn on fee that will be charged to your account if you request CMID to turn it on. CMID recommends having a shut off valve installed in your line so that you can turn your service on and off as needed. Curb stop valves are for CMID employee use for emergencies only.
7. **Where is the curb stop located?** Normally located between the public right of way and property line in the center of the property in the backyard.
8. **Who owns the water in the canals and ditches?** The water in the canals has been appropriated from the State for private use, just like drinking water supplied by a city. Caldwell Municipal irrigation District can assist in determining which land has a valid water right and the designated point of delivery for the water. The water right is held in trust by the irrigation district for the use of the lands for which the water was designated.
9. **Does CMID make repairs on customer's property?** CMID will make repairs on a customer's property if a water main has broken. CMID will not repair a customer's service line. The service line belongs to the customer and is the line past the curb stop.
10. **Where does CMID's obligation for repairs stop and the customers begin?** CMID's obligation for repairs ends with the curb stop valve. If a leak or flood can be turned off at the curb stop, then the repair is the customer's responsibility.
11. **Can the customer be fined for damages due to them turning on / off city valves?** Yes. If a customer operates the curb stop and damages it, then the customer is responsible for the cost of repair. CMID highly

recommends customers install a control valve down stream of the curb stop during the off season, for their own use. The curb stop belongs to the City and is for Emergency use only.

- 12. Is there a fee to send out a technician to locate, turn on, or shut off valves if the customer needs to make a repair?** If it is an emergency, normally not.
- 13. Why am I experiencing low pressure?** This could be a number of things. First check your filter and clean as needed. If this does not help, then it may be there is high demand during the time you want to water. Try another time during the day. If this does not appear to help, please call 455-3070 so that the technicians can check equipment in the area.
- 14. How many pounds of pressure should my sprinkler system have?** CMID tries to maintain 50 psi (9 gallons per minute) throughout the irrigation system. Please design your systems accordingly.
- 15. Why do my neighbors have irrigation water and I don't?** Are your neighbors next door or across the street? If a neighbor across the street has water but you do not, please keep in mind that they may be on a different line than you. Check with your next door neighbors. Possible situations: 1.) Did you have your sprinklers blown out at the end of the season. The sprinkler service may have left the curb stop valve off, so you will need them to turn it back on. 2.) Is your irrigation billing current? Please call 455-3070 to verify. 3.) Is your filter plugged? Clean screen and try again.
- 16. What steps are taken if a neighbor is flooding my lawn do to over watering?** First, speak with your neighbor to see if you can resolve the problem. CMID has no authority when it comes to neighbors flooding out neighbors. CMID responsibility is to deliver the irrigation water to the irrigation control valve (curb stop) in the backyard. If the problem continues it is considered to be a civil matter. It is your decision, if you want to take legal action against your neighbor. You may contact Police Dispatch at 454-7531. They will send an officer out to look into the problem.
- 17. Is it safe to drink irrigation water?** It is NOT safe to drink irrigation water. The irrigation water is for irrigation use only! Under no circumstances should the irrigation water be used as drinking water.
- 18. Will the customer be notified ahead of time if a main line is going to be shut down?** Only if it is a planned project. During emergencies, our priority is to eliminate the damage being caused by the water.
- 19. Is there an on-call for after hour emergencies, and what is considered an emergency?** Yes, there is someone on call after normal business hours, 365 days per year. NOTE: An emergency is any event that causes or threatens to cause damage to property, life or health. Not having irrigation water or low pressure is not an emergency. CMID after hour's on-call 250-1638.
- 20. Who do I need to call before digging?** Digline at 811 or 342-1585.
- 21. Who does the locating for water lines?** The City of Caldwell has someone that locates irrigation mains. They do not locate individual service lines.
- 22. Who owns the canals and ditches?** Caldwell Municipal Irrigation District does not control the canals or ditches. The Phyllis Canal, Lowline Canal and Highline Canal, ditches and drains are owned and/or operated by Pioneer Irrigation District. In addition, a strip of land along the sides of the canal is also a part of the right-of-way established for that canal or lateral. This strip of land is used by Pioneer to operate and maintain the canal or lateral. Pioneer Irrigation Dist. 459-3617.
- 23. Who manages the District?** The Caldwell Municipal Irrigation District is operated by a staff of water delivery professionals under the guidance of the public works director of the City of Caldwell. Caldwell Municipal Irrigation District holds a board of corrections meeting in March of each year at the location of 305 W. Chicago St., Caldwell ID. Please contact the office for effective dates at (208)455-3070.
The City Council sets the rates in January of each year based on staff recommendation.
- 24. What can I do if my screen keeps clogging up with sand or debris?** CMID recommends using the Banjo filter in 30 mesh. This filter may be purchased at G&R Ag Products, on Simplot Blvd. for about \$61.00.
*For more info go to www.cityofcaldwell.com and go to irrigation web page, then click on BANJO Filter.
- 25. Who is responsible for maintaining retention ponds in subdivisions?** The Homeowners Association, for your subdivision.
- 26. Who do I call if there is a problem with the irrigation canals / ditches and weeds that grow along them?** The irrigation companies responsible for those canals or ditches. Note: Some ditches may be privately owned.
 - Pioneer Irrigation Dist. 459-3617.
 - Boise Project Board of Control 459-3981.
 - Black Canyon Irrigation Dist. 459-4141.