

Solar Hills Ranch Irrigation System Overview For Lot Owners

Solar Hills Ranch Subdivision receives its irrigation water from Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA or UVW) from the "AM Lateral" canal. Water flows from the canal into our pond from the northside of East Oak Grove Rd. Solar Hills Ranch is allocated 53.7 shares of water during a normal year. One share is enough water to irrigate 1 acre of land. In years of low water reserves, The UVWUA may reduce a customer's usage to a certain percentage of the full allocation, usually during times of drought.

We have a closed irrigation system, with a number of isolation valves, air vacs and drains. Each homeowner is entitled to one 2-inch tap to supply water to their property. There are two supply lines for the HOA system, a 12 inch line is located on the west side of the pond at the end of the dock and the an 8-inch line is located southside of the pond. The irrigation system is comprised of sections of 4" 6" and 8" PVC pipe that delivers irrigation water to each lot in the subdivision.

These guidelines are based on the 30 years of working with the system and learning from the previous volunteers how best to operate the system. Over the years the Irrigation Committee has addressed a number maintenance issues ranging from valve replacements, rebuilds and replaced sections of failed pipe.

As many will attest, this is the most important volunteer job in the subdivision because no matter what, people want the irrigation water to flow.

General Operational Notes

- Each lot is allowed only one 2" connection to the irrigation system.
- Irrigation water is not to be used to fill decorative ponds on personal property.
- Homeowners are not allowed to flood irrigate their property.
- If an airvac is leaking water, please contact the Irrigation Committee.
- Shutting down the system, even partially, creates undue hardship on the irrigation system volunteers and other residents. If your repair can wait until after the irrigation season, please do so.
- We will communicate via email to provide notice to the subdivision when starting or shutting down the system, or when maintenance will be performed interrupting the supply of water. We will also try to post information on the mailbox.

Spring Start-up

Our lateral is one of the last to be opened when irrigation water is running in the South Canal. Our ditch rider works with the other ditch riders to open and clean laterals to the north. Once the AM Lateral canal is running irrigation water, we will allow the canal to run for a couple of weeks to allow debris and sediment to flush downstream. The

irrigation water in the canal will turn from a dirty brown color to a clearer, greenish tint. Once the cleaner irrigation water is observed, the system will be filled with irrigation water. We will need a day or two to fill the pond. Typically, the Solar Hills Ranch system is turned on from the middle to end of April.

The irrigation team will open the valves at the pond and allow the system to slowly fill with irrigation water. Then they check around the subdivision to see if there is any irrigation water running from open valves and that the air vacs are seated properly.

NOTE:

Make sure your main valve and drain valve are closed prior to the charging of the system. If you are going to be away during the start-up, please notify the Irrigation Committee so they can check your system.

Fall Shut Down

Over the course of the irrigation season, sediment and debris will accumulate in the pipes and will need to be removed. Below is a step-by-step procedure for purging and shutting down the irrigation system in the fall.

Purging and Draining System of Water

In the fall as we turn off the system it is important that we follow these procedures. We ask all of the homeowners to make sure their main valve is open so any water from their system can flow back into the main lines.

NOTE:

After the system has drained you will need to close your main valve, then open your drain valve for several minutes to drain out any additional water that might be trapped in your supply lines.

Then you will need to close that drain valve. At this point you can arrange for someone to come and blow out your system.

As we drain the system, we try to flush out the sediment in the lines. Water will drain out of the system in 6 locations. They are between lots 1 and 2, between 6 and 7, in lot 19, between lots 27 and 28, lots 14 and 42 and lot 39 and 40.

HOA IRRIGATION SYSTEM ISSUES

If you notice any flooding in your yard or a neighbor's yard due to HOA irrigation, please contact an Irrigation Committee member As Soon As Possible so they can check out the situation, if unable to reach someone, then contact a HOA board member to let them know what is happening. Thanks