

GILA BUTTES WATER USERS ASSOCIATION
Chandler, Arizona 85248
January 12, 2018

Dear Gila Buttes Water Users Association Member:

You are part owner of the well that provides water for "flood" irrigation for the Gila Buttes subdivision. This letter is intended to help you understand the irrigation procedures. Irrigation is not an exact science, conditions are always different, and so we encourage **flexibility** as you take water along with your neighbors. Also, feel free to call any of the officers of the association for assistance or questions.

SUMMARY OF PROCESS:

- We always irrigate on weekends.
- 5 to 7 days prior to irrigation, orange flag is posted on the irrigation box.
- **SIGN-UP** by Thursday night prior to posted irrigation weekend.
- Friday evening, (5:00 p.m. or so) operator starts the pump and notifies first user. Operator may elect to start the pump on Saturday morning with fewer users, usually around 7:00 a.m.
- When finished taking irrigation notify next person on list and send water down.
- This process is repeated from user to user.
- The last person on ditch notifies next lateral user to switch gates, or does it himself.

Now that was easy (and we all have made our mistakes). There was that sentence that stated above "*not an exact science*". If everything so far makes sense then you probably need not read any more, and you will make a few mistake here and there. The rest of this letter will explain in more detail in case of further questions or problems that may arise.

SCHEDULE OF IRRIGATIONS: The schedule for irrigations is mailed out within a month of the annual meeting, which is always scheduled in January. Every other weekend scheduled irrigations will begin approximately (oops, flexibility due to weather) in March and continue through October or November (ah, flexibility due to weather). During the winter months, irrigation is approximately once a month, as needed, depending on the weather. In the fall and spring, if there is an interest, irrigation will be schedule for four consecutive weeks for seeding of winter rye or new summer grasses. Normally this is in October and April (we at GBWUA kind of cheat, we watch what the golf courses do, flexible of course). Cases in which irrigation is canceled: Less than 8 users signed up, or in the decision of the pump operator a lightning storm may strike the pump (not flexible).

SIGN-UP: At the southwest corner of Vecino and 110th Way, there is a metal box on the end fence pole. This, on its best days is straight but has been known to jump out and hit a few stray vehicles. This is referred to as the "irrigation box". About a week prior to a scheduled irrigation, an orange flag is posted indicating a new sign-up sheet has been posted. **PLEASE SIGN-UP FOR ACTUAL MINUTES TO BE TAKEN DURING IRRIGATION.** The bills are prepared in 15-minute increments, so try to keep your time in 15-minute increments (hey, but not to worry, GBWUA can be flexible enough to adjust). Sign-up should be completed by Thursday evening prior to the posted irrigation date. This helps others calculate the expected time when their irrigation will be received (a courtesy for a flexible homeowner weekend scheduler). If you irrigate, you must sign-up by the time the operator pulls the first sheet in the irrigation box. If you miss out and are late, you will be assessed a \$10 late sign-up fee for that irrigation. If you decide not to receive irrigation, you must also cross off your name before the sheet is pulled. Miss this one and it will cost you the irrigation time that you signed up for (lowers every one else's bill so they thank-you). The point is, the better that homeowners can be to the schedule time equals a happy user. If your name is not on this list, it probably means you missed paying your bill. Please get with the GBWUA Secretary/Treasurer to resolve the problem. And again, let the GBWUA board know if the irrigation box pole jumps out at you, we will try to reprimand and straighten it out for you.

HOW MUCH IRRIGATION TO TAKE: The GBWUA Secretary/Treasurer or the previous owner of your property can help gauge how much time will be needed. DON'T let the water completely fill up your property before you shut your ports. There is a "head" or high area, as the water fills up a ditch or property. When the ports are shut, this head takes a while to level out over your land. Most of the users have a marker of some sort on their property to show them when to shut down. **ALSO, IF YOU ARE THE LAST ONE SIGNED-UP TO TAKE WATER ON THE DITCH, YOU MUST PLAN TO "TAKE THE REMAINDER IN THE DITCH"**. This can be anywhere from 15 to 25 minutes (flexible of course due to rate flow). You cannot just close your ports, because the water in the ditch needs to go somewhere. If you don't let it into your property the water will back up and flow over the edges of the ditch into other properties or it will flow down and into the golf course (the golf course is not flexible, they call us to complain). Either of these results is a big mess and a lot of bad vibes if not managed properly.

BILLING AND ACTUAL TIME TAKING IRRIGATION: The user bill for irrigation is based on the amount of time the pump is operating and the amount of electricity used. The exact amount of the charge rate for will be different due to seasonal electricity, and flow rates (yet flexibility). The water table may be low during the later part of the summer due to farming or rainfall and the electric charges will increase. Please adjust your times accordingly, especially in the later part of the summer. Each user is billed for their portion of time, actually used, calculated on 15-minute increments (GBWUA board is currently trying to

make this flexible). If you have more questions regarding irrigation bills, please contact the GBWUA Secretary/Treasurer.

MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES: As a member, you have several responsibilities as listed below. Please be courteous, careful, and fair with your neighbors when it comes to irrigating.

- Know who is signed up prior to you, and at least the first two who are signed up after you (in case someone isn't home, just call the next user down that is on the sign-up sheet). **NEVER RELEASE THE WATER WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF SOMEONE BEING HOME.**
- Know who is operating the pump for the scheduled irrigation.
- Take only the amount of water signed-up for. If a larger amount is taken, adjust your time on the sign-up sheet.
- Keep your ditch (inside and on the edge) free of weeds, grass and debris.
- Put your check in place and open your ports (be prepared) on Friday. If not taking water, make sure your check is not in and ports are closed. Best policy: **ALWAYS REMOVE THE CHECK AFTER TAKING IRRIGATION AND CLOSE YOUR PORTS.**
- Check your port when irrigation first arrives to ensure that the water is flowing freely (watch for weed-jams, which may float along and obstruct the ports).
- Have a least two 10-inch ports per lot. (If not, you **MUST** take water at the same time as a neighbor. Please call an officer if you are uncertain of your situation).
- Keep your ports closed after your turn is over.
- Communicate openly with each other with questions, concerns, and conflicts.
- Pay monthly billings on time, and keep up with the annual dues (\$90 per year).
- Flexible general rule: If last on ditch, you call next lateral user to change main gate. But if you are a flexible neighbor, do it yourself and call next user. But remember, if it has become habit and you don't take irrigation; please notify you neighbors of the change.
- Make sure your area is ready, berms in good repair, ports working, and believe it or not, gofer holes don't terminate by the street or golf course.
- **When in doubt, problem, having a bad hair day, or whatever, call the pump operator or a GBWUA board member.**

OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES: Yes, we too must follow some kind of guidelines and it is only fair the GBWUA users know what to expect. There are five officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, and two "untitled" positions. The three titled officers receive free irrigation during their term. The two "untitled" positions receive free irrigation when it is their turn to operate the pump and manage the irrigation. Pump operations rotates among the four officers (in all fairness, Secretary/Treasurer does more than enough), and the assignments are printed with the irrigation schedule and sign-up sheet.

- Any changes to whom will be running the pump will be written in on the top of the sign-up sheet before Thursday prior to weekend run.
- It is a good idea to pull the top sheet for irrigation on Friday morning, and write the expected time of starting irrigation on the carbon copy for all users to review.
- The operator will turn on the pump, be on-call to answer questions, help with problems that may arise, and monitor water usage.
- If at any time the operator will not be available, please leave a phone voice recording stating whom to call or the mobile phone number to be reach, **preferably both.**
- Prior to starting pump, ensure main ditch gates are set and any large debris is removed.

We are glad you purchased a home in GILA BUTTE ESTATES, and are a member of the GILA BUTTES WATER USERS ASSOCIATION. Please give us a call if you need to discuss specific particulars regarding your irrigation situation.

4/1/2018