

PINERY PIPELINE MARCH 2026

Please join us at our District Office for our monthly Board Meetings

typically held at 6:00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Our Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, March 18th and Wednesday, April 15th.



From your Board of Directors

“How dry I am, how dry I am” are lines from a 1937 Artie Shaw song used in silent movies by actors who have had “a few too many”. Artie Shaw may not know how dry he is, but we Coloradans know exactly how dry we are – just not in the way the song suggests.

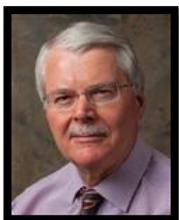
Front Range snowpack levels in Colorado are at historically low levels and fire danger is high. The US Drought Monitor for Colorado placed the Pinery in the “*Severe Drought*” classification on Feb. 3, and things have not improved since then. The Pinery has received less than 2 inches of water (rain + snowmelt) since last October. Douglas County implemented a Stage 1 fire ban on Dec. 15 last year. This drought, if it continues, will eventually impact our water supply here in the Pinery.

Generally, Pinery Water (the “District”) sources its water from alluvial wells along Cherry Creek. In the summer months, when demand increases by as much as *eight times*, Cherry Creek water must be supplemented by water from the much deeper Denver Basin wells. Even with these deep wells, extreme drought conditions increase demand so much that it is difficult to instantaneously produce enough water. Drought conditions reduce Cherry Creek stream flow, which limits the amount of water that can be produced from our alluvial wells. In addition, drought lessens the amount of water available for storage in Walker Reservoir - making a tough situation even worse.

How does the District deal with such a situation? Under these circumstances, the District may have to implement its Drought Response Plan. This Plan was developed in accordance with the Drought Management Planning Guide for Water Providers, which in turn was created by the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The Plan was reviewed by the District’s Water Efficiency Task Force, as well as the Board of Directors. As you can see, a lot of thought went into constructing the Plan.

The District’s response to drought depends on its severity, as designated by four drought stages defined in the Plan. Each stage is characterized by a specific set of circumstances and triggers a specific response. For example, one of the primary strategies the District uses to conserve water includes restrictions on outdoor watering, such as limiting watering to specific times of the day on specific days of the week. You may have noticed that the District posts A-frame signs around our neighborhoods listing these restrictions every year at the start of the outdoor watering season. They are usually voluntary on the part of residents, but in extreme circumstances, they can become mandatory.

An indication of how seriously the District takes the current drought situation involves the yearly flushing of water hydrants. This typically occurs prior to the outdoor watering season. This year the amount of water the District will use to flush hydrants will be reduced by two thirds. Your very own copy of the Drought Response Plan is available through the District’s website. It is a sign of things to come – maybe!



Chuck Hinson,

Director, Pinery Water and Wastewater District



HYDRANT FLUSHING

As an essential part of our system's maintenance program, the District will begin flushing water mains through the Pinery. The District opens hydrants and blow-off valves each spring in an effort to clear our water mains of sediment and mineral buildup. This practice not only extends the life of our water mains but improves the water quality. It also offers us the opportunity to test our hydrants so that we know they are operating properly.

To cleanse the system, we systematically open hydrants or blow-off valves to increase flows in the water mains, allowing us to "flush" minerals and deposits from the pipes. Though flushing will not interrupt your water service, when crews are working in your area, you may notice a temporary drop in water pressure or discolored water. This is normal. After flushing in your area, you may need to run cold water briefly until the water runs clear, drawing out any mineral deposits from your service line.

Crews will begin flushing the middle of March, Monday through Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM with plans to wrap up around May 15. For questions or concerns, please call the District office at 303-841-2797 or email us at information@pinerywater.com.

WINTER WATERING

We've been experiencing some extended dry spells this winter, and our trees and shrubs are starting to feel it. Even in the colder months, plants still need moisture to keep their roots healthy and strong.

If we haven't received meaningful precipitation in about three weeks, consider giving your trees and shrubs a little extra care. Give your plant a few gallons of water at the drip line — imagine where rain would fall off the outermost leaves and land on the ground. That's where the roots that absorb water are most active. This helps prevent root damage and sets your plants up for healthy spring growth.

During winter, hand watering with a hose is often the best approach. It allows you to water slowly and directly where it's needed most, without oversaturating frozen or compacted soil. Automatic irrigation systems are typically winterized, so a simple, targeted soak on mild days works best. At the same time, hold off on watering turfgrass during these dry spells.

A couple of quick tips:

- Water only when temperatures are above 40°F.
- Make sure the ground isn't frozen so the water can soak in properly.
- Add a layer of mulch beneath the branches to help retain soil moisture — just be sure to keep a few inches clear around the trunk or base to protect the plant.

With a little attention now, your landscape will be ready to thrive when warmer weather returns!

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