



**HISTORY:**

The Washington Irrigation Company and its predecessor owners first served lands currently within the boundaries of the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID). In 1892 the first water was delivered by the Northern Pacific and Yakima Irrigation Company, a subsidiary of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

On October 23, 1905, the United States Reclamation Service, now the Bureau of Reclamation, purchased the Sunnyside Canal system from the Washington Irrigation Company. The Sunnyside Waterusers’ Association was formed in 1906 to provide an entity to contract with the United States Reclamation Service.

The Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) was organized on January 22, 1917, to replace the Sunnyside Water Users Association.

The Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) is located in Yakima and Benton counties in South Central Washington.

SVID is a governmental entity and is not privately owned or operated for profit but is operated by the landowners of SVID for their mutual benefit.

**PURPOSE:**

SVID exists primarily to deliver irrigation water to landowners in an efficient manner at the lowest possible cost consistent with good management practices.

**SERVICE AREA:**

SVID is one of nearly 100 irrigation districts in the state of Washington and the fourth largest in the state.

Irrigable acres ..... 86,429

**CANALS:**

Sunnyside canal ..... 60 miles  
Major subsystem canals ..... 44 miles  
Laterals and branch laterals ..... 329 miles

**IRRIGATION SEASON:**

The season usually runs from early April through mid-October. Canal priming operations generally begin in mid-March.

**STRUCTURE:**

For operation and maintenance purposes, SVID is divided into two geographical areas, the Upper and Lower Divisions. The Upper Division and Lower Division split the district east of Sunnyside. The Upper Division begins at the diversion dam, extends to and includes Sunnyside while the Lower Division extends from east of Sunnyside to northwest of Benton City.

**GOVERNANCE:**

A five-member Board of Directors has ultimate responsibility for the administration, operation, and maintenance of SVID.

The directors are landowners who, in turn, hire a manager to carry out the Board’s policies.

**DRAINAGE:**

SVID oversees the maintenance of over 170 miles of district drains as well as approximately 80 miles of joint drains common to Roza Irrigation District and Sunnyside Division.

Many Drainage Improvement Districts (DIDs) have been merged into SVID.

**OFFICE LOCATION:**

The SVID office is located at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> & Blaine in Sunnyside. Additional shops are in Grandview and near Granger at Punkin Center.

**STAFF:**

SVID has approximately 70 employees, including management, clerical, engineering, water quality and supervisory personnel. Field employees include ditchriders, maintenance workers, heavy equipment operators, and others.