



March 30, 2026

GVIC Shareholders,

As you know, we are facing a severe drought, and many have asked when water will reach the canals and whether it will be sufficient for this irrigation season. The brief answers are “soon” and “uncertain.”

Let me first explain the delayed timing of water entering the canals. GVIC is finalizing a major renovation of the diversion structure and fish screen at the Palisade headgates. This project required years of planning and funding, in coordination with the Bureau of Reclamation’s reconstruction of the endangered fish screen next to GVIC’s headgates. Last year, we completed the rehabilitation and construction of the diversion dam that channels river water to GVIC’s headgates, and now we’re upgrading the old radial flood gates and the main canal delivery point headgates. The outdated steel radial gates have been replaced with new stainless steel pneumatic gates, allowing for more efficient water delivery control. Several tasks remain before the installation is complete and the canal can be opened; GVIC employees and contractors are working hard to finish the job.

Due to the winter drought, all shareholders are keen to get water flowing to their fields and yards. GVIC supplies water through over 100 miles of irrigation canals. Once the headgates in Palisade open, water slowly fills the canal, as much of our system is unlined and must be filled carefully to prevent erosion and damage. It takes about a week for the canal to reach full capacity. Therefore, I ask for your patience—please allow the ditch riders to fill and prepare the canal. Slow and steady will ensure a smoother start for this demanding water year.

Answering the tougher question: will there be enough water this season? The conditions are tough. Reservoirs like Lake Powell and Lake Mead are at critical lows, and the Colorado River Basin snowpack is among the lowest we’ve seen in decades—comparable to some of the driest years on record. Authorities managing reservoirs are working overtime to balance agricultural, domestic, and environmental demands with limited supply. There is also increasing pressure between basin states, which could further complicate things.

We will do everything we can to manage the system responsibly and deliver what water is available. I appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work through a challenging year.

Thank you,

Sean T. Norris
President, GVIC