



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

Flathead Agency  
P O Box 40  
Pablo, Montana 59855

In Reply Refer To:  
**Flathead Indian Irrigation Project**  
220 Project Drive  
St. Ignatius, MT 59865

**Mandatory Water Ordering and Delivery Procedures – FIIP**

Dear [Mission/Jocko Irrigation District / Flathead Irrigation District] Board Members,

This letter establishes mandatory procedures for irrigation water ordering and delivery within the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP). These requirements are effective immediately and apply to all users and districts operating within the Project.

**Authority**

Under 25 CFR Part 171, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), through FIIP, has exclusive authority over the delivery, control, and distribution of irrigation water within Project facilities. All water deliveries are subject to FIIP operational control and are limited to designated delivery points only.

FIIP will administer deliveries in accordance with federal regulation, system capacity, and available supply. No entity other than FIIP may direct, alter, or control water movement within Project facilities.

**Required Water Ordering Process**

All irrigation deliveries will be made only after compliance with the following requirements:

**1. Water Orders (Required)**

- Water orders must be placed by calling the FIIP office or the Irrigation System Operator (ISO).

**- No water will be delivered without a valid order.**

**- Orders must include:**

(1) Your full legal name; **Landowner/operator** name and Phone number

(2) Where you want service; FIIP Tract number

- Delivery point (approved location only)

(3) The time and date you want service to start.

(4) How long you want service.

(5) The rate of water flow you want, (if available)

(6) How many acres do you want to irrigate

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## 2. Advance Notice (Mandatory)

- Submit orders at least 48 hours ahead.
- Give 24-hour notice for shut-off.
- FIIP cannot guarantee delivery for late or incomplete requests.

## 3. Scheduling and Control

- FIIP schedules all deliveries.
- Water orders are accepted Monday to Thursday between 09:00 and 12:00.
- Water will be delivered Monday through Thursday; Friday delivery is discretionary and not guaranteed. No water deliveries will occur on Saturdays or Sundays.
- FIIP decides timing, duration, and quantity based on water availability, system capacity, and operational conditions.
- Deliveries may be changed, delayed, reduced, or canceled by FIIP at any time.

## 4. Delivery Limitations

Water will only be delivered:

- Through FIIP-operated facilities
- At designated delivery points
- Unauthorized diversions, gate changes, or manipulation of flows are strictly prohibited.

## 5. Changes and Shutoffs

- 24-hour notice prior to requested shut off.
- All changes must be requested through the FIIP office or ISO.
- Unauthorized changes to deliveries are prohibited.
- FIIP may adjust or terminate deliveries as required for system protection or water management.

## Private Gravity Pipes

- FIIP requires that all gravity-fed irrigation systems maintain a **designated point of contact**. This individual must be authorized to act on behalf of the water user(s) for purposes of addressing noncompliance, coordinating water delivery, and resolving operational issues.
- Irrigation districts may assist with communication; however:
  - Districts lack authority over water deliveries in the FIIP system.
  - District personnel shall not operate or adjust FIIP facilities unless expressly authorized.

## Enforcement

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in enforcement action, including:

- Refusal or suspension of water delivery
- Immediate shutoff of unauthorized use
- Additional administrative action as allowed under federal authority

## Implementation

These procedures are required to ensure:

- Controlled and equitable distribution of water
- Protection of Project infrastructure
- Consistent and enforceable operations across FIIP

These requirements are not optional and will be enforced uniformly across all districts and users.

For operational coordination, contact the FIIP office.

Respectfully,

(Nick) Dominick Belcourt  
(Acting) FIIP Project Manager  
Supervisory Irrigation Maintenance Specialist  
Flathead Indian Irrigation

