

Water/Irrigation Division

Irrigation

The City of Yakima was originally developed on irrigated farmland, with irrigation provided by several private irrigation systems. Eventually, urban development replaced farmland. The irrigation systems were left and suitably modified to irrigate lawns, gardens and small farms. To date, the City of Yakima maintains two water delivery systems; one for potable water and one for irrigation water. The City's irrigation Utility currently serves approximately 10,690 parcels, totaling over 2,000 irrigated acres. The irrigation Utility in the City of Yakima is served partially by City-owned water rights, and supplemented by water shares from seven canal companies. These are Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, Naches and Cowlitz Canal Company, Yakima Valley Canal Company, RS&C Irrigation Company, New Schanno Ditch Company, Broadgauge Ditch Company and Old Union Ditch Company. Not all irrigation users within the City of Yakima are served by the City's irrigation Utility. A number of users obtain water directly from the Canal companies listed above, use city domestic water, have a private well, or are supplied from a private irrigation system. The City's largest irrigation system, the General System, is the only system where the City owns the water rights. For all other systems, the City purchases water shares from the canal companies.

The irrigation system in the City of Yakima started in 1912 with the construction of the MaClaren Street Water System, under a local improvement district (LID). Since 1912, there have been approximately 67 LIDS developed and turned over to the City to run. Each district was operated separately and operation and maintenance costs were assessed to the property owners with no allowance for capital improvements. Several of these systems have reached the end of their useful lives. The City refers to these LIDS as systems, for example the MaClaren System.

In 1997 the City consolidated these individual LID's into a single utility.

Rates: Rates are charges on a square foot basis for each customer. Each rate class is charged the same square foot rate. The rate is comprised of an Operation and Maintenance component and a Capital Improvement component. All accounts must be in the property owners name. The annual rate is divided into six equal payments and paid through the bi-monthly utility bill.