

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Upper Republican Natural Resources District

Proposed Revisions to Rules and Regulations (Order 37)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District (URNRD) will hold a public hearing at 9 a.m. on **March 17, 2026**, during its regular board meeting. The hearing will be held at the District Office, 511 E. 5th St., in Imperial, Neb.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to receive public testimony and evidence regarding the proposed revisions and adoption of **Order 37: Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Control**. These rules apply to the entirety of the URNRD Management Area, which encompasses Chase, Dundy, and Perkins Counties.

Summary of Proposed Rules and Controls

The proposed revisions include, but are not limited to:

- **Groundwater Allocations:** Establishing irrigation allocations, allocation periods, and penalties for overuse via Board-approved orders that will include public notice and input, instead of changes to the URNRD's Rules and Regulations.
- **Definition Changes/Additions:** Modifications to and additional defined terms including irrigation distribution systems, open discharge systems, chemigation permit holders and pesticides.
- **References to State Statute:** Replacing explanations of those URNRD regulations that mirror state statute with references to state statute, including but not limited to chemigation and replacement well regulations.
- **Supplemental Allocation:** Codifies customary practice of limiting the number of certified irrigated acres that can be added to certified irrigated tracts to 20 percent of the certified acres in the tract that are irrigated.
- **Groundwater Quality (Phases I–IV):** Clarification of previously approved rules regarding nitrogen fertilizer application, soil testing, and mandatory education based on nitrate-nitrogen concentration levels.
- **New Use Offsets:** Limits allocation of new irrigation uses with offsets outside floating townships to the remaining base allocation of the offset acres.

Public Inspection

The full text of the proposed Order 37 Committee Draft is available for public inspection at the District Office in Imperial, during regular business hours, may be requested by contacting District staff at 888-883-9066, and are available on the URNRD website, www.urnrd.org.

Hearing Process

Any person may appear at the hearing and present written or oral testimony. Written comments may also be submitted to the District prior to the hearing. The Board of Directors will consider all relevant information before rendering a final decision.