

130 MESA COUNTY ROAD & BRIDGE IRRIGATION POLICY

130 - Maintenance of Irrigation Facilities/Structures in Mesa County

Pursuant to C.R.S. 1973, §37-84-106, Mesa County is charged with maintaining irrigation structures that carry surface water across county roads and highways. It is illegal for owners to cause or allow irrigation water to flow onto and damage roads and highways. Mesa County is not the owner of irrigation ditches or systems. Maintenance of irrigation facilities outside the roadway prism¹ is the responsibility of irrigation facility owners or water users. Road crossings on private irrigation systems that are enclosed and pressurized, either by mechanical means or gravity, will not be maintained by Mesa County.

Mesa County discourages the placement of irrigation systems within public road rights-of-way unless physical obstructions or topographical features dictate such placement. If placement within road right-of-way is unavoidable, the owners of the irrigation facility shall obtain an Underground Utility Permit from the Mesa County Department of Public Works, Engineering Division. Upon approval of the plans for installation, the permittee shall comply with all conditions of the permit. No maintenance will be performed by the Division of Transportation unless so stated in the permit.

Special road reconstruction projects may require relocation and revision of existing irrigation systems. Often times there are no specific corporations or jurisdictional agencies responsible for irrigation facilities. Therefore, relocation work may be performed by or at the direction of Mesa County. In the event the work is initiated by the County, the replacement system will be installed and designed in accordance with good engineering practices.

If an irrigation system is installed by Mesa County during a road construction project, the County will guarantee the new system for a period of one year from the date of completion. Future maintenance, repairs, unplugging, cleaning, system revisions or modifications, shall be the responsibility of the ditch owners/water-users. Mesa County will only repair or replace structures carrying surface water across roadways. Modifications or changes to road crossings, other than normal maintenance, shall be at the expense of the water users, not Mesa County. Water users or ditch owners are responsible to properly maintain irrigation ditches leading to and away from County Roads.

Amended February 3, 2021

¹The *roadway prism* is defined as that portion of a road that is within the boundaries of curb, gutter, and or sidewalk including the roadway. If curb and gutter is not present, it is the area located within the borrow ditches or shoulders of a road including the maintained portion of the road. Buried irrigation systems that cross a road or street are not maintained by the Division of Transportation and are given the same consideration as a common utility carrier.