March 2026

ECMA - Eagle Crest Master Association
RE: Irrigation Supply Concerns – 2026 Season

Dear ECMA Board of Directors,

The summer of 2026 is shaping up to be a difficult season for irrigation, particularly for systems that rely on the Deschutes River as their primary water source. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is currently forecasting low stream flows and continued drought conditions for the region. In addition, the State of Oregon has already declared Deschutes County a drought emergency, meaning irrigation restrictions are expected to begin at the onset of the irrigation season.

Low stream flows will adversely affect the ability of the ODFW-approved diversion screens and the river pump to supply the allocated amounts of irrigation water for storage in Eagle Lake. The Swalley Irrigation District will establish and monitor the allowable percentage of water diversion from the Deschutes River and will adjust these limits throughout the season based on available water supply.

The pump station located on the north side of Eagle Lake supplies irrigation water to several key areas within the resort, including the Resort Golf Course, Soccer Field, Front Pasture, Equestrian Pasture, Hotel Grounds and Front Entrance Landscaping.

In an effort to proactively plan for potential restrictions and inform homeowners, the following prioritized measures may be implemented if mandated reductions in irrigation water supply occur from the Deschutes River diversion point into Eagle Lake:

1. Front and Old Equestrian Center pastures irrigated Monday–Wednesday–Friday at four-hour sets.
2. Golf course water features will not be refilled.
3. Front and Old Equestrian Center pasture irrigation discontinued.
4. Soccer field irrigation reduced by 50%.
5. Front entrance and hotel landscaping irrigation reduced by 50%.
6. Golf course rough reduced by 50%, and soccer field irrigation turned off.
7. Golf course fairways reduced by 50%.
8. Golf course irrigation limited to tees and greens only.

The Golf Maintenance and Landscape teams will continue to maintain all affected areas to the highest quality possible within the constraints of these irrigation restrictions.

We appreciate the Board's understanding as we prepare for potential water supply limitations this season and will continue to provide updates as conditions evolve.

Sincerely,

Eagle Crest Golf Course Management