



Dear Water Users and Stakeholders,

I am Travis Okelberry, your District Manager at Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District. I want to extend my sincere gratitude for your patience and understanding during this challenging time as the Rimrock Retreat wildfire threatens our main canal.

As many of you know, our main canal, which is 114 years old, is currently at risk of catastrophic failure due to debris, including trees and large rocks, falling in and around it. This debris can plug the canal, overtop the water, wash out the base, and potentially lead to a complete loss of the canal, resulting in no water supply for our system.

Given the severity of the situation, we have made the difficult decision to implement a systematic shutdown of various systems. This is necessary to reduce the flow in our main canal and prevent catastrophic damage to our infrastructure, as well as to protect the local ecosystem and environment surrounding the canal. Please be aware that flexibility will be needed as we turn systems back on, as it will take time for the system to recharge fully.

I want to reassure you that our intent is not to shut off the water entirely but to reduce the water flow in the canal. There is some misconception that the district is completely shutting off water with a wildfire en route to our community, and that is not the case. We are currently not completely turning off the water.

As you refer to our website for updates, please also check the calendar and schedule section. There, you will find a map highlighting the systems in your area and the schedule of when each system will be off. This information will help you stay informed about the status and timing of the shutdown.

We understand how frustrating and upsetting this can be, and we are working tirelessly to manage this crisis and ensure the safety and continuity of our water supply system. Your support and understanding are invaluable as we navigate these unprecedented challenges.

The pictures below highlight the situation we are attempting to avoid.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Travis Okelberry