

Please return to:

*Executive Administrative Manager
Kennewick Irrigation District
2015 South Ely Street
Kennewick, WA 99337*

KENNEWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT RESOLUTION 2025-28

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE KENNEWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT
RELATING TO THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE CHANDLER POWER AND PUMPING PLANT.

The Board of Directors of the Kennewick Irrigation District, Benton County, Washington, hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1. Recitals and Findings.

1.1 Electrification of the Chandler Power and Pumping Plant (Chandler Plant) is essential to ensuring that KID can continue to meet its water delivery obligations to its ratepayers in light of persistent drought and the implementation of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP).

1.2 The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) operates the Chandler Plant to pump water from the Chandler Canal into KID's Main Canal and to generate electrical power. Water is currently pumped to the Main Canal using two hydraulic pumps. The pumps require between 1.25 and 1.5 units of water to drive the turbines to pump 1.0 unit to the Main Canal.

1.3. Reclamation has relied almost exclusively on return flows below its Parker Gauge to fulfill its deliveries via the Chandler Plant to the KID Main Canal.

1.4 YRBWEP fundamentally changes the water delivery regime of the Yakima River basin by reducing return flows and increasing water storage in up-basin reservoirs. As YRBWEP-pursuant conservation measures are implemented, return flows to the river decrease.

1.5 The 1999 YRBWEP Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement articulates the diminishment to return flows and the consequent reach-based benefits to stream flows:

The impacts of water conservation measures are meant to reduce system losses and subsequently return flows; therefore, the hydrologic return flow characteristics within the Yakima River Basin must be fully understood. A reduction in water diversions at one point in

the river system does not automatically increase flows at all points downstream by a similar amount as return flows from irrigation enter at different point [sic] downstream. Implementing water conservation measures will improve streamflows by the full amount of the reduced diversion in the reach of the river from the point of the diversion to the point that return flows enter the river. **However, farther downstream, the amount of the streamflow improvement would be less because the reduction in water diversions would reduce return flows.**

1.6 The 2012 Yakima River Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan (IP) Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (FPEIS), on page 2-38, summarizes the challenge of this delivery regime:

Most of the projects proposed for the Enhanced Water Conservation Element of the Integrated Plan involve reducing seepage and return flow which are nonconsumptive uses of water when viewed in terms of the entire river basin. Only a small amount of the water that will be conserved can be attributed to consumptive uses. However, the Yakima Project has some flexibility in its operation and can allow some redistribution of water within the basin. **The challenge is balancing the reduced seepage and return flow from conservation projects with the potential effects on downstream water users and instream flows. The reduction in return flow will reduce the supply downstream and require water released from storage.**

1.7 Title XII of YRBWEP, as amended, contemplated these tradeoffs to river flows and water deliveries in the lower Yakima River and authorized federal appropriations to electrify the Chandler Plant in part to mitigate for reduced flows in the lower river.

1.8 Electrification of the Chandler Plant will bolster KID's water supply during drought years and increase instream flow in the Yakima River through the 10-mile reach from Prosser Dam to the Chandler Plant.

1.9 The Board determines that electrification of the Chandler Plant is in the best interest of the Kennewick Irrigation District and all efforts should be made to pursue its completion.

Section 2. Implementation.

The KID District Manager is hereby authorized and directed to take such action as appropriate and necessary to administer and enforce this Resolution.


Resolution 2025-28 is hereby adopted by the Board of Directors of the Kennewick Irrigation District, Benton County, Washington, at a meeting with a quorum present in open public session thereof, this 2nd day of September, 2025.


Kirk Rathbun, President


Gene Huffman, Vice President


David McKenzie, Director


Arland Ward, Director


Griffin Harberg, Director