

Doug Brgoch	La Veta, CO; Water Commissioner District 16 (Cucharas River); South Regional Team Leader for Water Districts 16, 18, 19 & 79. doug.brgoch@state.co.us (719) 859-0122 Pond inspections in the Cucharas River basin
Lenna Rauber	Water Commissioner District 79 (Huerfano River) lenna.rauber@state.co.us (719) 568-0489 Pond inspections in the Huerfano River basin
Carol Dunn	Administrator, Huerfano County Water Conservancy District (HCWCD) hcwcdistrict@gmail.com (719) 742-5581 Website: www.hcwcd.net Questions about augmentation plan
Colorado Division of Water Resources	www.dwr.colorado.gov Information on well permitting, water administration, well metering, and well searches
HCWCD	PO Box 442 La Veta, CO 81055 (719) 742-5581 email: hcwcdistrict@gmail.com



**HUERFANO COUNTY WATER  
CONSERVANCY DISTRICT**

**Huerfano  
Regional  
Augmentation  
Plan**

For the Huerfano River  
basin

**HCWCD Board of Directors**

Scott King, President, La Veta    Kent Mace, Vice-president, Gardner  
Lonnie Brown, La Veta    Beaver Edmundson, Walsenburg  
Sandy White, La Veta

[www.hcwcd.net](http://www.hcwcd.net)

## How to Participate

You may have been notified (often this is done by the local Water Commissioner) that you need to have replacement (augmentation) water to continue to use your well, pond, or other “junior” water use. If that is the case, and you are in the Huerfano River watershed, you may be eligible to contract for augmentation water under the HCWCD Huerfano Regional Augmentation Plan that has been decreed by the Water Court for Division 2. Obtaining this augmentation water may allow your out-of-priority water use to continue without injury to senior water rights.

### Follow these steps:

- Visit the HCWCD website: [www.hcwcd.net](http://www.hcwcd.net)
- Read the Rules and Regulations to see if your property and water use qualify to participate.
- Decide if you want Tier 1 or Tier 2 water.
- Download the application form and fill it out.  
If you need help calculating how much augmentation water you need, hire a water engineer to help you decide.
- Mail the application to HCWCD at the address below.
- Include the application fee with your application.

The **application fee** is used to pay the engineering and legal costs of analyzing your application to see if it fits within the terms of the Regional Augmentation Plan, and then proceeding with the Water Court process of adding your use to the adjudicated augmentation plan as a “participating diversion.” This is an estimate of the fees that will be required. There may be a chance that your use **does not** qualify, or the engineer may determine that you need **more water** than you anticipated. At that point, you can withdraw your application if you wish, and the unspent portion of your application fee can be refunded. If your use does qualify and any portion of your fee is unspent after inclusion in the augmentation plan, you may receive a refund after the process is completed. Most applicants’ fees are used completely. If expenses are more than your application fee, you will be billed for and must pay the difference. Fees are reconciled after your participating use has been added.

In addition to the application fee, after your use is added as a participating diversion, you will owe money for the amount of augmentation water calculated for your structure’s out-of-priority depletions. You will be required to sign a contract to purchase, lease- purchase, or lease on an annual basis if you qualify for that option.  
purchase, or lease on an annual basis if you qualify for that option.

## Water Augmentation Program

The Huerfano Regional Augmentation plan makes augmentation water available to compensate for out-of-priority (junior) depletions caused by well pumping, pond evaporation and other water uses in the Huerfano River basin. The **advantages** to the water user are: 1) the legal and engineering required to decree augmentation operations has already been completed by HCWCD, and 2) day-to-day operations are completed by HCWCD. The individual water user is saved from having to complete these costly and time-consuming processes on their own. The HCWCD Regional Augmentation Plan includes water rights, augmentation facilities, recharge facilities, and a storage reservoir. To participate, the property where your water use occurs must be within the boundaries of Huerfano County. There is not an augmentation plan for the Cucharas River basin at this time.

There are two types of augmentation water available under the plan:

**Tier 1** water is available most years. It is the most reliable augmentation water and also the most expensive. The application fee for Tier 1 is \$10,000.

People who have junior water uses that need to be uninterrupted choose Tier 1 augmentation water.

**Tier 2** water is estimated to be available about 70% of the time. It is seasonal water, less reliable and less expensive than Tier 1. The application fee for Tier 2 is \$7,000. Many pond owners will likely decide that Tier 2 augmentation water is acceptable for their pond fill and evaporation. Tier 2 water is not appropriate for ponds that intersect the groundwater table.

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### Huerfano County Water Conservancy District

PO Box 442 La Veta, CO 81055 719-742-5581  
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**For all things HCWCD, visit the website: [www.hcwcd.net](http://www.hcwcd.net)**