



**RESOLUTION No.** 2019-22

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES –  
Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA)**

**WHEREAS**, the Nevada Irrigation District (the “District”) intends to establish, and revise from time to time, administrative policies to guide the operations and management of the District; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past few years, the District has adopted several administrative policies, in an effort to assemble a comprehensive policy manual; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the recent rate increase discussions, the Board of Directors instructed staff to develop a water rate subsidy for treated water customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal of a water rate subsidy is to help low-income residential treated water customers through a reduction of the District’s base rate; and

**WHEREAS**, other LIRA programs in the water service industry generally utilize between one and two percent of a community’s monthly income as an indicator of an affordable water rate; and

**WHEREAS**, because the District’s base water rate is already less than one percent of the community’s monthly income, the Federal Poverty Level will be utilized as the income calculator; and

**WHEREAS**, the discount will apply to the District’s base rate annually and will not be retroactive, except as identified in the policy; and

**WHEREAS**, interested residential treated water customers must provide proof that a permanent resident in the household is enrolled in one or more federal assistance programs as defined in the policy; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District hereby adopts the following policies as attached, and shall be incorporated herein:

# 11110 – Low Income Rate Assistance (LIRA)

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the attached policies shall be incorporated into the District Policy Manual, and the Board Secretary is hereby authorized to assign and revise policy numbers, and format and reformat the attached, as needed for an organized, comprehensive, policy manual.

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District at a regular meeting held on the 24th day of July 2019, by the following vote:

<b>AYES:</b>	Directors: Heck, Bierwagen, Peters, Wilcox, Miller
<b>NOES:</b>	Directors: None
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Directors: None
<b>ABSTAINS:</b>	Directors: None

  
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President of the Board of Directors

**Attest:**

  
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Secretary to the Board of Directors

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# Nevada Irrigation District

## POLICY MANUAL

**POLICY TITLE:** Low-Income Rate Assistance (LIRA)

**POLICY NUMBER:** 11110

**11110.1 Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish a low-income Fixed Fee assistance program for qualifying residential treated water accounts.

**11110.2 Definition(s):**

Federal Poverty Level (FPL): A measure of income issued every year by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services used to determine eligibility for many low-income programs and benefits.

Fixed Service Charge (Fixed Fee). Base rate the District charges for water service regardless of the amount of water used.

**11110.3 Program Details:** The District established a LIRA Program to provide a discounted Fixed Fee for treated water accounts that is equivalent to one percent of the FPL. This figure is based upon water affordability thresholds established by both the US Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Public Health that range from one to three percent of annual income. The District selected one percent of the FPL as it is the only percentage low enough to provide a reduced Fixed Fee for the communities served by the District.

To calculate the rate, the District utilizes the average persons per connection (2.84 based on 2010 Census Data) to determine the FPL. The 2019 FPL for a household of three is \$21,330. One percent of the monthly household income at the FPL for three is \$17.78. This is the District's 2019 discounted Fixed Fee for qualifying low-income customer accounts.

The Board of Directors established a 2019 Fixed Fee rate of \$26.25, resulting in an \$8.47 difference in the monthly fee (\$26.25-\$17.78), which will be rounded to the nearest half dollar. In 2019, LIRA qualifying residential accounts will receive an \$8.50 monthly discount on the Fixed Fee beginning July 1, 2019, if applied for by August 31, 2019.

The Fixed Fee discount is adjusted annually by multiplying the prior year discount by the corresponding water rate increase percentage (if any), rounded to the nearest half dollar. The discount does not apply to consumptive rates, and is not retroactive. The percent of FPL calculation will be recalculated the year following a Census data update.

Funding for implementation of the LIRA program shall come from the District's non-water rate revenue, including hydroelectric, and/or revenue from the District's leases.

#### **11110.4 Program Qualifications:**

To qualify for the program customer accounts must meet the following conditions:

- File a completed application. Applications will be reviewed and the applicant notified of eligibility within 3 weeks of receipt. The discount will be applied toward bills incurred after notification of eligibility
- NID account must be in the applicant's name
- LIRA discounts are available to single-family, residential, treated water account holders
- Applicant must reside and live at the address where the discount will be received
- Applicant must provide proof of enrollment in one of the following qualified public assistance programs
  - Medicaid/Medi-Cal for Families A&B
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - CARE (gas & electric company discount)
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Accounts enrolled in the program must notify the District within 30 days if the household no longer qualifies for the LIRA discount. Failure to do so may result in back-billing for the discounted rate received and ineligibility to reapply for 12 months.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to reapply for the discount every year
- Accounts enrolled in LIRA must be keep current at all times. If service is disconnected for non-payment, the account may be removed from the program and will be ineligible to reapply for 12 months, during which time there must be no additional disconnections in service.

#### **11110.5 Program Termination:**

The program may be suspended, modified or terminated at any time by the Board of Directors and there is no entitlement to receive assistance. Implementation of any alternative, mandated state or federal low-income water rate assistance program shall result in the immediate cessation of the District's LIRA Program.

Adopted: July 24, 2019 via Resolution No.2019-22

Revised: