

Agencies involved with Irrigation Development and Definitions

[Ministry of Agriculture, Crops and Irrigation Branch](#) – This branch leads irrigation development in Saskatchewan.

[Ministry of Agriculture, Lands Branch](#) – This branch provides regulatory oversight of Government of Saskatchewan administered agricultural Crown land, which includes land control on beds, banks and shores on surveyed water bodies; and approval of pump site locations on those lands.

[Ministry of Environment](#) – This ministry provides environmental regulatory oversight, including critical wildlife habitat, approval of pump site locations and industrial effluent irrigation projects. They are responsible for the issuance of Aquatic Habitat Protection Permits where the project has potential to impact surface waters. The Ministry of Environment is also responsible for approvals where the project has potential to impact or cross lands which are designated within The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act, Crown Conservation Easements, or Crown Resource Lands.

[Fisheries and Oceans Canada](#) – This federal agency is responsible for regulatory requirements for intake fish screens.

[SaskPower](#) – SaskPower is a provincial Crown corporation that provides electric services and electric service facilities. Current power supply rates are available [online](#). For projects that require the construction of new electric service facilities, alterations to existing electric service facilities and/or repairs to electric service facilities, please review the [Electrical Service Facilities Investment Guidelines](#).

[SaskWater](#) – SaskWater is a provincial Crown corporation that provides water utility and delivery services. They are responsible for water supply projects such as the water supply through the Saskatoon South East Water Supply Canal, from Broderick Reservoir to Zelma Reservoir. Irrigators require a water service agreement with SaskWater to access the water from the canal or the reservoirs.

[Water Security Agency](#) – This provincial agency is responsible for water management including approvals for the use and diversion of water. They determine water availability and the volume of water that may be allocated for water supply projects. They are responsible for the issuance of Water Rights Licence and associated Approval to Construct and Operate Works. They also issue approvals for drainage projects, municipal effluent projects, ground water projects and Aquatic Habitat Protection Permits for shoreline development.

[Ministry of Highways](#) – This ministry is responsible for approving irrigation mainlines crossing highways and land control.

[Rural Municipalities](#) – Rural municipalities are responsible for approving mainlines crossing roads and ditches.

Rail Road Companies ([Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern \(CPKC\)](#) and [Canadian National Railway](#)) – These companies are responsible for approving infrastructure crossing railroads.

Definitions

Cost Estimates: Estimated cost of an irrigation project, including irrigation infrastructure method (pivot, etc.), piping, pumps and installation. Irrigation infrastructure, pumps and piping is estimated based on design size, and installation is estimated by cost per linear foot.

Intensive Irrigator (or non-district Irrigator): An individual irrigator who is not part of an irrigation district. Generally, this individual has ownership and is responsible for operation and maintenance of irrigation related infrastructure/works. Individual irrigator receives a prescribed allocation of water from the Water Security Agency.

Irrigation Certificate: Issued by the Minister of Agriculture for land that has been assessed and deemed suitable for sustainable irrigation. This is a requirement as per The Irrigation Act, 2019.

Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation (ICDC): A irrigation research, demonstration and extension organization directed by Saskatchewan irrigation producers. All irrigation producers are members of ICDC and are required to pay an annual levy pursuant to section 5-14 in The Irrigation Act, 2019. The annual levy is currently set at \$1 per irrigated acre.

Irrigation District: A self-governing corporation established to construct, operate and maintain irrigation works in a defined area for the conveyance and delivery of water for irrigation purposes. An irrigation district is established pursuant to section 2-2 and section 7-2 in The Irrigation Act, 2019.

Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Inc. (SIPA) – This non-profit organization's mandate is to represent the interests of their irrigation membership in Saskatchewan and to provide a common voice for issues concerning irrigators. This producer group is dedicated to the expansion of irrigation while ensuring the efficient use of Saskatchewan's water resources.

Sketch Plan: A technical drawing of irrigated parcel, typically shows irrigation infrastructure layout, proposed water source routing and estimated water usage.

Water Allocation: The maximum annual volume of water that may be used for a given project, from a defined water source or supply, as determined by the Water Security Agency through the issuance of a Water Rights Licence.

Water Quality: As related to irrigation suitability. Electrical Conductivity (soluble salt content) and Sodium Adsorption Ratio are the main parameters considered when assessing water quality for irrigation.

Water Rights Licence: A licence issued by the Water Security Agency to an irrigation district, an intensive irrigator or any other prescribed person that provides:

- (a) in the case of an irrigation district, the right of district members to use water for irrigation purposes; or
- (b) in the case of an intensive irrigator or other prescribed person, the right to use water for irrigation purposes.

Water Service Agreement: An agreement between an irrigation district and a person who is to receive irrigation services that has been approved pursuant to section 3-5 in The Irrigation Act, 2019.

Note: these definitions are for the purposes of this document and do not reflect the definitions in The Irrigation Act, 2019.