

Fryingpan-Arkansas Supplemental Water Information Sheet

Outlook for 2026 Water Year

The Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (District) is currently evaluating conditions for the upcoming water year and anticipates significantly drier-than-average conditions. Early indicators, including below-average snowpack and forecasted imports, suggest that water supply may be limited.

As a result, the District may not be in a position to make a Project Water allocation for the 2026 season.

While a final determination has not yet been made, the District is providing this early notice so that constituents can plan accordingly. Water users are encouraged to evaluate alternative supply options, review operational plans, and prepare for the potential of reduced or unavailable Project Water.

The District will continue to monitor conditions and provide updates as more information becomes available.

2026 Project Water and Return Flow Allocations

General Information

The designed yield is approximately 69,200 acre-feet, yielding an average of 46,000 acre-feet annually.

Allocation Principles

Allocations are based on the annual May 1 forecast, which includes snowpack conditions and assumptions of normal precipitation. Approximately 30 percent of Project Water arrives as precipitation and snowpack melts.

Allocation policy reserves at least 54.59 percent of Project Water for municipal use and 45.41 percent for irrigation. Irrigation allocations are distributed on a pro rata basis according to eligible acres.

2026 Reclamation Imports Forecast

February 1: 23,000 AF

March 1: 22,400 AF

April 1: 6,500 AF

Initial Release Conditions

Prior to any water release, Project Water and Return Flow must be paid for in full.

Due to uncertain weather conditions, if the Board of Directors determines that an Allocation is achievable for 2026, an initial release will be determined. This will allow only a determined percentage of the allocation to be released prior to July 1. If imports are sufficient, the remainder will be released after July 1. If not, partial payments will be refunded.

Next steps:

Allocation & Storage Committee meeting May 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Board of Directors meeting on May 21, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

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