

Ordinance Project Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does the Ordinance Project do for Westland patrons?

A: The Ordinance Project adds the Columbia River as a new source of supplemental water supplies to 3,000 acres that are now receiving supplemental water from McKay Reservoir. The projected patron benefits are three-fold: (1) Opportunity for full season water for patrons who receive Columbia River water; (2) Additional McKay Reservoir water for patrons not receiving Columbia River water but who elect to participate in the project; (3) Extended number of days the Westland canal will carry water as a result of the project.

Q: Will all Westland patrons have to buy into or help pay for the Ordinance Project?

A: No. Only those patrons who decide they want to take advantage of the opportunity to increase the supply of water to their existing irrigated acres will contribute financially to the project. Please read on to learn more.

Q: I am on the A-Line, in the area that will receive Columbia River water from the Project. How will the Ordinance Project benefit me?

A: If your property is located within the area of Westland slated to receive Columbia River water, you will receive early-season Umatilla River water—the same as you always have in the past. However, the source for your later-season supplemental water will now be the Columbia River—not McKay Reservoir. Think of your Columbia River supplemental water as being available to you in two parts—an initial allocation and an elective allocation:

Initial Allocation: Your initial allocation of supplemental water from the Columbia River will be based on the fill level of McKay Reservoir each year. That is, if McKay fills completely, your initial allotment from the Columbia will be equal to a full reservoir allotment—currently 2.3 acre-feet per acre. If McKay only fills to 90%, the initial allotment you receive from the Columbia will be 90% of 2.3 acre-feet per acre. And, there will be no new or additional cost for your initial allocation of Columbia River water versus what you now pay to receive McKay Reservoir water.

Elective Allocation: After you have used your initial allocation, you have a choice to make—stop applying Columbia River water to your ground or elect to continue irrigating. If you elect to continue irrigating, the cost per acre-foot of water will be higher but you will still have access to valuable irrigation water when other patrons in the district may not.

Q: I am not in an area that will receive Columbia River water. How will the Ordinance Project benefit me?

A: Patrons not in the area served by the Columbia River will continue to receive McKay Reservoir water as they have in the past. Patrons in this area who elect to participate in the project by agreeing to fund the required construction and implementation will have first opportunity in receiving an additional amount of McKay water at a projected cost of \$164 per acre-foot. Besides the additional *amount*, several additional *days* of McKay water are expected to be available in the canal system as a result of the project.

Q: I don't know where my property is located in the Westland distribution system or what canal or pipeline I am on. How do I find out?

A: Contact the Westland office at 541-667-2030 to find out and to ask other Ordinance Project-related questions you may have.

Q: What happens to the water rights on my property if this project is implemented?

A: All current water rights remain the same and will remain protected by Westland. No water rights will be moved, transferred, or cancelled as a result of the Ordinance Project.

Q: Are there other opportunities for the District and its patrons if the Ordinance Project is constructed?

A: In addition to the benefits already described, the Ordinance Project pipeline will have additional water delivery capacity from the Columbia River which may translate into significant opportunities for Westland and its patrons. If you are interested in learning more about potential future opportunities that could result from the construction of the Ordinance Project, please contact the Westland office at 541-667-2030, or visit our website at www.westlandirrigation.com