

Santa Cruz Irrigation Ditch Emergency Shut Down Procedure

Warning: when going to the river at the ditch head-gate in La Puebla Make sure you call someone before you go in and again when you make it out. Be aware that there is not any cell service at the river.

Warning: if the arroyos are running or if flash flood conditions exist this shut down procedure MUST be initiated immediately and as quickly as possible to prevent the ditch from getting inundated with sand and debris.

During Rain Flash flood or Emergency conditions drive directly to the head-gates at the river through the gate at the La Puebla Arroyo (Maggoo Arroyo).

Step #1 Completely close whichever head-gate #1 or #2 that is open. The head-gate will close easier if you open it an additional 5 to 10 threads to allow the Head-gate to flush prior to closing it. For this purpose of shutting down the ditch it is OK to exceed the 50thread limit on the head-gate to dislodge debris or flush the head-gate If the head-gate still does not close completely and if the river is clean of mud and debris repeat this step until the head-gate completely closes. If flash flood conditions exist close the head-gate as much as possible allowing the leakage to flow back to the river through flush gate #3. The head-gate is considered closed when the operating Rod (threaded bolt on head-gate) is flush with the top of the nut (chuck). Next verify that flush gate #1 and #2 are completely closed.

WARNING: do not exceed 50 threads above the nut (chuck) on either head-gate during normal operation. Never operate the ditch with more than one head-gate open at a time.

Step #2 Drive or walk to Flush Gate #3 and the gauge gate. Close the gauge gate completely and open Flush gate #3 completely allowing the water to return to the river.

Step #3 Lock the head-gate and the gate at State Road 76. Drive to the Maguine desague Flush Gate #5.

Step #4 Drive to the Maguine Desague Flush Gate #5. park at the gate out of the way on Camino DE Paz County Road (from County Road walk along the Maguine desague to flush gate #5) make sure there are no obstructions and that the water can flow to the river. When you arrive at flush gate #5 open this flush gate ½ the way to allow the mud and debris in the ditch to return to the river through the Maguine desague. Next verify if the Cuarteles ditch is draining into the Santa Cruz ditch. If there is a lot of water draining into the Santa Cruz ditch make sure the Maguine Deague flush gate #5 is open enough to accommodate the amount of water draining into the Santa Cruz ditch. The run off from State Road 76 drains directly in to the Cuarteles ditch and ends up draining through the Maguine desague. Therefore, this step is crucial for a complete shutdown of the ditch and to allow the muddy water and debris from State Road 76 to run to the river.