

# Title 87

## IRRIGATION

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### Chapter 87.03 RCW

#### IRRIGATION DISTRICTS GENERALLY

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**Reviser's note:** The language "this act," "this chapter," and words of similar import appear throughout chapter 87.03 RCW. This chapter is almost entirely comprised of the basic irrigation act of 1889-90 p 671 et seq. as amended and as expressly added thereto by subsequent enactments. The chapter is codified in the session law order of the basic act with a few independent sections which are in pari materia being also codified herein. Many sections were added to the basic law by being expressly added to the chapter of the code or compilation in which the basic act was currently published at the time of the particular enactment. Similarly many sections have been amended by reference to the compilation number only. Some of these sections contain legislative language "this act," "this chapter," or both, which appear in the session law either as original legislative language or reenactments by the legislature of a compiler's translation. Therefore, throughout chapter 87.03 RCW such language is retained wherever it appears in the most recent session law enactment. Situations concerning effective dates of particular acts or having express restrictive application are otherwise specially noted.

*Deferral of special assessments: Chapter 84.38 RCW.*

*Disposal of real property on abandonment of irrigation district right-of-way—Right of adjacent owners: RCW 57.90.100.*

*Local governmental organizations, actions affecting boundaries, etc., review by boundary review board: Chapter 36.93 RCW.*

*Plats, approval of plat within irrigation districts prohibited without provision for irrigation water: RCW 58.17.310.*

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*Special purpose districts, expenditures to recruit job candidates: RCW 42.24.170.*

**87.03.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board—Exceptions.** The formation of an irrigation district may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. The alteration of the boundaries of an irrigation district, including but not limited to a consolidation, addition of lands, exclusion of lands, or merger, may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW, except that additions or exclusions of land to an irrigation district, when those lands are within the boundary of a federal reclamation project, are not subject to review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [2010 c 201 § 1; 1989 c 84 § 66.]

**87.03.005 District proposed—Powers, when organized.** Whenever fifty or a majority of the holders of title to, or of evidence of title to land susceptible of "irrigation" desire to organize an irrigation district for any or all of the purposes mentioned in RCW 87.03.010 and 87.03.015, they may propose the organization of an irrigation district in the manner provided herein; and when so organized, such district shall have all the powers that may now or hereafter be conferred by law. [1923 c 138 § 1; 1917 c 162 § 1; 1915 c 179 § 1; 1895 c 165 § 1; 1889-90 p 671 § 1; RRS § 7417. Formerly RCW 87.01.020, part.]

**87.03.010 Certain purposes for which district may be formed.** An irrigation district may be organized or maintained for any or all the following purposes:

- (1) The construction or purchase of works, or parts of same, for the irrigation of lands within the operation of the district.
- (2) The reconstruction, repair or improvement of existing irrigation works.
- (3) The operation or maintenance of existing irrigation works.
- (4) The construction, reconstruction, repair or maintenance of a system of diverting conduits from a natural source of water supply to the point of individual distribution for irrigation purposes.
- (5) The execution and performance of any contract authorized by law with any department of the federal government or of the state of Washington, for reclamation and irrigation purposes.
- (6) The performance of all things necessary to enable the district to exercise the powers herein granted. [1923 c 138 § 2, part; RRS § 7417-1. Formerly RCW 87.01.010.]

**87.03.013 Development of hydroelectric generation capabilities—Legislative finding, intent—Limitation.** The legislature finds that a significant potential exists for the development of the hydroelectric generation capabilities of present and future irrigation systems serving irrigation districts. The legislature also finds that the development of such hydroelectric generation capabilities is beneficial to the present and future electrical needs of the citizens of the state of Washington, furthers a state purpose and policy, and is in the public interest. The legislature further finds that it is necessary to revise and add to the authority of irrigation districts to

obtain the most favorable interest rates possible in the financing of irrigation district projects which serve the agricultural community and hydroelectric facilities. It is the intent of the legislature to provide irrigation districts with the authority to develop these hydroelectric generation capabilities in connection with irrigation facilities. Further, it is the intent of the legislature that the development of hydroelectric generation capabilities pursuant to \*this 1979 act not become the sole purpose or function of irrigation districts in existence on May 14, 1979, nor become a major function of irrigation districts created after that date. Nothing herein shall authorize an irrigation district to sell electric power or energy to any municipal corporation not engaged in the distribution of electric power or energy. [1979 ex.s. c 185 § 1.]

\*Reviser's note: For codification of "this 1979 act" [1979 ex.s. c 185], see Codification Tables.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

### **87.03.015 Certain powers of district enumerated.**

Any irrigation district, operating and maintaining an irrigation system, in addition to other powers conferred by law, shall have authority:

(1) To purchase and sell electric power to the inhabitants of the irrigation district for the purposes of irrigation and domestic use; to finance, acquire, construct, own, and lease dams, canals, plants, transmission lines, and other power equipment and the necessary property and rights therefor and to operate, improve, repair, and maintain the same, for the generation and transmission of electrical energy for use in the operation of pumping plants and irrigation systems of the district and for sale to the inhabitants of the irrigation district for the purposes of irrigation and domestic use; and, as a further and separate grant of authority and in furtherance of a state purpose and policy of developing hydroelectric capability in connection with irrigation facilities, to construct, finance, acquire, own, lease, operate, improve, repair, and maintain, alone or jointly with other irrigation districts, boards of control, municipal or quasi-municipal corporations or cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of distributing electricity, electrical companies subject to the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission, private commercial or industrial entities that construct or operate electric power generation or transmission facilities, or private commercial or industrial entities that acquire electric power for their own use or resale, hydroelectric facilities including but not limited to dams, canals, plants, transmission lines, other power equipment, and the necessary property and rights therefor, located within or outside the district, for the purpose of utilizing for the generation of electricity, water power made available by and as a part of the irrigation water storage, conveyance, and distribution facilities, waste ways, and drainage water facilities which serve irrigation districts, and to sell any and all the electric energy generated at any such hydroelectric facilities or the irrigation district's share of such energy, to municipal or quasi-municipal corporations or cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of distributing electricity, electrical companies subject to the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission, private commercial or industrial entities that acquire electric power for their own use or resale, or other irrigation districts, and on such terms and conditions as the board of directors shall determine. No

contract entered into under this subsection by the board of directors of any irrigation district for the sale of electrical energy from such hydroelectric facility for a period longer than forty years from the date of commercial operation of such hydroelectric facility shall be binding on the district until ratified by a majority vote of the electors of the district at an election therein, called, held, and canvassed for that purpose in the same manner as that provided by law for district bond elections.

(2) To construct, repair, purchase, maintain, or lease a system for the sale or lease of water to the owners of irrigated lands within the district for domestic purposes.

(3) To construct, repair, purchase, lease, acquire, operate and maintain a system of drains, sanitary sewers, and sewage disposal or treatment plants as herein provided.

(4) To assume, as principal or guarantor, any indebtedness to the United States under the federal reclamation laws, on account of district lands.

(5) To maintain, repair, construct, and reconstruct ditches, laterals, pipe lines, and other water conduits used or to be used in carrying water for irrigation of lands located within the boundaries of a city or town, or for the domestic use of the residents of a city or town where the owners of land within such city or town shall use such works to carry water to the boundaries of such city or town for irrigation, domestic, or other purposes within such city or town, and to charge to such city or town the pro rata proportion of the cost of such maintenance, repair, construction, and reconstruction work in proportion to the benefits received by the lands served and located within the boundaries of such city or town, and if such cost is not paid, then and in that event said irrigation district shall have the right to prevent further water deliveries through such works to the lands located within the boundaries of such city or town until such charges have been paid.

(6) To acquire, install, and maintain as a part of the irrigation district's water system the necessary water mains and fire hydrants to make water available for firefighting purposes; and in addition any such irrigation district shall have the authority to repair, operate, and maintain such hydrants and mains.

(7) To enter into contracts with other irrigation districts, boards of control, municipal or quasi-municipal corporations or cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of distributing electricity, electrical companies subject to the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission, private commercial or industrial entities that construct or operate electric power generation or transmission facilities, or private commercial or industrial entities that acquire electric power for their own use or resale, to jointly finance, acquire, lease, construct, own, operate, improve, repair, and maintain irrigation water, domestic water, drainage and sewerage works, and electrical power works to the same extent as authorized by subsection (1) of this section, or portions of such works. If an irrigation district enters into a contract or agreement under this subsection to create a legal entity or undertaking with an investor-owned utility or a private commercial or industrial entity, that contract or agreement must provide that the irrigation district be severally liable only for its own acts and not jointly or severally liable for the acts, omissions, or obligations of an investor-owned utility or a private commercial or industrial entity. No money or property supplied by any irri-

gation district for the planning, financing, acquisition, construction, operation, or maintenance of any common facility may be credited or otherwise applied to the account of any investor-owned utility or private commercial or industrial entity therein, nor may the undivided share of any irrigation district in any common facility be charged, directly or indirectly, with any debt or obligation of any investor-owned utility or private commercial or industrial entity or be subject to any lien as a result thereof. No action in connection with a common facility may be binding upon any irrigation district unless authorized or approved by resolution of its board.

(8) To acquire from a water-sewer district wholly within the irrigation district's boundaries, by a conveyance without cost, the water-sewer district's water system and to operate the same to provide water for the domestic use of the irrigation district residents. As a part of its acceptance of the conveyance the irrigation district must agree to relieve the water-sewer district of responsibility for maintenance and repair of the system. Any such water-sewer district is authorized to make such a conveyance if all indebtedness of the water-sewer district, except local improvement district bonds, has been paid and the conveyance has been approved by a majority of the water-sewer district's voters voting at a general or special election.

(9) To approve and condition placement of hydroelectric generation facilities by entities other than the district on water conveyance facilities operated or maintained by the district.

This section shall not be construed as in any manner abridging any other powers of an irrigation district conferred by law. [2017 c 63 § 1; 2014 c 2 § 6; 1999 c 153 § 74; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 2; 1967 c 206 § 1; 1965 c 141 § 1; 1943 c 57 § 1; 1941 c 143 § 1; 1933 c 31 § 1; 1923 c 138 § 2, part; RRS § 7417-2. Formerly RCW 87.01.210, part.]

*District bond elections:* RCW 87.03.200.

*Heating systems authorized:* RCW 35.97.020.

*Prerequisite to furnishing water or power outside of district:* RCW 87.03.115.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.0155 Contract and formation powers.** (1) An irrigation district may enter into any contract or agreement with, or form a separate legal entity with, one or more of the entities or utilities specified in subsection (3) of this section for any of the following purposes:

- (a) Purchasing and selling electric power;
- (b) Developing or owning, or both, electric power generating or transmitting facilities, or both, including, but not limited to, facilities for generating or transmitting electric power generated by water, wind, solar power, thermal power, or batteries; and
- (c) Developing or owning, or both, water storage, pumping, and transmission facilities.

(2) The contract or agreement may provide:

(a) For purchasing the capability of a project to produce or transmit electric power, in addition to actual output of a project;

(b) For making payments whether or not a project is completed, operative, or operating, and notwithstanding the suspension, interruption, interference, reduction, or curtail-

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ment of output or use of a project or the use, power, and energy contracted for or agreed to;

(c) That payments are not subject to reduction, whether by offset or otherwise; and

(d) That performance is not conditioned upon performance or nonperformance of any party or entity.

(3) Pursuant to authority granted under this section, irrigation districts may contract or enter into agreements with one or more:

- (a) Agencies of the United States government;
- (b) States;
- (c) Municipalities;
- (d) Public utility districts;
- (e) Irrigation districts;
- (f) Joint operating agencies;
- (g) Rural electric cooperatives;
- (h) Mutual corporations or associations;
- (i) Investor-owned utilities;
- (j) Private commercial or industrial entities that construct or operate electric power generation or transmission facilities;
- (k) Private commercial or industrial entities that acquire electric power for their own use or resale; or
- (l) Associations or legal entities composed of any such entities or utilities.

(4) If an irrigation district enters into a contract or agreement under this section to create a legal entity or undertaking with an investor-owned utility or a private commercial or industrial entity, that contract or agreement must provide that the irrigation district be severally liable only for its own acts and not jointly or severally liable for the acts, omissions, or obligations of an investor-owned utility or a private commercial or industrial entity. No money or property supplied by any irrigation district for the planning, financing, acquisition, construction, operation, or maintenance of any common facility may be credited or otherwise applied to the account of any investor-owned utility or private commercial or industrial entity therein, nor may the undivided share of any irrigation district in any common facility be charged, directly or indirectly, with any debt or obligation of any investor-owned utility or private commercial or industrial entity or be subject to any lien as a result thereof. No action in connection with a common facility may be binding upon any irrigation district unless authorized or approved by resolution of its board.

(5) This section may not be construed in any manner that abridges any other powers of an irrigation district conferred by law. [2017 c 63 § 2; 2009 c 145 § 4.]

**87.03.016 District may provide street lighting—Limitations.** In addition to other powers conferred by law, an irrigation district is authorized to construct, purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire, maintain, and operate a system for lighting public streets and highways and to enter into a contract or contracts with electric utilities, either public or private, to provide that service. However, no contract entered into by the board for providing street lighting for a period exceeding ten years is binding upon the district unless ratified by a majority vote of the electors of the district at an election called, held, and canvassed for that purpose in the same manner as provided by law for district bond elections.

The authority granted by this section applies only to an irrigation district that has begun the construction, purchase, lease, or acquisition of a street lighting system by January 1, 1984, or has entered into a contract for that service by that date. [1984 c 168 § 1.]

**87.03.017 District may assist residential owners in financing for conservation of energy—When—Plan—Limitations.** Any irrigation district engaged in the distribution of energy is hereby authorized, within limits established by the Constitution of the state of Washington, to assist the owners of residential structures in financing the acquisition and installation of materials and equipment, for compensation or otherwise, for the conservation or more efficient use of energy in such structures pursuant to an energy conservation plan adopted by the irrigation district if the cost per unit of energy saved or produced by the use of such materials and equipment is less than the cost per unit of energy produced by the next least costly new energy resource which the irrigation district could acquire to meet future demand. Except where otherwise authorized, such assistance shall be limited to:

(1) Providing an inspection of the residential structure, either directly or through one or more inspectors under contract, to determine and inform the owner of the estimated cost of purchasing and installing conservation materials and equipment for which financial assistance will be approved and the estimated life-cycle savings in energy costs that are likely to result from the installation of such materials or equipment.

(2) Providing a list of businesses who sell and install such materials and equipment within or in close proximity to the service area of the irrigation district, each of which businesses shall have requested to be included and shall have the ability to provide the products in a workmanlike manner and to utilize such materials in accordance with the prevailing national standards.

(3) Arranging to have approved conservation materials and equipment installed by a private contractor whose bid is acceptable to the owner of the residential structure and verifying such installation.

(4) Arranging or providing financing for the purchase and installation of approved conservation materials and equipment. Such materials and equipment shall be purchased from a private business and shall be installed by a private business or the owner.

(5) Pay back shall be in the form of incremental additions to the utility bill, billed either together with use charge or separately. Loans shall not exceed two hundred forty months in length. [2010 1st sp.s. c 4 § 2; 1982 c 42 § 1. Prior: 1981 c 345 § 3.]

**87.03.0175 District assistance for conservation, improvement, preservation, and efficient use.** (1) Any irrigation district organized under this chapter may, for compensation, reimbursement, or otherwise, within limits established by the state Constitution, assist the owners of land receiving water distributed by the irrigation district or discharging, with the district's approval, water from the land into irrigation district-maintained facilities to finance, acquire, install, lease, and use equipment, fixtures, programs, and systems to conserve, improve, preserve, and efficiently use the land, water

delivered by the irrigation district, or water discharged from the land into irrigation district-maintained facilities. Assistance may include, but is not limited to, grants, loans, and financing to purchase, lease, install, and use approved conservation, improvement, and preservation equipment, fixtures, programs, and systems. The equipment, fixtures, programs, and systems may be leased, purchased, or installed by a private business, the owner of the land, or the irrigation district. "Conserve," "improve," and "preserve" as used in this section, include enhancing the quality of water delivered by the irrigation district or discharged from the land into irrigation district-maintained facilities.

(2) The district may charge the owner and the land if district money or credit is used or extended to provide the assistance in subsection (1) of this section. The district's board of directors may also levy and fix assessments, rates, tolls, and charges and collect them from all persons for whom, and all land on which, district money or credit is provided, or the board may require landowner repayment for landowner assistance by assessments, charges, rates, or tolls in the same manner as provided by RCW 87.03.445. [1999 c 234 § 1.]

**87.03.018 Creation of legal authority to carry out powers—Method—Indebtedness.** Two or more irrigation districts may create a separate legal authority to carry out any or all of the powers described in RCW 87.03.015. To enable such a legal authority to carry out its delegated powers, the irrigation districts creating the authority may assign, convey, or otherwise transfer to it any or all of their respective property, rights, or obligations, including, without limitation, the power to issue revenue obligations and the power of condemnation. Such a legal authority shall be created and organized by contract in the manner described in chapter 39.34 RCW and shall be a separate legal entity.

A separate legal authority shall only have power to incur indebtedness that is repayable from rates, tolls, charges, or contract payments for services or electricity provided by the authority and to pledge such revenues for the payment and retirement of indebtedness issued for the construction or acquisition of hydroelectric facilities. An authority shall not have power to levy taxes or to impose assessments for the payment of obligations of the authority. Every bond or other evidence of indebtedness issued by an authority shall provide (1) that repayment shall be limited solely to the revenues of the authority; and (2) that no member of the authority shall be obligated to repay directly or indirectly any obligation of the authority except to the extent of fair value for services actually received from the authority. No member may pledge its revenues to support the issuance of revenue bonds or other indebtedness of an authority. [1984 c 168 § 5; 1981 c 62 § 1.]

**87.03.019 Cooperative watershed management.** In addition to the authority provided throughout this title, an irrigation district, reclamation district, and similar districts organized pursuant to the authority of this title may participate in and expend revenue on cooperative watershed management actions, including watershed management partnerships under RCW 39.34.210 and other intergovernmental agreements, for purposes of water supply, water quality, and water resource and habitat protection and management. [2003 c 327 § 15.]

**Finding—Intent—2003 c 327:** See note following RCW 39.34.190.

**87.03.020 Organization of district—Petition—Bond—Notice—Hearing—Order—Notice of election.** For the purpose of organizing an irrigation district, a petition, signed by the required number of holders of title or evidence of title to land within the proposed district, shall be presented to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the lands, or the greater portion thereof, are situated, which petition shall contain the following:

(1) A description of the lands to be included in the operation of the district, in legal subdivisions or fractions thereof, and the name of the county or counties in which said lands are situated.

(2) The signature and post office address of each petitioner, together with the legal description of the particular lands within the proposed district owned by said respective petitioners.

(3) A general statement of the probable source or sources of water supply and a brief outline of the plan of improvement, which may be in the alternative, contemplated by the organization of the district.

(4) A statement of the number of directors, either three or five, desired for the administration of the district and of the name by which the petitioners desire the district to be designated.

(5) Any other matter deemed material.

(6) A prayer requesting the board to take the steps necessary to organize the district.

The petition must be accompanied by a good and sufficient bond, to be approved by the board of county commissioners, in double the amount of the probable cost of organizing the district, and conditioned that the bondspersons will pay all of the cost in case such organization shall not be effected. Said petition shall be presented at a regular meeting of the said board, or at any special meeting ordered to consider and act upon said petition, and shall be published once a week, for at least two weeks (three issues) before the time at which the same is to be presented, in some newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the county where said petition is to be presented, together with a notice signed by the clerk of the board of county commissioners stating the time of the meeting at which the same will be presented. There shall also be published a notice of the hearing on said petition in a newspaper published at Olympia, Washington, to be designated by the director of ecology from year to year, which said notice shall be published for at least two weeks (three issues) prior to the date of said meeting and shall contain the name of the county or counties and the number of each township and range in which the lands embraced within the boundaries of the proposed district are situated, also the time, place and purpose for said meeting, which said notice shall be signed by the petitioner whose name first appears upon the said petition. If any portion of the lands within said proposed district lie within another county or counties, then the said petition and notice shall be published for the time above provided in one newspaper printed and published in each of said counties. The said notice, together with a map of the district, shall also be served by registered mail at least thirty days before the said hearing upon the state director of ecology at Olympia, Washington, who shall, at the expense

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of the district in case it is later organized, otherwise at the expense of the petitioners' bondspersons, make such investigation of the sufficiency of the source and supply of water for the purposes of the proposed district, as he or she may deem necessary, and file a report of his or her findings, together with a statement of his or her costs, with the board of county commissioners at or prior to the time set for said hearing. When the petition is presented, the board of county commissioners shall hear the same, shall receive such evidence as it may deem material, and may adjourn such hearing from time to time, not exceeding four weeks in all, and on the final hearing shall establish and define the boundaries of the district along such lines as in the judgment of the board will best reclaim the lands involved and enter an order to that effect: PROVIDED, That said board shall not modify the boundaries so as to except from the operation of the district any territory within the boundaries outlined in the petition, which is susceptible of irrigation by the same system of works applicable to other lands in such proposed district and for which a water supply is available; nor shall any lands which, in the judgment of said board, will not be benefited, be included within such district; any lands included within any district, which have a partial or full water right shall be given equitable credit therefor in the apportionment of the assessments in this act provided for: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any owner, whose lands are susceptible of irrigation from the same source, and in the judgment of the board it is practicable to irrigate the same by the proposed district system, shall, upon application to the board at the time of the hearing, be entitled to have such lands included in the district.

At said hearing the board shall also give the district a name and shall order that an election be held therein for the purpose of determining whether or not the district shall be organized under the provisions of this act and for the purpose of electing directors.

The clerk of the board of county commissioners shall then give notice of the election ordered to be held as aforesaid, which notice shall describe the district boundaries as established, and shall give the name by which said proposed district has been designated, and shall state the purposes and objects of said election, and shall be published once a week, for at least two weeks (three issues) prior to said election, in a newspaper of general circulation published in the county where the petition aforesaid was presented; and if any portion of said proposed district lies within another county or counties, then said notice shall be published in like manner in a newspaper within each of said counties. Said election notice shall also require the electors to cast ballots which shall contain the words "Irrigation District—Yes," and "Irrigation District—No," and also the names of persons to be voted for as directors of the district: PROVIDED, That where in this act publication is required to be made in a newspaper of any county, the same may be made in a newspaper of general circulation in such county, selected by the person or body charged with making the publication and such newspaper shall be the official paper for such purpose. [2007 c 218 § 79; 1988 c 127 § 40; 1923 c 138 § 3; 1921 c 129 § 1; 1919 c 180 § 1; 1915 c 179 § 2; 1913 c 165 § 1; 1895 c 165 § 2; 1889-90 p 671 § 2; RRS § 7418. Formerly RCW 87.01.020, part, 87.01.030, 87.01.040, and 87.01.050.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 41.08.020.

**87.03.025 State lands situated in or taken into district—Procedure—Assessments, collection.** Whenever public lands of the state are situated in or taken into an irrigation district they shall be treated the same as other lands, except as hereinafter provided. The commissioner of public lands shall be served with a copy of the petition proposing to include such lands, together with a map of the district and notice of the time and place of hearing thereon, at least thirty days before the hearing, and if he or she determines that such lands will be benefited by being included in the district he or she shall give his or her consent thereto in writing. If he or she determines that they will not be benefited he or she shall file with the board a statement of his or her objections thereto.

Any public lands of the state which are situated within the boundaries of an irrigation district, but which were not included in the district at the time of its organization, may be included after a hearing as herein provided.

Whenever the commissioner or any interested person desires to have state public lands included in an existing district, he or she shall file a request to that effect in writing with the district board, which shall thereupon fix a time and place for hearing the request and post notice thereof in three public conspicuous places in the district, one of which shall be at the place of hearing, at least twenty days before the hearing, and send by registered mail a copy of the notice to the commissioner. The notice shall describe the lands to be included and direct all persons objecting to such inclusion to appear at the time and place stated and present their objections. At the hearing the district board shall consider all objections and may adjourn to a later date, and by resolution determine the matter, and its determination shall be final: PROVIDED, That no such lands shall be included in a district without the written consent of the commissioner of public lands.

Any public lands of the state situated in any irrigation district shall be subject to the provisions of the laws of this state relating to the collection of irrigation district assessments to the same extent and in the same manner in which lands of like character held under private ownership are subject thereto, but collection and payment of the assessments shall be governed solely by the provisions of chapter 79.44 RCW. [2013 c 23 § 480; 1963 c 20 § 13; 1951 2nd ex.s. c 15 § 1; 1951 c 212 § 1; 1923 c 138 § 4; 1921 c 129 § 2; 1919 c 180 § 2; RRS § 7419. Formerly RCW 87.01.060.]

*Irrigation district assessments: RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.305.*

**87.03.030 Elections are governed by irrigation district laws.** All elections of irrigation districts, general or special, for any district purpose and in any county of the state shall be called, noticed, and conducted in accordance with the laws of the state, specifically relating to irrigation districts. [1951 c 201 § 1. Formerly RCW 87.01.095.]

*Ballots, declaration of candidacy: RCW 87.03.075.*

*Certain elections—Districts of two hundred thousand acres: RCW 87.68.060.*

*Times for holding elections and primaries: RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.031 Absentee voting—Certification of inconvenience.** Any qualified district elector who certifies as provided in RCW 87.03.032 through 87.03.034 that he or she

cannot conveniently be present to cast his or her ballot at his or her proper election precinct on the day of any irrigation district election shall be entitled to vote by absentee ballot in such election in the manner herein provided. [2013 c 23 § 481; 1961 c 105 § 2. Formerly RCW 87.01.096.]

**87.03.032 Absentee voting—Notice of election, contents—Ballot and form of certificate of qualifications to be furnished.** The notice of election shall conform to the requirements for election notices provided by Title 87 RCW for the election being held, and shall specify in addition that any qualified district elector who certifies that he or she cannot conveniently be present at his or her proper election precinct on the day of election may vote by absentee ballot, and that a ballot and form of certificate of qualifications will be furnished to him or her on written request being made of the district's secretary. The requisite ballot and a form of certificate of qualifications shall be furnished by the district's secretary to any person who prior to the date of election makes written request therefor, stating that he or she is a qualified district elector. Such ballot and form may be furnished also to qualified district electors in any way deemed to be convenient without regard to requests having been made therefor. [2013 c 23 § 482; 1961 c 105 § 3. Formerly RCW 87.01.097.]

**87.03.033 Absentee voting—Requirements for ballot to be counted—Statement of qualifications—Form of ballot.** (1) To be counted in a given election, an absentee ballot must conform to these requirements:

(a) It must be sealed in an unmarked envelope and delivered to the district's principal office prior to the close of the polls on the day of that election; or be sealed in an unmarked envelope and mailed to the district's secretary, postmarked not later than midnight of that election day and received by the secretary within five days of that date.

(b) The sealed envelope containing the ballot shall be accompanied by a certificate of qualifications stating, with respect to the voter, his or her name, age, citizenship, residence, that he or she holds title or evidence of title to lands within the district which, under RCW 87.03.045 entitles him or her to vote in the election, and that he or she cannot conveniently be present to cast his or her ballot at his or her proper election precinct on election day.

(c) The statements in the certificate of qualifications shall be certified as correct by the voter by the affixing of his or her signature thereto in the presence of a witness who is acquainted with the voter, and the voter shall enclose and seal his or her ballot in the unmarked envelope in the presence of this witness but without disclosing his or her vote. The witness, by affixing his or her signature to the certificate of qualifications, shall certify that he or she is acquainted with the voter, that in his or her presence the voter's signature was affixed and the ballot enclosed as required in this paragraph.

(2) The form of statement of qualifications and its certification shall be substantially as prescribed by the district's board of directors. This form may also provide that the voter shall describe all or some part of his or her lands within the district which, under RCW 87.03.045 entitles him or her to vote in the election, but a voter otherwise qualified shall not be disqualified because of the absence or inaccuracy of the description so given. The regular form of irrigation district



ballot shall be used by absentee voters. [2013 c 23 § 483; 1961 c 105 § 4. Formerly RCW 87.01.098.]

**87.03.034 Absentee voting—How incoming ballots are handled—Canvass—Statement of result of both regular and absentee ballots.** (1) Absentee ballots shall be accumulated and kept, unopened, by the district's secretary until the time in which such ballots may be received is closed. The secretary shall deliver them to the board of directors as early as practicable on the following day. That board shall proceed at once to determine whether the voters submitting absentee ballots are qualified so to vote and to count and tally the votes of those so determined to be qualified. The board shall make, record, and certify the result of its determinations and count; and promptly thereafter it shall deliver the ballots, certificates of qualifications, and its certificate to the district's secretary. The provisions of RCW 87.03.100 with respect to recount shall govern also in the case of absentee ballots.

(2) On the completion of the canvass of the regular returns of the several election precincts as provided in RCW 87.03.105, the board of directors shall canvass the returns of the absentee votes and declare the result thereof in substantially the same manner as provided for the returns of the votes cast in the regular manner. Thereupon the statement of the result conforming as nearly as practicable to the requirements of RCW 87.03.110 shall be made covering both regular and absentee votes. [1961 c 105 § 5. Formerly RCW 87.01.099.]

**87.03.035 Elections to form district—How conducted.** The board of county commissioners shall establish a convenient number of election precincts in the proposed district and define the boundaries thereof, and designate a polling place and appoint the necessary election officers for each precinct; which precincts may thereafter be changed by the district board. The election shall be conducted as nearly as practicable in the manner provided for the election of directors. Where a nonassessable area is situated in a district, any notice, delinquent list, or other announcement required by this title to be posted, may be posted in the area and any election may be held therein. [1955 c 57 § 2. Prior: 1921 c 129 § 3, part; 1917 c 162 § 2, part; 1913 c 165 § 2, part; 1889-90 p 672 § 3, part; RRS § 7420, part. Formerly RCW 87.01.070.]

**87.03.040 Elections to form district—Canvass of returns—Order.** The board of county commissioners shall meet on the second Monday after the election and canvass the returns, and if it appears that at least two-thirds of all the votes cast are in favor of the district the board shall by an order declare the district duly organized and shall declare the qualified persons receiving the highest number of votes to be duly elected directors, and shall cause a certified copy of the order to be filed for record in the offices of the auditor and assessor of each county in which any portion of the district is situated. From the date of the filing the organization of the district shall be complete and the directors may, upon qualifying, enter immediately upon the duties of their office, and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. Upon filing the order, the county assessor shall write the name of the district on the permanent tax roll in a column provided for that purpose opposite each description of land in the district. Such column shall be carried forward each year on

the current tax roll. In the event of a change in the boundaries of a district, the assessor shall note it in the column upon the tax roll. [1955 c 57 § 3. Prior: 1921 c 129 § 3, part; 1917 c 162 § 2, part; 1913 c 165 § 2, part; 1889-90 p 672 § 3, part; RRS § 7420, part. Formerly RCW 87.01.080.]

**87.03.045 Qualifications of voters and directors—Districts of two hundred thousand acres.** In districts with two hundred thousand acres or more, a person eighteen years old, being a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state and who holds title or evidence of title to land in the district or proposed district shall be entitled to vote therein. He or she shall be entitled to one vote for the first ten acres of said land or fraction thereof and one additional vote for all of said land over ten acres. A majority of the directors shall be residents of the county or counties in which the district is situated and all shall be electors of the district. If more than one elector residing outside the county or counties is voted for as director, only that one who receives the highest number of votes shall be considered in ascertaining the result of the election. Where land is community property both the husband and wife may vote if otherwise qualified. An agent of a corporation owning land in the district, duly authorized in writing, may vote on behalf of the corporation by filing with the election officers his or her instrument of authority. An elector resident in the district shall vote in the precinct in which he or she resides, all others shall vote in the precinct nearest their residence. [2013 c 23 § 484; 1985 c 66 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 292 § 72; 1961 c 192 § 12; 1955 c 57 § 4. Prior: 1953 c 122 § 1; 1921 c 129 § 3, part; 1917 c 162 § 2, part; 1913 c 165 § 2, part; 1889-90 p 672 § 3; RRS § 7420, part. Formerly RCW 87.01.090.]

*Certain elections—Districts of two hundred thousand acres: RCW 87.68.060.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.051 Qualifications of voters and directors—Districts of less than two hundred thousand acres.** In districts with less than two hundred thousand acres, a person eighteen years old, being a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state and who holds title or evidence of title to assessable land in the district or proposed district shall be entitled to vote therein, and to be recognized as an elector. A corporation, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other legal entity formed pursuant to the laws of the state of Washington or qualified to do business in the state of Washington owning land in the district shall be recognized as an elector. As used in this section, "entity" means a corporation, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, or other legal entity formed pursuant to the laws of the state of Washington or qualified to do business in the state of Washington. "Ownership" shall mean the aggregate of all assessable acres owned by an elector, individually or jointly, within one district. Voting rights shall be allocated as follows: Two votes for each five acres of assessable land or fraction thereof. No one ownership may accumulate more than forty-nine percent of the votes in one district. If assessments are on the basis of shares instead of acres, an elector shall be entitled to two votes for each five shares or fraction thereof. The ballots cast for each ownership of land or shares shall be exercised by common agreement

between electors or when land is held as community property, the accumulated votes may be divided equally between husband and wife. Except for community property ownership, in the absence of the submission of the common agreement to the secretary of the district at least twenty-four hours before the opening of the polls, the election board shall recognize the first elector to appear on election day as the elector having the authority to cast the ballots for that parcel of land for which there is more than one ownership interest. A majority of the directors shall be residents of the county or counties in which the district is situated and all shall be electors of the district. If more than one elector residing outside the county or counties is voted for as director, only that one who receives the highest number of votes shall be considered in ascertaining the result of the election. An agent of an entity owning land in the district, duly authorized in writing, may vote on behalf of the entity by filing with the election officers his or her instrument of authority. An elector resident in the district shall vote in the precinct in which he or she resides, all others shall vote in the precinct nearest their residence. No director shall be qualified to take or retain office unless the director holds title or evidence of title to land within the district. [1997 c 354 § 1; 1985 c 66 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.071 Certain districts—Individual ownerships—Two votes.** In any irrigation district where more than fifty percent of the total acreage of the district is owned in individual ownerships of less than five acres, each elector who is otherwise qualified to vote pursuant to RCW 87.03.045 shall be entitled to two votes regardless of the size of ownership. Each ownership shall be represented by two votes. If there are multiple owners or joint owners of a single ownership, the owners shall decide among themselves what their two votes shall be. If the ownership is held as community property, the husband shall be entitled to one vote and the wife shall be entitled to one vote or they may vote by common agreement. [1985 c 66 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.075 Ballots in all elections—Declaration of candidacy—Petition of nomination—When election not required.** Voting in an irrigation district shall be by ballot. Ballots shall be of uniform size and quality, provided by the district, and for the election of directors shall contain only the names of the candidates who have filed with the secretary of the district a declaration in writing of their candidacy, or a petition of nomination as hereinafter provided, not later than five o'clock p.m. on the first Monday in November. Ballots shall contain space for sticker voting or for the writing in of the name of an undeclared candidate. Ballots shall be issued by the election board according to the number of votes an elector is entitled to cast. A person filing a declaration of candidacy, or petition of nomination as hereinafter provided, shall designate therein the position for which he or she is a candidate. No ballots on any form other than the official form shall be received or counted.

In any election for directors where the number of votes which may be received will have no bearing on the length of the term to be served, the candidates for the position of director, in lieu of filing a declaration of candidacy hereunder,

shall file with the secretary of the district a petition of nomination signed by at least ten qualified electors of the district, or of the division if the district has been divided into director divisions, not later than five o'clock p.m. on the first Monday in November. If, after the expiration of the date for filing petitions of nomination, it appears that only one qualified candidate has been nominated thereby for each position to be filled it shall not be necessary to hold an election, and the board of directors shall at their next meeting declare such candidate elected as director. The secretary shall immediately make and deliver to such person a certificate of election signed by him or her and bearing the seal of the district. The procedure set forth in this paragraph shall not apply to any other irrigation district elections. [2013 c 23 § 485; 1985 c 66 § 4; 1981 c 345 § 1; 1981 c 208 § 1; 1963 c 68 § 1; 1961 c 105 § 1; 1941 c 171 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7420-1. Formerly RCW 87.01.110.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.080 Directors—Election—Terms—Increase and decrease.** An election of directors in an irrigation district shall be held on the second Tuesday of December of each year, and the term of each director shall be three years from the first Tuesday of January following his or her election. The directors elected at the organization election shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified. At the first annual election occurring thirty days or more after the date of the order establishing the district, there shall be elected directors to succeed those chosen at the organization election. If the board consists of three directors the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall serve a term of three years; the next highest, two years; and the next highest, one year. In case of five directors, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall each serve a term of three years; the next two highest, two years; and the next highest, one year; or until successors are elected and qualified. In case of seven directors, the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall each serve a term of three years, the next two highest, two years, and the next two highest, one year, or until their successors are elected and qualified. Whenever a district with three directors desires to increase the number of its directors to five directors or whenever a district with five directors desires to increase the number of its directors to seven directors, the board of directors, acting on its own initiative or on the written petition of at least twenty electors of the district, shall submit the question to the electors of the district at a regular or special district election. In the event the electors by a majority of the votes cast favor an increase in the number of directors, there shall be elected at the next annual district election two additional directors. The person receiving the highest number of votes shall serve for a three year term and the next highest, a two year term.

The number of directors may be decreased to five or three, as the case may be, substantially in the same manner as that provided for the increase of directors. In case of three directors the term of one director only shall expire annually. [2013 c 23 § 486; 1961 c 192 § 14. Prior: 1931 c 41 § 1, part; 1921 c 129 § 4, part; 1919 c 180 § 3, part; 1915 c 179 § 3, part; 1913 c 165 § 3, part; 1895 c 165 § 3, part; 1889-90 p 673 § 4, part; RRS § 7421, part. Formerly RCW 87.01.100.]

**87.03.081 Directors—Vacancies, how filled.** A vacancy in the office of director shall be filled by appointment by the board of county commissioners of the county in which the proceedings for the organization of the district were had. At the next annual election occurring thirty days or more after the date of the appointment, a successor shall be elected who shall take office on the first Tuesday in January following and shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

A director appointed to fill a vacancy occurring after the expiration of the term of a director shall serve until his or her successor is elected and qualified. At the next election of directors occurring thirty days or more after the appointment, a successor shall be elected who shall take office on the first Tuesday in January next and shall serve for the term for which he or she was elected.

Failure on the part of any irrigation district to hold one or more annual elections for selection of officers, or otherwise to provide district officers shall not dissolve the district or impair its powers, where later officers for the district are appointed or elected and qualify as such and exercise the powers and duties of their offices in the manner provided by law. [2013 c 23 § 487; 1961 c 192 § 15. Prior: 1931 c 41 § 1, part; 1921 c 129 § 4, part; 1919 c 180 § 3, part; 1915 c 179 § 3, part; 1913 c 165 § 3, part; 1895 c 165 § 3, part; 1889-90 p 673 § 4, part; RRS § 7421, part. Formerly RCW 87.01.120.]

**87.03.082 Directors—Oaths of office—Secretary.** Each director shall take and subscribe an official oath for the faithful discharge of the duties of his or her office and the oath shall be recorded and filed with the secretary of the board of directors. The secretary shall take and subscribe a written oath of office, which shall be approved and filed as in the case of a director. [2019 c 462 § 1; 2013 c 23 § 488; 1961 c 192 § 16. Prior: 1931 c 41 § 1, part; 1921 c 129 § 4, part; 1919 c 180 § 3, part; 1915 c 179 § 3, part; 1913 c 165 § 3, part; 1895 c 165 § 3, part; 1889-90 p 673 § 4, part; RRS § 7421, part. Formerly RCW 87.01.130.]

*Conflicts of interest, irrigation district officers: RCW 42.23.030.*

*Conviction of public officer forfeits trust: RCW 9.92.120.*

*Director divisions: Chapter 87.04 RCW.*

*Misconduct of public officers: Chapter 42.20 RCW.*

**87.03.083 Directors—Recall and discharge.** Every member of an irrigation district board of directors is subject to recall and discharge by the legal voters of such district pursuant to the provisions of chapter 29A.56 RCW. [2015 c 53 § 103; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.085 Post-organization district elections—Election boards—Notice.** Fifteen days before any election held under this chapter, subsequent to the organization of any district, the secretary of the board of directors shall cause notices to be posted in three public places in each election precinct, of the time and place of holding the election. The secretary shall also post a general notice of the same in the office of the board, which shall be established and kept at some fixed place to be determined by the board, specifying the polling places of each precinct. Prior to the time for posting the notices, the board must appoint for each precinct, from the

electors thereof, one inspector and two judges, who shall constitute a board of election for the precinct. If the board fails to appoint a board of election, or the members appointed do not attend at the opening of the polls on the morning of election, the electors of the precinct present at that hour may appoint the board, or supply the place of an absent member thereof. The board of directors must, in its order appointing the board of election, designate the house or place within the precinct where the election must be held. However, in any irrigation district that is less than two hundred thousand acres in size and is divided into director divisions, the board of directors in its discretion may designate one polling place within the district to serve more than one election precinct. The board of directors of any irrigation district may designate the principal business office of the district as a polling place to serve one or more election precincts and may do so regardless of whether the business office is located within or outside of the boundaries of the district. If the board of directors does designate a single polling place for more than one election precinct, then the election officials appointed by the board of directors may serve more than one election precinct and the election officials may be electors of any of the election precincts for which they are the election board. [1987 c 123 § 1; 1984 c 168 § 2; 1889-90 p 674 § 5; RRS § 7422. Formerly RCW 87.01.140.]

**87.03.090 Post-organization district elections—Election officers—Voting hours.** The inspector is chair of the election board, and may

First: Administer all oaths required in the progress of an election.

Second: Appoint judges and clerks, if, during the progress of the election, any judge or clerk cease to act. Any member of the board of election, or any clerk thereof, may administer and certify oaths required to be administered during the progress of an election. The board of election for each precinct may, if they deem it necessary, before opening the polls, appoint two persons to act as clerks of the election. Before opening the polls, each member of the board and each clerk must take and subscribe an oath to faithfully perform the duties imposed upon them by law. Any elector of the precinct may administer and certify such oath. The polls must be opened at one o'clock p.m. on the afternoon of the election, and be kept open until eight o'clock p.m., when the same must be closed. The provisions of the general election law of this state, concerning the form of ballots to be used shall not apply to elections held under this act: PROVIDED, That any district elections called \*before this act shall take effect shall be noticed and conducted in the manner prescribed by law in effect at the time the election is called. [2013 c 23 § 489; 1931 c 60 § 1; 1889-90 p 674 § 6; RRS § 7423. Formerly RCW 87.01.150.]

\*Reviser's note: The language "before this act shall take effect" in the proviso refers to 1931 c 60 which became effective on midnight June 10, 1931; see preface, 1931 session laws.

**87.03.095 Post-organization district elections—Counting votes—Record of ballots.** Voting may commence as soon as the polls are opened, and may be continued during all the time the polls remain opened. As soon as the polls are closed, the judges shall open the ballot box and com-

mence counting the votes; and in no case shall the ballot box be removed from the room in which the election is held until all the ballots have been counted. The counting of ballots shall in all cases be public. The ballots shall be taken out, one by one, by the inspector or one of the judges, who shall open them and read aloud the names of each person contained therein and the office for which every such person is voted for. Each clerk shall write down each office to be filled, and the name of each person voted for for such office, and shall keep the number of votes by tallies, as they are read aloud by the inspector or judge. The counting of votes shall be continued without adjournment until all have been counted. [1889-90 p 675 § 7; RRS § 7424. Formerly RCW 87.01.160.]

**87.03.100 Post-organization district elections—Certification of returns—Preservation for recount.** As soon as all the votes are read off and counted, a certificate shall be drawn upon each of the papers containing the poll list and tallies, or attached thereto, stating the number of votes each one voted for has received, and designating the office to fill which he or she was voted for, which number shall be written in figures and in words at full length. Each certificate shall be signed by the clerks, judges, and the inspector. One of said certificates, with the poll list and the tally paper to which it is attached, shall be retained by the inspector, and preserved by him or her at least six months. The ballots, together with the other of said certificates, with the poll list and tally paper to which it is attached, shall be sealed by the inspector, in the presence of the judges and clerks, and endorsed "Election returns of [naming the precinct] precinct," and be directed to the secretary of the board of directors, and shall be immediately delivered by the inspector, or by some other safe and responsible carrier designated by said inspector, to said secretary, and the ballots shall be kept unopened for at least six months, and if any person be of the opinion that the vote of any precinct has not been correctly counted, he or she may appear on the day appointed for the board of directors to open and canvass the returns, and demand a recount of the vote of the precinct that is so claimed to have been incorrectly counted. [2013 c 23 § 490; 1981 c 345 § 2; 1981 c 208 § 2; 1889-90 p 675 § 8; RRS § 7425. Formerly RCW 87.01.170 and 87.01.210, part.]

**87.03.105 Post-organization district elections—Canvass.** No list, tally paper or certificate returned from any election shall be set aside or rejected for want of form, if it can be satisfactorily understood. The board of directors must meet at its usual place of meeting on the first Monday after each election, to canvass the returns. If, at the time of meeting, the returns from each precinct in the district in which the polls were opened have been received, the board of directors must then and there proceed to canvass the returns, but if all the returns have not been received, the canvass must be postponed from day to day until all the returns have been received, or until six postponements have been had. The canvass must be made in public, and by opening the returns and estimating the vote of the district for each person voted for, and declaring the result thereof. [1889-90 p 676 § 9; RRS § 7426. Formerly RCW 87.01.180.]

**87.03.110 Post-organization district elections—Statement of result of election—Certificate of election.** The secretary of the board of directors must, as soon as the result is declared, enter in the records of such board a statement of such result, which statement must show:

- (1) The whole number of votes cast in the district;
- (2) The name of the persons voted for;
- (3) The office to fill which each person was voted for;
- (4) The number of votes given in each precinct to each of such persons;
- (5) The number of votes given in each precinct for and against any proposition voted upon.

The board of directors must declare elected the person having the highest number of votes given for each office. The secretary must immediately make out, and deliver to such person a certificate of election signed by him or her and authenticated by the seal of the district. [2013 c 23 § 491; 1913 c 165 § 4; 1895 c 165 § 4; 1889-90 p 676 § 10; RRS § 7427. Formerly RCW 87.01.190.]

*Statement of result covering both absentee and regular ballots: RCW 87.03.034.*

**87.03.115 Organization of board—Meetings—Quorum—Certain powers and duties.** (1) The directors of the district shall organize as a board and shall elect a president from their number, and appoint a secretary, who shall keep a record of their proceedings.

(2) The office of the directors and principal place of business of the district shall be at some place in the county in which the organization was effected, to be designated by the directors.

(3) The directors serving districts of five thousand acres or more shall hold a regular monthly meeting at their office on the first Tuesday in every month, or on such other day in each month as the board shall direct in its bylaws, and may adjourn any meeting from time to time as may be required for the proper transaction of business.

(4) Directors serving districts of less than five thousand acres shall hold at least quarterly meetings on a day designated by the board's bylaws, and may adjourn any meeting from time to time as may be required for the proper transaction of business.

(5) Special meetings shall be called and conducted in the manner required by chapter 42.30 RCW.

(6) All meetings of the directors must be public.

(7) A majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and in all matters requiring action by the board there shall be a concurrence of at least a majority of the directors.

(8) All records of the board shall be open to the inspection of any electors during business hours.

(9) The board shall have the power, and it shall be its duty, to adopt a seal of the district, to manage and conduct the business and affairs of the district, to make and execute all necessary contracts, to employ and appoint such agents, officers, and employees as may be necessary and prescribe their duties, and to establish equitable bylaws, rules, and regulations for the government and management of the district, and for the equitable distribution of water to the lands within the district, upon the basis of the beneficial use thereof, and generally to perform all such acts as shall be necessary to fully

carry out the provisions of this chapter: PROVIDED, That all water, the right to the use of which is acquired by the district under any contract with the United States shall be distributed and apportioned by the district in accordance with the acts of congress, and rules and regulations of the secretary of the interior until full reimbursement has been made to the United States, and in accordance with the provisions of said contract in relation thereto.

(10) The bylaws, rules, and regulations must be on file and open to inspection of any elector during regular business hours.

(11) All leases, contracts, or other form of holding any interest in any state or other public lands shall be, and the same are hereby declared to be title to and evidence of title to lands and for all purposes within \*this act, shall be treated as the private property of the lessee or owner of the contractual or possessory interest: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the title of the state or other public ownership, nor shall any lien for such assessment attach to the fee simple title of the state or other public ownership.

(12) The board of directors shall have authority to develop and to sell, lease, or rent the use of: (a) Water facilities and water derived from the operation of the water facilities to such municipal and quasi-municipal entities, the state of Washington, and state entities and agencies, and public and private corporations and individuals located within and outside the boundaries of the district, and on such terms and conditions as the board of directors shall determine; (b) electric facilities and power derived from electric facilities authorized by RCW 87.03.015 or 87.03.0155, to such municipal or quasi-municipal corporations and cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of distributing electricity, electrical companies subject to the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission, private commercial or industrial entities that acquire electric power for their own use or resale, and other irrigation districts, and on such terms and conditions as the board of directors shall determine; and (c) power derived from electric facilities authorized by RCW 87.03.015 or 87.03.0155 on such terms and conditions as the board of directors shall determine. No water shall be furnished for use outside of said district until all demands and requirements for water for use in said district are furnished and supplied by said district. As soon as any public lands situated within the limits of the district shall be acquired by any private person, or held under any title of private ownership, the owner thereof shall be entitled to receive his or her proportion of water as in case of other land owners, upon payment by him or her of such sums as shall be determined by the board, and at the time to be fixed by the board, which sums shall be such equitable amount as such lands should pay having regard to placing said lands on the basis of equality with other lands in the district as to benefits received, and giving credit if equitable for any sums paid as water rent by the occupant of said lands prior to the vesting of private ownership, and such lands shall also become subject to all taxes and assessments of the district thereafter imposed. [2017 c 63 § 3; 2013 c 23 § 492; 1983 c 262 § 1; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 3; 1921 c 129 § 5; 1919 c 180 § 4; 1915 c 179 § 4; 1913 c 165 § 5; 1889-90 p 677 § 11; RRS § 7428. Formerly RCW 87.01.200 and 87.32.010, part.]

(2022 Ed.)

\*Reviser's note: "This act" first appears in 1921 c 129 § 5.

Director divisions: Chapter 87.04 RCW.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.120 System of drainage, sanitary sewers, or sewage disposal or treatment plants—Question—Notice—Meeting—Resolution.** Whenever, in the judgment of the district board, a system of drainage, sanitary sewers, or sewage disposal or treatment plants for any lands included in the operation of the district will be of special benefit to the lands of the district as a whole, it shall pass a resolution to that effect and call a further meeting of the board to determine the question. Notice of said meeting shall be given by the secretary for the same length of time and in the same manner as required by law for the meeting of the county board to hear the petition for the organization of the district. At the time and place mentioned in the notice the board shall meet, hear such evidence as shall be presented, and fully determine the matter by resolution which said resolution shall be final and conclusive upon all persons as to the benefit of said system of drainage, sanitary sewers, or sewage disposal or treatment plants to the lands in the district. [1965 c 141 § 3; 1923 c 138 § 5, part; RRS § 7428-1. Formerly RCW 87.08.130, part.]

Organization of district—Notice: RCW 87.03.020.

**87.03.125 System of drainage, sanitary sewers, or sewage disposal or treatment plants—Powers upon passage of resolution.** Upon the passing of said resolution, the district shall in all respects have the same power and authority as is now, or may hereafter be, conferred respecting irrigation and all powers in this act conferred upon irrigation districts with respect to irrigation shall be construed to include drainage systems, sanitary sewers, and sewage disposal or treatment plants in conjunction therewith as herein provided. [1965 c 141 § 4; 1923 c 138 § 5, part; RRS § 7428-2. Formerly RCW 87.08.130, part.]

**87.03.130 District change of name.** Any district heretofore or hereafter organized and existing, may change its name by filing with the board of county commissioners of the county in which was filed the original petition for the organization of the district, a certified copy of a resolution of its board of directors adopted by the unanimous vote of all the members of said board at a regular meeting thereof providing for such change of name; and thereafter all proceedings of such district shall be had under such changed name, but all existing obligations and contracts of the district entered into under its former name shall remain outstanding without change and with the validity thereof unimpaired and unaffected by such change of name, and a change of name heretofore made by any existing irrigation district in this state, substantially in the manner above provided is hereby ratified, confirmed and validated. [1965 c 141 § 5; 1923 c 138 § 5, part; RRS § 7428-3. Formerly RCW 87.08.140.]

**87.03.135 Sale or lease of district personal property.** An irrigation district has the power to sell or lease personal property owned by the district whenever its board of directors, by resolution: Determines that the property is not necessary or needed for the use of the district; and authorizes the

sale or lease. No sale or lease of such property shall be made until notice of the sale or lease is given by publication at least twenty days before the date of the sale or lease in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the property or part of the property is located or, if there is no such newspaper in the county, in a newspaper of general circulation published in an adjoining county. The publication shall be made at least once a week during three consecutive weeks before the day fixed for making the sale or lease. The publication shall contain notice of the intention of the board of directors to make the sale or lease and shall state the time and place at which proposals for the sale or lease will be considered and at which the sale or lease will be made. Any such property so sold or leased shall be sold or leased to the highest and best bidder.

The provisions of this section relating to publication of notice shall not apply when the value of the property to be sold or leased is less than ten thousand dollars. [2014 c 2 § 1; 1994 c 117 § 1; 1975 1st ex.s. c 163 § 1; 1967 ex.s. c 144 § 7; 1933 c 43 § 1; 1931 c 82 § 1; RRS § 7428-4. Formerly RCW 87.08.150.]

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

*Organization of board (holding of interest in public lands as evidence of title): RCW 87.03.115.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.136 Sale or lease of district real property.** An irrigation district has the power to sell or lease real property owned by the district whenever its board of directors, by resolution: Determines that the property is not necessary or needed for the use of the district; and authorizes the sale or lease. Notice of the district's intention to sell or lease the property shall be made by publication at least twenty days before the transaction is executed regarding the property in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the property or part of the property is located or, if there is no such newspaper in the county, in a newspaper of general circulation published in an adjoining county. The publication shall be made at least once a week during three consecutive weeks. The notice shall state whether the sale or lease will be negotiated by the district or will be awarded by bid.

The district may lease the property for a duration determined by the board, afford the lessee the option to purchase the property, sell the property on contract for deferred payments, sell the property pursuant to a promissory note secured by a mortgage or deed of trust, or sell the property for cash and conveyance by deed. The appropriate documents shall be executed by the president of the board and acknowledged by the secretary.

The resolution authorizing the sale or lease shall be entered in the minutes of the board and shall fix the price at which the lease, option, or sale may be made. The price shall be not less than the reasonable market value of the property; however, the board may, without consideration, dedicate, grant, or convey district land or easements in district land for highway or public utility purposes that convenience the inhabitants of the district if the board deems that the action will enhance the value of the remaining district land to an extent equal to or greater than the value of the land or easement dedicated, granted, or conveyed. [2011 c 50 § 1; 1994 c 117 § 2.]

**87.03.137 Purchase or condemnation for developing hydroelectric generation capabilities—Limitations.** For the purpose of developing hydroelectric generation capabilities in connection with irrigation facilities, the board of directors of an irrigation district shall have the power, in accordance with procedures provided in this chapter, to acquire, either by purchase or condemnation, or other legal means, all lands, waters, water rights, and other property located within or outside the boundaries of the district necessary for the construction, use, supply, maintenance, repair, or improvement of hydroelectric facilities to the extent authorized by RCW 87.03.015(1), as now or hereafter amended.

Irrigation districts are prohibited from condemning: (1) Any hydroelectric power plants, hydroelectric power sites, power lines or other power facilities or any lands, water rights, or other property of municipal and quasi municipal corporations, cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of distributing electricity, and electrical companies subject to the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission; and (2) water rights held by private individual landowners where such waters are being put to beneficial use. [1979 ex.s. c 185 § 4.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.138 Civil immunity of directors, officers, employees, or agents for good faith performance of official duties.** Directors, officers, employees, or agents of irrigation districts shall be immune from civil liability for any cause of action or claim for damages for any mistakes and errors of judgment in the good faith performance of acts within the scope of their official duties involving any discretionary decision or failure to make a discretionary decision which relate solely to their responsibilities for electrical utilities, hydroelectric facilities, potable water facilities, or irrigation works. This grant of immunity shall not be construed as modifying the liability of the irrigation district. [2004 c 215 § 1; 1983 1st ex.s. c 48 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.139 Lawful disposal of sewage and waste by others—Immunity.** No irrigation district, its directors, officers, employees, or agents operating and maintaining irrigation works for any purpose authorized by law, including the production of food for human consumption and other agricultural and domestic purposes, is liable for damages to persons or property arising from the disposal of sewage and waste discharged by others into the irrigation works pursuant to federal or state statutes, rules, or regulations permitting the discharge. [1997 c 354 § 2.]

**87.03.140 Board's powers and duties generally—Condemnation procedure.** The board, and its agents and employees, shall have the right to enter upon any land to make surveys, and may locate the necessary irrigation or drainage works, power plants, power sites or power lines and the line for any canal or canals, and the necessary branches of laterals for the same, on any lands which may be deemed best for such location. Said board shall also have the power to acquire, either by purchase or condemnation, or other legal means, all lands, waters, water rights, and other property necessary for the construction, use, supply, maintenance, repair

and improvements of said canal or canals and irrigation and drainage works, including canals and works constructed or being constructed by private owners, or any other person, lands for reservoirs for the storage of needful waters and all necessary appurtenances. The board may also construct the necessary dams, reservoirs and works for the collection of water for the said district, and may enter into contracts for a water supply to be delivered to the canals and works of the district, and do any and every lawful act necessary to be done in order to carry out the purposes of this act; and in carrying out the aforesaid purposes the bonds of the district may be used by the board, at not less than ninety percent of their par value in payment. The board may enter into any obligation or contract with the United States or with the state of Washington for the supervision of the construction, for the construction, reconstruction, betterment, extension, sale or purchase, or operation and maintenance of the necessary works for the delivery and distribution of water therefrom under the provisions of the state reclamation act, or under the provisions of the federal reclamation act, and all amendments or extensions thereof, and the rules and regulations established thereunder, or it may contract with the United States for a water supply or for reclamation purposes in general under any act of congress which, for the purposes of this act, shall be deemed to include any act of congress for reclamation purposes heretofore or hereafter enacted providing for and permitting such contract, or for the collection of money due or to become due to the United States, or for the assumption of the control and management of the works; and in case contract has been or may hereafter be made with the United States, as herein provided, bonds of the district may be deposited with the United States as payment or as security for future payment at not less than ninety percent of their par value, the interest on said bonds to be provided for by assessment and levy as in the case of other bonds of the district, and regularly paid to the United States to be applied as provided in such contract, and if bonds of the district are not so deposited, it shall be the duty of the board of directors to include as part of any levy or assessment provided in RCW 87.03.260 an amount sufficient to meet each year all payments accruing under the terms of any such contract. The board may accept on behalf of the district appointment of the district as fiscal agent of the United States or the state of Washington or other authorization of the district by the United States or the state of Washington to make collections of money for or on behalf of the United States or the state of Washington in connection with any federal or other reclamation project, whereupon the district, and the county treasurer for the district, shall be authorized to so act and to assume the duties and liability incident to such action, and the said board shall have full power to do any and all things required by the federal statutes now or hereafter enacted in connection therewith, and all things required by the rules and regulations now or that may hereafter be established by any department of the federal government in regard thereto.

The use of all water required for the irrigation of the lands within any district, together with rights-of-way for canals, laterals, ditches, sites for reservoirs, power plants, sites, and lines, and all other property required in fully carrying out the purposes of the organization of the district is hereby declared to be a public use; and in condemnation proceedings to acquire any property or property rights for the use

of the district, the board of directors shall proceed in the name of the district, in the manner provided in this state in cases of appropriation of lands, real estate and other property by private corporations: PROVIDED, That the irrigation district, at its option, pursuant to resolution to that end duly passed by its board of directors may unite in a single action proceedings for the acquisition and condemnation of different tracts of land needed by it for rights-of-way for canals, laterals, power plants, sites, and lines and other irrigation works which are held by separate owners. And the court may, on the motion of any party, consolidate into a single action separate suits for the condemnation of rights-of-way for such irrigation works whenever from motives of economy or the expediting of business it appears desirable so to do: PROVIDED FURTHER, That there shall be a separate finding of the court or jury as to each tract held in separate ownership.

In any condemnation proceeding brought under the provisions of this act to acquire canals, laterals and ditches and rights-of-way therefor, sites, reservoirs, power plants and pumping plants and sites therefor, power canals, transmission lines, electrical equipment and any other property, and if the owner or owners thereof or their predecessors shall have issued contracts or deeds agreeing to deliver to the holders of said contracts or deeds water for irrigation purposes, or authorizing the holders thereof to take or receive water for irrigation purposes from any portion of said property or works, and if the delivery of said water or the right to take or receive the same shall in any manner constitute a charge upon, or a right in the property and works sought to be acquired, or any portion thereof, the district shall be authorized to institute and maintain said condemnation proceedings for the purpose of acquiring said property and works, and the interest of the owners therein subject to the rights of the holders of such contracts or deeds, and the court or jury making the award shall determine and award to such owner or owners the value of the interest to be so appropriated in said condemnation proceedings. [1921 c 129 § 6; 1919 c 180 § 5; 1915 c 179 § 5; 1913 c 165 § 6; 1913 c 13 § 1; 1889-90 p 678 § 12; RRS § 7429. Formerly RCW 87.01.210, part and 87.08.080.]

*Bonds of director, secretary or county treasurer when fiscal agent of United States: RCW 87.03.082.*

*Cancellation of assessments due United States—Procedure: RCW 87.03.280.*

*Certain powers of district enumerated: RCW 87.03.015.*

*Certain purposes for which district may be formed: RCW 87.03.010.*

*Condemnation—Title acquired by district (may be conveyed to United States or state): RCW 87.03.150.*

*Contracts with state or United States for local improvement work: RCW 87.03.520.*

*Districts right to cross other property: RCW 87.03.455.*

*Eminent domain by corporations: Chapter 8.20 RCW.*

*Federal reclamation laws: 43 USC §§ 371-498.*

*Indemnity to state on land settlement contracts: Chapter 87.48 RCW.*

*Reclamation Service may make findings: RCW 87.03.185.*

*State Reclamation Act: Chapter 89.16 RCW.*

**87.03.145 Condemnation—Finding of benefits and damages—Judgment—Costs.** The jury, or the court if the jury be waived, in such condemnation proceedings shall find and return a verdict for the amount of damages sustained:

PROVIDED, That the court or jury, in determining the amount of damages, shall take into consideration the special benefits, if any, that will accrue to the property damaged by reason of the proposed improvement, and shall make special findings in the verdict of the gross amount of damages to be sustained and the gross amount of special benefits that will accrue. If it shall appear by the verdict or findings, that the gross damages exceed said gross benefits, judgment shall be entered against the district, and in favor of the owner or owners of the property damaged, in the amount of the excess of damages over said benefits, and for the costs of the proceedings, and upon payment of the judgment to the clerk of the court for the owner or owners, a decree of appropriation shall be entered, vesting the title to the property appropriated in the irrigation district. If it shall appear by the verdict that the gross benefits equal or exceed the gross damages, judgment shall be entered against the district and in favor of the owner or owners for the costs only, and upon payment of the judgment for costs a decree of appropriation shall be entered, vesting the title to the property appropriated in the irrigation district. The verdict and findings of the court or jury as to damages and benefits shall be binding upon the board of directors of the irrigation district in their levy of assessments to pay the cost of the irrigation system or improvements on behalf of which the condemnation was had: PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the district from assessing the remaining lands of the owner or owners, so damaged, for deficiencies on account of the principal and interest on bonds and for other benefits not considered by the jury in the condemnation proceedings. The damages thus allowed but not paid shall be applied pro tanto to the satisfaction of the levies made for such construction costs upon the lands on account of which the damages were awarded. [1923 c 138 § 6; 1919 c 180 § 6; RRS § 7429-1. Formerly RCW 87.08.090.]

**87.03.150 Condemnation—Title acquired by district.**

The title to all property acquired under the provisions of this chapter shall immediately, and by operation of law, vest in such irrigation district and shall be held by such district in trust for, and is hereby dedicated and set apart to the uses and purposes set forth in this chapter; and said board is hereby authorized and empowered to hold, use, acquire, manage, occupy and possess said property as herein provided: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any property so acquired by the district may be conveyed to the United States, or the state of Washington, insofar as the same may be for the benefit of the district under any contract that may be entered into with the United States, or the state of Washington, pursuant to this act.

The title acquired by an irrigation district under the provisions of this act shall be the fee simple title or such lesser estate as shall be designated in the decree of appropriation. [1921 c 129 § 7; 1917 c 162 § 3; 1915 c 179 § 6; 1889-90 p 679 § 13; RRS § 7430. Formerly RCW 87.08.170.]

*Board's powers and duties (contracts with state or United States): RCW 87.03.140.*

**87.03.155 Conveyances—Actions by and against district.** The said board is hereby authorized and empowered to take conveyances or other assurances for all property acquired by it under the provisions of this act, in the name of

such irrigation district, to and for the uses and purposes herein expressed, and to institute and maintain any and all actions and proceedings, suits at law or in equity, necessary or proper in order to fully carry out the provisions of this act, or to enforce, maintain, protect or preserve any and all rights, privileges and immunities created by this act, or acquired in pursuance thereof; and in all courts, actions, suits or proceedings, the said board may sue, appear and defend, in person or by attorneys, and in the name of such irrigation district. [1889-90 p 679 § 14; RRS § 7431. Formerly RCW 87.01.230.]

**87.03.158 Officers, employees, agents—Legal representation—Costs of defense.** The board of directors of an irrigation district may authorize an attorney of its choosing to defend an officer, employee, or agent of the district, present or former, who requests representation as a result of an action, claim, or proceeding instituted against him or her. The costs of defense, including attorney's fees and any obligation for payment arising from the action, may be paid from district funds. Costs of defense, and judgment or settlement not in the person's favor, shall not be paid by the district if the court finds the person was not acting in good faith or within the scope of the person's employment or duties for the district. [1986 c 8 § 1.]

**87.03.160 Group insurance—Purchase.** The board of directors of irrigation districts shall have the authority and power to contract for and to pay the premium upon group life, health and accident insurance upon its employees; and to make all such insurance available to its directors, subject to payment by the directors of all costs of insurance for directors. [1975 c 14 § 1; 1951 c 159 § 1. Formerly RCW 87.01.225.]

*Hospitalization and medical insurance authorized: RCW 41.04.180.*

*Hospitalization and medical insurance not deemed additional compensation: RCW 41.04.190.*

**87.03.162 Liability insurance for officials and employees.** The board of directors of each irrigation district may purchase liability insurance with such limits as they may deem reasonable for the purpose of protecting their officials and employees against liability for personal or bodily injuries and property damage arising from their acts or omissions while performing or in good faith purporting to perform their official duties. [1973 c 125 § 8.]

**87.03.165 Proposed works—Surveys, maps and plans to be prepared.** For the purpose of construction, reconstruction, betterment, extension or acquisition of the necessary property and rights therefor, and otherwise carrying out the provisions of law relating to irrigation districts, the board of directors of any such district must, as soon after such district has been organized as may be practicable, and whenever thereafter the board deems it necessary or expedient to raise additional money for said purpose, cause the necessary surveys, examinations, maps and plans to be made and shall demonstrate the practicability of the general plan of the district's proposed works and furnish the proper basis for an estimate of the cost of carrying out the same. [1923 c 138 §



7, part; RRS § 7431 1/2. Formerly RCW 87.12.010, part and 87.16.010.]

*Map of district: RCW 87.03.775.*

**87.03.170 Proposed works—Certification filed with director of ecology.** Such examinations, surveys, maps, plans and specifications with estimates of cost as are deemed necessary for an understanding of the proposed plan of development shall be certified by the district board and its engineer and filed with the state director of ecology at Olympia, Washington. [1988 c 127 § 41; 1923 c 138 § 7, part; RRS § 7431 1/2-1. Formerly RCW 87.12.020, part.]

**87.03.175 Proposed works—Director's findings to district board.** Said director shall forthwith consider said certified report and if he or she deem it advisable make, through the appropriate divisions of his or her department, additional studies of the project at the expense of the district, and as soon as practicable thereafter, but in any event within ninety days from the receipt of said certified report, make his or her findings and submit the same to the district board. [2013 c 23 § 493; 1923 c 138 § 7, part; RRS § 7431 1/2-2. Formerly RCW 87.12.020, part.]

**87.03.180 Proposed works—Substance of director's findings.** In his or her findings said state director shall give generally his or her conclusions regarding the supply of water available for the project, the nature of the soil proposed to be irrigated and its susceptibility to irrigation, the duty of water for irrigation and the probable need of drainage, the probable cost of works, water rights, and other property necessary for the project, the conditions of land settlement therein, and the proper amount and dates of maturity of the bonds proposed to be issued, and such other matters as he or she deems pertinent to the success of the project, provided that said findings and conclusions shall be advisory only and shall not be binding upon the directors of the irrigation district. [2013 c 23 § 494; 1923 c 138 § 7, part; RRS § 7431 1/2-3. Formerly RCW 87.12.030.]

**87.03.185 Proposed works—Reclamation Service may make findings.** In the case of an irrigation district under contract or in cooperation with the United States under the provisions of the United States Reclamation Act, the investigation and findings above required to be made by the state director of ecology may be made by the United States Reclamation Service with the same authority and under like conditions, if it so elects. [1988 c 127 § 42; 1923 c 138 § 7, part; RRS § 7431 1/2-4. Formerly RCW 87.12.040.]

**87.03.190 Proposed works—Plan of development—Special election.** Upon receipt of said findings the district board shall thereupon finally determine the plan of development and estimate and determine the amount of money to be raised and shall immediately thereafter call a special election as provided by law. [1923 c 138 § 7, part; RRS § 7431 1/2-5. Formerly RCW 87.12.050.]

*Elections are governed by irrigation district laws: RCW 87.03.030.*

*Post-organization district elections: RCW 87.03.085 through 87.03.110.*

(2022 Ed.)

**87.03.195 Proposed works—Certain irrigation districts excepted.** As to irrigation districts existing on March 17, 1923, the provisions of RCW 87.03.165 through 87.03.190 relating to the filing of examinations, surveys, maps, plans and specifications of the plan of development with the director of ecology and to an examination and the filing of findings and conclusions by that department, shall not apply. [1988 c 127 § 43; 1923 c 138 § 8; RRS § 7431 1/2-6. Formerly RCW 87.12.010, part.]

**87.03.200 Bonds—Election for—Form and contents—Exchange—Cancellation—Sale and issue—Reissue—Election concerning contract with United States—Penalty.** (1) At the election provided for in RCW 87.03.190, there shall be submitted to the electors of the district possessing the qualifications prescribed by law the question of whether or not the bonds of the district in the amount and of the maturities determined by the board of directors shall be issued. Bonds issued under the provisions of \*this act shall be serial bonds payable in legal currency of the United States in such series and amounts as shall be determined and declared by the board of directors in the resolution calling the election: PROVIDED, That the first series shall mature not later than ten years and the last series not later than forty years from the date thereof: PROVIDED FURTHER, That bonds, authorized by a special election held in the district under the provisions of a former statute, which has subsequent to the authorization been amended, but not issued prior to the amendment of the former statute, may be issued in the form provided in the former statute, and any such bonds heretofore or hereafter so issued and sold are hereby confirmed and validated.

Notice of such bond election must be given by publication of such notice in some newspaper published in the county where the office of the board of directors of such district is required to be kept, once a week for at least two weeks (three times). Such notices must specify the time of holding the election, and the amount and maturities of bonds proposed to be issued; and the election must be held and the results thereof determined and declared in all respects as nearly as practicable in conformity with the provisions of law governing the election of the district officers: PROVIDED, That no informality in conducting such election shall invalidate the same, if the election shall have been otherwise fairly conducted. At such election the ballots shall contain the words "Bonds Yes" and "Bonds No," or words equivalent thereto. If a majority of the votes cast are cast "Bonds Yes," the board of directors shall thereupon have authority to cause bonds in such amount and maturities to be issued. If the majority of the votes cast at any bond election are "Bonds No," the result of such election shall be so declared and entered of record; but if contract is made or is to be made with the United States as in RCW 87.03.140 provided, and bonds are not to be deposited with the United States in connection with such contract, the question submitted at such special election shall be whether contract shall be entered into with the United States. The notice of election shall state under the terms of what act or acts of congress contract is proposed to be made, and the maximum amount of money payable to the United States for construction purposes exclusive of penalties and interest. The ballots for such election shall contain the words "Contract with the United States Yes" and "Contract

with the United States No," or words equivalent thereto. And whenever thereafter the board, in its judgment, deems it for the best interest of the district that the question of issuance of bonds for such amount, or any amount, or the question of entering into a contract with the United States, shall be submitted to the electors, it shall so declare, by resolution recorded in its minutes, and may thereupon submit such question to the electors in the same manner and with like effect as at such previous election.

(2) All bonds issued under \*this act shall bear interest at such rate or rates as the board of directors may determine, payable semiannually on the first day of January and of July of each year. The principal and interest shall be payable at the office of the county treasurer of the county in which the office of the board of directors is situated, or if the board of directors shall so determine at the fiscal agency of the state of Washington in New York City, the place of payment to be designated in the bond. The bonds may be in such denominations as the board of directors may in its discretion determine, except that bonds other than bond number one of any issue shall be in a denomination that is a multiple of one hundred dollars. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030. The bonds shall be negotiable in form, signed by the president and secretary, and the seal of the district shall be affixed thereto. The printed, engraved, or lithographed facsimile signatures of the president and secretary of the district's board of directors shall be sufficient signatures on the bonds or any coupons: PROVIDED, That such facsimile signatures on the bonds may be used only after the filing, by the officer whose facsimile signature is to be used, with the secretary of state of his or her manual signature certified by him or her under oath, whereupon that officer's facsimile signature has the same legal effect as his or her manual signature: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That either the president of the board of directors' or the secretary's signature on the bonds shall be manually subscribed: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That whenever such facsimile reproduction of the signature of any officer is used in place of the manual signature of such officer, the district's board of directors shall specify in a written order or requisition to the printer, engraver, or lithographer the number of bonds or any coupons upon which such facsimile signature is to be printed, engraved, or lithographed and the manner of numbering the bonds or any coupons upon which such signature shall be placed. Within ninety days after the completion of the printing, engraving, or lithographing of such bonds or any coupons, the plate or plates used for the purpose of affixing the facsimile signature shall be destroyed, and it shall be the duty of the district's board of directors, within ninety days after receipt of the completed bonds or any coupons, to ascertain that such plate or plates have been destroyed. Every printer, engraver, or lithographer who, with the intent to defraud, prints, engraves, or lithographs a facsimile signature upon any bond or any coupon without written order of the district's board of directors, or fails to destroy such plate or plates containing the facsimile signature upon direction of such issuing authority, is guilty of a class B felony punishable according to chapter 9A.20 RCW.

(3) Whenever the electors shall vote to authorize the issuance of bonds of the district such authorization shall nullify and cancel all unsold bonds previously authorized, and if

the question is submitted to and carried by the electors at the bond election, any bond issue may be exchanged in whole or in part, at par, for any or all of a valid outstanding bond issue of the district when mutually agreeable to the owner or owners thereof and the district, and the amount of the last bond issue in excess, if any, of that required for exchange purposes, may be sold as in the case of an original issue. The bonds of any issue authorized to be exchanged in whole or in part for outstanding bonds shall state on their face the amount of such issue so exchanged, and shall contain a certificate of the treasurer of the district as to the amount of the bonds exchanged, and that the outstanding bonds have been surrendered and canceled: PROVIDED FURTHER, That where bonds have been authorized and unsold, the board of directors may submit to the qualified voters of the district the question of canceling the previous authorization, which question shall be submitted upon the same notice and under the same regulations as govern the submission of the original question of authorizing a bond issue. At such election the ballots shall contain the words "Cancellation Yes," and "Cancellation No," or words equivalent thereto. If at such election a majority of the votes are "Cancellation Yes," the issue shall be thereby canceled and no bonds may be issued thereunder. If the majority of ballots are "Cancellation No," the original authorization shall continue in force with like effect as though the cancellation election had not been held: PROVIDED, That bonds deposited with the United States in payment or in pledge may call for the payment of such interest at such rate or rates, may be of such denominations, and call for the repayment of the principal at such times as may be agreed upon between the board and the secretary of the interior.

(4) Each issue shall be numbered consecutively as issued, and the bonds of each issue shall be numbered consecutively and bear date at the time of their issue. The bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030. The bonds shall express upon their face that they were issued by authority of \*\*this act, stating its title and date of approval, and shall also state the number of issue of which such bonds are a part. In case the money received by the sale of all bonds issued be insufficient for the completion of plans of the canals and works adopted, and additional bonds be not voted, or a contract calling for additional payment to the United States be not authorized and made, as the case may be, it shall be the duty of the board of directors to provide for the completion of the plans by levy of assessments therefor. It shall be lawful for any irrigation districts which have heretofore issued and sold bonds under the law then in force, to issue in place thereof an amount of bonds not in excess of such previous issue, and to sell the same, or any part thereof, as hereinafter provided, or exchange the same, or any part thereof, with the owners of such previously issued bonds which may be outstanding, upon such terms as may be agreed upon between the board of directors of the district and the holders of such outstanding bonds: PROVIDED, That the question of such reissue of bonds shall have been previously voted upon favorably by the legally qualified electors of such district, in the same manner as required for the issue of original bonds, and the board shall not exchange any such bonds for a less amount in par value of the bonds received; all of such old issue in place of which new bonds are issued shall be

destroyed whenever lawfully in possession of the board. Bonds issued under the provisions of this section may, when so authorized by the electors, include a sum sufficient to pay the interest thereon for a period not exceeding the first four years. Whenever an issue of bonds shall have been authorized pursuant to law, and any of the earlier series shall have been sold, and the later series, or a portion thereof, remain unsold, the directors may sell such later series pursuant to law, or such portion thereof as shall be necessary to pay the earlier series, or the directors may exchange the later series for the earlier series at not less than the par value thereof, the sale or exchange to be made not more than six months before the maturity of the earlier series and upon the exchange being made the maturing bonds shall be disposed of as hereinbefore provided in the case of bonds authorized to be exchanged in whole or in part for outstanding bonds.

(5) Notwithstanding subsections (1) through (4) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2003 c 53 § 411; 1983 c 167 § 213; 1977 ex.s. c 119 § 1; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 95; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 46; 1963 c 68 § 2; 1923 c 138 § 9; 1921 c 129 § 8; 1917 c 162 § 3A; 1915 c 179 § 7; 1895 c 165 § 5; 1889-90 p 679 § 15; RRS § 7432. Formerly RCW 87.16.020 through 87.16.070.]

**Reviser's note:** \*(1) "This act" appears to refer to 1921 c 129.

\*\*\*(2) "This act" appears to refer to 1889-90 p. 679.

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.205 Sections exclusive of other bonding methods—Validation.** The procedure outlined in RCW 87.03.165 through 87.03.190, 87.03.200, and in 87.03.210, for the authorization, issuance and disposal of bonds as heretofore constituted and shall hereafter constitute a method independent and exclusive of that provided by any other statute or statutes, for the authorization, issuance and disposal of bonds of the district for any and all of the objects and purposes in said sections provided, and any or all proceedings heretofore had, official acts heretofore performed or any bonds heretofore authorized or issued or disposed of in substantial accordance with the provisions of said sections are hereby validated and confirmed. [1933 ex.s. c 11 § 5; RRS § 7432 1/2. Formerly RCW 87.16.130.]

**87.03.210 Sale or pledge of bonds.** (1) The board may sell the bonds of the district or pledge the same to the United States from time to time in such quantities as may be necessary and most advantageous to raise money for the construction, reconstruction, betterment or extension of such canals and works, the acquisition of said property and property rights, the payment of outstanding district warrants when consented to in writing by the director of ecology, and to such extent as shall be authorized at said election, the assumption of indebtedness to the United States for the district lands, and otherwise to fully carry out the objects and purposes of the district organization, and may sell such bonds, or any of them, at private sale whenever the board deems it for the best interest of the district so to do: PROVIDED, That no election to authorize bonds to refund outstanding warrants shall be

held and canvassed after the expiration of the year 1934. The board of directors shall also have power to sell said bonds, or any portion thereof, at private sale, and accept in payment therefor, property or property rights, labor and material necessary for the construction of its proposed canals or irrigation works, power plants, power sites and lines in connection therewith, whenever the board deems it for the best interests of the district so to do. If the board shall determine to sell the bonds of the district, or any portion thereof, at public sale, the secretary shall publish a notice of such sale for at least three weeks in such newspaper or newspapers as the board may order. The notice shall state that sealed proposals will be received by the board, at its office, for the purchase of the bonds to be sold, until the day and hour named in the notice. At the time named in the notice, the board shall open the proposals and award the purchase of the bonds to the highest responsible bidder and may reject all bids: PROVIDED, That such bonds shall not be sold for less than ninety percent of their face value: AND PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the proceeds of all bonds sold for cash must be paid by the purchaser to the county treasurer of the county in which the office of the board is located, and credited to the bond fund.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may also be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1988 c 127 § 44; 1983 c 167 § 214; 1933 c 43 § 2; 1921 c 129 § 9; 1915 c 179 § 8; 1913 c 165 § 7; 1895 c 165 § 6; 1889-90 p 681 § 16; RRS § 7433. Formerly RCW 87.16.080.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.215 Payment of bonds and interest, other indebtedness—Lien, enforcement of—Scope of section.** Said bonds and interest thereon and all payments due or to become due to the United States or the state of Washington under any contract between the district and the United States or the state of Washington accompanying which bonds of the district have not been deposited with the United States or the state of Washington, as in RCW 87.03.140 provided, shall be paid by revenue derived from an annual assessment upon the real property of the district, and all the real property in the district shall be and remain liable to be assessed for such payments until fully paid as hereinafter provided. And in addition to this provision and the other provisions herein made for the payment of said bonds and interest thereon as the same may become due, said bonds, or the contract with the United States or the state of Washington accompanying which bonds have not been deposited with the United States or the state of Washington, shall become a lien upon all the water rights and other property acquired by any irrigation district formed under the provisions of this chapter, and upon any canal or canals, ditch or ditches, flumes, feeders, storage reservoirs, machinery and other works and improvements acquired, owned or constructed by said irrigation district, and if default shall be made in the payment of the principal of said bonds or interest thereon, or any payment required by the contract with the United States, or the state of Washington, according to the terms thereof, the owner of said bonds, or any part thereof or the United States or the state of Washington as the case may be, shall have the right to enter upon and take possession of all the water rights, canals, ditches, flumes, feeders, storage reservoirs, machinery, property and improvements of said

irrigation district, and to hold and control the same, and enjoy the rents, issues and profits thereof, until the lien hereby created can be enforced in a civil action in the same manner and under the same proceedings as given in the foreclosure of a mortgage on real estate. This section shall apply to all bonds heretofore issued or any contract heretofore made with the United States, or which may hereafter be issued or made by any district: PROVIDED, That when any such contract made after December 1, 1981, between any district and the United States or the state of Washington covers only the real property in a portion or portions of the district, all payments due or to become due to the United States or the state of Washington shall be paid by revenue derived from an annual assessment upon the real property only in that portion or portions of the district covered by the contract and the real property shall be and remain liable to be assessed for such payments until fully paid and any assessment lien which attaches thereto shall be the exclusive lien notwithstanding other liens provided for in this section. In the event of a contract between the district and the United States or the state of Washington accompanying which bonds of the district have not been deposited with the United States or the state of Washington as provided in RCW 87.03.140 and the contract covers real property in only a portion or portions of the district, the question of whether the district should enter the contract shall be submitted only to those qualified electors who hold title or evidence of title to real property within that portion or portions of the district and in the same manner as provided in RCW 87.03.200. [1983 c 167 § 215; 1981 c 209 § 16; 1921 c 129 § 10; 1915 c 179 § 9; 1913 c 165 § 8; 1895 c 165 § 7; 1889-90 p 681 § 17; RRS § 7434. Formerly RCW 87.16.090.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.235 Rights of federal agencies as to certain district bonds.** If the United States under any act of congress or under rules and regulations adopted by the secretary of the interior, shall be willing to guarantee the interest upon bonds of any irrigation district, or shall be willing to receive bonds of any such district in payment of, or as security for payment upon, any contract of the United States, then the United States shall have all the remedies given by law to a bondholder, and, in cases of payment under any guaranty, the United States shall be subrogated to all the rights and remedies of the bondholder to the extent of any such payment; and the United States, or its proper department officers, may make such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the purpose of insuring the carrying out of any plan or project which may have been approved by them as the basis of any guaranty. [1915 c 99 § 6; RRS § 7435. Formerly RCW 87.16.100.]

**87.03.240 Assessments, how and when made—Assessment roll.** (1) Assessments made in order to carry out the purpose of this act shall be made in proportion to the benefits accruing to the lands assessed and equitable credit shall be given to the lands having a partial or full water right: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be construed to affect or impair the obligation of any existing contract providing for a water supply to lands so assessed, unless the right under such contract shall first have been acquired by said district, and in

acquiring such rights, the district may exercise the right of eminent domain.

(2) The secretary must between the first Monday in March and the first Tuesday in November each year prepare an assessment roll with appropriate headings in which must be listed all the lands within the district. In such book must be specified, in separate columns, under the appropriate headings:

(a) First, the name of the person to whom the property is assessed. If the name is not known to the secretary, the property shall be assessed to "unknown owners."

(b)(i) Second, land by township, range and section or fractional section, and when such land is not a legal subdivision, by metes and bounds, or other description sufficient to identify it, giving an estimate of the number of acres, city and town lots, naming the city or town, and the number and block according to the system of numbering in such city or town.

(ii) Assessors' plat tax numbers used by county assessors for general state and county taxes in the county where such land is situate may be used for such identification in such assessment roll.

(c) Third, in further columns with appropriate headings shall be specified the ratio of benefits, or, when deemed by the secretary more practicable, the per acre value, or the amount of benefits, for general and special district and local improvement district purposes, and the total amount assessed against each tract of land.

(3) Any property which may have escaped assessment for any year or years, shall in addition to the assessment for the then current year, be assessed for such year or years with the same effect and with the same penalties as are provided for such current year and any property delinquent in any year may be directly assessed during the current year for any expenses caused the district on account of such delinquency.

(4) Where the district embraces lands lying in more than one county the assessment roll shall be so arranged that the lands lying in each county shall be segregated and grouped according to the county in which the same are situated. [2017 c 321 § 1; 1933 c 43 § 3; 1921 c 129 § 11; 1919 c 180 § 7; 1917 c 162 § 4; 1915 c 179 § 10; 1913 c 165 § 9; 1895 c 165 § 8; 1889-90 p 681 § 18; RRS § 7436. Formerly RCW 87.32.010, part and 87.32.020.]

*Assessments*

*districts under contract with United States: Chapter 87.68 RCW.*

*when delinquent—Notice—Collection: RCW 87.03.270.*

*Certain excess lands, assessments against (director districts): RCW 87.04.100.*

*Director districts—Limit of levy until water is received (federal contracts): RCW 87.04.090.*

*District elections (assessment roll): RCW 87.03.040.*

*Eminent domain: RCW 87.03.140 through 87.03.150.*

*Evidence of assessment, what is: RCW 87.03.420.*

**87.03.245 Deputy secretaries for assessment.** The board of directors must allow the secretary as many deputies, to be appointed by them, as will, in the judgment of the board, enable him or her to complete the assessment within the time herein prescribed. The board must fix the compensation of such deputies for the time actually engaged. [2013 c 23 § 495; 1919 c 180 § 8; 1895 c 165 § 9; 1889-90 p 682 § 19; RRS § 7437. Formerly RCW 87.08.180.]

**87.03.250 Assessment roll to be filed—Notice of equalization.** On or before the first Tuesday in September in each year to and including the year 1923, and on or before the first Tuesday in November beginning with the year 1924 and each year thereafter, the secretary must complete his or her assessment roll and deliver it to the board, who must immediately give a notice thereof, and of the time the board of directors, acting as a board of equalization will meet to equalize assessments, by publication in a newspaper published in each of the counties comprising the district. The time fixed for the meeting shall not be less than twenty nor more than thirty days from the first publication of the notice, and in the meantime the assessment roll must remain in the office of the secretary for the inspection of all persons interested. [2013 c 23 § 496; 1921 c 129 § 12; 1919 c 180 § 9; 1895 c 165 § 10; 1889-90 p 682 § 20; RRS § 7438. Formerly RCW 87.32.030.]

**87.03.255 Equalization of assessments.** Upon the day specified in the notice required by RCW 87.03.250 for the meeting, the board of directors, which is hereby constituted a board of equalization for that purpose, shall meet and continue in session from day to day as long as may be necessary, not to exceed ten days, exclusive of Sundays, to hear and determine such objections to the said assessment roll as may come before them; and the board may change the same as may be just. The secretary of the board shall be present during its session, and note all changes made at said hearing; and on or before the 30th day of October in each year to and including the year 1923, and on or before the 15th day of January beginning with the year 1925 and each year thereafter he or she shall have the assessment roll completed as finally equalized by the board. [2013 c 23 § 497; 1921 c 129 § 13; 1919 c 180 § 10; 1915 c 179 § 11; 1889-90 p 682 § 21; RRS § 7439. Formerly RCW 87.32.040.]

**87.03.260 Levies, amount—Special funds—Failure to make levy, procedure.** The board of directors shall in each year before said roll is delivered by the secretary to the respective county treasurers, levy an assessment sufficient to raise the ensuing annual interest on the outstanding bonds, and all payments due or to become due in the ensuing year to the United States or the state of Washington under any contract between the district and the United States or the state of Washington accompanying which bonds of the district have not been deposited with the United States or the state of Washington as in this act provided. Beginning in the year preceding the maturity of the first series of the bonds of any issue, the board must from year to year increase said assessment for the ensuing years in an amount sufficient to pay and discharge the outstanding bonds as they mature. Similar levy and assessment shall be made for the expense fund which shall include operation and maintenance costs for the ensuing year. The board shall also at the time of making the annual levy, estimate the amount of all probable delinquencies on said levy and shall thereupon levy a sufficient amount to cover the same and a further amount sufficient to cover any deficit that may have resulted from delinquent assessments for any preceding year. The board shall also, at the time of making the annual levy, estimate the amount of the assessments to be made against lands owned by the district, including local improvement assessments, and shall levy a suffi-

cient amount to pay said assessments. All lands owned by the district shall be exempt from general state and county taxes: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in the event any lands, and any improvements located thereon, acquired by the district by reason of the foreclosure of irrigation district assessments, shall be by said district resold on contract, then and in that event, said land, and any such improvements, shall be by the county assessor immediately placed upon the tax rolls for taxation as real property and shall become subject to general property taxes from and after the date of said contract, and the secretary of the said irrigation district shall be required to immediately report such sale within ten days from the date of said contract to the county assessor who shall cause the property to be entered on the tax rolls as of the first day of January following.

The board may also at the time of making the said annual levy, levy an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent of the whole levy for the said year for the purpose of creating a surplus fund. This fund may be used for any of the district purposes authorized by law. The assessments, when collected by the county treasurer, shall constitute a special fund, or funds, as the case may be, to be called respectively, the "Bond Fund of . . . . . Irrigation District," the "Contract Fund of . . . . . Irrigation District," the "Expense Fund of . . . . . Irrigation District," the "Warrant Fund of . . . . . Irrigation District," the "Surplus Fund of . . . . . Irrigation District".

If the annual assessment roll of any district has not been delivered to the county treasurer on or before the 15th day of January in the year 1927, and in each year thereafter, he or she shall notify the secretary of the district by registered mail that said assessment roll must be delivered to the office of the county treasurer forthwith. If said assessment roll is not delivered within ten days from the date of mailing of said notice to the secretary of the district, or if said roll when delivered is not equalized and the required assessments levied as required by law, or if for any reason the required assessment or levy has not been made, the county treasurer shall immediately notify the legislative authority of the county in which the office of the board of directors is situated, and said county legislative authority shall cause an assessment roll for the said district to be prepared and shall equalize the same if necessary and make the levy required by this chapter in the same manner and with like effect as if the same had been equalized and made by the said board of directors, and all expenses incident thereto shall be borne by the district. In case of neglect or refusal of the secretary of the district to perform the duties imposed by law, then the treasurer of the county in which the office of the board of directors is situated must perform such duties, and shall be accountable therefor, on his or her official bond, as in other cases.

At the time of making the annual levy in the year preceding the final maturity of any issue of district bonds, the board of directors shall levy a sufficient amount to pay and redeem all bonds of said issue then remaining unpaid. All surplus remaining in any bond fund after all bonds are paid in full must be transferred to the surplus fund of the district.

Any surplus moneys in the surplus fund or any surplus moneys in the bond fund when so requested by the board of directors shall be invested by the treasurer of said county under the direction of said board of directors in United States

bonds or bonds of the state of Washington, or any bonds pronounced by the treasurer of the state of Washington as valid security for the deposit of public funds, and in addition thereto any bonds or warrants of said district, all of which shall be kept in the surplus fund until needed by the district for the purposes authorized by law. [2013 c 23 § 498; 1983 c 167 § 216; 1967 c 169 § 1; 1941 c 157 § 1; 1929 c 185 § 1; 1927 c 243 § 1; 1923 c 138 § 10; 1921 c 129 § 14; 1919 c 180 § 11; 1915 c 179 § 12; 1913 c 165 § 10; 1895 c 165 § 11; 1889-90 p 683 § 22; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7440. Formerly RCW 87.32.060, 87.32.070, 87.32.080, and 87.32.090.]

*Board's powers and duties generally—Condemnation procedure:* RCW 87.03.140.

*Bonds—Election for, etc.:* RCW 87.03.200.

*Certain excess lands, assessment against:* RCW 87.04.100.

*Irrigation district L.I.D. guarantee fund:* RCW 87.03.510.

*Limit of levy until water is received (federal contracts—director districts):* RCW 87.04.090.

*Payment of bonds and interest, other indebtedness—Lien, enforcement of—Scope of section:* RCW 87.03.215.

*Power as to incurring indebtedness:* RCW 87.03.475.

*Rights of federal agencies as to certain district bonds:* RCW 87.03.235.

*Sale or lease of district personal property:* RCW 87.03.135.

*Sale or pledge of bonds:* RCW 87.03.210.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.265 Lien of assessment.** The assessment upon real property shall be a lien against the property assessed, from and after the first day of January in the year in which it is levied, but as between grantor and grantee such lien shall not attach until the county treasurer has completed the property tax roll for the current year's collection and provided the notification required by RCW 84.56.020 in the year in which the assessment is payable, which lien shall be paramount and superior to any other lien theretofore or thereafter created, whether by mortgage or otherwise, except for a lien for prior assessments, and such lien shall not be removed until the assessments are paid or the property sold for the payment thereof as provided by law. And the lien for the bonds of any issue shall be a preferred lien to that of any subsequent issue. Also the lien for all payments due or to become due under any contract with the United States, or the state of Washington, accompanying which bonds of the district have not been deposited with the United States or the state of Washington, as in RCW 87.03.140 provided, shall be a preferred lien to any issue of bonds subsequent to the date of such contract. [2009 c 350 § 5; 1939 c 171 § 2; 1921 c 129 § 15; 1915 c 179 § 13; 1913 c 165 § 11; 1889-90 p 684 § 23; RRS § 7441. Formerly RCW 87.32.100.]

*Acquisition, construction, and operating funds—Tolls and assessments, alternative methods of—Liens, foreclosure of—Delinquencies by tenants:* RCW 87.03.445.

*Delinquent assessments:* Chapter 87.06 RCW.

**87.03.270 Assessments, when delinquent—Assessment book, purpose—Statement of assessments due—Collection—Additional fee for delinquency.** The assessment roll, before its equalization and adoption, shall be checked and compared as to descriptions and ownerships, with the county treasurer's land rolls. On or before the fifteenth day of January in each year the secretary must deliver

the assessment roll or the respective segregation thereof to the county treasurer of each respective county in which the lands therein described are located, and said assessments shall become due and payable after the county treasurer has completed the property tax roll for the current year's collection and provided the notification required by RCW 84.56.020.

All assessments on said roll shall become delinquent on the first day of May following the filing of the roll unless the assessments are paid on or before the thirtieth day of April of said year: PROVIDED, That if an assessment is ten dollars or more for said year and if one-half of the assessment is paid on or before the thirtieth day of April, the remainder shall be due and payable on or before the thirty-first day of October following and shall be delinquent after that date. All delinquent assessments shall bear interest at the rate of twelve percent per annum, computed on a monthly basis and without compounding, from the date of delinquency until paid.

Upon receiving the assessment roll the county treasurer shall prepare therefrom an assessment book in which shall be written the description of the land as it appears in the assessment roll, the name of the owner or owners where known, and if assessed to the unknown owners, then the word "unknown", and the total assessment levied against each tract of land. Proper space shall be left in said book for the entry therein of all subsequent proceedings relating to the payment and collection of said assessments.

On or before April 1st of each year, the treasurer of the district shall send a statement of assessments due. County treasurers who collect irrigation district assessments may send the statement of irrigation district assessments together with the statement of general taxes.

Upon payment of any assessment the county treasurer must enter the date of said payment in said assessment book opposite the description of the land and the name of the person paying and give a receipt to such person specifying the amount of the assessment and the amount paid with the description of the property assessed.

It shall be the duty of the treasurer of the district to furnish upon request of the owner, or any person interested, a statement showing any and all assessments levied as shown by the assessment roll in his or her office upon land described in such request. All statements of irrigation district assessments covering any land in the district shall show the amount of the irrigation district assessment, the dates on which the assessment is due, the place of payment, and, if the property was sold for delinquent assessments in a prior year, the amount of the delinquent assessment and the notation "certificate issued": PROVIDED, That the failure of the treasurer to render any statement herein required of him or her shall not render invalid any assessments made by any irrigation district.

It shall be the duty of the county treasurer of any county, other than the county in which the office of the board of directors is located, to make monthly remittances to the county treasurer of the county in which the office of the board of directors is located covering all amounts collected by him or her for the irrigation district during the preceding month.

When the treasurer collects a delinquent assessment, the treasurer shall collect any other amounts due by reason of the delinquency, including accrued costs, which shall be depos-

ited to the treasurer's operation and maintenance fund. [2013 c 23 § 499; 2009 c 350 § 6; 1988 c 134 § 13; 1982 c 102 § 1; 1981 c 209 § 1; 1967 c 169 § 2; 1939 c 171 § 3; 1933 c 43 § 4; 1931 c 60 § 2; 1929 c 181 § 1; 1921 c 129 § 16; 1919 c 180 § 12; 1917 c 162 § 5; 1915 c 179 § 14; 1913 c 165 § 12; 1913 c 13 § 2; 1895 c 165 § 12; 1889-90 p 684 § 24; RRS § 7442. Formerly RCW 87.32.050.]

*Assessments*

*districts under contract with United States: Chapter 87.68 RCW. how and when made—Assessment roll: RCW 87.03.240.*

*Equalization of assessments: RCW 87.03.255.*

*Evidence of assessment, what is: RCW 87.03.420.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.271 Lien for delinquent assessment to include costs and interest.** The lien for delinquent assessments shall include the district's and treasurer's costs attributable to the delinquency and interest at the rate of twelve percent per year, computed monthly and without compounding, on the assessments and costs. The word "costs" as used in this section includes all costs of collection, including but not limited to reasonable attorneys' fees, publication costs, costs of preparing certificates of delinquency, title searches, and the costs of foreclosure proceedings. [1988 c 134 § 14.]

**87.03.272 Secretary may act as collection agent of nondelinquent assessments—Official bond—Collection procedure—Delinquency list.** Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 87.03.260, 87.03.270, 87.03.440, and 87.03.445, the board of directors of any district acting as fiscal agent for the United States or the state of Washington for the collection of any irrigation charges may authorize the secretary of the district to act as the exclusive collection agent for the collection of all nondelinquent irrigation assessments of the district pursuant to such rules and regulations as the board of directors may adopt.

When the secretary acts as collection agent, his or her official bond shall be of a sufficient amount as determined by the board of directors of the district to cover any amounts he or she may be handling while acting as collection agent, in addition to any other amount required by reason of his or her other duties.

The assessment roll of such district shall be delivered to the county treasurer in accordance with the provisions of RCW 87.03.260 and 87.03.270 and the assessment roll shall be checked and verified by the county treasurer as provided in RCW 87.03.270.

After the assessment roll has been checked and verified by the county treasurer, the secretary of the district shall proceed to publish the notice as required under RCW 87.03.270; except that the notice shall provide that until the assessments and tolls become delinquent on November 1st they shall be due and payable in the office of the secretary of the district.

When the secretary of such district receives payments, he or she shall issue a receipt for such payments and shall be accountable on his or her official bond for the safekeeping of such funds and shall remit the same, along with an itemized statement of receipts, at least once each month to the county treasurer wherein the land is located on which the payment was made.

When the county treasurer receives the monthly statement of receipts from the secretary, he or she shall enter the payments shown thereon on the assessment roll maintained in his or her office.

On the fifteenth day of November of each year it shall be the duty of the secretary to transmit to the county treasurer the delinquency list which shall include the names, amounts, and such other information as the county treasurer shall require, and thereafter the secretary shall not accept any payment on the delinquent portion of any account. Upon receipt of the list of delinquencies, the county treasurer shall proceed under the provisions of this chapter as though he or she were the collection agent for such district to the extent of such delinquent accounts. [2013 c 23 § 500; 1982 c 102 § 2; 1967 c 169 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.275 Medium of payment of assessments.** All assessments and tolls authorized under this act shall be paid in legal tender of the United States except that assessments and tolls levied for the expense fund of the district may be paid with district warrants issued in payment for labor hired by the district, at par without interest drawn on the expense fund in the year in which the assessment to be paid thereby is payable, or in the preceding year, and such warrants shall be so accepted notwithstanding their serial numbers or their order of issue as to then outstanding warrants: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in no case shall the county treasurer be authorized to pay any cash difference to the holders of any warrant so offered in payment of such assessments and in the event such warrant shall exceed the amount so applied on assessments, the county treasurer shall issue to the holder thereof a certificate directing the county auditor to issue to such holder a district warrant on the same fund, bearing date on which such lieu warrant is issued, for the difference between the face or par amount of the warrant received by the treasurer, without interest, and the amount credited on said assessment. Upon the surrender of such lieu warrant certificate the county auditor shall be authorized to issue and deliver such lieu warrant. [1933 c 43 § 5; 1923 c 138 § 11; RRS § 7442-1. Formerly RCW 87.32.120.]

**87.03.277 Payment by credit cards, charge cards, and other electronic communication.** Irrigation districts that have designated their own treasurers as provided in RCW 87.03.440 may accept credit cards, charge cards, debit cards, smart cards, stored value cards, federal wire, and automatic clearinghouse system transactions, or other electronic communication, for any payment of any kind including, but not limited to, assessments, fines, interest, penalties, special assessments, fees, rates, tolls and charges, or moneys due irrigation districts. A payer desiring to pay by a credit card, charge card, debit card, smart card, stored value card, federal wire, automatic clearinghouse system, or other electronic communication shall bear the cost of processing the transaction in an amount determined by the treasurer, unless the board of directors finds that it is in the best interests of the district to not charge transaction processing costs for all payment transactions made for a specific category of payments due the district, including, but not limited to, assessments, fines, interest, penalties, special assessments, fees, rates,

tolls, and charges. The treasurer's cost determination shall be based upon costs incurred by the treasurer and may not, in any event, exceed the additional direct costs incurred by the district to accept the specific form of payment used by the payer. [2004 c 215 § 2; 2002 c 53 § 1.]

**87.03.280 Cancellation of assessments due United States—Procedure.** Where any district under contract with the United States has levied any assessment for the collection of money payable to the United States under such contract, and the secretary of the interior has by agreement with the board of directors of said district, authorized the extension or cancellation of any payments due to the United States by the cancellation of assessments already levied therefor but remaining unpaid, the board of directors of such district shall certify to the county treasurer of the county in which the land is located, a statement of the year and amounts assessed against each tract for which such cancellation has been authorized, and the county treasurer, upon receipt of such certificate, shall, in all cases where the assessment remains unpaid and the lands have not been sold, endorse upon the district's assessment roll, "Corrected under Certificate of Board of Directors" and shall deduct and cancel from the assessment against each such tract the amount of such assessment so authorized to be canceled; and in all cases where such cancellations have been certified to the county treasurer after such lands assessed have been sold and before the period of redemption shall have expired, the county treasurer shall, in those cases where the tract assessed has been sold to the district, and the district is the owner of the certificate of sale, require the district to surrender its certificate of sale and shall thereupon deduct the amount of such cancellation plus the penalties thereon upon the original assessment roll with an endorsement, "Corrected under Certificate of Board of Directors" and he or she shall thereupon issue to the district in lieu of the certificate surrendered, a substitute certificate of sale for the corrected amount of such assessment, if any, remaining uncanceled, and shall file a copy thereof in the office of the county auditor as in the case of the original certificate surrendered, and such substitute certificate shall entitle the holder thereof to all rights possessed under the original certificate so corrected as to amount: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That such cancellation shall have the same effect as though the lands had originally not been assessed for the amounts so deducted and shall not operate to bar the district of the right in making subsequent annual assessments to levy and collect against such tracts the amount of any money due the United States, including the amount of any assessments so canceled. [2013 c 23 § 501; 1925 c 3 § 1; RRS § 7442-2. Formerly RCW 87.32.130.]

*Board's powers and duties (contracts with state and United States): RCW 87.03.140.*

**87.03.285 Segregation of assessment—Authorization.** Whenever in the discretion of the board of directors of any irrigation district of the state as determined by resolution, after an assessment roll has been filed with the county treasurer of the appropriate county in accordance with the laws of the state pertaining thereto, the irrigation district assessments against any tract or parcel of land may be segregated to apply against, and the lien may be divided among, the various par-

cels of said tract as the same may be hereafter divided, all in accordance herewith. [1951 c 205 § 1. Formerly RCW 87.32.102.]

**87.03.290 Segregation of assessment—Hearing.** When the irrigation district directors shall deem it advisable to make such segregation of assessments they shall by resolution fix the time and place for the hearing of the question concerning the segregation of assessments, which hearing may be at the next regular meeting of the directors of said irrigation district at its principal office. [1951 c 205 § 2. Formerly RCW 87.32.103.]

**87.03.295 Segregation of assessment—Notice of hearing.** Not less than ten days prior to the time and date fixed for said hearing the directors of said irrigation district shall cause notice of the time and place of said hearing to be given by registered mail to every person, firm or corporation having any interest in said property as shown by the county assessor's records or by the record of the irrigation district within which said property is located and to the address shown by said records, authorizing and directing that they appear and be heard at said time and place. [1951 c 205 § 3. Formerly RCW 87.32.104.]

**87.03.300 Segregation of assessment—Order.** In the event said hearing shall result in a determination that in the discretion of the directors of said irrigation district it is advisable that said assessments be segregated and apportioned among the various parcels of said tracts against which the original total assessment was levied, then an order shall be entered on the records of the directors of said irrigation district determining said segregation, and a certified copy thereof shall be filed with the county treasurer of the county in which said assessment roll is filed. [1951 c 205 § 4. Formerly RCW 87.32.105.]

**87.03.305 Segregation of assessment—Amendment of roll—Effect.** Upon the filing of the certified copy of said order the county treasurer shall alter and amend the original assessment roll in accordance with said order and thereafter the assessments will be a lien only as shown by said order of segregation and the amended assessment roll as the same shall affect the property upon which said segregation was ordered. [1951 c 205 § 5. Formerly RCW 87.32.106.]

**87.03.420 Evidence of assessment, what is.** The assessment book or delinquent list, or a copy thereof, certified by the secretary, showing unpaid assessments against any person or property, is prima facie evidence of the assessment of the property assessed, the delinquency, the amount of assessments due and unpaid, and that all the forms of law in relation to the assessment and levy of such assessment have been complied with. [1895 c 165 § 18; 1889-90 p 688 § 31; RRS § 7449. Formerly RCW 87.32.260.]

**87.03.430 Bonds—Interest payments.** Whenever interest payments on bonds are due, the treasurer of the county shall pay the same from the bond fund belonging to the district and deposited with the treasurer. Whenever, after ten years from the issuance of the bonds, the fund shall



amount to the sum of ten thousand dollars, the board of directors may direct the treasurer to pay such an amount of the bonds not due as the money in the fund will redeem, at the lowest value at which they may be offered for liquidation, after advertising in a newspaper of general circulation in the county for such period of time not less than four weeks as the board shall order for sealed proposals for the redemption of the bonds. The proposals shall be opened by the board in open meeting, at a time to be named in the notice, and the lowest bid for the bonds must be accepted: PROVIDED, That no bond shall be redeemed under the foregoing provision at a rate above par. In case the bids are equal, the lowest numbered bond shall have the preference. In case none of the owners of the bonds shall desire to have the same redeemed, as herein provided for, the money shall be invested by the treasurer of the county, under the direction of the board, in United States bonds, or the bonds of the state, which shall be kept in the bond fund, and may be used to redeem the district bonds whenever the owners thereof may desire. [1985 c 469 § 88; 1983 c 167 § 217; 1921 c 129 § 22; 1895 c 165 § 20; 1889-90 p 688 § 34; RRS § 7451. Formerly RCW 87.16.110.]

*Power as to incurring indebtedness: RCW 87.03.475.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.435 Construction work—Notice—Bids—Contracts—Bonds.** (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) and (3) of this section and RCW 87.03.436, whenever in the construction of the district canal or canals, or other works, or the furnishing of materials therefor, the board of directors shall determine to let a contract or contracts for the doing of the work or the furnishing of the materials, a notice calling for sealed proposals shall be published. The notice shall be published in a newspaper in the county in which the office of the board is situated, in any other newspaper which may be designated by the board, and on the irrigation district's website or on the county's website where the district is located if the district does not have a website, and for such length of time, not less than once each week for two weeks, as may be fixed by the board. At the time and place appointed in the notice for the opening of bids, the sealed proposals shall be opened in public, and as soon as convenient thereafter, the board shall let the work or the contract for the purchase of materials, either in portions or as a whole, to the lowest responsible bidder, or the board may reject any or all bids and readvertise, or may contract using the small works roster process in RCW 39.04.155 or if no bid is received on the first call the board may readvertise and make a second call or shall solicit electronic or written quotations from a minimum of three qualified contractors and shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder. After an award is made, the quotations shall be open to public inspection and available by electronic request. The district shall attempt to distribute opportunities for projects equitably among contractors willing to perform in the geographic area of the work. The district shall maintain a list of contractors contacted and the contracts awarded during the previous twenty-four months. The district also may proceed to construct the work under its own superintendence. All work shall be done under the direction and to the satisfaction of the engineer of the district, and be approved by the board. The board of directors may require bidders submitting bids for the construction or maintenance

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for any of the works of the district, or for the furnishing of labor or material, to accompany their bids by a deposit in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or surety bond in an amount equal to five percent of the amount of the bid and a bid shall not be considered unless the deposit is enclosed with it. If the contract is let, then all the bid deposits shall be returned to the unsuccessful bidders. The bid deposit of the successful bidder shall be retained until a contract is entered into for the purchase of the materials or doing of such work, and a bond given to the district in accordance with chapter 39.08 RCW for the performance of the contract. The performance bond shall be conditioned as may be required by law and as may be required by resolution of the board, with good and sufficient sureties satisfactory to the board, payable to the district for its use, for at least twenty-five percent of the contract price. If the successful bidder fails to enter into a contract and furnish the necessary bond within twenty days from the award, exclusive of the day of the award, the bid deposit shall be forfeited to the district and the contract may then be awarded to the second lowest bidder.

(2) The provisions of this section in regard to public bidding shall not apply in cases where the board is authorized to exchange bonds of the district in payment for labor and material.

(3) The provisions of this section do not apply:

(a) In the case of any contract between the district and the United States;

(b) In the case of an emergency when the public interest or property of the district would suffer material injury or damage by delay, upon resolution of the board of directors or proclamation of an official designated by the board to act for the board during such emergencies. The resolution or proclamation shall declare the existence of the emergency and recite the facts constituting the emergency; or

(c) To purchases which are clearly and legitimately limited to a single source of supply or to purchases involving special facilities, services, or market conditions, in which instances the purchase price may be best established by direct negotiation. [2019 c 462 § 2; 1997 c 354 § 3; 1990 c 39 § 1; 1984 c 168 § 3; 1915 c 179 § 17; 1913 c 165 § 18; 1895 c 165 § 21; 1889-90 p 689 § 35; RRS § 7452. Formerly RCW 87.08.020.]

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

*Public contracts—Contractor's bond: Chapter 39.08 RCW.*

**87.03.436 Small works roster.** All contract projects, the estimated cost of which is less than three hundred thousand dollars, may be awarded using the small works roster process under RCW 39.04.155. [2010 c 201 § 2; 1990 c 39 § 2.]

**87.03.437 Competitive bids—Use of purchase contract process in RCW 39.04.190.** (1) Purchases of any materials, supplies, or equipment by the district shall be based on competitive bids except as provided in RCW 87.03.435 and 39.04.280. A formal sealed bid procedure shall be used as standard procedure for the purchases made by irrigation districts. However, the board may by resolution adopt a policy to waive formal sealed bidding procedures for purchases of any materials, supplies, or equipment for an amount

set by the board not to exceed fifty thousand dollars for each purchase.

(2) The directors may by resolution adopt a policy to use the process provided in RCW 39.04.190 for purchases of materials, supplies, or equipment when the estimated cost is between the amount established by the board under subsection (1) of this section and a maximum amount set by resolution adopted by the board for purchases up to fifty thousand dollars exclusive of sales tax. [2014 c 2 § 5; 2009 c 229 § 13; 1999 c 234 § 2.]

**87.03.438 "County treasurer," "treasurer of the county," defined.** As used in this chapter, in accordance with RCW 87.03.440, the term "county treasurer" or "treasurer of the county" or other reference to that office means the treasurer of the district, if the district has designated its own treasurer, unless the context clearly requires otherwise. [1979 ex.s. c 185 § 16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.440 Treasurer—County treasurer as ex officio district treasurer—Designated district treasurer—Duties and powers—Bond—Claims—Preliminary notice requirements when claim for crop damage.** The treasurer of the county in which is located the office of the district shall be ex officio treasurer of the district, and any county treasurer handling district funds shall be liable upon his or her official bond and to criminal prosecution for malfeasance and misfeasance, or failure to perform any duty as county or district treasurer. The treasurer of each county in which lands of the district are located shall collect and receipt for all assessments levied on lands within his or her county. There shall be deposited with the district treasurer all funds of the district. The district treasurer shall pay out such funds upon warrants issued by the county auditor against the proper funds of the district, except the sums to be paid out of the bond fund for interest and principal payments on bonds: PROVIDED, That in those districts which designate their own treasurer, the treasurer may issue the warrants or any checks when the district is authorized to issue checks. All warrants shall be paid in the order of their issuance. The district treasurer shall report, in writing, on the first Monday in each month to the directors, the amount in each fund, the receipts for the month preceding in each fund, and file the report with the secretary of the board. The secretary shall report to the board, in writing, at the regular meeting in each month, the amount of receipts and expenditures during the preceding month, and file the report in the office of the board.

The preceding paragraph of this section notwithstanding, the board of directors or board of control of an irrigation district which lies in more than one county and which had assessments in each of two of the preceding three years equal to at least five hundred thousand dollars, or a board of joint control created under chapter 87.80 RCW, may designate some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the district. In addition, the board of directors of an irrigation district which lies entirely within one county may designate some other person having experience in financial or fiscal matters as treasurer of the district if the district had assessments, tolls, and miscellaneous collections in each of two of the preceding three years equal to at

least two million dollars or if the board has the approval of the county treasurer to designate some other person. If a board designates a treasurer, it shall require a bond with a surety company authorized to do business in the state of Washington in an amount of two hundred fifty thousand dollars conditioned that he or she will faithfully perform the duties of his or her office as treasurer of the district. The premium on the bond shall be paid by the district. The designated treasurer shall collect and receipt for all irrigation district assessments on lands within the district and shall act with the same powers and duties and be under the same restrictions as provided by law for county treasurers acting in matters pertaining to irrigation districts, except the powers, duties, and restrictions in RCW \*87.56.110 and 87.56.210 which shall continue to be those of county treasurers.

In those districts which have designated their own treasurers, the provisions of law pertaining to irrigation districts which require certain acts to be done and which refer to and involve a county treasurer or the office of a county treasurer or the county officers charged with the collection of irrigation district assessments, except RCW \*87.56.110 and 87.56.210 shall be construed to refer to and involve the designated district treasurer or the office of the designated district treasurer.

Any claim against the district for which it is liable under existing laws shall be presented to the board as provided in RCW 4.96.020 and upon allowance it shall be attached to a voucher and approved by the chair and signed by the secretary and directed to the proper official for payment: PROVIDED, That in the event claimant's claim is for crop damage, the claimant in addition to filing his or her claim within the applicable period of limitations within which an action must be commenced and in the manner specified in RCW 4.96.020 must file with the secretary of the district, or in the secretary's absence one of the directors, not less than three days prior to the severance of the crop alleged to be damaged, a written preliminary notice pertaining to the crop alleged to be damaged. Such preliminary notice, so far as claimant is able, shall advise the district; that the claimant has filed a claim or intends to file a claim against the district for alleged crop damage; shall give the name and present residence of the claimant; shall state the cause of the damage to the crop alleged to be damaged and the estimated amount of damage; and shall accurately locate and describe where the crop alleged to be damaged is located. Such preliminary notice may be given by claimant or by anyone acting in his or her behalf and need not be verified. No action may be commenced against an irrigation district for crop damages unless claimant has complied with the provisions of RCW 4.96.020 and also with the preliminary notice requirements of this section. [2013 c 23 § 502. Prior: 1996 c 320 § 18; 1996 c 214 § 1; 1993 c 449 § 12; 1983 c 167 § 218; 1979 c 83 § 1; 1977 ex.s. c 367 § 1; 1969 c 89 § 1; 1967 c 164 § 15; 1961 c 276 § 2; prior: 1937 c 216 § 1, part; 1929 c 185 § 3, part; 1923 c 138 § 13, part; 1921 c 129 § 23, part; 1913 c 165 § 19, part; 1895 c 165 § 22, part; 1889-90 p 690 § 36, part; RRS § 7453, part. Formerly RCW 87.08.030.]

\*Reviser's note: RCW 87.56.110 was repealed by 2004 c 165 § 47.

**Purpose—Severability—1993 c 449:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

**Purpose—Severability—1967 c 164:** See notes following RCW 4.96.010.

"County treasurer," "treasurer of the county," defined: RCW 87.03.438, 87.28.005.

Tortious conduct of political subdivisions, municipal corporations and quasi municipal corporations, liability for damages, procedure: Chapter 4.96 RCW.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.441 Temporary funds.** The directors may provide by resolution that the secretary may deposit the following temporary funds in a local bank in the name of the district: (1) A fund to be known as "general fund" in which shall be deposited all moneys received from the sale of land, except such portion thereof as may be obligated for bond redemption, and all rentals, tolls, and all miscellaneous collections. This fund shall be transmitted to the district treasurer or disbursed in such manner as the directors may designate. (2) A fund to be known as "fiscal fund" in which shall be deposited all collections made by the district as fiscal agent of the United States. (3) A "revolving fund" in such amount as the directors shall by resolution determine, acquired by the issue of coupon or registered warrants or by transfer of funds by warrant drawn upon the expense fund. This fund may be disbursed by check signed by the secretary or such other person as the board may designate, in the payment of such expenditures as the board may deem necessary. This fund shall be reimbursed by submitting copies of approved vouchers and/or copy of payrolls to the county auditor with a claim voucher specifying the fund upon which warrants for such reimbursements shall be drawn. The warrants for such reimbursements shall be made out by the auditor to the "secretary's revolving fund." [1983 c 167 § 219; 1979 c 83 § 2; 1961 c 276 § 3. Prior: 1937 c 216 § 1, part; 1929 c 185 § 3, part; 1923 c 138 § 13, part; 1921 c 129 § 23, part; 1913 c 165 § 19, part; 1895 c 165 § 22, part; 1889-90 p 690 § 36, part; RRS § 7453, part. Formerly RCW 87.08.040.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.442 Bonds of secretary and depositaries.** The secretary or other authorized person shall issue receipts for all moneys received for deposit in such funds and he or she and any other person handling the funds shall furnish a surety bond to be approved by the board and the attorney for the district, in such amount as the board may designate and conditioned for the safekeeping of such funds and the premium thereon shall be paid by the district.

Upon depositing any district funds the secretary shall demand and the depositary bank shall furnish a surety bond, to be approved by the board and the attorney, in an amount equal to the maximum deposit, conditioned for the prompt payment of the deposits upon demand, and the bond shall not be canceled during the time for which it was written. Or the depositary may deposit with the secretary or in some bank to the credit of the district in lieu of the bond, securities approved by the board of a market value in an amount not less than the amount of the maximum deposit. All depositaries which have qualified for insured deposits under any federal deposit insurance act need not furnish bonds or securities, except for so much of the deposit as is not so insured. [2013 c 23 § 503; 1961 c 276 § 4. Prior: 1937 c 216 § 1, part; 1929 c 185 § 3, part; 1923 c 138 § 13, part; 1921 c 129 § 23, part;

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1913 c 165 § 19, part; 1895 c 165 § 22, part; 1889-90 p 690 § 36, part; RRS § 7453, part. Formerly RCW 87.08.050.]

Conviction of public officer forfeits trust: RCW 9.92.120.

Income from sale of electricity: RCW 87.03.450.

Misconduct of public officers: Chapter 42.20 RCW.

Office to be declared vacant on conviction: RCW 36.18.180.

Penalty for

failure to pay over fees: RCW 36.18.170.

taking illegal fees: RCW 36.18.160.

Power as to incurring indebtedness: RCW 87.03.475.

Public officers—Forfeiture or impeachment, rights preserved: RCW 42.04.040.

Suspension of treasurer: RCW 36.29.090.

**87.03.443 Upgrading and improvement fund authorized—Deposits—Use of funds.** There may be created by each irrigation district or separate legal authority created pursuant to RCW 87.03.018 a fund to be known as the upgrading and improvement fund. The board of directors shall determine what portion of the annual revenue of the irrigation district or separate legal authority will be placed into its upgrading and improvement fund, including all or any part of the funds received by a district or separate legal authority from the sale, delivery, and distribution of electrical energy. Moneys from the upgrading and improvement fund may be used to modernize, improve, or upgrade irrigation and hydroelectric power facilities or to respond to an emergency affecting such facilities. The funds may also be used for licensing hydroelectric power facilities and for payment of capital improvements. [2010 c 201 § 3; 2004 c 215 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 263 § 4.]

**87.03.445 Acquisition, construction, and operating funds—Tolls and assessments, alternative methods of—Liens, foreclosure of—Delinquencies by tenants.** (1) The cost and expense of purchasing and acquiring property, and construction, reconstruction, extension, and betterment of the works and improvements herein provided for, and the expenses incidental thereto, and indebtedness to the United States for district lands assumed by the district, and for the carrying out of the purposes of this chapter, may be paid for by the board of directors out of the funds received from bond sales as well as other district funds.

(2) For the purpose of defraying the costs and expenses of the organization of the district, and of the care, operation, management, maintenance, repair, and improvement of the district and its irrigation water, domestic water, electric power, drainage, or sewer facilities or of any portion thereof, or for the payment of any indebtedness due the United States or the state of Washington, or for the payment of district bonds, the board may either fix reasonable rates or tolls and charges, and collect the same from all persons for whom district service is made available for irrigation water, domestic water, electric power, drainage or sewerage, and other purposes, or it may provide for the payment of said costs and expenses by a levy of assessment therefor, or by both said rates or tolls and charges and assessment.

(3) If the assessment method is utilized, the levy of assessments shall be made on the completion and equalization of the assessment roll each year, and the board shall have the same powers and functions for the purpose of said levy as

possessed by it in case of levy to pay bonds of the district. The procedure for the collection of assessments by such levy shall in all respects conform with the provisions of this chapter, relating to the collection of assessments for the payment of principal and interest of bonds herein provided for, and shall be made at the same time.

(4) If the rates or tolls and charges method is adopted in whole or in part, the secretary shall deliver to the board of directors, within the time for filing the assessment roll, a schedule containing the names of the owners or reputed owners, as shown on the rolls of the county treasurer as of the first Tuesday in November of each year such a schedule is filed of the various parcels of land against which rates or tolls and charges are to be levied, the description of each such parcel of land and the amount to be charged against each parcel for irrigation water, domestic water, electric power, drainage, sewerage, and other district costs and expenses. Said schedule of rates or tolls and charges shall be equalized pursuant to the same notice, in the same manner, at the same time and with the same legal effect as in the case of assessments. Such schedule of rates or tolls and charges for a given year shall be filed with the proper county treasurer within the same time as that provided by law for the filing of the annual assessment roll, and the county treasurer shall collect and receipt for the payment of said rates or tolls and charges and credit them to the proper funds of the district. The board may designate the time and manner of making such collections and shall require the same to be paid in advance of delivery of water and other service. For the purposes of collection and enforcement, all tolls and charges levied shall also at once become and constitute an assessment upon and against the lands for which they are levied, with the same force and effect, and the same manner of enforcement, and with the same rate of interest from date of delinquency, in case of nonpayment, as other district assessments. Any tolls and charges constituting an assessment for collection and enforcement purposes under this section are not subject to the provisions of RCW 87.03.240(1).

(5) As an alternative method of imposing, collecting, and enforcing such rates or tolls and charges, the board may also base such rates or tolls and charges upon the quantity of irrigation water, domestic water, or electric power delivered, or drainage or sewage disposed of, and may fix a minimum rate or toll and charge to be paid by each parcel of land or use within the district for the delivery or disposal of a stated quantity of each such service with a graduated charge for additional quantities of such services delivered or disposed of. If the board elects to utilize this alternative method of imposing, collecting, and enforcing such rates or tolls and charges, there shall be no requirement that the schedule referred to in the preceding paragraph be prepared, be filed with the board of directors by the secretary, be equalized, or be filed with a county treasurer. The board shall enforce collection of such rates or tolls and charges against property to which and its owners to whom the service is available, such rates or tolls and charges being deemed charges and a lien against the property to which the service is available, until paid in full. Prior to furnishing services, a board may require a deposit to guarantee payment for services. However, failure to require a deposit does not affect the validity of any lien authorized by this section.

(6) The board may provide by resolution that where such rates or tolls and charges are delinquent for any specified period of time, the district shall certify the delinquencies to the treasurer of the county in which the real property is located, and the charges and any penalties added thereto and interest thereon at the rate not to exceed twelve percent per annum fixed by resolution shall be a lien against the property to which the service was available, subject only to the lien for general taxes. The district may, at any time after such rates or tolls and charges and penalties provided for herein are delinquent for a period of one year, bring suit in foreclosure by civil action in the superior court of the county in which the real property is situated.

(7) A board may determine how to apply partial payments on past due accounts.

(8) A board may provide a real property owner or the owner's designee with duplicate bills for service to tenants, or may notify an owner or the owner's designee that a tenant's service account is delinquent. However, if an owner or the owner's designee notifies the board in writing that a property served by the board is a rental property, asks to be notified of a tenant's delinquency, and has provided, in writing, a complete and accurate mailing address, the board shall notify the owner or the owner's designee of a tenant's delinquency at the same time and in the same manner the board notifies the tenant of the tenant's delinquency or by mail. When a district provides a real property owner or the owner's designee with duplicates of tenant utility service bills or notice that a tenant's utility account is delinquent, the district shall notify the tenant that it is providing the duplicate bills or delinquency notice to the owner or the owner's designee. After January 1, 1999, if a board fails to notify the owner of a tenant's delinquency after receiving a written request to do so and after receiving the other information required by this subsection (8), the board shall have no lien against the premises for the tenant's delinquent and unpaid charges.

(9) The court may allow, in addition to the costs and disbursements provided by statute, such attorneys' fees as it may adjudge reasonable. The action shall be in rem against the property, and in addition may be brought in the name of the district against an individual, or against all of those who are delinquent, in one action, and the rules of the court shall control as in other civil actions. The board may in the same year use the assessment method for part of the lands in the district and the rates or tolls and charges method for the remaining lands in the district in such proportion as it may deem advisable for the best interest of the district.

(10) The procedures herein provided for the collection and enforcement of rates, tolls, and charges also shall be applicable and available to the districts board of directors for the collection and enforcement of charges for water imposed by contract entered into or administered by the district's board of directors. [2017 c 321 § 2; 2001 c 149 § 4; 1998 c 285 § 3; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 5; 1939 c 171 § 7; 1931 c 60 § 5; 1929 c 185 § 4; 1915 c 179 § 18; 1913 c 165 § 20; 1889-90 p 690 § 37; RRS § 7454. Formerly RCW 87.08.060.]

*Assessments, when delinquent—Notice—Collection—Additional fee for delinquency: RCW 87.03.270.*

*Board's powers and duties generally—Condemnation procedure: RCW 87.03.140.*

*Bonds—Election for—Form and contents—Facsimile signatures, when, procedure—Exchange—Cancellation—Sale and issue—Reissue—Election concerning contract with United States—Penalty: RCW 87.03.200.*

*Equalization of assessments: RCW 87.03.255.*

*Levies, amount—Special funds—Failure to make levy, procedure: RCW 87.03.260.*

*Lien of assessments: RCW 87.03.265.*

*Payment of bonds and interest, other indebtedness—Lien, enforcement of—Scope of section: RCW 87.03.215.*

*Property taxes—Listing of property: Chapter 84.40 RCW.*

*Sale or pledge of bonds: RCW 87.03.210.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.450 Income from sale of electricity.** All income derived from the sale, delivery and distribution of electrical energy, shall be deposited with the county treasurer of the county in which the office of the board of directors of the district is located, and shall be apportioned to such fund or funds of the district authorized by law, as the board of directors shall deem advisable, including, but not limited to the payment of district bonds or any portion of the same for which such revenues have been pledged and thereafter said income, or such portion thereof so pledged, shall be placed by the county treasurer to the credit of the fund from which said bonds are required to be paid until the same or the portion thereof secured by such pledge are fully paid. [1979 ex.s. c 185 § 6; 1933 c 31 § 2; RRS § 7454-1. Formerly RCW 87.08.070.]

*Office of board: RCW 87.03.115.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.455 District's right to cross other property.** The board of directors shall have power to construct the \*said works across any stream of water, water course, street, avenue, highway, railway, canal, ditch or flume, which the route of said canal or canals may intersect or cross, in such manner as to afford security for life and property; but said board shall restore the same when so crossed or intersected, to its former state as near as may be, or in a sufficient manner not to have impaired unnecessarily its usefulness; and every company whose railroad shall be intersected or crossed by \*said works, shall unite with said board in forming said intersections and crossings, and grant the privileges aforesaid; and if such railroad company and said board, or the owners and controllers of the said property, thing or franchise so to be crossed, cannot agree upon the amount to be paid therefor, or the points or the manner of said crossings or intersections, the same shall be ascertained and determined in all respects as is herein provided in respect to the taking of land. The right-of-way is hereby given, dedicated and set apart, to locate, construct and maintain said works over and through any of the lands which are now or may be the property of this state; and also there is given, dedicated and set apart, for the uses and purposes aforesaid, all waters and water rights belonging to this state within the district. [1889-90 p 691 § 38; RRS § 7455. Formerly RCW 87.08.160.]

\*Reviser's note: The "said works" apparently refers to those specified in RCW 87.03.445.

*Condemnation: RCW 87.03.140 through 87.03.150.*

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**87.03.460 Compensation and expenses of directors, officers, employees.** (1) In addition to their reasonable expenses in accordance with chapter 42.24 RCW, the directors shall each receive ninety dollars for each day or portion thereof spent by a director for such actual attendance at official meetings of the district, or in performance of other official services or duties on behalf of the district. The total amount of such additional compensation received by a director may not exceed eight thousand six hundred forty dollars in a calendar year. The board shall fix the compensation of the secretary and all other employees.

(2) Any director may waive all or any portion of his or her compensation payable under this section as to any month or months during his or her term of office, by a written waiver filed with the secretary as provided in this section. The waiver, to be effective, must be filed any time after the director's election and prior to the date on which the compensation would otherwise be paid. The waiver shall specify the month or period of months for which it is made.

(3) The dollar thresholds established in this section must be adjusted for inflation by the office of financial management every five years, beginning January 1, 2024, based upon changes in the consumer price index during that time period. "Consumer price index" means, for any calendar year, that year's annual average consumer price index, for Washington state, for wage earners and clerical workers, all items, compiled by the bureau of labor and statistics, United States department of labor. If the bureau of labor and statistics develops more than one consumer price index for areas within the state, the index covering the greatest number of people, covering areas exclusively within the boundaries of the state, and including all items shall be used for the adjustments for inflation in this section. The office of financial management must calculate the new dollar threshold and transmit it to the office of the code reviser for publication in the Washington State Register at least one month before the new dollar threshold is to take effect.

(4) A person holding office as commissioner for two or more special purpose districts shall receive only that per diem compensation authorized for one of his or her commissioner positions as compensation for attending an official meeting or conducting official services or duties while representing more than one of his or her districts. However, such commissioner may receive additional per diem compensation if approved by resolution of all boards of the affected commissions. [2020 c 83 § 15; 2009 c 145 § 2; 2007 c 469 § 13; 1998 c 121 § 14; 1990 c 38 § 1; 1984 c 168 § 4; 1980 c 23 § 1; 1979 c 83 § 3; 1975 1st ex.s. c 163 § 2; 1965 c 16 § 1; 1951 c 189 § 1; 1919 c 180 § 14; 1917 c 162 § 8; 1895 c 165 § 23; 1889-90 p 692 § 39; RRS § 7456. Formerly RCW 87.08.100.]

**87.03.470 Special assessments—Election—Notes.** (1) The board of directors may, at any time when in their judgment it may be advisable, call a special election and submit to the qualified electors of the district the question whether or not a special assessment shall be levied for the purpose of raising money to be applied to any of the purposes provided in this chapter including any purpose for which the bonds of the district or the proceeds thereof might be lawfully used. Such election must be called upon the notice prescribed, and the same shall be held and the result thereof determined and

declared in all respects in conformity with the provisions of RCW 87.03.200. The notice must specify the amount of money proposed to be raised and the purpose for which it is intended to be used and the number of installments in which it is to be paid. At such election the ballot shall contain the words "Assessment Yes" and "Assessment No." If the majority of the votes cast are "Assessment Yes" the board may immediately or at intervals thereafter incur indebtedness to the amount of said special assessment for any of the purposes for which the proceeds of said assessment may be used, and may provide for the payment of said indebtedness by the issue and sale of notes of the district to an amount equal to said authorized indebtedness, which notes shall be payable in such equal installments not exceeding three in number as the board shall direct. Said notes shall be payable by assessments levied at the time of the regular annual levy each year thereafter until fully paid. The amount of the assessments to be levied shall be ascertained by adding fifteen percent for anticipated delinquencies to the whole amount of the indebtedness incurred and interest. Each assessment so levied shall be computed and entered on the assessment roll by the secretary of the board, and collected at the same time and in the same manner as other assessments provided for herein, and when collected shall be paid to the county treasurer of the county to the credit of said district, for the purposes specified in the notice of such special election: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the board of directors may at their discretion issue said notes in payment for labor or material, or both, used in connection with the purposes for which such indebtedness was authorized. Notes issued under this section shall bear interest at a rate determined by the board, payable semiannually. Such notes may be in any form, including bearer notes or registered notes as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such notes may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 220; 1981 c 156 § 28; 1921 c 129 § 24; 1915 c 179 § 19; 1895 c 165 § 24; 1889-90 p 692 § 41; RRS § 7458. Formerly RCW 87.32.110.]

*Assessments: RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.255, 87.03.265 through 87.03.305.*

*Ballots in all elections: RCW 87.03.075.*

*Elections are governed by irrigation district laws: RCW 87.03.030.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.475 Power as to incurring indebtedness.** (1) The board shall incur no debt or liability in excess of the express provisions of this title. It may without an election and levy therefor pay the necessary costs and expenses of organizing and may make surveys, do engineering work, and conduct a general investigation to determine the feasibility of the proposed irrigation project, and may incur an indebtedness therefor prior to levy, which indebtedness on account of surveys, engineering and investigations shall not exceed fifty cents an acre, and shall be assessable against the lands within the district. In cases of emergency, making it necessary to incur indebtedness in order to continue the operation of the irrigation system or any part thereof, the board by resolution may incur such indebtedness not exceeding the amount actually necessary to meet the requirements of the emergency. It may incur indebtedness necessary to carry on the ordinary administrative affairs of the district and if the district acquires

an irrigation system before making its first regular annual levy, the board may incur such indebtedness necessary to pay the ordinary expenses of operation and maintenance until the regular annual levy is made.

The board may issue warrants for the payment of any indebtedness incurred under this section, which shall bear interest at a rate or rates determined by the board, and it shall include in its next annual levy for the payment of the expenses of operation and maintenance, the amount of all warrants issued by virtue hereof.

The board may issue as a general obligation of the district coupon or registered warrants in denominations not in excess of five hundred dollars, bearing interest as determined by the board. Such warrants may be registered as provided in RCW 39.46.030. Such warrants shall mature in not more than five years and may be used, or the proceeds thereof, in the purchase of grounds and buildings, machinery, vehicles, tools or other equipment for use in operation, maintenance, betterment, reconstruction or local improvement work, and for creating a revolving fund for carrying on such work as in this title provided. The proceeds of the warrants shall be paid to the district treasurer who shall place them in an appropriate fund and pay them out upon warrants of the district. The maximum indebtedness hereby authorized shall not exceed one dollar per acre of the total irrigable area within the district. No warrant shall be sold for less than par. They shall state on their face that they are a general obligation of the district, the purposes for which they are used, and that they are payable on or before maturity. They shall be retired by assessments levied in accordance with the provisions of this title at the time other assessments are levied.

The board may accumulate by assessment a fund to be designated as the "capital fund" to be used for the purposes for which the above warrants may be used. The total of such fund shall not exceed one dollar per acre of the total irrigable area in the district and shall be accumulated in not less than five annual installments. The fund shall not be permanently depleted or reduced but shall be replaced from year to year by assessments on any lands of the district benefited by the use thereof. The reasonable value of all grounds, buildings, machinery, vehicles, tools or other equipment on hand, purchased with such fund, and the revolving fund, if any, derived from such fund, shall be a part of the capital fund.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such warrants may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 221; 1981 c 156 § 29; 1953 c 108 § 1; 1921 c 129 § 25; 1917 c 162 § 9; 1915 c 179 § 20; 1895 c 165 § 25; 1889-90 p 693 § 42; RRS § 7459. Formerly RCW 87.01.220.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.480 Local improvement districts—Petition.** Any desired special construction, reconstruction, betterment or improvement or purchase or acquisition of improvements already constructed, for any authorized district service, including but not limited to the safeguarding of open canals or ditches for the protection of the public therefrom, which are for the special benefit of the lands tributary thereto and within an irrigation district may be constructed or acquired and provision made to meet the cost thereof as follows:

The holders of title or evidence of title to one-quarter of the acreage proposed to be assessed, may file with the district board their petition reciting the nature and general plan of the desired improvement and specifying the lands proposed to be specially assessed therefor. A local improvement district may include adjoining, vicinal, or neighboring improvements even though the improvements and the properties benefited are not connected or continuous. Such improvements may be owned by the United States, the state of Washington, the irrigation district, or another local government. Upon approval of the board of an adjoining irrigation district, an irrigation district may form local improvement districts or utility local improvement districts that are composed entirely or in part of territory within that adjoining district. Upon the filing of the petition the board, with the assistance of a competent engineer, shall make an investigation of the feasibility, cost, and need of the proposed local improvement together with the ability of the lands to pay the cost, and if it appears feasible, they may elect to have plans and an estimate of the cost prepared. If a protest against the establishment of the proposed improvement signed by a majority of the holders of title in the proposed local district is presented at or before the hearing, or if the proposed improvement should be found not feasible, too expensive, or not in the best interest of the district, or the lands to be benefited insufficient security for the costs, they shall dismiss the petition. [2013 c 177 § 3; 1959 c 75 § 9; 1941 c 171 § 1; 1919 c 180 § 15; 1917 c 162 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7460. Formerly RCW 87.36.010.]

*Safeguarding open canals or ditches: RCW 35.43.040, 35.43.045, 35.44.045, 36.88.015, 36.88.350, 36.88.380 through 36.88.400, and 87.03.526.*

**87.03.485 Local improvement districts—Notice—Hearing—Initiation by board, procedure.** In the event that the board approves the petition, the board shall fix a time and place for the hearing thereof and shall publish a notice once a week for two consecutive weeks preceding the date of such hearing and the last publication shall not be more than seven days before such date and shall mail such a notice on or before the second publication date by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to each owner or reputed owner of real property within the proposed local improvement district, as shown on the rolls of the county treasurer as of a date not more than twenty days immediately prior to the date such notice was mailed. Such notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in which any portion of the land proposed to be included in such local improvement district lies. Such notice shall state that the lands within the described boundaries are proposed to be organized as a local improvement district, stating generally the nature of the proposed improvement; that bonds for such local improvement district are proposed to be issued as the bonds of the irrigation district, or that a contract is proposed to be entered into between the district and the United States or the state of Washington, or both, that the lands within the local improvement district are to be assessed for such improvement, that such bonds or contract will be the obligation of such local improvement district and stating a time and place of hearing thereon. At the time and place of hearing named in the notice, all persons interested may appear before the board and show cause for or against the formation of the proposed improve-

ment district and the issuance of bonds or the entering into of a contract as aforesaid. The board may designate a hearing officer to conduct the hearing, and the hearing officer shall report recommendations on the establishment of the local improvement district to the board for final action. Upon the hearing the board shall determine as to the establishment of the proposed local improvement district. Any landowner whose lands can be served or will be benefited by the proposed improvement, may make application to the board at the time of hearing to include such land and the board of directors in such cases shall, at its discretion, include such lands within such district. The board of directors may exclude any land specified in the notice from the district provided, that in the judgment of the board, the inclusion thereof will not be practicable.

As an alternative plan and subject to all of the provisions of this chapter, the board of directors may initiate the organization of a local improvement district as herein provided. To so organize a local improvement district the board shall adopt and record in its minutes a resolution specifying the lands proposed to be included in such local improvement district or by describing the exterior boundaries of such proposed district or by both. The resolution shall state generally the plan, character and extent of the proposed improvements, that the land proposed to be included in such improvement district will be assessed for such improvements; and that local improvement district bonds of the irrigation district will be issued or a contract entered into as hereinabove in this section provided to meet the cost thereof and that such bonds or contract will be the obligation of such local improvement district. The resolution shall fix a time and place of hearing thereon and shall state that unless a majority of the holders of title or of evidence of title to lands within the proposed local improvement district file their written protest at or before the hearing, consent to the improvement will be implied.

A notice containing a copy of the resolution must be published once a week for two consecutive weeks preceding the date of such hearing and the last publication shall not be more than seven days before such date, and shall be mailed on or before the second publication date by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to each owner or reputed owner of real property within the proposed local improvement district, as shown on the rolls of the county treasurer as of a date not more than twenty days immediately prior to the date such notice was mailed, and the hearing thereon shall not be held in less than twenty days from the adoption of such resolution. Such notice must be published in one newspaper, of general circulation, in each county in which any portion of the land proposed to be included in such local improvement district lies. The hearing shall be held and all subsequent proceedings conducted in accordance with the provisions of this act relating to the organization of local improvement districts initiated upon petition. [2013 c 177 § 4; 1983 c 167 § 222; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 7; 1970 ex.s. c 70 § 1; 1921 c 129 § 26; 1917 c 162 § 11; RRS § 7461. Formerly RCW 87.36.020 and 87.36.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.486 Local improvement districts—Notice to contain statement that assessments may vary from estimates.** Any notice given to the public or to the owners of

specific lots, tracts, or parcels of land relating to the formation of a local improvement district shall contain a statement that actual assessments may vary from assessment estimates so long as they do not exceed a figure equal to the increased true and fair value the improvement adds to the property. [1989 c 243 § 12.]

**87.03.487 Local improvement districts—Sanitary sewer or potable water facilities—Notice to certain property owners.** Whenever it is proposed that a local improvement district finance sanitary sewers or potable water facilities, additional notice of the public hearing on the proposed local improvement district shall be mailed to the owners of any property located outside of the proposed local improvement district that would be required as a condition of federal housing administration loan qualification, at the time of notice, to be connected to the specific sewer or water facilities installed by the local improvement district. The notice shall include information about this restriction. [1987 c 315 § 7.]

**87.03.490 Local improvement districts—Adoption of plan—Bonds, form and contents—New lands may be included.** (1) If decision shall be rendered in favor of the improvement, the board shall enter an order establishing the boundaries of the improvement district and shall adopt plans for the proposed improvement and determine the number of annual installments not exceeding fifty in which the cost of the improvement shall be paid. The cost of the improvement shall be provided for by the issuance of local improvement district bonds of the district from time to time, therefor, either directly for the payment of the labor and material or for the securing of funds for such purpose, or by the irrigation district entering into a contract with the United States or the state of Washington, or both, to repay the cost of the improvement. The bonds shall bear interest at a rate or rates determined by the board, payable semiannually, and shall state upon their face that they are issued as bonds of the irrigation district; that all lands within the local improvement district shall be liable to assessment for the principal and interest of the local improvement district bonds. The bonds may be in such denominations as the board of directors may in its discretion determine, except that bonds other than bond number one of any issue shall be in a denomination that is a multiple of one thousand dollars. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) No election shall be necessary to authorize the issuance of such local improvement bonds or the entering into of such a contract.

(3) The proceeds from the sale of such bonds shall be deposited with the treasurer of the district, who shall place them in a special fund designated "Construction fund of local improvement district number . . . . ."

(4) Whenever such improvement district has been organized, the board may enlarge the boundaries of the improvement district to include other lands which can be served or will be benefited by the proposed improvement upon petition of the owners thereof and the consent of the United States or the state of Washington, or both, in the event the irrigation district has contracted with the United States or the state of

Washington, or both, to repay the cost of the improvement: PROVIDED, That at such time the lands so included shall pay their equitable proportion upon the basis of benefits of the improvement theretofore made by the local improvement district and shall be liable for the indebtedness of the local improvement district in the same proportion and same manner and subject to assessment as if the lands had been incorporated in the improvement district at the beginning of its organization.

(5) Notwithstanding this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [2013 c 177 § 5; 2003 c 53 § 412; 1983 c 167 § 223; 1981 c 156 § 30; 1977 ex.s. c 119 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 70 § 2; 1921 c 129 § 27; 1919 c 180 § 16; 1917 c 162 § 12; RRS § 7462. Formerly RCW 87.36.040.]

**Intent—Effective date—2003 c 53:** See notes following RCW 2.48.180.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.492 Local improvement districts—Bonds, valid claim—General indebtedness.** Any local improvement district bonds, and interest thereon, issued against a bond redemption fund of a local improvement district pursuant to RCW 87.03.485 shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against the local improvement guarantee fund, the local improvement district redemption fund, and the assessments or revenues pledged to such fund or funds and do not constitute a general indebtedness against the issuing irrigation district unless the board of directors by resolution expressly provides for a pledge of general indebtedness. Except where the board provides for a pledge of general indebtedness, each such bond must state upon its face that it is payable from the local improvement district redemption fund and the local improvement guarantee fund only. [2013 c 177 § 1.]

**87.03.495 Local improvement districts—Costs of the improvement—Assessments—Disposal of bonds.** (1)(a) The cost of the improvement and of the operation and maintenance thereof, if any, shall be especially assessed against the lands within such local improvement district in proportion to the benefits accruing thereto, and shall be levied and collected in the manner provided by law for the levy and collection of land assessments or toll assessments or both such form of assessments.

(b) The costs of the improvement must include, but not be limited to:

(i) The cost of all of the construction or improvement authorized for the district;

(ii) The estimated cost and expense of all engineering and surveying necessary for the improvement done under the supervision of the irrigation district engineer;

(iii) The estimated cost and expense of ascertaining the ownership of the lots or parcels of land included in the assessment district;

(iv) The estimated cost and expense of advertising, mailing, and publishing all necessary notices;

(v) The estimated cost and expense of accounting and clerical labor, and of books and blanks extended or used on the part of the irrigation district treasurer in connection with the improvement;



(vi) All cost of the acquisition of rights-of-way, property, easements, or other facilities or rights, including without limitation rights to use property, facilities, or other improvements appurtenant, related to, or useful in connection with the local improvement, whether by eminent domain, purchase, gift, payment of connection charges, capacity charges, or other similar charges or in any other manner; and

(vii) The cost for legal, financial, and appraisal services and any other expenses incurred by the irrigation district for the district or in the formation thereof, or by irrigation district in connection with such construction or improvement and in the financing thereof, including the issuance of any bonds and the cost of providing for increases in the local improvement guaranty fund, or providing for a separate reserve fund or other security for the payment of principal of and interest on such bonds.

(c) Any of the costs set forth in this section may be excluded from the cost and expense to be assessed against the property in the local improvement district and may be paid from any other moneys available therefor if the board of directors so designates by resolution at any time.

(d) The board may give credit for all or any portion of any property or other donation against an assessment, charge, or other required financial contribution for improvements within a local improvement district.

(2) All provisions for the assessment, equalization, levy, and collection of assessments for irrigation district purposes shall be applicable to assessments for local improvements except that no election shall be required to authorize the improvement or the expenditures therefor or the bonds issued to meet the cost thereof or the contract authorized in RCW 87.03.485 to repay the cost thereof. In addition or as an alternative, an irrigation district may elect to apply all or a portion of the provisions for the assessment, equalization, levy, and collection of assessments applicable to city or town local improvement districts; however any duties of the city or town treasurer shall be the duties of the treasurer of the county in which the office of the district is located or other treasurer of the district if appointed pursuant to RCW 87.03.440. In connection with a hearing on the assessment roll, the board may designate a hearing officer to conduct the hearing, and the hearing officer must report recommendations on the assessment roll to the board for final action. Assessments when collected by the county treasurer for the payment for the improvement of any local improvement district shall constitute a special fund to be called "bond redemption or contract repayment fund of local improvement district No. . . . ."

(3) Bonds issued under this chapter shall be eligible for disposal to and purchase by the director of ecology under the provisions of the state reclamation act.

(4) The cost or any unpaid portion thereof, of any such improvement, charged or to be charged or assessed against any tract of land may be paid in one payment under and pursuant to such rules as the board of directors may adopt, and all such amounts shall be paid over to the county treasurer who shall place the same in the appropriate fund. No such payment shall thereby release such tract from liability to assessment for deficiencies or delinquencies of the levies in such improvement district until all of the bonds or the contract, both principal and interest, issued or entered into for such local improvement district have been paid in full. The

receipt given for any such payment shall have the foregoing provision printed thereon. The amount so paid shall be included on the annual assessment roll for the current year, provided, such roll has not then been delivered to the treasurer, with an appropriate notation by the secretary that the amount has been paid. If the roll for that year has been delivered to the treasurer then the payment so made shall be added to the next annual assessment roll with appropriate notation that the amount has been paid. [2013 c 177 § 6; 1988 c 127 § 45; 1970 ex.s. c 70 § 3; 1957 c 68 § 1; 1949 c 103 § 2; 1921 c 129 § 28; 1917 c 162 § 13; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7463. Formerly RCW 87.36.050.]

*Assessment, equalization, levy and collection of assessments for irrigation district purposes: RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.280.*

**87.03.500 Local improvement districts—Payment of bonds.** In the event of the failure of the lands within the local improvement district to furnish money sufficient for the payment of principal or interest of the bonds or the contract as provided for in RCW 87.03.485 for such local improvement work and there shall be a default in the payment of principal or interest as aforesaid, the amount delinquent shall be paid by the general warrants of the irrigation district at large or, in the event of a contract, by whatever means of payment is called for thereunder, but the lands of the local improvement district shall not thereby become released from liability for special assessment therefor. Such warrants, if issued, shall be redeemed as soon as there shall be available money in the bond redemption fund of the local improvement district. [1970 ex.s. c 70 § 4; 1921 c 129 § 29; 1917 c 162 § 14; RRS § 7464. Formerly RCW 87.36.060.]

**87.03.505 Local improvement districts—L.I.D. unable to pay costs—Survey—Reassessments.** Whenever, by reason of the sale of land within a local improvement district for unpaid taxes or assessments, or for any other reason, it may appear apparent that the remaining lands within any such local improvement district are and will be unable to pay out the cost of such improvement or the bond issue or contract indebtedness therefor, the landowners of the local improvement district may petition the directors of the irrigation district or the directors of the district may upon their own initiative, and either upon receipt of such petition or the passing of such resolution the directors of the irrigation district shall cause a complete survey to be made of the affairs of the local improvement district pertaining to the payment of the cost of said improvement, and shall determine the amount of property remaining in the hands of private owners that is still subject to assessment for the improvement, the amount of land standing in the name of the district which is subject to assessment for said improvement and the amount of any lands which may have been entirely removed from the liability of any such assessments, and such other and pertinent data as may be necessary, in order to determine the ability of said remaining private property to pay the remaining balance of the cost of said improvement, and if as a result thereof it shall appear that the remaining private property will be unable to pay the said remaining cost of the improvement, the said board of directors shall determine what amount and to what extent the remaining private property will be able to equitably pay on the cost of said improvement which shall include

the privately owned property and district owned property and such remaining portion of the cost of said improvement which the directors find said land can equitably pay and in such amounts as in the judgment of the directors shall appear equitable after taking all circumstances into consideration, shall be assessed against the lands within such local improvement district and shall be levied and collected in the manner as in this act provided for the assessment and collection of construction costs and shall be payable over a period of not more than twenty years. Notwithstanding all provisions in this chapter contained for the assessment, equalization, levy and collection of assessments no election shall be required to authorize the issue of bonds or the entering into a contract to cover the cost thereof. Assessments when collected by the county treasurer for the payment shall constitute a special fund to be called "bond redemption or contract repayment fund of local improvement district No. . . . ."

The costs or any unpaid portion thereof, of any such assessment, charged or to be charged or assessed against any tract of land may be paid in one payment by the owner or by any one acting for such owner, under and pursuant to such rules as the board of directors may adopt, and all such amounts shall be paid to the county treasurer who shall place the same in the appropriate fund. Upon the payment in full of the amount charged or to be charged or assessed against any particular tract of land, said tract of land shall be thereupon entirely, fully and finally released of any and all further liability by reason of such improvement and the amount charged or to be charged and assessed against each tract of land as designated by said board shall be the limit of the liability of said tract of land for the costs of said improvement, except insofar as said land may be additionally liable by reason of being within the irrigation district and being liable for its portion of the general obligation of the district. The determination of the amount charged or to be charged or assessed against any tract of land may be appealed by the owner of said tract from the decision of the board of directors to the superior court of the county in which the property is located at any time within twenty days from the date of the passage of a resolution by the board of directors with reference thereto: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That in the event said irrigation district shall have borrowed or have an application on file for the borrowing of money from the reconstruction finance corporation, or its successor, or has entered into a contract with the United States or the state of Washington, or both, then in that event before any such reassessment shall be made it shall first receive the approval of said reconstruction finance corporation, or its successor or the United States or the state of Washington, or both, as the case may be. [1970 ex.s. c 70 § 5; 1935 c 128 § 1; RRS § 7464-1. Formerly RCW 87.36.070 and 87.36.080.]

*Assessment, equalization, levy and collection of assessments for irrigation district purposes: RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.280.*

**87.03.510 Local improvement districts—Irrigation district L.I.D. guarantee fund.** There is hereby established for each irrigation district in this state having local improvement districts therein a fund for the purpose of guaranteeing to the extent of such fund and in the manner herein provided, the payment of its local improvement bonds and warrants issued or contract entered into to pay for the improvements

provided for in this act. Such fund shall be designated "local improvement guarantee fund" and for the purpose of maintaining the same, every irrigation district shall hereafter levy from time to time, as other assessments authorized by RCW 87.03.240 are levied, such sums as may be necessary to meet the financial requirements thereof: PROVIDED, That such sums so assessed pursuant to RCW 87.03.240 in any year shall not be more than sufficient to pay the outstanding warrants or contract indebtedness on the fund and to establish therein a balance which shall not exceed ten percent of the outstanding obligations thereby guaranteed. The balance may also be established from the deposit of prepaid local improvement assessments or proceeds of local improvement district bonds. Whenever any bond redemption payment, interest payment, or contract payment of any local improvement district shall become due and there is insufficient funds in the local improvement district fund for the payment thereof, there shall be paid from the local improvement district guarantee fund, by warrant or by such other means as is called for in the contract, a sufficient amount, which together with the balance in the local improvement district fund shall be sufficient to redeem and pay the bond or coupon or contract payment in full. The warrants against the guarantee fund shall draw interest at a rate determined by the board and the bonds and interest payments shall be paid in their order of presentation or serial order. Whenever there shall be paid out of the guarantee fund any sum on account of principal or interest of a local improvement bond or warrant or contract the irrigation district, as trustee for the fund, shall be subrogated to all of the rights of the owner of the bond or contract amount so paid, and the proceeds thereof, or of the assessment underlying the same shall become part of the guarantee fund. There shall also be paid into such guarantee fund any interest received from bank deposits of the fund, as well as any surplus remaining in any local improvement district fund, after the payment of all of its outstanding bonds or warrants or contract indebtedness which are payable primarily out of such local improvement district fund. [2013 c 177 § 7; 1983 c 167 § 224; 1981 c 156 § 31; 1970 ex.s. c 70 § 6; 1935 c 128 § 2; RRS § 7464-2. Formerly RCW 87.36.090.]

*Levies, amount—Special funds: RCW 87.03.260.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.515 Local improvement districts—Refunding bonds.** It shall be lawful for any irrigation district which has issued local improvement district bonds for the improvements, as in this chapter provided, to issue in place thereof an amount of local improvement district or revenue refunding bonds of the irrigation district in accordance with chapter 39.53 RCW: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the issuance of the bonds shall not release the lands of the local improvement district or districts from liability for special assessments for the payment thereof: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the lien of any issue of bonds of the district prior in point of time to the issue of bonds or local improvement district bonds herein provided for shall be deemed a prior lien. [2013 c 177 § 8; 1983 c 167 § 225; 1921 c 129 § 30; 1917 c 162 § 15; RRS § 7465. Formerly RCW 87.36.100.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.520 Local improvement districts—Contracts with state or United States for local improvement work.** Any irrigation district may contract with the United States, or the state of Washington, for local improvement work, and for such purpose may form local improvement districts as herein provided.

Authorization of local improvement district bonds or of contract with the United States, or the state of Washington, for local improvement work may be confirmed in the same manner as provided in RCW 87.03.785 to 87.03.805, inclusive. [1921 c 129 § 31; 1917 c 162 § 16; RRS § 7466. Formerly RCW 87.36.110.]

**87.03.522 Irrigation district authorized to finance local improvements with general district funds.** In lieu of the issuance of local improvement district bonds or the entering into a contract with the United States or the state of Washington, or both, to secure the funds for or to repay the cost of any improvement to be charged, in whole or in part, against any local improvement district organized pursuant to this chapter, any irrigation district may finance the cost of said local improvement with any general district funds which may be available for said purpose and provide, in such manner as the district's directors may determine, for the repayment, with or without interest as the district's directors determine, through assessments against the lands in the local improvement district levied in the same manner authorized by this chapter of said general district moneys thus advanced. [1983 c 167 § 226; 1970 ex.s. c 70 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.525 Local improvement districts—Provisions applicable to districts formerly organized.** Any local improvement district heretofore duly organized may avail itself of and be subject to any of the provisions of this chapter increasing the number of annual installments, not to exceed fifty, after the directors of the irrigation district duly adopt a resolution to that effect, and it shall be the duty of the board of directors to adopt such resolution whenever in the judgment of the board the best interests of the local improvement district will be served thereby, and the interests of the irrigation district will not be jeopardized. [1970 ex.s. c 70 § 7; 1919 c 180 § 17; RRS § 7467. Formerly RCW 87.36.120.]

**87.03.526 Local improvement districts—Safeguarding open canals or ditches—Assessments and benefits.** Whenever a local improvement district is established within an irrigation district for the safeguarding of the public from the dangers of open canals or ditches the rate of assessment per square foot in the local district may be determined by any of the methods provided for assessment of similar improvements in cities or towns in chapter 35.44 RCW, and the lands specially benefited by such improvements shall be the same as provided in chapter 35.43 RCW for similar improvements in cities or towns. [1959 c 75 § 10. Formerly RCW 87.36.130.]

*Safeguarding open canals or ditches: RCW 35.43.040, 35.43.045, 35.44.045, 36.88.015, 36.88.350, 36.88.380 through 36.88.400, and 87.03.480.*

(2022 Ed.)

**87.03.527 Local improvement districts—Alternative methods of formation.** Whenever the board establishes a local improvement district, in addition or as an alternative to the procedures provided in RCW 87.03.480 through 87.03.525, there may be employed any method authorized by law for the formation of improvement districts and the levying, collection, and enforcement by foreclosure of assessments therein, including without limitation the formation method employed by cities or towns. [2013 c 177 § 9; 1959 c 104 § 7. Formerly RCW 87.36.140.]

**87.03.530 Consolidation of irrigation districts—Authorization—Merger of smaller irrigation districts.**

(1) Two or more irrigation districts may be consolidated into one district as provided in RCW 87.03.535 through 87.03.551 and may include in such district other lands susceptible of irrigation in the manner provided in this act, and upon the organization of such consolidated district it shall be an organized irrigation district subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(2) A smaller irrigation district may be merged into a larger irrigation district as provided in RCW 87.03.845 through 87.03.855 if the assessed acreage in the smaller district constitutes not more than thirty percent of the combined assessed acreage of the two districts. In such a proceeding, the smaller district is referred to as the "minor" irrigation district and the larger district is referred to as the "major" irrigation district. The district resulting from such a merger shall be an organized district subject to the provisions of this chapter. [1993 c 235 § 1; 1919 c 180 § 18; RRS § 7468. Formerly RCW 87.40.010.]

**87.03.535 Consolidation of irrigation districts—Proceedings for consolidation—Elections.** For the purpose of organizing a consolidated irrigation district a petition signed by fifty or a majority of the holders of title to, or evidence of title to land susceptible of irrigation within the proposed district shall be presented to the board of county commissioners of the county in which the lands or the greater portion thereof are situated, which petition shall set forth and particularly describe the proposed boundaries of such district, and the name of each existing irrigation district proposed to be included therein, and shall pray that the territory embraced within the boundaries of such proposed district may be organized as a consolidated irrigation district. Such petition shall be accompanied by bond as provided in RCW 87.03.020 and thereupon the same proceedings shall be had for the organization of such consolidated district as is provided in RCW 87.03.020 and 87.03.035 through 87.03.045, and the organization of such consolidated district shall be perfected in the same manner as provided in this chapter for the organization of new districts, except as otherwise provided in this section. The board of directors of each irrigation district proposed to be included in such consolidated district shall be served with a copy of the petition for the organization of such consolidated district together with notice at the time and place of hearing of such petition, at least twenty days prior to such hearing, and the board of county commissioners upon the hearing of such petition shall not grant the same or call an election if it shall appear that the board of directors of any existing irrigation district proposed to be included in such

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consolidated district have by resolution, regularly passed and entered upon the minutes of the directors meetings of such district, voted against the inclusion of such district into such proposed consolidated district. The board of county commissioners upon the hearing of such petition, shall not modify the boundaries of the proposed district to exclude any of the lands which are contained in any of the existing districts proposed to be included in such consolidated districts, and the order calling an election shall provide an election by the electors of each existing district proposed to be included in such consolidated district, and for an election by the electors of that part of the proposed district not included in any existing district, but no elector may cast more than one vote at such election. Such proposed district shall not be declared organized unless two-thirds of all votes cast in each existing district shall be Irrigation District—Yes, and unless two-thirds of all the votes cast in that part of the proposed district not included in any existing district shall be Irrigation District—Yes. If the organization of such consolidated district is not effected the organization of the district proposed to be included in such consolidated district shall not be affected. [1919 c 180 § 19; RRS § 7469. Formerly RCW 87.40.020.]

**87.03.540 Consolidation of irrigation districts—Directors—Disposition of affairs of included districts.** The board of directors of each included district shall hold office until the board of directors of the consolidated district shall have been elected and shall have qualified, and thereupon the term of office of the directors of such included district shall terminate, and the board of directors of such consolidated district shall have and exercise all the powers and duties in regard to such included district as were vested in the board of directors of such district. Each organized district included in a consolidated district shall either retain its corporate existence so far as necessary for the purpose of carrying out all contracts of such district, and until its indebtedness has been paid in full, or the board of directors of the consolidated district may constitute each such included district a local improvement district for the purpose of carrying out the obligations of, such included district and shall have all the power possessed by the board of directors of such included district to carry out all contracts of such included district to levy, assess and cause to be collected any and all assessments or charges against all of the land within such local improvement district that may be necessary or required to provide for the payment of all the bonds, warrants, and other indebtedness thereof, and to provide for the construction, reconstruction, betterment, improvement, maintenance and operation of all such work as are for the special benefit of the land in such local improvement district. Until such assessments shall have been collected and all indebtedness of the respective included districts paid, separate funds shall be maintained for each such district as were maintained in such included districts prior to the consolidation. A petition shall not be required for the establishment of the lands of such included districts as local improvement districts. [1919 c 180 § 20; RRS § 7470. Formerly RCW 87.40.030.]

*Board's powers and duties generally: RCW 87.03.140.*

**87.03.545 Consolidation of irrigation districts—Obligations of included districts unaffected.** The inclusion

of an organized district into a consolidated district shall not affect or impair any bonds or obligations of such included district and the holders of the bonds of any such included district shall be entitled to all remedies for the enforcement of the same as if such district had not been consolidated, and all obligations that shall have been incurred by any district prior to its being included in a consolidated district shall be a prior lien to any obligation that may be incurred against such land under such consolidated district: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the board of directors of the consolidated district may when authorized thereto, exchange any bonds of the consolidated district for the bonds of such included districts upon obtaining the consent of such bond holders. If any included district shall prior to the time of its inclusion into a consolidated district have entered into any contract with the United States pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, and the board of directors of such consolidated district propose to enter into a contract with the United States by the consolidated district, said board of directors, when authorized thereto, shall enter into such contract with the United States, and may in such event, with the consent of the United States, cancel any contract previously entered into between any included district and the United States. [1919 c 180 § 21; RRS § 7471. Formerly RCW 87.40.040.]

*Bonds: RCW 87.03.200 through 87.03.235.*

*Powers and duties of board (contracts with the state and United States): RCW 87.03.140.*

**87.03.550 Consolidation of irrigation districts—Property vested in new district—Credit.** The board of directors of an included district shall before the expiration of their term of office cause to be prepared and filed with the board of directors of the consolidated district a statement of all property of such included district, and upon the organization of such consolidated district, the property, of such included district shall, subject to the rights of the holders of the bonds or other obligations of such district, become the property of such consolidated district, and the board of directors of such consolidated district shall in making assessments for such consolidated district cause equitable credit to be given to the lands of such included district for such property received as is of value and benefit to the consolidated district. [1919 c 180 § 22; RRS § 7472. Formerly RCW 87.40.050.]

**87.03.551 Consolidation of irrigation districts—Procedures supplemental to boundary change provisions.** The procedure herein provided for the consolidation of districts shall not supersede or repeal any provisions of this act providing for changing the boundaries of any irrigation district, but shall be additional and supplemental thereto. [1919 c 180 § 23; RRS § 7473.]

**87.03.553 Consolidated local improvement districts for bond issuance.** For the purpose of issuing bonds only, the governing body of any irrigation district may authorize the establishment of consolidated local improvement districts. The local improvements within such consolidated districts need not be adjoining, vicinal, or neighboring. If the governing body orders the creation of such consolidated local improvement districts, the moneys received from the installment payment of the principal of and interest on assessments

levied within original local assessment districts shall be deposited in a consolidated local improvement district bond redemption fund to be used to redeem outstanding consolidated local improvement district bonds. [1991 c 8 § 1.]

**87.03.555 Change of boundaries authorized—Effect.**

The boundaries of any irrigation district now or hereafter organized under the provisions of this chapter may be changed in the manner herein prescribed, but such change of the boundaries of the district shall not impair or affect its organization, or its rights in or to property, or any of its rights or privileges of whatsoever kind or nature; nor shall it affect, impair or discharge any contract, obligation, lien or charge for or upon which it was or might become liable or chargeable, had such change of its boundaries not been made, except as hereinafter expressly in RCW 87.03.645 prescribed: PROVIDED, That in case contract has been made between the district and the United States, or the state of Washington, as in RCW 87.03.140 provided, no change shall be made in the boundaries of the district, and the board of directors shall make no order changing the boundaries of the district until the secretary of the interior or the director of ecology shall assent thereto in writing and such assent be filed with the board of directors. [1988 c 127 § 46; 1921 c 129 § 32; 1915 c 179 § 21; 1889-90 p 694 § 47; RRS § 7474. Formerly RCW 87.44.010.]

*Consolidation of irrigation districts: RCW 87.03.530 through 87.03.551.*

**87.03.560 Adding lands to district—Petition, contents—Acknowledgment.** The holder or holders of title, or evidence of title, representing one-half or more of any body of lands may file with the board of directors of an irrigation district a petition in writing, praying that the boundaries of the district may be so changed as to include such lands. The petition shall describe the boundaries of the parcel or tract of land, and shall also describe the boundaries of the several parcels owned by the petitioners, if the petitioners be the owners respectively of distinct parcels, but such descriptions need not be more particular than they are required to be when such lands are entered by the county assessor in the assessment book. Such petition must contain the assent of the petitioners to the inclusion within the district of the parcels or tracts of land described in the petition, and of which the petition alleges they are respectively the owners; and it must be acknowledged in the same manner that conveyances of land are required to be acknowledged. [2001 c 149 § 3; 1889-90 p 694 § 48; RRS § 7475. Formerly RCW 87.44.020, part.]

*Acknowledgments: Chapter 64.08 RCW.*

**87.03.565 Adding lands to district—Notice—Contents—Service.** The secretary of the board of directors shall cause a notice of the filing of such petition to be published in the same manner and for the same time that notice of special elections for the issue of bonds are required by this chapter to be given. The notice shall state the filing of such petition and the names of the petitioners, a description of the lands mentioned in said petition, and the prayer of said petition, and it shall notify all persons interested in or that may be affected by such change of the boundaries of the district to appear at the office of said board at a time named in said notice, and show cause in writing, if any they have, why the change in the

boundaries of said district, as proposed in said petition, should not be made. The time to be specified in the notice at which they shall be required to show cause shall be the regular meeting of the board next after the expiration of the time for the publication of the notice. The petitioners shall advance to the secretary sufficient money to pay the estimated costs of all proceedings under this chapter, however should the board of directors determine that the annexation would be of benefit to the irrigation district as a whole, the board of directors may waive payment and deposits in whole or in part for the cost of the annexation proceedings. [2017 c 321 § 3; 1963 c 68 § 3; 1921 c 129 § 33; 1889-90 p 695 § 49; RRS § 7476. Formerly RCW 87.44.030.]

*Notice of special elections for the issue of bonds: RCW 87.03.200.*

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

**87.03.570 Adding lands to district—Hearing—Assent.** The board of directors, at the time and place mentioned in said notice, or at such other time or times to which the hearing of said petition may be adjourned, shall proceed to hear the petition and all the objections thereto presented in writing by any person showing cause, as aforesaid, why said proposed change of the boundaries of the district should not be made. The failure by any person interested in said district, or in the matter of the proposed change of its boundaries, to show cause in writing, as aforesaid, shall be deemed and taken as an assent on his or her part to a change of the boundaries of the district as prayed for in said petition, or to such a change thereof as will include a part of said lands. And the filing of such petition with said board, as aforesaid, shall be deemed and taken as an assent on the part of each and all of such petitioners to such a change of said boundaries that they may include the whole or any portion of the lands described in said petition. [2013 c 23 § 504; 1889-90 p 695 § 50; RRS § 7477. Formerly RCW 87.44.040.]

**87.03.575 Adding lands to district—Payment for benefits received required.** The board of directors to whom such petition to include other lands in the district is presented, shall require, as a condition precedent to the granting of the petition, that the petitioners shall severally pay, or give approved security upon such terms as may be prescribed by the board to pay, to such district such respective sums as shall be determined by the board at the hearing above provided for, which sums shall be such equitable amount as such land shall pay having regard to placing said lands on the basis of equality with other lands in the district as to benefits received, and such lands shall also become subject to all taxes and assessments of the district thereafter imposed. [1915 c 179 § 22; 1913 c 165 § 21; 1889-90 p 696 § 51; RRS § 7478. Formerly RCW 87.44.050.]

**87.03.580 Adding lands to district—Order.** The board of directors, if they deem it not for the best interests of the district that a change of its boundaries be so made as to include therein the lands mentioned in the petition, shall order that the petition be rejected. But if they deem it for the best interests of the district that the boundaries of said district be changed, and if no person interested in said district, or the proposed change of its boundaries, shows cause in writing why the proposed change should not be made, or if, having

shown cause, withdraws the same, the board may order that the boundaries of the district be so changed as to include therein the lands mentioned in said petition, or some part thereof. The order shall describe the boundaries of lands included, as aforesaid; and for that purpose the board may cause a survey to be made of such portions of such boundary as is deemed necessary and may at its option redefine the boundaries of the district, or so much of the same as it deems advisable. [1947 c 241 § 1; 1889-90 p 696 § 52; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7479. Formerly RCW 87.44.060, part.]

**87.03.585 Adding lands to district—Resolution.** If any person interested in said district, or the proposed change of its boundaries, shall show cause, as aforesaid, why such boundaries should not be changed and shall not withdraw the same, and if the board of directors deem it for the best interests of the district that the boundaries thereof be so changed as to include therein the lands mentioned in the petition, or some part thereof, the board shall adopt a resolution to that effect. The resolution shall describe the exterior boundaries of the lands which the board are of the opinion should be included within the boundaries of the district when changed. [1889-90 p 696 § 53; RRS § 7480. Formerly RCW 87.44.060, part.]

**87.03.590 Adding lands to district—Election—Notice—How conducted.** Upon the adoption of the resolution mentioned in RCW 87.03.585, the board shall order that an election be held within said district, to determine whether the boundaries of the district shall be changed as mentioned in said resolution; and shall fix the time at which such election shall be held, and shall cause notice thereof to be given and published. Such notice shall be given and published, and such election shall be held and conducted, the returns thereof shall be made and canvassed, and the result of the election ascertained and declared, and all things pertaining thereto conducted, in the manner prescribed by \*this act in case of a special election to determine whether bonds of an irrigation district shall be issued. The ballots cast at said election shall contain the words "For change of boundary," or "Against change of boundary," or words equivalent thereto. The notice of election shall describe the proposed change of the boundaries in such manner and terms that it can readily be traced. [1889-90 p 697 § 54; RRS § 7481. Formerly RCW 87.44.070.]

\*Reviser's note: "This act" appears to refer to 1889-90 p. 697.

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

*Special election for the issue of bonds: RCW 87.03.200.*

**87.03.595 Adding lands to district—Order changing boundaries—Record.** If at such election a majority of all the votes cast at said election shall be against such change of the boundaries of the district, the board shall order that said petition be denied, and shall proceed no further in the matter. But if a majority of the votes be in favor of such change of the boundaries of the district, the board shall thereupon order that the boundaries of the district be changed in accordance with said resolution adopted by the board. The said order shall describe the entire boundaries of said district, and for that purpose the board may cause a survey of such portions thereof to be made as the board may deem necessary. [1961

c 18 § 2. Prior: 1889-90 p 697 § 55; RRS § 7482. Formerly RCW 87.44.080, part.]

**87.03.600 Adding lands to district—Change of boundaries recorded—Effect.** Upon a change of the boundaries of a district being made, a copy of the order of the board of directors ordering such change, certified by the president and secretary of the board, shall be filed for record in the offices of county auditor and county assessor of each county within which are situated any of the lands of the district, and thereupon the district shall be and remain an irrigation district, as fully and to every intent and purpose as if the lands which are included in the district by the change of the boundaries as aforesaid had been included therein at the original organization of the district. [1961 c 18 § 3. Prior: 1921 c 129 § 34; 1889-90 p 697 § 56; RRS § 7483. Formerly RCW 87.44.080, part.]

**87.03.605 Adding lands to district—Petition to be recorded—Admissible as evidence.** Upon the filing of the copies of the order, as in RCW 87.03.600 mentioned, the secretary shall record in the minutes of the board the petition aforesaid; and the said minutes, or a certified copy thereof, shall be admissible in evidence with the same effect as the petition. [1889-90 p 698 § 57; RRS § 7484. Formerly RCW 87.44.090.]

**87.03.610 Adding lands to district—Guardian, administrator or executor may act.** A guardian, an executor or administrator of an estate, who is appointed as such under the laws of this state, and who, as such guardian, executor or administrator, is entitled to the possession of the lands belonging to the estate which he or she represents, may, on behalf of his or her ward or the estate which he or she represents, upon being thereunto authorized by the proper court, sign and acknowledge the petition in this act mentioned, and may show cause, as in this act mentioned, why the boundaries of the district should not be changed. [2013 c 23 § 505; 1889-90 p 698 § 58; RRS § 7485. Formerly RCW 87.44.020, part.]

Reviser's note: (1) "Petition in this act mentioned" apparently refers to the petition provided for in RCW 87.03.560.

(2) "Show cause, as in this act mentioned" apparently refers to the show cause provided for in RCW 87.03.565.

*Guardians, etc., when land excluded from district: RCW 87.03.690.*

**87.03.615 Adding lands to districts of two hundred thousand acres—Petition.** Whenever five or a majority of the holders of title to or evidence of title to any land susceptible of irrigation from the water supply and system of works of any irrigation district in this state, comprising within its boundaries two hundred thousand or more acres of land now existing or hereafter organized, desire to have such land included in said irrigation district, they may file a petition, in writing, with the board of directors thereof praying that such land be included in such district. [1939 c 150 § 1; RRS § 7485-1. Formerly RCW 87.44.100.]

**87.03.620 Adding lands to districts of two hundred thousand acres—Time and place of hearing—Notice.** Upon the filing of the petition, the board shall fix a time and place for the hearing of the same which shall not be less than

thirty days and not more than one hundred eighty days from the date of said filing; and the board shall cause a notice of such hearing to be published prior to said hearing in three consecutive weekly issues of the official newspaper of each county in which any of said land prayed to be included is situated. [2014 c 2 § 2; 1939 c 150 § 2; RRS § 7485-2. Formerly RCW 87.44.110.]

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

**87.03.625 Adding lands to districts of two hundred thousand acres—Contents of notice.** Said notice shall state the filing of the petition, describe generally the lands petitioned to be included within the operation of the district and the prayer of the petition and shall notify all persons interested in or that may be affected by such inclusion to appear at the time and place named in the notice, and show cause in writing, if any they have, why such lands or any part of the same should not be included within operation of the district. Such notice shall have the name of the secretary and of the district either subscribed or subprinted thereto. [1939 c 150 § 3; RRS § 7485-3. Formerly RCW 87.44.120.]

**87.03.630 Adding lands to districts of two hundred thousand acres—Hearing—Order including lands.** The board of directors of the district shall meet at the time and place specified in the notice and shall have full authority to determine all matters pertaining to the petition, including the denial as well as the granting of said petition or any part thereof; and if it appears at said hearing, or at any adjournment thereof which may be had not to exceed in all one hundred eighty days, that the land or any portion thereof petitioned to be included within the district, is susceptible of irrigation from the water supply and system of works of the said district and will be benefited by such irrigation; and if at said hearing or at any adjournment thereof as aforesaid, not more than fifty percent of the holders of title or evidence of title to the lands described in the petition and proposed to be included file their objections in writing to the inclusion of such land within the time and as provided in RCW 87.03.615 through 87.03.640, the said board shall make and enter in the records of their proceedings an order including said land, or such portion thereof as in their judgment is susceptible of irrigation and will be benefited as aforesaid, within the operation of said district. [2014 c 2 § 3; 1939 c 150 § 4; RRS § 7485-4. Formerly RCW 87.44.130, part and 87.44.140, part.]

**87.03.635 Adding lands to districts of two hundred thousand acres—Denial of petition.** If at said hearing or at any adjournment thereof, the board of directors shall determine that said land is not susceptible of irrigation and will not be benefited as aforesaid by inclusion in the district, or if more than fifty percent of the holders of title to or evidence of title to the land described in the petition file their objections in writing within the time and as aforesaid, then the board of directors shall deny said petition and shall make and enter in the records of their proceedings an order to that effect. [1939 c 150 § 5; RRS § 7485-5. Formerly RCW 87.44.130, part.]

**87.03.640 Adding lands to districts of two hundred thousand acres—Order filed—Effect.** A certified copy of the order of the board of directors including any lands within

the operation of the district under the provisions of \*this act shall be filed with the county assessor and with the county auditor of each county in which any part of such included lands is situated, and from and after the date of such filing such land shall be subject to all the obligations and entitled to all the privileges of lands within the operation of the district. [1939 c 150 § 6; RRS § 7485-6. Formerly RCW 87.44.140, part.]

\*Reviser's note: "This act" is codified as RCW 87.03.615 through 87.03.640.

**87.03.645 Exclusion of lands from district—Effect.** The boundaries of any irrigation district or consolidated irrigation district, now or hereafter organized under the provisions of this chapter, may be changed, and tracts of land which were included within the boundaries of such district, or former irrigation districts which were included within the boundaries of such consolidated district, at or after its organization under the provisions of this chapter, may be excluded therefrom in the manner herein prescribed; but neither such change of the boundaries of the district or consolidated district, nor such exclusion of lands from the district, nor such exclusion of a former district from a consolidated district, shall impair or affect its organization or the rights of the district in or to property, except that all property of a consolidated district, the title to which was derived from a former district by, and at the time of, the consolidation shall revert to and become the property of such former district when reestablished as herein provided; nor shall it affect, impair or discharge any contract, obligation, lien, or charge for or upon which such district or such consolidated district was or might become liable or chargeable had such change of its boundaries not been made, or had not any such land been excluded from such district, or any such former district been excluded from such consolidated district, unless the holders of such lien, obligation, charge or contract right chargeable against the district, or consolidated district consent to such exclusion in the manner hereinafter provided in RCW 87.03.670 for the consent of the bondholders. [1921 c 129 § 35; 1915 c 179 § 23; 1889-90 p 698 § 60; RRS § 7486. Formerly RCW 87.44.150.]

**87.03.650 Exclusion of lands from district—Petition to exclude lands—Contents.** The owner or owners in fee of one or more tracts of land which constitute a portion of an irrigation district, or fifty or a majority of the holders of title to lands constituting any portion of an irrigation district, or consolidated district as the case may be, for which lands similar grounds for exclusion may exist, or fifty or a majority of the holders of title to lands which constituted a former irrigation district included with a consolidated district, may file with the board of directors of such district, or of such consolidated district, as the case may be, a petition praying that such tracts, and any other tracts contiguous thereto, or such land which constituted such former district, may be excluded and taken from said district, or consolidated district, as the case may be, and in the latter case that such former district may be reestablished. The petition for the exclusion of tracts of land from a district shall describe the boundaries of the land which the petitioners desire to have excluded from the district, and also describe the land of such of said petitioners which are

included within such boundaries; but the description of such lands need not be more particular or certain than is required when the lands are entered in the assessment book by the county assessor. The petition for the exclusion of a former district from a consolidated district shall give the corporate name and number of such former district and shall describe the lands of each of said petitioners by legal subdivision or lot and block numbers and name of city, town or addition of platted lands. Every such petition must be acknowledged in the same manner and form as is required in case of a conveyance of land, and the acknowledgment shall have the same force and effect as evidence as the acknowledgment of such conveyance. [1921 c 129 § 36; 1889-90 p 699 § 61; RRS § 7487. Formerly RCW 87.44.160, part.]

*Acknowledgments: Chapter 64.08 RCW.*

*Property taxes—Listing of property: Chapter 84.40 RCW.*

**87.03.655 Exclusion of lands from district—Notice—Contents—Service.** The secretary of the board of directors shall cause a notice of the filing of the petition to be published for at least two weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the office of the board of directors is situated, and if any portion of the territory to be excluded lies within another county or counties, then the notice shall be so published in a newspaper of general circulation within each of the counties. The notice shall state the filing of the petition, the names of the petitioners, a description of the lands, or the name and number of the former district, mentioned in the petition, and the prayer of the petition; and it shall notify all persons interested in or that may be affected by the change of the boundaries of the district to appear at the office of the board at a time named in the notice, and show cause in writing, if any they have, why the change of the boundaries of the district, as proposed in the petition, should not be made. The time to be specified in the notice at which they shall be required to show cause shall be the regular meeting of the board next after the expiration of the time for the publication of the notice. [1985 c 469 § 89; 1921 c 129 § 37; 1889-90 p 699 § 62; RRS § 7488. Formerly RCW 87.44.170.]

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

**87.03.660 Exclusion of lands from district—Hearing—Assent.** The board of directors, at the time and place mentioned in the notice, or at the time or times to which the hearing of said petition may be adjourned, shall proceed to hear the petition, and all objections thereto presented in writing, by any person showing cause, as aforesaid, why the prayer of said petition should not be granted. The failure of any person interested in said district or consolidated district to show cause, in writing, why the tract or tracts of land mentioned in said petition should not be excluded from said district, or the former district mentioned should not be excluded from the consolidated district, as the case may be, shall be deemed and taken as an assent by him or her to such exclusion, and the filing of such petition with such board, as aforesaid, shall be deemed and taken as an assent by each and all of such petitioners to such exclusion. [2013 c 23 § 506; 1921 c 129 § 38; 1889-90 p 700 § 63; RRS § 7489. Formerly RCW 87.44.180.]

**87.03.665 Exclusion of lands from district—Order denying or granting petition.** The board of directors, if they deem it not for the best interest of the district, or consolidated district, as the case may be, that the lands, or the former district, mentioned in the petition, or some portion thereof, should be excluded from said district, or consolidated district, shall order that said petition be denied; but if they deem it for the best interests of the district, or consolidated district, as the case may be, that the lands, or the former district, as the case may be, be excluded from the district, or consolidated district, and if no person interested in the district shows cause, in writing, why the prayer of the petition should not be granted, or if having shown cause withdraws the same, and also, if there be no outstanding bonds of the district, and no contract between the district and the United States, or the state of Washington, then the board may order that the lands mentioned in the petition, or some defined portion thereof, or the former district mentioned in the petition, be excluded from the district, or consolidated district, as the case may be, and the former district be reestablished. [1921 c 129 § 39; 1915 c 179 § 24; 1889-90 p 700 § 64; RRS § 7490. Formerly RCW 87.44.190.]

*Board's powers and duties generally (contracts with state and United States): RCW 87.03.140.*

**87.03.670 Exclusion of lands from district—Assent of bondholders.** If there be outstanding bonds of the district, or consolidated district, as the case may be, or if such district shall have entered into a contract with the United States, or the state of Washington, then the board may adopt a resolution to the effect that the board deems it to the best interest of the district that the lands mentioned in the petition, or some portion thereof, or the former district mentioned in the petition, as the case may be, should be excluded from the district, or consolidated district, and the former district reestablished. The resolution shall describe such lands so that the boundaries can readily be traced, or shall give the corporate name and number of the former district. The holders of such outstanding bonds may give their assent, in writing, to the effect that they severally consent that the board may make an order by which the lands, or the former district, mentioned in the resolution may be excluded from the district, and in case contract has been made with the United States, or the state of Washington, the secretary of the interior or the director of ecology may assent to such change. The assent must be acknowledged by the several holders of such bonds in the same manner and form as is required in case of a conveyance of land, and the acknowledgment shall have the same force and effect, as evidence, as the acknowledgment of such conveyance. The assent of the secretary of the interior need not be acknowledged. The assent shall be filed with the board, and in the office of the county clerk in each county comprised within the district and must be recorded in the minutes of the board; and said minutes, or certified copy thereof, shall be admissible in evidence with the same effect as the said assent; but if such assent of the bondholders, and in case of contract with the United States, or the state of Washington, such assent of the secretary of the interior or the director of ecology, be not filed, the board shall deny and dismiss said petition. [1988 c 127 § 47; 1921 c 129 § 40; 1915 c 179 § 25; 1889-90 p 701 § 65; RRS § 7491. Formerly RCW 87.44.200.]



*Acknowledgments: Chapter 64.08 RCW.*

*Board's powers and duties generally (contracts with state and United States): RCW 87.03.140.*

*Certificate of acknowledgment—Evidence: RCW 64.08.050.*

**87.03.675 Exclusion of lands from district—Order for election—Notice—Conduct of election.** If the assent aforesaid of the holders of said bonds be filed and entered of record as aforesaid, and if there be objections presented by any person showing cause as aforesaid, which have not been withdrawn, then the board may order an election to be held in each district to determine whether an order shall be made excluding said land from said district, or excluding said former district from said consolidated district, as the case may be, and such former district be reestablished, as mentioned in said resolution. The notice of such election shall describe the boundary of all lands, or shall give the corporate name and number of the former district, which it is proposed to exclude, and such notice shall be published for at least two weeks prior to such election, in a newspaper published within the county where the office of the board of directors is situated; and if any portion of such territory to be excluded lie within another county or counties, then said notice shall be so published in a newspaper published within each of such counties. Such notice shall require the electors to cast ballots, which shall contain the words "For exclusion" and "Against exclusion", or words equivalent thereto. Such election shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in this chapter for the holding of special elections on the issuance of bonds. In every case where the petition is for the exclusion of a former district from a consolidated district the resolution of the board ordering an election shall provide for the holding of such election separately in the territory comprising such former district and in the territory comprising that portion of the consolidated district not included in such former district, and for canvassing and counting of the votes cast at such election separately. [1921 c 129 § 41; 1915 c 179 § 26; 1889-90 p 701 § 66; RRS § 7492. Formerly RCW 87.44.210.]

*Special elections on the issuance of bonds: RCW 87.03.200.*

**87.03.680 Exclusion of lands from district—Procedure following election—Order of exclusion.** If at any such election a majority of all the votes cast shall be against exclusion the board shall deny and dismiss said petition and proceed no further in said matter; but if in the case of a petition for the exclusion of lands from a district a majority of such votes be in favor of the exclusion of said lands from the district, the board shall thereupon order that the said lands mentioned in said resolution be excluded from the district; if in the case of a petition for the exclusion of a former district from a consolidated district, a majority of the votes cast in such former district shall be against exclusion, or a majority of the votes cast in the remaining portion of the consolidated district shall be against exclusion, the board shall deny and dismiss the petition and proceed no further in the matter; but if in the case of a petition for such exclusion of a former district a majority of the votes cast in such former district and a majority of the votes cast in the remaining portion of the consolidated district shall be in favor of the exclusion of such former district, the board shall thereupon order that the lands comprising such former district be excluded from the consol-

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idated district and that such former district shall be and is reestablished as an irrigation district created and established under the provision of this chapter and that the title to all property formerly belonging to, and all property within the boundaries of said former district, shall be and is vested in such reestablished district, and shall call an election to be held in such reestablished district for the election of a board of directors thereof, and direct the publication of notices of such election in the manner provided in this chapter for the publication of notice of special elections. The board entering such order shall continue to administer the affairs of such reestablished district until the directors elected at such election shall have qualified.

The said order excluding land from a district shall describe the boundaries of the lands excluded, should the exclusion change the boundaries of the district, and in case of the exclusion of a former district from a consolidated district, shall describe the boundaries of the reestablished district and the boundaries of the district remaining; and for that purpose the board may cause a survey to be made of such portions of the boundaries as the board may deem necessary. [1961 c 18 § 4. Prior: 1947 c 241 § 2; 1921 c 129 § 42; 1889-90 p 702 § 67; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7482 (RRS § 7493). Formerly RCW 87.44.220.]

**87.03.685 Exclusion of lands from district—Orders to be recorded—Effect.** Upon the entry in the minutes of the board of any of the orders hereinbefore mentioned, a copy thereof, certified by the president and the secretary of the board, shall be filed for record in the offices of the county auditor and the county assessor of each county within which are situated any of the lands of the district, and thereupon said district, and said consolidated district and said reestablished district, if any, shall each be and remain an irrigation district as fully, as to every intent and purpose, as it would be had no change been made in the boundaries thereof, or had the lands excluded therefrom never constituted a portion thereof. [1921 c 129 § 43; 1889-90 p 702 § 68; RRS § 7494. Formerly RCW 87.44.230.]

**87.03.690 Exclusion of lands from district—Guardian, executor or administrator may sign and acknowledge.** A guardian, and executor or an administrator of an estate who is appointed as such under the laws of this state, and who, as such guardian, executor or administrator, is entitled to the possession of the lands belonging to the estate which he or she represents, may, on behalf of his or her ward or the estate which he or she represents, upon being thereto properly authorized by the proper court, sign and acknowledge the petition in this act mentioned, and may show cause, as in this act provided, why the boundaries of the district should not be changed. [2013 c 23 § 507; 1889-90 p 703 § 71; RRS § 7496. Formerly RCW 87.44.160, part.]

**Reviser's note:** (1) "Petition in this act mentioned" apparently refers to the petition provided for in RCW 87.03.650.

(2) "Show cause, as in this act provided" apparently refers to the show cause provided for in RCW 87.03.655.

*Guardians, etc., when land added to district: RCW 87.03.610.*

**87.03.695 Exclusion of lands from district—Refunds—Cancellation of assessments.** In case of the

exclusion of any lands under the provisions of this act, the board of directors shall determine what refund, if any, shall be made to any person or persons who have paid any assessments to such district on any lands so excluded, but such refund, if any, shall be on a basis equitable alike to lands remaining in the district and lands excluded therefrom. Such payment shall be made in the manner as other claims against the district, and from such fund or funds as the board of directors may designate, and which may be legally applied to such payments. The board may, in its discretion, determine what portion, if any, of the assessments remaining unpaid shall be canceled. Said cancellation, if any, shall be accomplished by an order entered upon the minutes of the board and certified to the office of the county treasurer. Upon the filing of such certified order, said assessments, or any portion thereof, canceled by said order shall be marked "Canceled" upon the treasurer's records. The lien of such portion of said assessments, if any, as the board shall refuse to cancel, shall continue against the lands excluded, and the district shall retain all of its rights to such assessments or portions thereof as if said lands had not been excluded. [1921 c 129 § 44; 1913 c 165 § 22; 1889-90 p 703 § 72; RRS § 7497. Formerly RCW 87.44.240.]

**87.03.700 Connecting system to lower drainage district—Procedure.** When an irrigation district desires to connect its system of drainage with that of a lower drainage district or districts, it shall make the lower district or districts a party to the proceedings to construct its system, and allege in its petition that the connection is needed to afford a proper outlet and that the outlet is sufficient for both districts. If the lower system or systems must be improved to support the additional burden, the petition shall be accompanied by plans and specifications therefor. The owners of all lands in the lower district or districts affected thereby and also persons having an interest therein shall be made parties to the action and assessment for damages shall be the same as is provided by law for the establishment of the drainage system in the irrigation district. [1955 c 367 § 2. Formerly RCW 87.08.250.]

**87.03.705 Connecting system to lower drainage district—Negative finding by jury or court.** The jury, or the court if jury be waived, shall first determine whether the lower drainage system or systems when so improved will afford a sufficient drainage and outlet for both the drainage district and irrigation district, and if it finds that it will not, the finding shall terminate the proceedings so far as the connecting with the lower drainage district or districts is concerned and the costs shall be paid as in other suits: PROVIDED, That the irrigation district may maintain said suit for the purpose of acquiring the necessary rights-of-way from the lower drainage district or districts and the landowners in said lower district or districts that will not interfere with the operation and maintenance of the drainage system in the lower district or districts. [1955 c 367 § 3. Formerly RCW 87.08.260.]

**87.03.710 Connecting system to lower drainage district—Affirmative finding by jury or court—Assessments.** If the jury, or the court if jury be waived, finds the outlet and drainage sufficient it shall assess the damages sus-

tained by the lands in the lower drainage district or districts by reason of the improvement, together with awards for damaging and taking lands for rights-of-way required, which shall be paid by the irrigation district in the same manner as such payments are made in establishing the system in the irrigation district, and the cost of improving the lower system or systems to the extent the improvement benefits lands in the irrigation district shall be assessed to the lands in the irrigation district as other costs of drainage improvement are assessed. [1955 c 367 § 4. Formerly RCW 87.08.270.]

**87.03.715 Connecting system to lower drainage district—Increased maintenance costs.** The lower district or districts may require the jury or court to determine any increased cost to it in annual maintenance of its system as improved, and judgment shall be rendered against the irrigation district in favor of the lower drainage district or districts for any amount so found, and it shall be paid annually as the cost of construction is paid, and the amount so paid shall be used by the lower drainage district or districts for maintenance. [1955 c 367 § 5. Formerly RCW 87.08.280.]

**87.03.720 Merger of district with drainage, joint drainage, consolidated drainage improvement, or water-sewer district—Power to assent.** The board of directors of an irrigation district shall, after being notified by the legislative authority of the county or counties within which the irrigation district lies of the filing of the petition therefor, have the power to assent to the proposed merger with the irrigation district of that portion of a drainage improvement district, joint drainage improvement district, consolidated drainage improvement district, or water-sewer district within its boundaries at a hearing duly called by the board to consider the proposed merger if sufficient objections thereto have not been presented, as hereinafter provided. [1999 c 153 § 75; 1977 ex.s. c 208 § 1; 1957 c 94 § 10. Formerly RCW 87.01.240.]

*Merger of drainage improvement district with irrigation district: RCW 85.08.830 through 85.08.890.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.725 Merger of district with drainage, joint drainage, consolidated drainage improvement, or water-sewer district—Notice—Contents—Publication—Show cause against merger.** The secretary of the board of directors shall cause a notice of the proposed merger to be posted and published in the same manner and for the same time as notice of a special election for the issue of bonds. The notice shall state that a petition has been filed with the legislative authority of the county or counties within which the irrigation districts lies by the board of supervisors of the drainage improvement district, joint drainage improvement district, or consolidated drainage improvement district or by the board of commissioners of a water-sewer district requesting that the drainage improvement district, joint drainage improvement district, consolidated drainage improvement district, or water-sewer district be merged with the irrigation district or irrigation districts, the names of the petitioners and the prayer thereof, and it shall notify all persons interested in the irrigation district to appear at the office of the board at the time named in the notice, and show cause in writing why the pro-

posed merger should not take place. The time to show cause shall be the regular meeting of the board of directors of the irrigation district next after the expiration of the time for the publication of the notice. [1999 c 153 § 76; 1977 ex.s. c 208 § 2; 1957 c 94 § 11. Formerly RCW 87.01.250.]

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.730 Merger of district with drainage, joint drainage, or consolidated drainage improvement district—Hearing—Failure to show cause deemed assent.** At the time of hearing, or at such other time to which the hearing may be adjourned, the board of directors of the irrigation district shall hear the proposal of merger and any objections thereto. Failure to show cause shall be deemed as assent to the proposed merger. [1957 c 94 § 12. Formerly RCW 87.01.260.]

**87.03.735 Merger of district with drainage, joint drainage, or consolidated drainage improvement district—Assent, refusal to assent—Effect of show cause against merger.** The board of directors of the irrigation district, if it deems it not for the best interest of the irrigation district that the proposed merger take place, shall enter an order refusing to assent to the merger. But, if it deems it to be to the best interest of the irrigation district that the merger take place and, if twenty-five or more persons interested in the irrigation district have not shown cause in writing why the proposed merger should not take place, or, if having shown cause, withdraw the same, the board of directors of the irrigation district may enter an order assenting to the proposed merger.

If twenty-five or more persons interested in the irrigation district shall show cause, as aforesaid, why the proposed merger should not take place and shall not withdraw the same, and if the irrigation district board nevertheless deems it for the best interest of the irrigation district that the proposed merger take place, the board shall adopt a resolution to that effect. [1957 c 94 § 13. Formerly RCW 87.01.270.]

**87.03.740 Merger of district with drainage, joint drainage, or consolidated drainage improvement district—Election.** Upon the adoption of the resolution, the board shall order an election held within the irrigation district on the question of the proposed merger and shall fix the time thereof and cause notice to be published. The notice shall be given and the election conducted in the manner as for special elections on a bond issue of the district. The ballots shall contain the words "Merger, Yes" and "Merger, No" or words equivalent thereto. [1957 c 94 § 14. Formerly RCW 87.01.280.]

*Bonds—Election: RCW 87.03.200.*

**87.03.745 Merger of district with drainage, joint drainage, or consolidated drainage improvement district—Order of assent or refusal—Filing.** If a majority of the votes cast at the election are against the merger, the irrigation district board shall enter an order refusing to assent to the merger. If a majority of the votes cast favor the merger, the board shall enter an order assenting to the proposed merger. A copy of the order certified by the president and

secretary of the board shall be filed with the board of county commissioners or, in case the merger involves a joint drainage improvement district, with the boards of county commissioners of the counties in which the joint drainage improvement district is situated. [1957 c 94 § 15. Formerly RCW 87.01.290.]

**87.03.750 Exclusion of nonirrigable land when state holds all outstanding bonds—Resolution.** Whenever any irrigation district organized and existing under the laws of this state, shall have entered into a contract, or contracts, with the department of ecology, for the sale to and purchase by the department of an entire authorized issue of the bonds of the district, for the purpose of procuring funds for district purposes, including the construction of an irrigation system for the district, and the department of ecology has advanced, under such contract, or contracts, funds for such purposes, and such funds have been expended for the purposes advanced, and there are no outstanding bonds of the district other than those which the district has contracted to sell the department of ecology, and it shall appear to the satisfaction of the board of directors of the district that the irrigation system, for the construction of which such funds were advanced and expended, will not furnish sufficient water for the successful irrigation of all of the lands within the district and that the district as constituted will be unable by assessments upon the lands of the district, as provided by law, to collect sufficient funds to meet the interest payments upon and pay the bonds at maturity, the board of directors of the district shall have the power by unanimous resolution to adopt a comprehensive proposed plan for reducing the boundaries of the district, excluding therefrom such portions of the lands of the district as in the judgment of the board cannot be furnished with sufficient water for successful irrigation, and refunding to the owners of such excluded lands, respectively, any moneys paid for assessments levied by the district upon the lands excluded, and to release any such excluded lands from all unpaid assessments levied by the district, which resolution shall give the boundaries to which it is proposed to reduce the district and the description of the lands it is proposed to exclude from the district by government subdivisions, or metes and bounds. [1988 c 127 § 48; 1925 ex.s. c 138 § 1; RRS § 7505-1. Formerly RCW 87.44.250.]

**87.03.755 Exclusion of nonirrigable land when state holds all outstanding bonds—Notice of hearing—Contents.** Upon the adoption of the resolution as provided in RCW 87.03.750, the board of directors of the district shall cause to be served upon the director of the department of ecology, and to be published once a week for four successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the district is situated a notice that at the time and place fixed in the notice, the board will hold a public hearing for the further consideration of the plan proposed, which notice shall set forth a copy of the resolution adopted by the board, and state that at the hearing the board will receive and consider any objections to the proposed plan and/or suggestions for modification thereof, of any person interested, and at the conclusion of the hearing, or the final adjournment thereof, the board will proceed by resolution to adopt the plan proposed, or the modification of the plan as may be determined by the

board, and reduce the boundaries of the district and exclude therefrom such lands as cannot be furnished with sufficient water for successful irrigation, and provide for the repayment to the owners of the excluded lands of any assessments paid thereon, and the cancellation of all unpaid assessments against excluded lands. [1985 c 469 § 90; 1925 ex.s. c 138 § 2; RRS § 7505-2. Formerly RCW 87.44.260.]

**87.03.760 Exclusion of nonirrigable land when state holds all outstanding bonds—Adoption of resolution—Appellate review.** At the conclusion, or final adjournment, of the hearing provided for in RCW 87.03.755, the board of directors of the district shall have the power, by unanimous resolution to adopt the proposed plan, or such modification thereof as may be determined by the board, and reduce the boundaries of the district to such area as, in the judgment of the board, can be furnished with sufficient water for successful irrigation by the irrigation system of the district, and to exclude from the district all lands lying outside of such reduced boundaries, and provide for the repayment to the owners of any such excluded lands, respectively, of any sums paid for assessments levied by the district, and to cancel all unpaid assessments levied by the district against the lands excluded and release such lands from further liability therefor. Any person interested and feeling himself or herself aggrieved by the adoption of such final resolution reducing the boundaries of the district and excluding lands therefrom, shall have a right of appeal from the action of the board to the superior court of the county in which the district is situated, which appeal may be taken in the manner provided by law for appeals from justices' courts, and if upon the hearing of such appeal it shall be determined by the court that the irrigation system of the district will not furnish sufficient water for the successful irrigation of the lands included within the reduced boundaries of the district, or that any lands have been excluded from the district unnecessarily, arbitrarily, capriciously, or fraudulently or without substantial reason for such exclusion, the court shall enter a decree canceling and setting aside the proceedings of the board of directors, otherwise the court shall enter a decree confirming the action of the board. Any party to the proceedings on appeal in the superior court, feeling himself or herself aggrieved by the decree of the superior court confirming the action of the board of directors of the district reducing the boundaries of the district and excluding lands therefrom, may seek appellate review within thirty days after the entry of the decree of the superior court in the manner provided by law. If, at the expiration of thirty days from the entry of the final resolution of the board of directors of the district reducing the boundaries of the district and excluding lands therefrom, no appeal has been taken to the superior court of the county in which the district is situated, or if, after hearing upon appeal the superior court shall confirm the action of the district, and at the expiration of thirty days from the entry of such decree, no appellate review is sought, the boundaries of the district shall thereafter be in accordance with the resolution of the board reducing the boundaries, and all lands excluded from the district by such resolution shall be relieved from all further liability for any indebtedness of the district or any unpaid assessments theretofore levied against such lands, and the owners of excluded lands, upon which assessments have been paid, shall be enti-

led to warrants of the district for all sums paid by reason of such assessments, payable from a special fund created for that purpose, for which levies shall be made upon the lands remaining in the district, as the board of directors may provide. [2013 c 23 § 508; 1988 c 202 § 86; 1971 c 81 § 171; 1925 ex.s. c 138 § 3; RRS § 7505-3. Formerly RCW 87.44.270.]

*District courts—Civil procedure—Appeals: Chapter 12.36 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.765 Exclusion of nonirrigable land when state holds all outstanding bonds—Indebtedness may be reduced.** Whenever it shall appear, to the satisfaction of the director of ecology, that the irrigation system of any irrigation district, to which the department of ecology of the state of Washington under a contract with the district for the purchase of its bonds, has advanced funds for the purpose of constructing an irrigation system for the district, has been found incapable of furnishing sufficient water for the successful irrigation of all of the lands of such district, and that the board of directors of such district has reduced the boundaries thereof and excluded from the district, as provided in RCW 87.03.750 through 87.03.760, sufficient lands to render such irrigation system adequate for the successful irrigation of the lands of the district, and that more than thirty days have elapsed since the adoption of the resolution by the board of directors reducing the boundaries of the district and excluding lands therefrom, and no appeal has been taken from the action of the board, or that the action of the board has been confirmed by the superior court of the county in which the district is situated and no appeal has been taken to the supreme court or the court of appeals, or that upon review by the supreme court or the court of appeals the action of the board of directors of the district has been confirmed, the director of ecology shall be and he or she is hereby authorized to cancel and reduce the obligation of the district to the department of ecology, for the repayment of moneys advanced for the construction of an irrigation system for the district, to such amount as, in his or her judgment, the district will be able to pay from revenues derived from assessments upon the remaining lands of the district, and to accept, in payment of the balance of the obligation of the district, the authorized bonds of the district, in numerical order beginning with the lowest number, on the basis of the percentage of the face value thereof fixed in contracts between the district and the department of ecology, in an amount equal to said balance of the obligation of the district, in full and complete satisfaction of all claims of the department of ecology against the district. [2013 c 23 § 509; 1988 c 202 § 87; 1971 c 81 § 172; 1925 ex.s. c 138 § 4; RRS § 7505-4. Formerly RCW 87.44.280.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.770 Exclusion of nonirrigable land when state holds all outstanding bonds—Reconveyance of excluded land formerly foreclosed to district.** Whenever the boundaries of any irrigation district have been reduced and lands excluded from such district, as provided in \*this act, the directors of such district shall be authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the owners, respectively, of any lands excluded from the district, which have been deeded to the district for the nonpayment of assessments theretofore levied,

deeds of reconveyance and quit claim of all right, title and interest of the district in such lands, respectively. [1925 ex. s. c 138 § 5; RRS § 7505-5. Formerly RCW 87.44.290.]

\*Reviser's note: "This act" is codified as RCW 87.03.750 through 87.03.770.

**87.03.775 Map of district.** Said board of directors shall cause a map to be made of the irrigation districts showing each forty acres, subdivision or fraction thereof, and place the same on file in their office. [1895 c 165 § 28; RRS § 7495. Formerly RCW 87.08.120.]

*Surveys, maps and plans to be prepared: RCW 87.03.165 through 87.03.170.*

**87.03.780 Proceedings for judicial confirmation—Authorization.** The board of directors of an irrigation district, now or hereafter organized under the provisions of this chapter, may commence a special proceeding in and by which the proceedings for organizing such district or the proceedings of said board and of said district, providing for and authorizing the issue and sale of the bonds or refunding bonds of said district whether said bonds or refunding bonds or any of them have or have not then been sold or any contract entered or proposed to be entered into by the district, or any contract made or entered into, or to be made or entered into, for the payment of moneys to the United States or the state of Washington in connection with which bonds be not deposited with the United States or the state of Washington as provided in RCW 87.03.140, may be judicially examined, approved and confirmed.

There may be combined with the proceeding for the confirmation of the organization and formation of said district, either of the other confirmation proceedings above mentioned. [1931 c 60 § 6; 1921 c 129 § 45; 1917 c 162 § 17; 1915 c 179 § 27; 1889-90 p 703 § 73; RRS § 7499. Formerly RCW 87.08.190.]

*Refunding bonds, 1929 act—Judicial confirmation: RCW 87.22.280.*

**87.03.785 Proceedings for judicial confirmation—Petition—Contents.** The board of directors of the irrigation district shall file in the superior court of the county in which the lands of the district, or some portion thereof, are situated, a petition praying in effect, that the proceedings aforesaid may be examined, approved, and confirmed by the court. The petition shall state the facts, showing the proceedings had for the organization of said district or the proceedings had for the issue and sale of said bonds or for the issue and sale of said refunding bonds, or for the authorization of contract with the United States, or other contract described in said petition; and shall state generally that the irrigation district was duly organized, and that the first board of directors was duly elected; but the petition need not state the facts showing such organization of the district, or the election of said first board of directors. [1931 c 60 § 7; 1917 c 162 § 18; 1915 c 179 § 28; 1889-90 p 703 § 74; RRS § 7500. Formerly RCW 87.08.200.]

**87.03.790 Proceedings for judicial confirmation—Notice of hearing.** The court shall fix the time for the hearing of said petition, and shall order the clerk of the court to give and publish a notice of the filing of said petition. The notice shall be given and published in the same manner and for the same length of time that a notice of a special election

provided for by this chapter to determine whether the bonds of said district shall be issued is required to be given and published. The notice shall state the time and place fixed for the hearing of the petition, and the prayer of the petition, and that any person interested in the organization of said district or in the proceedings for the issue or sale of said bonds or refunding bonds or for the authorization of contract with the United States, or the state of Washington, or any other contract, may, on or before the day fixed for the hearing of said petition, demur to or answer said petition. The petition may be referred to and described in said notice as the petition of the board of directors of irrigation district (giving its name) praying that the proceedings for the organization of said district or the proceedings for the issue and sale of the bonds of said district or for the authorization of contract with the United States, or the state of Washington, or other contracts, may be examined, approved, and confirmed by said court. [1931 c 60 § 8; 1921 c 129 § 46; 1917 c 162 § 19; 1915 c 179 § 29; 1889-90 p 704 § 75; RRS § 7501. Formerly RCW 87.08.210.]

*Notice of a special election on bonds: RCW 87.03.200.*

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

**87.03.795 Proceedings for judicial confirmation—Demurrer or answer—Procedure.** Any person interested in said district or in the issue or sale of said bonds in the issue or sale of refunding bonds or in the making of a contract with the United States or any contract referred to in said petition may demur to or answer said petition. The statutes of this state respecting the demurrer, and the answer to a verified complaint, shall be applicable to a demurrer and answer to said petition. The person so demurring to or answering said petition shall be the defendant to said special proceeding, and the board of directors shall be the plaintiff. Every material statement of the petition not specifically controverted by the answer must, for the purposes of said special proceeding, be taken as true, and each person failing to answer the petition shall be deemed to admit as true all the material statements of the petition. The rules of pleading and practice provided by the statutes of this state, which are not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, are applicable to the special proceeding herein provided for. A motion for a new trial must be made upon the minutes of the court. The order granting a new trial must specify the issue to be reexamined on such new trial, and the findings of the court upon the other issues shall not be affected by such order granting a new trial. [1931 c 60 § 9; 1915 c 179 § 30; 1889-90 p 704 § 76; RRS § 7502. Formerly RCW 87.08.220.]

**Rules of court:** *Cf. Superior Court Civil Rules.*

*Civil procedure: Title 4 RCW.*

**87.03.800 Proceedings for judicial confirmation—Jurisdiction of court—Order—Costs.** Upon the hearing of such special proceedings, the court shall have full power and jurisdiction to examine and determine the legality and validity of and approve and confirm each and all of the proceedings for the organization of said district under the provisions of this chapter from and including the petition for the organization of the district, and all other proceedings which may affect the legality of the formation of said district or the legality or validity of said bonds, or refunding bonds, and the order for the sale, and the sale thereof, and all proceedings

which may affect the authorization or validity of the contract with the United States, or the state of Washington, or other contract. The court, in inquiring into the regularity, legality or correctness of said proceedings, must disregard any error, irregularity or omission which does not affect the substantial rights of the parties to said special proceedings, and it may approve and confirm such proceedings, in part, and disapprove and declare illegal or invalid other or subsequent parts of the proceedings. The court shall find and determine whether the notice of the filing of said petition has been duly given and published for the time and in the manner in this chapter prescribed. The costs of the special proceedings may be allowed and apportioned between all of the parties, in the discretion of the court. [1931 c 60 § 10; 1921 c 129 § 47; 1917 c 162 § 20; 1915 c 179 § 31; 1889-90 p 705 § 77; RRS § 7503. Formerly RCW 87.08.230.]

*Notice of special election on bonds: RCW 87.03.200.*

**87.03.805 Proceedings for judicial confirmation—Appeal.** An appeal from an order granting or refusing a new trial, or from the judgment, must be taken by the party aggrieved within thirty days after the entry of said order or said judgment. [1915 c 179 § 32; 1889-90 p 705 § 78; RRS § 7504. Formerly RCW 87.08.240.]

**87.03.810 Lump sum payment to district for irrigable lands acquired for highway purposes.** Whenever lands situated in an irrigation district are acquired by the department of transportation, and the lands, at the time of their acquisition by the department of transportation, were irrigable and were being served or were capable of being served by facilities of the district to the same extent and in the same manner as lands of like character held under private ownership were served, the department of transportation, as part of the cost and expense of the acquisition of rights-of-way and with funds available for the acquisition and at the time of the acquisition, shall make a lump sum payment to the irrigation district in an amount that is:

(1) Sufficient to pay the pro rata share of the district's bonded indebtedness, if any, and the pro rata share of the district's contract indebtedness to the United States or to the state of Washington, if any, allocable to the lands, plus interest on the pro rata share if the indebtedness is not callable in advance of maturity; and

(2) Further, sufficient to pay any deferred installments of local improvement district assessments against the lands, if any; and

(3) Further, sufficient to produce, if invested at an annual rate of interest equivalent to that set forth in current tables issued by the state insurance commissioner, a sum of money equal to the annual increase in operation and maintenance costs against remaining lands in the district resulting from the severance from the district of the lands thus acquired by the department of transportation. For the purposes of determining the amount of the lump sum payment, the annual maintenance and operation assessment of the district shall be considered to be the average for the ten years, or so many years as the district has assessment experience if less than ten years, preceding the date of acquisition. [1984 c 7 § 380; 1959 c 303 § 1. Formerly RCW 87.01.300.]

**87.03.815 Lump sum payment to district for irrigable lands acquired for highway purposes—Order relieving further district assessments.** Upon the department of transportation making the lump sum payment to the district under RCW 87.03.810, the district shall make and enter an order relieving the lands from further district assessments for the delivery of water to the lands. [1984 c 7 § 381; 1959 c 303 § 2. Formerly RCW 87.01.310.]

**87.03.820 Disposal of real property—Right of adjacent owners.** Whenever as the result of abandonment of an irrigation district right-of-way real property held by an irrigation district is to be sold or otherwise disposed of, notice shall be given to the owners of lands adjoining that real property and such owners shall have a right of first refusal to purchase at the appraised price all or any part of the real property to be sold or otherwise disposed of which adjoins or is adjacent to their land.

Real property to be sold or otherwise disposed of under this section shall have been first appraised by the county assessor or by a person designated by him or her.

Notice under this section shall be sufficient if sent by registered mail to the owner, and at the address, as shown in the tax records of the county in which the land is situated. Notice under this section shall be in addition to any other notice required by law.

After sixty days from the date of sending of notice, if no applications for purchase have been received by the irrigation district or other person or entity sending notice, the rights of first refusal of owners of adjoining lands shall be deemed to have been waived, and the real property may be sold or otherwise disposed of. When no applications for purchase have been received, if the irrigation district board of directors determines that due to the configuration of the abandoned right-of-way, or other facts, it appears unlikely that the property, or a portion of the property, can be sold for the appraised price, and the property is considered a burden to the irrigation district, the real property may be sold at a negotiated price, including a transfer for no payment, without further publication or notice to all adjoining owners.

If two or more owners of adjoining lands apply to purchase the same real property, or apply to purchase overlapping parts of the real property, the respective rights of the applicants may be determined in the superior court of the county in which the real property is situated; and the court may divide the real property in question between some or all of the applicants or award the whole to one applicant, as justice may require.

Any sale or other disposal of real property pursuant to chapters 87.52, 87.53, and 87.56 RCW shall be made in accordance with the requirements of this section. [2017 c 321 § 4; 2013 c 23 § 510; 1973 c 150 § 1; 1971 ex.s. c 125 § 2.]

**87.03.825 Hydroelectric resources—Development—Legislative findings.** The legislature finds that a significant potential exists for the development of cost-effective renewable hydroelectric resources by irrigation districts, cities, towns, and public utility districts and further finds that it is in the best interests of the state and its citizens for such entities to develop that hydroelectric generating resource coopera-

tively whenever possible through the use of separate legal authorities. The legislature also finds that the development of such hydroelectric resources will be beneficial in meeting the present and future energy needs of the citizens of the state, will further a state purpose and policy, and will be in the public interest. [1983 c 47 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.828 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Creation by irrigation districts and cities, towns, or public utility districts—Powers.** One or more irrigation districts and any combination of cities, towns, or public utility districts may create a separate legal authority to construct, finance, acquire, own, operate, and maintain hydroelectric facilities including, but not limited to, dams, canals, plants, transmission lines, other power equipment and the necessary property and property rights therefor, located within or outside the boundaries of the entities creating the authority, for the purpose of utilizing for the generation of electricity water power made available by and as a part of the irrigation water storage, conveyance, and distribution facilities, wasteways, and drainage water facilities which serve or may in the future serve irrigation districts, and to sell by contract on such terms and conditions as deemed appropriate by the legislative body of the authority the electric power and energy created by or generated at such hydroelectric facilities to municipal or quasi municipal corporations or cooperatives authorized to engage in the business of distributing electricity, electrical companies subject to the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission, or irrigation districts. Any authority so created shall have the same powers and only those powers granted to irrigation districts by chapter 185, Laws of 1979 ex. sess. and has such additional powers relating to its organization, right to contract in its own name, and general ability to exist and function as a separate legal authority as deemed appropriate by the entities creating it. The authority shall be created and organized by contract in the manner described in chapter 39.34 RCW and shall be a separate legal entity capable of exercising in its own name the powers granted it. No provision of chapter 39.34 RCW or any other provision of law may be interpreted to require the entities creating the authority to submit the contract creating the authority to any state, county, or municipal officer, entity, agency, or board for approval or disapproval. [1983 c 47 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.831 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Procedures for membership and for construction and acquisition of facilities.** Cities, towns, and public utility districts not engaged in the generation, transmission, or distribution of electricity on April 19, 1983, may be members of a separate legal authority created under the provisions of RCW 87.03.828 without the necessity of obtaining prior approval of their voters. However, no such city, town, or public utility district member of such a separate legal authority may construct or acquire facilities for the generation, transmission, or distribution of electricity independently of the separate legal authority without complying with the election requirements applicable to each individual entity. [1983 c 47 § 4.]

(2022 Ed.)

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.834 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Voter ratification of actions.** After demand made by a majority of the authority's members, the actions of an authority shall become subject to ratification and approval by the voters of its members in accordance with procedures agreed to by its members. Every contract establishing an authority shall provide appropriate procedures for ratification and approval of actions taken by the authority by the voters of its members. [1983 c 47 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.837 Hydroelectric resources—Separate legal authority—Repayment of indebtedness—Powers.** A separate legal authority shall only have power to incur indebtedness that is repayable from rates, tolls, charges, or contract payments for services or electricity provided by the authority and to pledge such revenues for the payment and retirement of indebtedness issued for the construction or acquisition of hydroelectric facilities. An authority shall not have power to levy taxes or to impose assessments for the payment of obligations of the authority. Every bond or other evidence of indebtedness issued by an authority shall provide (1) that repayment shall be limited solely to the revenues of the authority, and (2) that no member of the authority shall be obligated to repay directly or indirectly any obligation of the authority except to the extent of fair value for services actually received from the authority. No member may pledge its revenues to support the issuance of revenue bonds or other indebtedness of an authority. This section shall not be construed to prohibit members of an authority from paying the necessary expenses of organizing and administering the authority and of studies performed, applications prepared, and consultants retained with regard to projects the authority is studying, developing, constructing, or operating. [1983 c 47 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.840 Chapter supplementary—When.** This chapter supplements and neither restricts nor limits any powers which a city, town, public utility district, or irrigation district might otherwise have under any laws of this state, except that no such authority created by RCW 87.03.828 and no city, town, or public utility district member of an authority may condemn for the benefit of the authority any plant, works, dam, facility, right, or property owned by any city, town, irrigation district, public utility district, or electrical company subject to the jurisdiction of the utilities and transportation commission. [1983 c 47 § 3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.845 Merger of minor irrigation district into major irrigation district—Proceedings to initiate—Notice—Hearing.** This section and RCW 87.03.847 through 87.03.855 provide the procedures by which a minor irrigation district may be merged into a major irrigation district as authorized by RCW 87.03.530(2).

To institute proceedings for such a merger, the board of directors of the minor district shall adopt a resolution requesting the board of directors of the major district to consider the

merger, or proceedings for such a merger may be instituted by a petition requesting the board of directors of the major district to consider the merger, signed by ten owners of land within the minor district or five percent of the total number of landowners within the minor district, whichever is greater. However, if there are fewer than twenty owners of land within the minor irrigation district, the petition shall be signed by a majority of the landowners and filed with the board of directors of the major irrigation district.

For the purpose of determining the number of landowners required to initiate merger proceedings under this section, a husband and wife owning property as community property shall be considered a single landowner; two or more persons or entities holding title to property as tenants in common, joint tenants, tenants in partnership, or other form of joint ownership shall be considered a single landowner; and the petition requesting the merger shall be considered by the board of directors of the major irrigation district may be [if the petition is] signed by either the husband or wife and by any one of the co-owners of jointly owned property.

The board of directors of the major irrigation district shall consider the request at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board of directors of the major district following its receipt of the minor district's request or at a special meeting called for the purpose of considering the request. If the board of the major district denies the request of the minor district, no further action on the request shall be taken.

If the board of the major district does not deny the request, it shall conduct a public hearing on the request and shall give notice regarding the hearing. The notice shall describe the proposed merger and shall be published once a week for two consecutive weeks preceding the date of the hearing and the last publication shall be not more than seven days before the date of the hearing. The notice shall contain a statement that unless the holders of title or evidence of title to at least twenty percent of the assessed lands within the major district file a protest opposing the merger with the board of the major district at or before the hearing, the board is free to approve the request for the merger without an election being conducted in the major district on the request. If the board of the major district is considering requests from more than one minor district, the hearing shall be conducted on all such requests. [2001 c 149 § 1; 1998 c 84 § 1; 1993 c 235 § 2.]

**87.03.847 Merger of minor irrigation district into major irrigation district—Denial or adoption of request for merger—Notice—Elections—Notification of merger.**

(1) If, following the public hearing conducted under RCW 87.03.845, the board of directors of the major irrigation district denies the request for a merger, no further action shall be taken on the request. If, following the public hearing, the board adopts a resolution approving the merger, the merger is approved by the major irrigation district and no election shall be held in the major district to approve the merger. However, if the holders of title or evidence of title to at least twenty percent of the assessed lands within the major district file a protest opposing the merger with the board of the major district at or before the public hearing, the board shall call a special election and submit to the voters of the major district the question of whether the merger should or should not be approved. Votes shall be cast as "Merger - Yes" or "Merger -

No." If such a special election must be conducted and a majority of all votes cast in the district approve the merger, the merger is approved by the major district. Such an approval is effective on the date the returns of the election are canvassed under RCW 87.03.105.

(2) The board of directors of the minor irrigation district shall, within thirty days of the date the merger is approved by the major district or of the date the board of the major district issues its call for a special election on the merger, call a special election within the minor district and submit to the voters of the minor district the question of whether the merger should or should not be approved. If special elections must be conducted in both districts, both elections shall be conducted on the date set by the board of the major district. If only the minor district must conduct such a special election, the election shall be held not later than sixty days after the date the merger has been approved by the board of the major district. Votes on the question shall be cast as "Merger - Yes" or "Merger - No." If a majority of all votes cast in the district are cast for "Merger - Yes," the merger is approved by the minor irrigation district. Such an approval is effective on the date the returns of the election are canvassed under RCW 87.03.105.

(3) Notice of election in each district on the merger question shall conform to the requirements of notices for elections in the major district. Elections and voting in each district shall be consistent with RCW 87.03.045, 87.03.051, and 87.03.071. If the majority of all votes cast in a special election in either the major or a minor district are cast for "Merger - No," the merger is not approved.

(4) If the merger is approved by the major irrigation district and by the minor irrigation district as provided by this section, the minor irrigation district is merged into the major irrigation district. If two or more minor districts are merging with a major district in one process as authorized by RCW 87.03.855 and if the merger is approved by the major irrigation district and by at least one of the minor irrigation districts as provided by this section, each minor irrigation district so approving is merged into the major irrigation district. The effective date of the merger is the date by which approval of the merger has been secured in both districts or, under RCW 87.03.855, in the major and minor district or districts. The board or boards of county commissioners of the county or counties containing territory of the merged districts and the director of the department of ecology shall be notified that the districts have merged. [1993 c 235 § 3.]

**87.03.849 Merger of minor irrigation district into major irrigation district—Board of directors—Transfer of property and assets.** The members of the board of directors of the major irrigation district shall hold office as directors of the district formed by the merger until the end of their terms of office. If the major district is divided into director divisions, the board of the major district shall propose a plan for redividing the district into divisions that reflect the boundaries of the district created by the merger and this requirement regarding the directors of the major district. If the major district is considering a merger with more than one minor district, the board shall submit plans for the various possible mergers. The proposal or proposals shall be filed with the county legislative authority before the merger is



approved in the major district or the minor district or districts. Following the merger, the county legislative authority shall approve the plan submitted for the districts that actually merged.

On the effective date of the merger, the directors of the minor district shall transfer the property and other assets of the district as required in RCW 87.03.853. Following the transfer of the property and other assets, the minor irrigation district and the office of director of the minor district shall cease to exist.

The board of directors of the district formed by the merger shall have all the powers and obligations of the boards of the major and minor districts that were merged to form the district including, but not limited to, such boards' powers and obligations for any local improvement districts created in the minor or major district under this chapter. [1993 c 235 § 4.]

**87.03.851 Merger of minor irrigation district into major irrigation district—Bonds or obligations not impaired—Enforcement of assessments and obligations—Establishment of local improvement district to carry out obligations.** (1) The merger of irrigation districts shall not affect or impair any bonds or obligations of the merged districts and the holders of the bonds of any merged district shall be entitled to all remedies for their enforcement as if the district had not been merged. All obligations incurred by the district prior to its merger shall be a prior lien to any obligation that may be incurred against the district created by the merger. However, the board of directors of the merged district may, when authorized under RCW 87.03.200 and with the consent of the bondholders, exchange the bonds of the district created by the merger for the bonds of the districts that merged. If the major or minor district entered, prior to the merger, into a contract with the United States under this chapter and the board of directors of the district created by the merger proposes that the merged district enter into a contract with the United States, the board may do so when authorized under RCW 87.03.200 and may, with the consent of the United States, cancel any contract previously entered into between the major or minor district and the United States.

(2) The district created by the merger shall be entitled to all remedies for the enforcement of the irrigation district assessments and other obligations of lands to the districts that merged as if the districts had not merged. All obligations incurred for irrigation district or local improvement district purposes by the lands within the major or minor district prior to its merger shall be a prior lien to any obligation that may be incurred against those lands after the merger.

(3) Until premerger assessments have been collected and all of the premerger indebtedness of the major and minor districts that merged have been paid, separate funds shall be maintained for each district as were maintained in each prior to the merger. The board of directors of the irrigation district created by the merger may establish a local improvement district for each district included in the merger to carry out the obligations of each such district. This board shall have all the powers possessed by the boards of directors of the districts included in the merger to carry out all contracts of the included districts and to levy, assess, and cause to be collected any and all assessments or charges against the lands of each of the included districts. A petition shall not be required

for the formation of a local improvement district created for this purpose. [1993 c 235 § 5.]

**87.03.853 Merger of minor irrigation district into major irrigation district—Statement of property and assets of minor district.** Prior to or on the effective date of a merger of a minor irrigation district and a major irrigation district, the board of directors of the minor district shall cause to be prepared a statement of all property and other assets of the minor district. The statement shall be filed with the board of directors of the district created by the merger and on the effective date of the merger. The statement shall also be filed with the county auditor of the county containing the majority of the territory of the district after the merger. Upon the filing with the board, the property and other assets of the minor district shall, subject to the rights of the holders of bonds or other obligations of the minor district, become the property and other assets of the district created by the merger. [1993 c 235 § 6.]

**87.03.855 Merger of minor irrigation district into major irrigation district—Merger of more than two districts.** More than two irrigation districts may merge under RCW 87.03.530(2) and 87.03.845 through 87.03.853 in one merger process. However, only one of the districts may be a "major" irrigation district and the assessed acreage in all of the other districts merging in the process, when taken collectively, shall not constitute more than thirty percent of the combined assessed acreage of all of the merging districts. In such a case, each of these other, nonmajor districts is considered to be a "minor" irrigation district under RCW 87.03.530(2) and 87.03.845 through 87.03.853. [1993 c 235 § 7.]

**87.03.857 Merger of minor irrigation district into major irrigation district—Existing water rights not impaired.** Nothing in RCW 87.03.530(2) and 87.03.845 through 87.03.855 shall authorize the impairment or operate to impair any existing water rights. [1993 c 235 § 8.]

**87.03.860 Assumption of substandard water system—Limited immunity from liability.** An irrigation district assuming responsibility for a water system that is not in compliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, and its agents and employees, are immune from lawsuits or causes of action, based on noncompliance with state or federal requirements for public drinking water systems, which predate the date of assuming responsibility and continue after the date of assuming responsibility, provided that the irrigation district has submitted and is complying with a plan and schedule of improvements approved by the department of health. This immunity shall expire on the earlier of the date the plan of improvements is completed or four years from the date of assuming responsibility. This immunity does not apply to intentional injuries, fraud, or bad faith. [1994 c 292 § 11.]

**Findings—Intent—1994 c 292:** See note following RCW 57.04.050.

**87.03.870 Mutual aid agreements for emergency interdistrict assistance—Authority—Liability.** (1) Under the interlocal cooperation act, chapter 39.34 RCW, an irriga-

tion district may enter into a mutual aid agreement with any other irrigation district to provide emergency interdistrict assistance to respond to a breach or other failure of an irrigation water conveyance system when the required response exceeds the existing resources available to the district requesting assistance. Assistance may be provided without compensation.

(2) Whenever the employees of an irrigation district are rendering outside aid pursuant to the authority contained in this section, the employees have the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as if they were performing their duties in the irrigation district in which they are normally employed. Supervision of the employees may be temporarily delegated as provided by the mutual aid agreement.

(3) The irrigation district in which any equipment is used pursuant to this section is liable for any loss or damage caused to the equipment and shall pay any ordinary expense incurred in the daily operation and maintenance of the equipment. No claim for loss, damage, or expense may be allowed unless, within sixty days after the loss, damage, or expense is sustained or incurred, an itemized notice of the claim under oath is served by mail or otherwise upon the secretary of the irrigation district where the equipment was used. [1996 c 214 § 3.]

**87.03.880 Tariff for irrigation pumping service—Authority to buy back electricity.** The board may approve a tariff for irrigation pumping service that allows the irrigation district to buy back electricity from customers to reduce electricity usage by those customers during the irrigation district's particular irrigation season. [2001 c 122 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.03.900 Construction—1913 c 165.** All irrigation districts in the state of Washington, and all proceedings for the organization of any irrigation district, and all proceedings now pending in or relating to any irrigation district, shall be governed and controlled by the terms of this act, and this act shall not be construed as abridging or abrogating any of the rights or privileges of any irrigation district now organized, or being organized, and any contract, obligation, lien or charge, or bonds of any district, which may have been made, incurred, authorized or issued, prior to the taking effect of this act shall not be abridged or impaired by the terms of this act, but this act shall be construed as being a continuation of, and in aid of the previously existing laws relating to irrigation districts, except as to the sections specially repealed; and if in any instance relating to an existing district or any of its proceedings, the term of this amendatory act shall not be legally applicable, the district may proceed, and any contract, obligation, lien or charge against it may be enforced, under the terms and provisions of the law relating to irrigation districts in force and in effect prior to the taking effect of this act. [1913 c 165 § 23.]

**87.03.920 Construction—Chapter applicable to state registered domestic partnerships—2009 c 521.** For the purposes of this chapter, the terms spouse, marriage, marital, husband, wife, widow, widower, next of kin, and family shall be interpreted as applying equally to state registered domestic partnerships or individuals in state registered domestic part-

nerships as well as to marital relationships and married persons, and references to dissolution of marriage shall apply equally to state registered domestic partnerships that have been terminated, dissolved, or invalidated, to the extent that such interpretation does not conflict with federal law. Where necessary to implement chapter 521, Laws of 2009, gender-specific terms such as husband and wife used in any statute, rule, or other law shall be construed to be gender neutral, and applicable to individuals in state registered domestic partnerships. [2009 c 521 § 197.]

## Chapter 87.04 RCW DIRECTOR DIVISIONS

### Sections

87.04.010	Divisions of certain districts required—Number—Directors—Who are electors.
87.04.020	Director vacancies, how filled.
87.04.030	New district to be divided by county commissioners—Objections, denial, election.
87.04.040	Petition to divide or redivide.
87.04.050	Redivision when number of directors changed or new lands included.
87.04.055	Procedure for adding land to director divisions when new land included in district.
87.04.058	Application of RCW 87.04.030 through 87.04.055 following merger of minor irrigation district into major irrigation district.
87.04.060	Time for hearing on petition—Notice, contents.
87.04.070	Hearing—Order of denial or rejection—Election to divide or redivide.
87.04.080	Election of directors—Terms.
87.04.090	Levy limitation until water received when federal works or contracts involved—Exception.
87.04.100	Certain excess lands under federal contracts, assessment limitation—Exception.
87.04.900	Chapter supplemental to other laws—General repealer.

**87.04.010 Divisions of certain districts required—Number—Directors—Who are electors.** An irrigation district comprising two hundred thousand or more acres, or irrigation districts comprising less than two hundred thousand acres which have followed the optional procedure specified in \*this amendatory act, shall be divided into divisions of as nearly equal area as practical, consistent with being fair and equitable to the electors of the district. The number of divisions shall be the same as the number of directors, which shall be numbered first, second, third, etc. One director, who shall be an elector of the division, shall be elected for each division of the district by the electors of his or her division. A district elector shall be considered an elector of the division in which he or she holds title to or evidence of title to land. An elector holding title to or evidence of title to land in more than one division shall be considered an elector of the division nearest his or her place of residence. [2013 c 23 § 511; 1961 c 192 § 1; 1939 c 13 § 1; RRS § 7505-5a.]

*\*Reviser's note:* The language "this amendatory act" refers to 1961 c 192 codified as RCW 87.04.010 through 87.04.900, 87.03.045, 87.03.080, 87.03.081, and 87.03.082.

*Directors—Election, terms, etc.:* RCW 87.03.080 through 87.03.082.

*Organization of board, meetings, etc.:* RCW 87.03.115.

*Qualifications of voters and directors:* RCW 87.03.045.

**87.04.020 Director vacancies, how filled.** Vacancies in the representation of director divisions on the board of directors of the irrigation district shall be filled by appointment of an elector of the division concerned, in the same

manner and for the same time as provided by law for the filling of vacancies on the board of directors of irrigation districts generally. [1961 c 192 § 2; 1939 c 13 § 2; RRS § 7505-5b.]

*Directors—Vacancies, how filled: RCW 87.03.081.*

**87.04.030 New district to be divided by county commissioners—Objections, denial, election.** When a new irrigation district comprising more than two hundred thousand acres has been authorized, pursuant to law, the board of county commissioners shall, within thirty days from the canvassing of the returns, divide the district into director divisions equal to the number of directors, and in the resolution organizing the district, they shall include an order designating the director divisions and describing the boundaries thereof. When a petition for the formation of a new irrigation district comprising less than two hundred thousand acres has been filed pursuant to law and said petition includes a request that the district be divided into director divisions, the board of county commissioners shall divide the district into director divisions as provided in this section unless objections to director divisions are made at the hearing held pursuant to RCW 87.03.020; and in the event objections to director divisions are made and not withdrawn, the board of county commissioners may deny the request for director divisions or if it determines that it is to the best interests of the district that director divisions be established, it may, in its order calling an election for organization of the district, include a separate proposition on the question of director divisions; and if a majority of the votes cast on said proposition are in favor of director divisions, then the resolution organizing the district shall include an order designating the director divisions and describing the boundaries thereof. [1961 c 192 § 3; 1939 c 13 § 3; RRS § 7505-5c.]

**87.04.040 Petition to divide or redivide.** Proceedings to divide or redivide a district comprising less than two hundred thousand acres into director divisions, or to redivide the director divisions heretofore established for districts comprising more than two hundred thousand acres, may be initiated by a petition filed with the county commissioners of the county in which the principal office of the district is situated. The petition shall designate the name of the district and pray that it be divided into director divisions, or that existing director divisions be redivided, and shall be signed by at least two-thirds of the directors of the district or in lieu thereof by at least twenty electors of the district. A petition to divide or redivide a district shall not be filed more than once in each five-year period except for redivisions necessitated by reason of a change in the total number of directors of the district. [1961 c 192 § 4; 1939 c 13 § 4; RRS § 7505-5d.]

**87.04.050 Redivision when number of directors changed or new lands included.** If the number of directors is changed for a district which is divided into director divisions or new lands outside of existing director divisions are included into a district but cannot be added to director divisions as provided in RCW 87.04.055 due to geographic limitations, a petition for redivision or addition shall be filed with the board of county commissioners by the directors of the district and all proceedings thereon shall be conducted in

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the manner as provided in RCW 87.04.060 and 87.04.070: PROVIDED, That even if objections are filed at the hearing on said petition, no election shall be held but the board of county commissioners shall make such division or addition that they determine to be fair and equitable to the electors of the district. [1967 c 205 § 1; 1961 c 192 § 5; 1939 c 13 § 7; RRS § 7505-5g.]

**87.04.055 Procedure for adding land to director divisions when new land included in district.** When land located outside existing director divisions is included in an irrigation district such land shall thereby be added to the nearest director division, except that where added lands are adjacent to two or more director divisions, the common boundary lines between the divisions shall be extended in a straight line so as to include the new lands in such divisions: PROVIDED, That where the provisions of this section cannot be applied due to geographic limitations, the procedures provided for in RCW 87.04.050 shall apply. [1967 c 205 § 2.]

**87.04.058 Application of RCW 87.04.030 through 87.04.055 following merger of minor irrigation district into major irrigation district.** RCW 87.04.030 through 87.04.055 do not apply to redividing a district immediately following a merger as provided in RCW 87.03.849. [1993 c 235 § 9.]

**87.04.060 Time for hearing on petition—Notice, contents.** Upon the filing of the petition the board of county commissioners shall fix a time and place for hearing thereon, which shall be not less than thirty days nor more than forty-five days from the date of filing, and shall cause notice thereof, stating the time, place, and general purpose of the hearing, to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in which any of the lands of the district are situated, in at least three consecutive weekly issues; if there is no such newspaper published in a county, then in a newspaper of general circulation therein, designated by the county commissioner. The notice shall state the filing of the petition and its prayer, but need not describe with particularity the boundaries of the divisions recommended in the petition, and shall notify all electors of the district to appear at the time and place named in the notice to show cause, if any they have, why the district should not be divided or redivided into director divisions. [1961 c 192 § 6; 1939 c 13 § 5; RRS § 7505-5e.]

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

**87.04.070 Hearing—Order of denial or rejection—Election to divide or redivide.** At the hearing or adjournments thereof, which shall not be for more than sixty days in all, the board of county commissioners shall consider the petition and shall hear electors of the district for or against the division or redivision of director divisions and recommendations for the manner in which division should be made. If the board deems it against the best interests of the district to divide the district into director divisions or to redivide existing divisions, it shall order the petition rejected, but if it deems it for the best interests of the district that the petition be granted, and if no elector of the district files cause in writing at said hearing why the petition should not be granted, or

if having filed said cause in writing withdraws the same, the board shall enter an order dividing or redividing the district into the same number of director divisions as there are directors of the district, and designating the divisions and describing the boundaries thereof. The division to be made shall be such as the commissioners consider fair and equitable to the electors of the district. A copy of the commissioners' order shall be filed for record, without charge, with the auditor of each county in which any part of the district is situated, and thereafter the directors shall be elected or appointed as provided in this chapter. If any elector shall appear in person at said hearing and shall file cause in writing as aforesaid why the petition should not be granted and shall not withdraw the same, and if the board nevertheless deems it for the best interests of the district that the petition be granted, the board shall adopt a resolution to that effect and shall order an election held within the district on whether the district should be divided into director divisions or its existing director divisions be redivided, and shall fix the time thereof and cause notice to be published. The notice shall be given and the election conducted in the manner as for special elections on a bond issue of the district. The notice shall state the general plan of division or redivision but need not describe with particularity the boundaries of the proposed division or redivision. Such boundaries shall be described on the ballot. If the majority of votes cast at the election are in favor of dividing or redividing the district into director divisions, the board of county commissioners shall enter an order dividing or redividing the district into the same number of director divisions as there are directors of the district, and designating the divisions and designating the boundaries thereof. If a majority of the votes cast are against division or redivision into director districts, the board shall order the petition denied. [1961 c 192 § 7; 1939 c 13 § 6; RRS § 7505-5f.]

**87.04.080 Election of directors—Terms.** At the next general election of directors of a district which has been divided into director divisions, the electors of the first division shall select the director then to be elected on the board, and if more than one director is to be selected, the second division shall select one, and so on in numerical order, until, as the terms of incumbent directors expire, all the divisions are represented on the board, and thereafter directors shall be elected from the divisions in rotation, as their respective terms of office expire: PROVIDED, That if following the numerical order of director divisions will result in any year in one division having more than one director and one division having no director, then the numerical order of the divisions shall not be followed for the year or years in question but the electors of the next highest numbered division without representation on the board of directors shall select the director then to be elected on the board. If such a district is organized but has not yet held an annual election of officers, it shall, at its next annual election, select directors for three, two and one-year terms respectively, and if the district is managed by a board of three directors, the first division shall select a director for the three-year term, the second division shall select one for the two-year term, and the third division shall select one for the one-year term, and thereafter their successors shall be elected for three-year terms, respectively. If the district has five directors, the first and second divisions shall

each select a director for the three-year term, the third and fourth divisions shall each select one for the two-year term, and the fifth division shall select one for the one-year term, and thereafter their successors shall be elected for three-year terms respectively. If the district has seven directors, the first, second and third divisions shall each select a director for the three-year term, the fourth and fifth divisions shall each select a director for the two-year term, and the sixth and seventh divisions shall each select a director for the one-year term, and thereafter their successors shall be elected for three-year terms respectively. [1961 c 192 § 8; 1939 c 13 § 8; RRS § 7505-5h.]

*Ballots, declaration of candidacy, nominating petitions: RCW 87.03.075.*

*Elections are governed by irrigation district laws: RCW 87.03.030.*

**87.04.090 Levy limitation until water received when federal works or contracts involved—Exception.** Lands in a district so divided into director divisions, which are to receive water from a system of works to be constructed by the federal government or under a contract between the district and the federal government shall not be assessed more than five cents an acre in any one calendar year until the secretary of the interior announces that water is ready for delivery to the land: PROVIDED, That this section shall not be applicable to districts comprising less than two hundred thousand acres. [1969 ex.s. c 93 § 1; 1961 c 192 § 9; 1939 c 13 § 9; RRS § 7505-5i.]

*Assessment: RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.305.*

*Board's powers and duties (contracts with state or United States): RCW 87.03.140.*

**87.04.100 Certain excess lands under federal contracts, assessment limitation—Exception.** Lands in such a district, which are designated as excess lands under the act of congress of May 27, 1937, and which have been subscribed by the owner thereof to the excess land contract, shall not be assessed more than above specified until after the date fixed in the contract for the sale of such excess lands, unless they have been sooner sold or the owner has sooner called for water thereon: PROVIDED, That this section shall not be applicable to districts comprising less than two hundred thousand acres. [1961 c 192 § 10; 1939 c 13 § 10; RRS § 7505-5j.]

*Assessments: RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.305.*

**87.04.900 Chapter supplemental to other laws—General repealer.** This chapter is intended, and shall be construed, to be supplemental to and shall become a part of the law relating to irrigation districts, and any act or part of the same inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this act or any part thereof are hereby repealed. [1961 c 192 § 11; 1939 c 13 § 11; RRS § 7505-5k.]

## Chapter 87.06 RCW DELINQUENT ASSESSMENTS

### Sections

87.06.010	Definitions.
87.06.020	Certificates of delinquency—Posting of certificates.
87.06.030	Provision and review of list of delinquent properties subject to foreclosure—Cost comparison, determination not to foreclose.

- 87.06.040 Commencement of action to foreclose assessment liens—  
Notice and summons—Recording of notice of lis pendens.
- 87.06.050 Payment on certificate of delinquency before foreclosure.
- 87.06.060 Combining foreclosure proceedings—Irregularities or informalities in assessment role not illegal—Correction—Interested party may file written answer—Court's proceedings.
- 87.06.070 Sale of foreclosed property.
- 87.06.080 Notice of foreclosure sale—Conduct of sale—Remittal of excess moneys.
- 87.06.090 Treasurer's deed—Title free from certain encumbrances.
- 87.06.100 Required payments before acquisition at foreclosure sale—  
Acquisition by irrigation district—District's property stricken from tax rolls—Subsequent purchasers to pay assessments.
- 87.06.110 Combined foreclosure for district and county assessments.
- 87.06.120 Application of chapter to properties with assessments delinquent three or more years or acquired by the district under possibly legally defective proceedings.

*Lien of assessment: RCW 87.03.265.*

**87.06.010 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Date of delinquency" means the date when the assessment first became delinquent under chapter 87.03 RCW.

(2) "Description of property" means a legal description, the parcel number, tax number, or other description that sufficiently describes the property or specific parcel of land.

(3) "Minimum bid sheet" means the informational sheet which is prepared by the treasurer for use at the treasurer's sale and which contains a description of the various properties and the minimum bid required for each.

(4) "Party in interest" means an occupant of the property, the owner of record, and any other person having a financial interest of record in the property.

(5) "Treasurer" means the irrigation district treasurer. However, if the county treasurer acts as ex officio district treasurer in accordance with RCW 87.03.440, then "treasurer" means the county treasurer. [1988 c 134 § 1.]

**87.06.020 Certificates of delinquency—Posting of certificates.** (1) After thirty-six calendar months from the month of the date of delinquency, or twenty-four months from the month of the date of delinquency with respect to any local improvement district assessment, the treasurer shall prepare certificates of delinquency on the property for the unpaid irrigation district assessments, and for costs and interest. An individual certificate of delinquency may be prepared for each property or the individual certificates may be compiled and issued in one general certificate including all delinquent properties. Each certificate shall contain the following information:

- (a) Description of the property assessed;
- (b) Street address of property, if available;
- (c) Years for which assessed;
- (d) Amount of delinquent assessments, costs, and interest;
- (e) Name appearing on the treasurer's most current assessment roll for the property; and
- (f) A statement that interest will be charged on the amount listed in (d) of this subsection at a rate of twelve percent per year, computed monthly and without compounding, from the date of the issuance of the certificate and that additional costs, incurred as a result of the delinquency, will be imposed, including the costs of a title search.

(2) The treasurer may provide for the posting of the certificates or other measures designed to advertise the certificates and encourage the payment of the amounts due. [2013 c 177 § 10; 1988 c 134 § 2.]

**87.06.030 Provision and review of list of delinquent properties subject to foreclosure—Cost comparison, determination not to foreclose.** Before preparing a certificate of delinquency, the treasurer of a district that has designated its own treasurer as provided in RCW 87.03.440, shall provide to the board of directors a list of properties that may be subject to foreclosure for delinquent assessments. The board of directors shall review the list of delinquent properties. After comparing the amount of the delinquent assessment with the costs of foreclosure, including but not limited to title search, court filing fees, costs of service, and attorneys' fees, the board of directors may determine that it is not in the best interest of the district to commence legal action to foreclose the delinquent assessment liens. Nothing in this section precludes a county treasurer from proceeding with foreclosure on parcels otherwise delinquent and, in those actions, from collecting delinquent assessments due under this title. [2014 c 2 § 4; 2004 c 215 § 4; 1988 c 134 § 3.]

**87.06.040 Commencement of action to foreclose assessment liens—Notice and summons—Recording of notice of lis pendens.** (1) After the completion of the title searches, the treasurer, in the name of the irrigation district, shall commence legal action to foreclose on the assessment liens. The treasurer shall give notice of application for judgment foreclosing assessment liens and summons to all parties in interest as disclosed by the title search. The treasurer may include in any notice any number of separate properties. Such notice and summons shall contain:

(a) A statement that the irrigation district is applying to superior court of the county in which the property is located for a judgment foreclosing the lien against the property for delinquent assessments, costs, and interest;

(b) The full name of the superior court in which the district is applying for the judgment; and for each property: The description of the property, the local street address (if any), and the name of each party in interest;

(c) A description of the lien amount due, which shall include the amount listed in RCW 87.06.020(1)(d), plus any costs and interest accruing since the date of preparation of the certificate of delinquency;

(d) A direction to each party in interest summoning the party to appear within sixty days after service of the notice and summons, exclusive of the day of the service, and defend the action or pay the lien amount due; and when service is made by publication, a direction summoning each party to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of the notice and summons, exclusive of the day of first publication, and defend the action or pay the amount due;

(e) A notice that, in case of failure to defend or pay the amount due, judgment will be rendered foreclosing the lien of the assessments, costs, and interest against the property; and

(f) The date, time, and place of the foreclosure sale as specified in the application for judgment.

(2) The treasurer shall record in the office of the auditor of the county in which the property is located a notice of lis

pendens before commencing the service of the notice and summons.

(3) The notice and summons shall be served in a manner reasonably calculated to inform each party in interest of the foreclosure action. At a minimum, service shall be accomplished by either (a) personal service upon a party in interest, or (b) publication once in a newspaper of general circulation that is circulated in the area in which the property is located and mailing of notice by certified mail to the party in interest.

(4) Notice and summons need not be served on holders of easements on the property if the easements are a matter of public record in the auditor's office of the county in which the property is located. Any foreclosure of delinquent assessments on any tract, lot, or parcel of real property subject to such easement or easements, and any treasurer's deed subsequently issued, is subject to such easement or easements that were established of record before the date of the certificate of delinquency for which the delinquent assessment was foreclosed.

(5) It shall be the duty of the treasurer to mail a copy of the notice and summons, within fifteen days after the first publication or service thereof, to the treasurer of each county, city, or town within which any property involved in an assessment foreclosure is situated, but the treasurer's failure to do so shall not affect the jurisdiction of the court nor the priority of any assessment lien sought to be foreclosed. [2015 c 34 § 1; 1988 c 134 § 4.]

**87.06.050 Payment on certificate of delinquency before foreclosure.** (1) Any party in interest of property for which a certificate of delinquency has been prepared, but against which a foreclosure judgment has not been entered, may pay to the treasurer, in person or by agent, the total amount of the assessment lien, as listed under RCW 87.06.020(1)(d), plus any additional costs and interest, including any title search costs. If a foreclosure judgment has been entered, then any party in interest may pay to the treasurer, in person or by agent, the lien amount for which the judgment has been rendered, so long as payment is received by the treasurer during regular business hours before the day of the foreclosure sale. The treasurer shall give a receipt for each payment received under this subsection.

(2) Upon receipt of payment under this section, the district shall abandon any foreclosure proceedings commenced against the property. If a notice of lis pendens has been filed with the county auditor, the treasurer shall record a release of lis pendens with the auditor. [1988 c 134 § 5.]

**87.06.060 Combining foreclosure proceedings—Irregularities or informalities in assessment role not illegal—Correction—Interested party may file written answer—Court's proceedings.** (1) The proceedings to foreclose the liens against all properties on a general certificate of delinquency or on more than one individual certificate may be brought in one action.

(2) No assessment, costs, or interest may be considered illegal because of any irregularity in the assessment roll or because the assessment roll has not been made, completed, or returned within the time required by law, or because the property has been charged or listed in the assessment roll without name, or in any other name than that of the owner, and no

error or informality in the proceedings of any of the officers connected with the assessment may invalidate or in any other manner affect the assessment thereof. Any irregularities or informality in the assessment roll or in any of the proceedings connected with the assessment or any omission or defective act of any officer or officers connected with the assessment may be, at the discretion of the court corrected, supplied, and made to conform to the law by the court. This subsection does not apply if the court finds that the failure to conform to the law unfairly prejudices a party with an interest in the property.

(3) A party with an interest in real property subject to foreclosure within the district may file a written answer within the time permitted by RCW 87.06.040(1)(d) asserting an objection or defense to the entry of a foreclosure judgment against the property. However, defenses or objections shall be limited to: (a) The form of pleading; (b) manner of service; (c) invalidity of the assessments claimed delinquent; (d) payment of the assessments claimed delinquent; or (e) that the real property against which foreclosure is sought is not subject to district assessment. No counterclaim shall be permitted. The court shall liberally permit amendment or supplementation of the district's challenged pleading or procedure to cure the claimed defect.

(4) The court shall determine timely objections or defenses to the district's foreclosure in a summary proceeding based only on the district's pleading and the interested party's answer and shall promptly pronounce judgment granting or denying the foreclosure; or the court may, in its discretion, to provide substantial justice to the parties, continue the case to a later time to hear evidence on the issues raised by the answer. Hearings under this section shall be limited to affidavits or declarations, and shall be expedited. [2004 c 215 § 5; 1988 c 134 § 6.]

**87.06.070 Sale of foreclosed property.** (1) If the court renders a judgment of foreclosure, the court shall direct the treasurer to proceed with the sale of the property and shall specify the minimum sale price below which the property is not to be sold.

(2) The treasurer shall sell the property to the highest and best bidder. All sales shall be made on Friday between the hours of nine a.m. and five p.m. at a location designated by the treasurer. However, sales not concluded on Friday shall be continued from day to day, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays excluded, during the same hours until all properties are sold. [1988 c 134 § 7.]

**87.06.080 Notice of foreclosure sale—Conduct of sale—Remittal of excess moneys.** (1) The treasurer shall post notice of the foreclosure sale, at least ten days before the sale, at the following locations: At the courthouse of the county in which the property is located, at the district office, and at a public place in the district. The treasurer shall also publish, at least once and not fewer than ten days before the sale, the notice in any daily or weekly legal newspaper of general circulation in the district.

(2) The notice shall be in substantially the following form:

IRRIGATION ASSESSMENT JUDGMENT SALE

TREASURER'S DEED

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to judgment, rendered on . . . . ., of the superior court of the county of . . . . . in the state of Washington, that I shall sell the property described below, at a foreclosure sale beginning at . . . . . (time), on . . . . . (date), at . . . . . (location), in the city of . . . . ., and county of . . . . ., state of Washington. This sale is made in order to pay for delinquent assessments, costs, and interest owed to . . . . . The property will be sold to the highest and best bidder but bids will not be accepted for less than the minimum sale price set by the superior court. The minimum sale price is listed on the bid sheet, a copy of which is provided at the treasurer's office. Payment must be made at time of sale and must be by cash, bank cashier's check, or a negotiable instrument of equivalent security.

Description of property: . . . . .

Interested parties and members of the public are invited to participate in this sale. This sale will not take place if by . . . . . (time), on . . . . . (date), the amount due . . . . . is paid in the manner specified by law.

. . . . .  
Treasurer for . . . . .  
Irrigation District  
Date signed: . . . . .

(3) The treasurer shall conduct the sale in conformance with the notice and this chapter. If the sale is conducted by the county treasurer, no county or district officer or employee may directly or indirectly be a purchaser. If the irrigation district treasurer conducts the sale, no officer or employee of the district may directly or indirectly be a purchaser.

(4) If the bid amount paid for the property is in excess of the lien amount for which the judgment has been rendered, plus any additional assessments, costs, and interest which have become due after the date of preparation of the certificate of delinquency and before the date of sale, then the excess shall be remitted, on application therefor, to the record owner of the property. The record owner of the property is the person who held title on the date of issuance of the certificate of delinquency. Assignments of interests, deeds, or other documents executed or recorded after filing the certificate of delinquency shall not affect the payment of excess funds to the record owner. If no claim for the excess is received by the treasurer within three years after the date of the sale, the treasurer, at expiration of the three-year period, shall deposit the excess in the current expense fund of the district. [2007 c 63 § 1; 1988 c 134 § 8.]

**87.06.090 Treasurer's deed—Title free from certain encumbrances.** (1) The treasurer shall execute a treasurer's deed to any person who purchases property at the foreclosure sale. The deed shall vest title to the property therein described, without further acknowledgment or evidence of such conveyance, in the grantee or his or her heirs and assigns. The treasurer's deed shall be substantially in the following form:

(2022 Ed.)

State of Washington  
County of . . . . .

This indenture, made this . . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . . ., between . . . . ., as treasurer of . . . . . irrigation district, state of Washington, party of the first part, and . . . . ., party of the second part:

Witnesseth, that whereas, at the public sale of real property held on the . . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . . ., pursuant to an irrigation assessment judgment entered in the superior court in the county of . . . . . on the . . . . . day of . . . . ., . . . . ., in proceedings to foreclose assessment liens upon real property and an order of sale duly issued by the court, . . . . . duly purchased in compliance with the laws of the state of Washington, for and in consideration of the sum of . . . . . dollars the following described real property, to wit: (Here place description of real property conveyed) and that . . . . . has complied with the laws of the state of Washington necessary to entitle (him, her, or them) to a deed for the real property.

Now, therefore know ye, that, I . . . . ., treasurer of said irrigation district of . . . . ., state of Washington, in consideration of the premises and by virtue of the statutes of the state of Washington, in such cases provided, do hereby grant and convey unto . . . . ., his or her heirs and assigns, forever, the real property hereinbefore described, as fully and completely as said party of the first part can by virtue of the premises convey the same.

Given under my hand and seal of office this . . . . . day of . . . . ., A.D. . . . .

. . . . .  
Treasurer for . . . . .  
Irrigation District

(2) The title shall be free from all encumbrances except for the following taxes and assessments if they are not due at the time of the foreclosure sale: Property taxes, drainage or diking district assessments, drainage or diking improvement district assessments, mosquito district assessments, and irrigation district assessments. [1994 c 24 § 1; 1988 c 134 § 9.]

**87.06.100 Required payments before acquisition at foreclosure sale—Acquisition by irrigation district—District's property stricken from tax rolls—Subsequent purchasers to pay assessments.** (1) Prior to the treasurer executing and conveying the deed, all persons or entities acquiring property at the foreclosure sale shall be required to pay the full amount of all assessments, costs, and interest for which judgment is rendered; and the full amount of the following if due at the time of the foreclosure sale: Property taxes, drainage or diking district assessments, drainage or diking district improvement assessments, irrigation district assessments, and costs and interests relating to such taxes or assessments. This subsection does not apply to the irrigation district's acquisition of property.

(2) At all sales of property, if no other bids are received, title to the property shall vest in the irrigation district and the district shall pay to the county any costs that may have been incurred by the county under this chapter for the foreclosure

action. The district's acquisition of the title shall be as absolute as if the property had been purchased by an individual under the provisions of this chapter. The deed provided for in RCW 87.06.090 shall be conveyed to the irrigation district.

(3) All property deeded to the district under the provisions of this chapter shall be stricken from the tax rolls as district property and exempt from taxation and shall not be taxed while property of the district.

(4) If the irrigation district sells any property it has acquired under this chapter, then it shall not provide a deed to the purchaser until the purchaser pays all drainage or diking district assessments, drainage or diking improvement district assessments, irrigation district assessments, property taxes, costs, and interest that were due at the time the irrigation district acquired title to the property. [1988 c 134 § 10.]

**87.06.110 Combined foreclosure for district and county assessments.** The board of directors of the irrigation district and the county treasurer may through the interlocal cooperation agreement act, chapter 39.34 RCW, choose to have one of the treasurers proceed with a combined foreclosure for all property taxes, irrigation assessments, and all costs and interest owing to both entities. Any such agreement shall include a specific statement as to which entity shall assume title if no bids are received equal to or greater than the amount listed on the minimum bid sheet. The agreement shall also clearly specify how any unclaimed excess funds from the sale will be divided between the county and the irrigation district.

With a combined foreclosure for all property taxes, all irrigation district assessments, and all costs and interest owing to both entities, the county treasurer may use the foreclosure procedure under chapter 84.64 RCW or the irrigation district treasurer may use the foreclosure procedure under this chapter. When acting as the treasurer for the irrigation district, the county treasurer may use the foreclosure procedure under chapter 84.64 RCW. [2004 c 215 § 6; 1988 c 134 § 11.]

**87.06.120 Application of chapter to properties with assessments delinquent three or more years or acquired by the district under possibly legally defective proceedings.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, certificates of delinquency shall also be issued, and foreclosure proceedings instituted under this chapter, for properties for which assessments have been delinquent for a period of three or more years, if all or part of such period occurred before June 9, 1988. If foreclosure actions have been commenced but not completed under the law as it existed prior to June 9, 1988, the district shall abandon such actions and proceed against such properties under this chapter.

(2) Certificates of delinquency shall not be issued under this chapter for properties that have been sold (other than to the irrigation district) under foreclosure proceedings which occurred prior to June 9, 1988. This section does not apply to any foreclosure sale declared to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction or if district assessments again become delinquent after the date of sale.

(3) A certificate of delinquency may be issued, and foreclosure proceedings instituted, under this chapter for property acquired by an irrigation district under foreclosure proceed-

ings which occurred prior to June 9, 1988, and which the district believes might be legally defective. "Acquired" as used in this subsection also includes the district's obtaining a certificate of sale under such foreclosure proceedings. [1988 c 134 § 12.]

## Chapter 87.19 RCW REFUNDING BONDS—1923 ACT

### Sections

87.19.005	Method not exclusive.
87.19.010	Refunding bonds authorized—Election.
87.19.020	Notice and conduct of election.
87.19.030	Form of bonds, interest, maturity, etc.
87.19.040	Bonds to be refunded in series.
87.19.050	Refunding bonds may be exchanged or sold—Record.

**87.19.005 Method not exclusive.** In addition to any other method of refunding irrigation district bonds authorized by law, bonds heretofore or hereafter issued by any irrigation district in this state may be refunded in whole or in part in the manner hereinafter provided. [1933 ex.s. c 11 § 1; 1923 c 161 § 1; RRS § 7434-1. Formerly RCW 87.19.060.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.19.010 Refunding bonds authorized—Election.** Whenever the board of directors of any irrigation district shall deem it for the best interest of said district that any or all outstanding bonds of said district be refunded, they shall so declare by resolution duly adopted and recorded in the minutes of said board and shall, with the written approval of the state director of the department of ecology, submit the question to the legally qualified electors of said district at a general election or at a special election called for that purpose and if a majority of said electors voting at said election vote in favor thereof the directors of said district shall issue and exchange said bonds for those outstanding, or sell said bonds and retire said outstanding bonds. The bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 227; 1923 c 161 § 2; RRS § 7434-2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.19.020 Notice and conduct of election.** The notice of election provided for in this chapter shall be given and the election held in all respects in accordance with RCW 87.03.200, except in each county with a population of one hundred twenty-five thousand or more, where the notice and election shall be held in the manner provided by law for such counties. [1991 c 363 § 160; 1923 c 161 § 6; RRS § 7434-6.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—1991 c 363:** See notes following RCW 2.32.180.

*Elections by lesser constituencies—Special elections:* RCW 29A.04.330.

*Times for holding elections and primaries:* RCW 29A.04.311 through 29A.04.330.

**87.19.030 Form of bonds, interest, maturity, etc.** (1) Said bonds shall be issued in series and in denominations of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars. The first series shall mature not later than ten years and the last series not later than forty years. Each series shall be numbered from one, up consecutively, shall bear the date of their issue, and shall bear interest at any rate or rates as



authorized by the board of directors of said district, payable semiannually on the first day of January and July of each year, and the principal and interest may be made payable at the office of the county treasurer of the county in which the office of the board of directors is situated, or at any fiscal agency of the state of Washington. Said bonds shall be negotiable in form and the bonds shall be signed by the president and secretary of the board of directors of said district and the seal of said district, affixed. The signatures of the president and secretary may, however, appear by lithographic facsimile. Such bonds may be in any form, including bearer bonds or registered bonds as provided in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 228; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 96; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 55; 1923 c 161 § 3; RRS § 7434-3.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

*Facsimile signatures:* RCW 39.44.100.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.19.040 Bonds to be refunded in series.** Where the bonds to be refunded are serial bonds and not subject to call, the refunding bonds or any part of the same may be issued in such series as the board of directors of the district shall deem necessary to take up the series or any part thereof to be refunded, and shall be dated as of the maturity of the series or any part of the same to be refunded. The election aforesaid shall be sufficient authority for the directors to issue sufficient bonds to retire the entire outstanding issue of bonds to be refunded, but none of said refunding bonds shall be signed before the date of their issue, and until signed shall be deposited and kept in the office of the county treasurer; with the consent of the holders of all or any portion of the outstanding bonds of any issue the directors may retire all or any portion of such bonds before their maturity and may issue refunding bonds for that purpose. [1933 ex.s. c 11 § 3; 1927 c 259 § 2; 1923 c 161 § 5; RRS § 7434-5.]

**87.19.050 Refunding bonds may be exchanged or sold—Record.** Bonds issued under and by virtue of this chapter may be exchanged for outstanding bonds at not less than the par value of the bonds refunded or may be sold at not less than ninety percent of their par value, and all money derived from the sale of such bonds shall be applied to the redemption of any or all of the outstanding bonds of said district to be refunded and any such outstanding bonds so refunded shall be endorsed in red ink "Refunded Bonds" and filed and preserved for one year and then destroyed by the county treasurer in the presence of witnesses: and the secretary of said district and the county treasurer of said county shall keep a record of such bonds so refunded and shall note the date of the refunding and the date of the destruction of the refunded bonds and in whose presence they were destroyed. [1933 ex.s. c 11 § 2; 1923 c 161 § 4; RRS § 7434-4.]

## Chapter 87.22 RCW REFUNDING BONDS—1929 ACT

### Sections

87.22.010	Refunding authorized.
87.22.020	When proceedings may be instituted.

(2022 Ed.)

87.22.030	Petition—Contents.
87.22.040	Schedule of maximum benefits.
87.22.050	Hearing, time and place of.
87.22.060	Notice—Service.
87.22.065	Notice—Contents.
87.22.070	Hearing—Decree.
87.22.080	Benefits, how determined—Dismissal—Continuance—Waiver.
87.22.085	Irrigable acreage, how determined.
87.22.090	Appellate review.
87.22.100	Final judgment conclusive.
87.22.105	Final judgment conclusive—Exception.
87.22.110	Transcript to other counties.
87.22.120	Election—Question to electors.
87.22.125	Election—Procedure.
87.22.130	Election—Notice, contents.
87.22.140	Election—Majority vote affirmative, procedure.
87.22.145	Exchange of bonds.
87.22.150	Form of bonds—Manner of payment—Interest rate.
87.22.160	Interest on unpaid bond installments—When payable.
87.22.165	Bond payments, where payable.
87.22.170	Bond contents—Transferability—Priority.
87.22.175	Bonds—Signature—Registration book.
87.22.190	Transfer on registration book required.
87.22.200	Bonds of equal priority.
87.22.210	Payment to record owner.
87.22.215	Payment to agent.
87.22.230	Assessments—Limitations.
87.22.240	Assessments—Methods of payment.
87.22.245	Assessments—Receipts.
87.22.250	Assessments—Payment in money only.
87.22.260	Sale or lease of foreclosed land—Disposition of proceeds.
87.22.270	Excess in bond fund—Apportionment.
87.22.275	Rights of bond owners—Lien of bonds—Manner of payment.
87.22.280	Judicial confirmation.
87.22.910	Construction—Chapter additional method.

**87.22.010 Refunding authorized.** Any or all bonds heretofore issued by any irrigation district in this state may be refunded as hereinafter provided. [1929 c 120 § 1; RRS § 7530-1. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 120 § 40; RRS § 7530-40, now codified as RCW 87.22.910.]

**87.22.020 When proceedings may be instituted.** Before any proposition for the issuance of limited liability refunding bonds, as provided for in this chapter, of an irrigation district in this state shall be submitted to the electors thereof, the board of directors of said district shall at their option have authority, upon the written consent of the owners of at least fifty-one percent of the face value of the bonds proposed to be refunded, and upon the written approval of the state department of ecology, and of the owners of fifty-one percent of the acreage of the land within the district, to institute proceedings in the superior court of the proper county to determine the irrigable acreage of the lands which shall be subject to assessment for the payment of said refunding bonds and the interest thereon, and to determine the maximum benefits to be received by said lands from said proposed refunding bonds, in the manner herein provided. [1983 c 167 § 229; 1929 c 120 § 2; RRS § 7530-2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.22.030 Petition—Contents.** The said board of directors shall institute such proceedings by filing a petition in the superior court of the county in which the greater part of the lands in the district are situated. Said petition shall give the name of the district, shall set out the nature of its water rights and the general character of its irrigation works and distribution system, shall state the amount, maturity schedule of minimum annual installments of principal and maximum interest rate of the proposed refunding bonds, shall state the

approximate irrigable acreage in the district and the probable approximate aggregate annual income therefrom during the life of the proposed refunding bonds, shall recite that the required consent of the owners of the bonds to be refunded has been obtained and shall state such other matter, if any, the said board of directors may deem pertinent to the proceedings, shall pray for the determination of the irrigable acreage and of the maximum benefits aforesaid and shall be signed and verified by the president of the said board of directors. [1983 c 167 § 230; 1929 c 120 § 3; RRS § 7530-3.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.22.040 Schedule of maximum benefits.** There shall accompany said petition as an exhibit thereto a schedule of maximum benefits and of irrigable acreage for all the respective lands in the district. Such schedule shall contain in appropriate columns the name of the person to whom such tract of real property was assessed and the description of said property according to the district assessment roll last equalized, in a third column with appropriate heading shall be specified after each said description of land the maximum benefit to be received from the proposed refunding bond issue with the maximum benefits segregated into its three component parts—(1) the amount required to pay the lands' proportional part of the principal of the bonds; (2) the amount required to pay the lands' proportional part of the interest over the term of the bonds; (3) the amount of benefits in excess of the lands' proportional part of the principal of the bonds and the interest over the term of the bonds; and in another appropriately specified column shall be stated after each tract the irrigable acreage thereof which will be assessed for payment of the proposed refunding bonds. Said schedule shall be signed by the secretary of the district. [1931 c 42 § 1; 1929 c 120 § 4; RRS § 7530-4.]

**87.22.050 Hearing, time and place of.** Upon the filing of said petition with the schedule of irrigable acreage and maximum benefits, the court shall fix a time and place for hearing the same and shall order the secretary of the district to give and publish a notice of said hearing. Said hearing may be held at the place fixed in the order and may be adjourned to a place certain in any county in which any lands within the district are situated, and may be continued from time to time and adjourned from county to county for the convenience of landowners and other interested persons. [1929 c 120 § 5; RRS § 7530-5.]

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

**87.22.060 Notice—Service.** The notice of said hearing shall be given and published in the same manner, except as herein otherwise provided, and for the same length of time that a notice of a special election to determine whether the bonds of the district shall be issued is required to be given and published. [1929 c 120 § 6; RRS § 7530-6. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 120 § 7; RRS § 7530-7, now codified as RCW 87.22.065.]

*Bonds, election for, etc. (notice): RCW 87.03.200.*

**87.22.065 Notice—Contents.** Said notice shall state that the district (naming it) proposes to issue and dispose of a refunding bond issue specifying the amount; that proceedings

have been instituted in the superior court of the state of Washington in and for the specified county to determine the maximum benefits to be received by the lands within the operation of said district from the issuance and disposal of said proposed bond issue, and further to determine the irrigable acreage which will be assessed for the payment of said bonds, shall state that a schedule of the lands involved together with a statement of the amount of maximum benefits received by the amount of irrigable acreage in each respectively, is on file in said proceedings and may be inspected by any interested person, shall state the time and place fixed for the hearing of the petition and shall state that any person interested in such proceedings may on or before the day fixed for said hearing file his or her written objections thereto with the clerk of said court, or he or she will be forever bound by such orders as the court shall make in such proceedings. [2013 c 23 § 512; 1929 c 120 § 7; RRS § 7530-7. Formerly RCW 87.22.060, part.]

**87.22.070 Hearing—Decree.** At the time and place stated in the notice of said hearing, the court shall consider said petition and shall receive such pertinent evidence as may be offered in support thereof or against the same, shall enter a decree fully determining the maximum benefits received by and the irrigable acreage in, the several tracts of land involved as shown by the schedule and as prayed for in said petition. Said action shall be an equitable one in rem and the court shall have full authority to make and issue any and all necessary orders and to do any and all things proper or incidental to the exercise of its jurisdiction in this connection. At said hearing the matters set forth in said petition and accompanying schedule shall be presumed to be true and correct in the absence of sufficient evidence to the contrary. [1929 c 120 § 8; RRS § 7530-8.]

*Refunding bonds—Form—Manner of payment—Interest rate (decree may determine): RCW 87.22.150.*

**87.22.080 Benefits, how determined—Dismissal—Continuance—Waiver.** The maximum benefits accruing to the several tracts of land in the district from the proposed refunding bond issue shall be considered as new and independent of that accruing from the bonds to be refunded and in determining the maximum benefits as prayed for in said petition, the court shall not be limited to a consideration of the enhancement of market value of the lands involved arising immediately from the issuance and disposal of the proposed refunding bonds but shall have authority to consider such benefits as shall accrue to said lands from the plan of financing provided by the proposed bonds and from the continued operation of the irrigation system under the administration of the district during the life of said refunding bonds and any other benefits that may accrue. If the court finds that the aggregate amount of said maximum benefits shall not equal at least double the amount of the principal of the proposed refunding bonds, to which shall be added the interest computed at the rate specified in the refunding bonds, it shall enter a decree dismissing the proceedings and the district shall have no authority to issue the proposed refunding bonds until a satisfactory decree has been obtained under the provisions of this chapter: PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the district from continu-

ing the hearing for the purpose of modifying the proposed refunding bond plan or for the purpose of otherwise meeting the objection of the court, nor shall the dismissal of the proceeding be in anywise prejudicial to the institution of a subsequent action for the same purpose; AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent the court from entering a decree upon stipulation of the holders of the bonds to be refunded to waive their right to part of the indebtedness represented by the bonds to be refunded, so that the proposed refunding bond issue comes within the statutory requirements as to maximum benefits, or to accept refunding bonds based on a lesser aggregate maximum benefit than that required by the statute. [1931 c 42 § 2; 1929 c 120 § 9; RRS § 7530-9. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 120 § 10; RRS § 7530-10, now codified as RCW 87.22.085.]

**87.22.085 Irrigable acreage, how determined.** In determining the irrigable acreage as provided herein, the court shall consider all lands included in the district capable of being used for agricultural purposes, provided that no lands shall be found to be irrigable which are not irrigable from the plan of the irrigation works of the district; and provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent a reconsideration of the irrigability of lands found nonirrigable upon the modification or enlargement of the irrigation system whereby said lands at first found nonirrigable may be irrigated by the district system. [1929 c 120 § 10; RRS § 7530-10. Formerly RCW 87.22.080, part.]

**87.22.090 Appellate review.** Appellate review of the judgment entered in said proceedings may be sought in the same manner as in other cases in equity. [1988 c 202 § 88; 1971 c 81 § 173; 1929 c 120 § 11; RRS § 7530-11.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.22.100 Final judgment conclusive.** The judgment of the court determining maximum benefits and the irrigable acreage in such proceedings, unless appealed from within the time prescribed by law, and upon final judgment on appeal, shall be conclusive, except as herein otherwise provided, upon and against each and every owner of said bonds issued as proposed and upon and against every tract of land in the district, upon and against those owning the same or having any interest therein, including minors, insane persons, those convicted of crime as well as those free from disability, and upon and against those who may have appeared in said proceedings. [1929 c 120 § 12; RRS § 7530-12. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 120 § 13; RRS § 7530-13, now codified in RCW 87.22.105.]

**87.22.105 Final judgment conclusive—Exception.** Said judgment shall be final and conclusive upon and against all lands in the district on appeal as aforesaid, except as to the particular tract or tracts involved in the appeal. [1929 c 120 § 13; RRS § 7530-13. Formerly RCW 87.22.100, part.]

**87.22.110 Transcript to other counties.** A transcript of so much of the judgment in said proceedings as pertain to the lands situated in each county other than the one in which the proceedings were instituted shall be certified by the clerk

of the court and mailed to the county clerk of each of said other counties respectively for record among the recorded judgments therein. [1929 c 120 § 14; RRS § 7530-14.]

**87.22.120 Election—Question to electors.** Upon final determination of maximum benefits and irrigable acreage aforesaid, the board of directors of the district shall submit to the electors of the district possessing the qualifications prescribed by the irrigation district law the question whether refunding bonds of the district in amount and of the maturity proposed by said board shall be issued and exchanged for outstanding bonds as herein provided. [1929 c 120 § 15; RRS § 7530-15. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 120 § 16; RRS § 7530-16, now codified as RCW 87.22.125.]

*Qualification of voters and directors: RCW 87.03.045.*

**87.22.125 Election—Procedure.** Except as herein otherwise specifically provided said election shall be called, noticed, conducted and the results thereof determined in the same manner and by the same officials as that provided by law for the calling, noticing, conducting and canvassing of original bond elections in irrigated districts. [1929 c 120 § 16; RRS § 7530-16. Formerly RCW 87.22.120, part.]

*Bond elections: RCW 87.03.200.*

**87.22.130 Election—Notice, contents.** The notice of said election shall specify the time and place of the election, the amount of the proposed refunding bonds, the maturity, the schedule of the minimum annual payments of the principal thereof and the maximum annual rate of interest said bonds shall bear, as approved by the court in the decree determining maximum benefits and irrigable acreage. [1929 c 120 § 17; RRS § 7530-17.]

**87.22.140 Election—Majority vote affirmative, procedure.** If a majority of the votes cast at said election are in favor of the proposed refunding issue the board of directors shall thereupon have authority to cause refunding bonds of the district in the amount and on the basis of the plan of payment and rate of interest proposed, to be issued and exchanged as herein provided. [1929 c 120 § 18; RRS § 7530-18. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 120 § 19; RRS § 7530-19, now codified in RCW 87.22.145.]

**87.22.145 Exchange of bonds.** Refunding bonds provided for under this chapter may be exchanged for any or all of the bonds to be refunded on such basis as may be agreed upon between the board of directors of the district and the bond owners: PROVIDED, That said refunding bonds shall not be issued in a greater sum than the total aggregate face value of the bonds to be refunded. [1983 c 167 § 231; 1929 c 120 § 19; RRS § 7530-19. Formerly RCW 87.22.140, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.22.150 Form of bonds—Manner of payment—Interest rate.** (1) Said refunding bonds shall be issued in such denominations as the board shall determine, but in the same denominations so far as practicable as the bonds to be refunded and shall mature at the date specified in the notice of election but not in any event later than thirty years from the date thereof, and shall be payable in minimum annual install-

ments specified on a percentage basis and amortized to provide for full payment of the bonds with interest at maturity: PROVIDED, That in lieu of the annual payments of principal and semiannual payments of interest as provided in this chapter, the court may prescribe the form, manner of payment, and interest rate or rates of the refunding bonds, in the decree determining maximum benefits and irrigable acreage; and said decree may grant the district the right to pay at the date of any annual or semiannual payment, one or more next accruing annual or semiannual installments less the interest on that part of the principal thus paid in advance: AND PROVIDED, In all cases in which the court determines the form, manner of payment, and interest rate of the refunding bonds in the decree determining maximum benefits, all notices provided in this chapter and any other provision thereof, shall be given and construed in conformity with the terms and conditions of said bond prescribed in said decree. Such bonds may be in any registered form as provided for in RCW 39.46.030.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued in any registered form and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 232; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 97; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 56; 1931 c 42 § 3; 1929 c 120 § 20; RRS § 7530-20.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

*Hearing—Decree:* RCW 87.22.070.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.22.160 Interest on unpaid bond installments—When payable.** All unpaid installments on account of the principal of said refunding bonds shall bear interest from the date of the bonds at a rate or rates as authorized by the board of directors of the district. Different installments of the principal of said bonds may bear different rates of interest if it is so provided in the bond plan. Interest shall be payable semi-annually on the first day of January and July of each year. [1970 ex.s. c 56 § 98; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 57; 1929 c 120 § 21; RRS 7530-21. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 120 § 22; RRS § 7530-22, now codified as RCW 87.22.165.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.22.165 Bond payments, where payable.** Both principal and interest shall be made payable at the office of the county treasurer of the county in which the office of the board of directors of the district is situated. [1929 c 120 § 22; RRS § 7530-22. Formerly RCW 87.22.160, part.]

**87.22.170 Bond contents—Transferability—Priority.** Said bonds shall express upon their face that they were issued by authority of this chapter, stating its title and date of approval, that the district reserves the right to pay on account of the principal thereof annual installments at a greater rate than the minimum rate stated in the bonds, that said bonds are transferable only on the registration book of the county treasurer's office at which said bonds are payable; that any attempted transfer of said bonds not recorded in said registration book shall be void so far as the rights of the district are concerned and that said bonds are of equal priority, payable with interest on a pro rata basis from revenues derived from annual assessments levied against the irrigable benefited

lands within the district. [1929 c 120 § 23; RRS § 7530-23. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 120 § 24; RRS § 7530-24, now codified as RCW 87.22.175.]

**87.22.175 Bonds—Signature—Registration book.** Said bonds shall be signed by the president of the board and secretary of the district and the seal of the district shall be impressed thereon. The term "registration book" as used in chapter 87.22 RCW shall constitute the method of registration adopted in conformance with RCW 39.46.030. [1983 c 167 § 233; 1929 c 120 § 24; RRS § 7530-24. Formerly RCW 87.22.170, part.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.22.190 Transfer on registration book required.** Said bonds shall be transferable only on the registration book and any attempted transfer of said bonds not recorded in said registration book shall be void so far as the rights of the district are concerned. [1983 c 167 § 234; 1929 c 120 § 26; RRS § 7530-26. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 120 § 27; RRS § 7530-27, now codified as RCW 87.22.195.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.22.200 Bonds of equal priority.** Said bonds shall be of equal priority and shall be paid on a pro rata basis, in proportion to their respective face values, PROVIDED, That for purposes of identification only said bonds may be numbered consecutively. [1929 c 120 § 28; RRS § 7530-28.]

**87.22.210 Payment to record owner.** Payment by the said county treasurer of any installment of or interest on said bonds, or any of the same, to the recorded owner thereof as shown on said registration book shall constitute a valid payment, without surrender of said bonds or any of the same, provided that final payment on account of any bond shall not be made until and unless the same is surrendered. [1929 c 120 § 29; RRS § 7530-29. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1929 c 120 § 30; RRS § 7530-30, now codified as RCW 87.22.215.]

**87.22.215 Payment to agent.** Any bondholder or group of bondholders shall have the right to request said county treasurer in writing to pay the interest and installments of principal of his or her or their bond or bonds to such agent as may be designated in said request and payment to said agent shall constitute a valid payment to the record owner or owners of said bond or bonds within the provisions of this chapter. [2013 c 23 § 513; 1929 c 120 § 30; RRS § 7530-30. Formerly RCW 87.22.210, part.]

**87.22.230 Assessments—Limitations.** No tract of land shall be assessed by the district during the life of the proposed bonds when issued for the purpose of paying the principal of or interest on said bonds in an aggregate amount in excess of double the amount determined in the decree fixing maximum benefits under subdivision (1) of RCW 87.22.040, together with the interest on the principal computed at the rates specified in the bond, and any assessment in excess thereof shall be void. In addition to its regular normal assessment for the principal or interest of said bonds, no tract of land shall be assessed in any one year to make up past or anticipated delin-

quencies of assessments or both levied or to be levied against the lands in the district for said purposes, in excess of fifty percent of its regular normal assessment for said bonds. [1931 c 42 § 4; 1929 c 120 § 31; RRS § 7530-31.]

**87.22.240 Assessments—Methods of payment.** The owner of any land within said irrigation district which shall be liable for payment of said refunding bonds shall have the right to pay the same in said annual or semiannual installments or to make payment at any time when installments are due as in this section provided: (1) To pay an amount equal to the amount fixed in said decree determining the maximum benefits under subdivisions (1) and (2) of RCW 87.22.040 or the amount of the unpaid balance of said sums if such payment is not made until one or more installments have been paid, together with the amount fixed by said decree under subdivision (1) of RCW 87.22.040, and thereafter no further assessment shall be levied against such tract of land; (2) to pay the amount of benefits fixed in the decree determining the maximum benefits under subdivision (1) of RCW 87.22.040 or the unpaid balance thereof if such payment is made after one or more installments shall have been paid, with interest on the amount paid to the time of making payment, and thereafter such lands shall not be subject to assessments except to meet delinquencies of principal and/or interest on said bonds, for which purpose additional assessments shall be levied against said tract of land to an amount not exceeding the amount found in the decree fixing the maximum benefits under subdivision (1) of RCW 87.22.040; or (3) to pay any additional installments of the principal with interest accrued on the amount so paid at the time of the payment, and thereafter, in levying assessments against said tracts of land, said owner shall be given credit for such advance payment. The treasurer of the proper county shall have authority to receive for the benefit of the refunding bond fund of the district the payments herein authorized to be made. [1931 c 42 § 5; 1929 c 120 § 32; RRS § 7530-32. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1931 c 42 § 6; 1929 c 120 § 33; RRS § 7530-33, now codified as RCW 87.22.245.]

**87.22.245 Assessments—Receipts.** In case the owner of any land within an irrigation district shall make payment in accordance with the second provision in RCW 87.22.240, the county treasurer shall issue to such landowner a receipt stating that such payments have been made and that such lands shall thereafter be subject only to the assessments provided for in accordance with such provisions; and, in case any landowner within such irrigation district shall make any payments in accordance with the third provision of RCW 87.22.240, the county treasurer shall issue to such landowner a receipt showing the payment of such installment or installments and stating that credit therefor is thereby given to such landowner as to apply to future installments. [1931 c 42 § 6; 1929 c 120 § 33; RRS § 7530-33. Formerly RCW 87.22.240, part.]

**87.22.250 Assessments—Payment in money only.** Full payment of the decreed maximum benefits accruing to any tract of land aforesaid can be made by the payment of money only and no sale of any tract of land on account of delinquent district assessments shall be construed as a satisfaction chargeable against the amount of maximum benefits

decreed as accruing to said tract by reason of said refunding bonds. [1929 c 120 § 34; RRS § 7530-34.]

**87.22.260 Sale or lease of foreclosed land—Disposition of proceeds.** In any instance where an irrigation district having outstanding refunding bonds issued under the provision of this chapter, sells or rents a tract of land previously acquired by sale on account of delinquent district assessments, the proceeds of said sale or lease shall be distributed to the expense fund and the refunding bond fund of the district in proportion to the respective amounts of the district exactions made against said tract of land for the benefit of these two funds payable in the year in which the district assessment for which said tract was sold, became delinquent. [1929 c 120 § 35; RRS § 7530-35.]

**87.22.270 Excess in bond fund—Apportionment.** When the money in the refunding bond fund reaches an excess of ten percent of the amount necessary to meet the total aggregate minimum annual installment of the principal of said bonds and interest next payable, it shall be the duty of said treasurer to apportion said excess to the several bondholders on a pro rata basis in proportion to the par value of their respective bonds and include the same with the payments of the next annual installment of the principal of said bonds. [1929 c 120 § 36; RRS § 7530-36.]

**87.22.275 Rights of bond owners—Lien of bonds—Manner of payment.** Except as herein otherwise specifically provided, refunding bonds, authorized, issued and disposed of under the provisions of this chapter shall entitle the owners thereof to the same rights and privileges, shall constitute a lien on the same property and shall be paid in the same manner as the original bonds refunded by said bond issue, and said refunding bonds shall be retired by the exaction of annual assessments levied against all the lands in the district: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That any lands in the district against which no benefits are determined by the decree determining maximum benefits may be excluded from the district in the same manner in which lands may now be excluded from the districts against which there are no bond issues, and said lands so excluded shall be forever free of the liens of said refunding bonds; AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That no assessments against any tract of land shall exceed the amount specified under RCW 87.22.230. [1983 c 167 § 235; 1931 c 42 § 7; 1929 c 120 § 37; RRS § 7530-37. Formerly RCW 87.22.220.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.22.280 Judicial confirmation.** Proceedings had for the authorization, issuance and disposal of refunding bonds provided for herein may be considered, confirmed and approved by the court in proceedings authorized by the irrigation district act in the same manner and with the same effect, as proceedings had for authorization, issuance and disposal of other irrigation district bonds provided for by law, are considered, confirmed and approved. [1929 c 120 § 38; RRS § 7530-38.]

*Proceedings for judicial confirmation: RCW 87.03.780 through 87.03.805.*

**87.22.910 Construction—Chapter additional method.** Nothing in this chapter contained shall be deemed or construed as abridging, enlarging or modifying any existing statute relating to refunding bonds of irrigation districts. This chapter is intended as an independent act providing an additional method for the issuance of refunding bonds of such districts. [1929 c 120 § 40; RRS § 7530-40. Formerly RCW 87.22.010, part.]

### Chapter 87.25 RCW CERTIFICATION OF BONDS

#### Sections

87.25.010	Resolution to certify—Investigation.
87.25.020	Request for information—Compliance.
87.25.030	Transcript to attorney general—Report filed with secretary of state.
87.25.040	Contents of director's report.
87.25.050	Certificates to be attached to reports.
87.25.060	Supplemental report.
87.25.070	Form of secretary of state's certificate.
87.25.090	Expense to be paid by district.
87.25.100	Expenditures of bond proceeds—Employment and payment of attorneys.
87.25.120	Inspection of work as it progresses.
87.25.125	Certification in installments.
87.25.130	Forms prescribed.
87.25.140	Expenditures for construction—Approval—Budget.

**87.25.010 Resolution to certify—Investigation.** Whenever the board of directors of any irrigation district, organized and existing under and pursuant to the laws of the state of Washington, shall by resolution declare that it deems it desirable that any contemplated or outstanding bonds of such district, including any of its bonds authorized but not sold, be certified under the provisions of this chapter, such board of directors shall thereupon file a certified copy of such resolution with the director of ecology. Such director on receipt of a certified copy of such resolution shall, without delay, make or cause to be made a full investigation of the affairs of the district. [1988 c 127 § 49; 1923 c 51 § 1; RRS § 7432-1.]

**87.25.020 Request for information—Compliance.** In connection with the investigation and report provided for in this chapter, the director of ecology is authorized and directed to make written request upon any state officer, institution or department for information, opinion or advice relative to any features of such investigation pertinent to the work of such officer or department. Upon receipt of such written request from said director, such officer or department shall, without delay, make such investigation as may be necessary and shall then furnish the said director with a report in writing giving the information, opinion or advice required by said director. [1988 c 127 § 50; 1923 c 51 § 2; RRS § 7432-2.]

**87.25.030 Transcript to attorney general—Report filed with secretary of state.** If, after the investigation herein provided for, the director finds that the project of the district is feasible, that the bond issue proposed to be certified is necessary and in sufficient amount to complete the improvement contemplated and that the district shows a clear probability of successful operation, he or she shall submit a complete transcript, to be furnished and certified by the district, of the proceedings relating to the organization and

establishment of the district and relating to or affecting the validity of the bond issue involved, to the attorney general, for his or her written opinion as to the legality of the same. If the attorney general finds that any of the matters submitted in the transcript are not legally sufficient he or she shall so state in his or her opinion to the director of ecology. The district shall then be given an opportunity, if possible, to correct the proceeding or thing complained of to the satisfaction of the attorney general. If the attorney general finds that all the matters submitted in the transcript as originally submitted or as subsequently corrected are legally sufficient said director shall thereupon file his or her report with the secretary of state and forward a copy to the secretary of the district, to be kept among the records of the district. [2013 c 23 § 514; 1988 c 127 § 51; 1923 c 51 § 3; RRS § 7432-3.]

**87.25.040 Contents of director's report.** Said report filed with the secretary of state shall contain conclusions upon the following points:

- (1) The supply of water available for the project and the right of the district to so much water as may be needed.
- (2) The nature of the soil as to its fertility and susceptibility to irrigation, the probable amount of water needed for its irrigation and the probable need of drainage.
- (3) The feasibility of the district's irrigation system and of the specific unit for which the bonds under consideration are desired, whether such system and unit be constructed, projected or partially completed; and the sufficiency of the amount of the proposed bond issue to complete the improvement contemplated.
- (4) The reasonable market value of the water, water rights, canals, reservoirs, reservoir sites and irrigation works owned by such district or to be acquired or constructed by it with the proceeds of any such bonds.
- (5) The reasonable market value of the lands included within the district.
- (6) The plan of operation and maintenance used or contemplated by the district.
- (7) The method of accounting employed or proposed to be employed by the district.
- (8) Any other matter material to the investigation. [1923 c 51 § 4; RRS § 7432-4.]

**87.25.050 Certificates to be attached to reports.** Attached to said report of said director shall be the following:

- (1) A certificate signed by the director of ecology certifying to the amount and sufficiency of water rights available for the project.
- (2) A certificate signed by a soil expert of the Washington State University, certifying as to the character of the soil and the classification of the lands in the district.
- (3) A certificate signed by the director of ecology approving the general feasibility of the system of irrigation.
- (4) A certificate signed by the attorney general of the state of Washington approving the legality of the organization and establishment of the district and the legality of the bond issue offered for certification. [1988 c 127 § 52; 1977 ex.s. c 169 § 112; 1923 c 51 § 5; RRS § 7432-5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.25.060 Supplemental report.** When the proposed bond issue has been finally approved by the director, he or she shall file a supplemental report with the secretary of state giving the numbers, date or dates of issue, and denominations of said bonds which shall then be entitled to certification as herein provided. [2013 c 23 § 515; 1923 c 51 § 6; RRS § 7432-6.]

**87.25.070 Form of secretary of state's certificate.** All bonds issued by any eligible district availing itself of the provisions of this chapter shall, before sale by the district, have attached thereto the certificate of the secretary of state, essentially in the following form:

Olympia, Washington, . . . (Insert date). . . .

I, . . . . ., secretary of state of the state of Washington, do hereby certify that the above named district has been investigated and its project approved by the department of ecology of the state of Washington; that the legality of the bond issue of which this bond is one has been approved by the attorney general of the state of Washington, and that the carrying out of the purposes for which this bond was issued is under the supervision of said department, as provided by law.

[Seal] . . . . .  
Secretary of State.

[1988 c 127 § 53; 1923 c 51 § 7; RRS § 7432-7.]

**87.25.090 Expense to be paid by district.** All necessary expenses incurred in making the investigation, examination, opinions and reports in this chapter provided for shall be paid at such times and in such manner as the director of ecology shall require, by the irrigation district, the affairs of which have been investigated and reported on by the said director: PROVIDED, That the benefit of any service that may have been performed and any data that may have been obtained in pursuance of the requirements of any law other than this chapter, shall be available for the use of the director without charge to said district. [1988 c 127 § 54; 1923 c 51 § 8; RRS § 7432-8.]

**87.25.100 Expenditures of bond proceeds—Employment and payment of attorneys.** Whenever the bonds of any irrigation district have been certified, as provided in this chapter, no expenditures shall be made from the proceeds of such bonds, nor shall any liability chargeable against such proceeds be incurred, until there shall have been filed with and approved by the director of ecology a schedule of proposed expenditures in such form as said director shall prescribe, and no expenditures from the proceeds of said bonds shall be made for any purpose in excess of the amount allowed therefor in such schedule without the written consent of said director: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That, if it shall be necessary, the attorney general may employ competent attorneys to assist him or her in the performance of his or her duties under this chapter, said attorneys to be paid by the irrigation district for which services are rendered from any of the funds of said district at such time and in such manner as the attorney general shall require. [2013 c 23 § 516; 1988 c 127 § 55; 1923 c 51 § 9; RRS § 7432-9.]

(2022 Ed.)

**87.25.120 Inspection of work as it progresses.** During the progress of any work to be paid for from the proceeds of any bond issue certified as in this chapter provided, the director of ecology shall make or cause to be made, from time to time, at the expense of the district, such inspection of the work as may be necessary to enable the said department to know that the plans approved by the director are being carried out without material modification, unless such modification has been approved by the director. [1988 c 127 § 56; 1923 c 51 § 10; RRS § 7432-10.]

**87.25.125 Certification in installments.** Whenever the survey, examinations, drawings, and plans of an irrigation district, and the estimate of cost based thereon, shall provide that the works necessary for a completed project shall be constructed progressively over a period of years in accordance with a plan or schedule adopted by resolution of the board of directors of the district, it shall not be necessary for the secretary of state to certify at one time all of the bonds that have been voted for the said completed project; but such bonds may be certified from time to time, when approved by the director of ecology, as needed by the district. If the secretary of state shall certify all of the bonds necessary for the said completed project, even if said project is to be constructed progressively over a period of years in accordance with the aforesaid resolution of the board of directors, the bonds so voted and certified shall only be sold after prior written approval of said director. [1988 c 127 § 57; 1923 c 51 § 11; RRS § 7432-11. Formerly RCW 87.25.080.]

**87.25.130 Forms prescribed.** Districts coming within the provisions of this chapter shall prepare and maintain all records of their operation and proceedings upon forms prescribed by the director of ecology. [1988 c 127 § 58; 1923 c 51 § 12; RRS § 7432-12.]

**87.25.140 Expenditures for construction—Approval—Budget.** When the bonds of any district have been certified as provided herein, it shall be unlawful for the district, during the life of said bonds to expend any money or incur any obligation for construction purposes without the written approval of the director of ecology, nor shall such district issue and sell any bonds not certified as herein provided, and the district shall annually at such time as said director shall prescribe, prepare and file with the director, on forms furnished by that officer, a budget of its contemplated expenditures for maintenance and operation during the ensuing year. [1988 c 127 § 59; 1923 c 51 § 13; RRS § 7432-13. Formerly RCW 87.25.110.]

**Chapter 87.28 RCW  
REVENUE BONDS FOR WATER, POWER, DRAINS,  
ETC.**

Sections

87.28.005	"County treasurer," "treasurer of the county," defined.
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87.28.015	Interest bearing warrants authorized—Form, covenants, issuance and sale.
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87.28.030	Bonds payable only from special funds—Lien on revenues.
87.28.035	Determining amount payable into special funds.
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87.28.070	Sale of bonds.
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87.28.103	Election on proposed bond issue—Exception.
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87.28.120	Objects executed by resolution—Determining legality of proceedings.
87.28.150	Refunding revenue bonds authorized—Revenue bond redemption fund established—Use.
87.28.200	Utility local improvement districts—Authorized—Special assessments—Limitations.
87.28.210	Utility local improvement districts—Conversion of local improvement districts to.

**87.28.005 "County treasurer," "treasurer of the county," defined.** As used in this chapter, in accordance with RCW 87.03.440, the term "county treasurer" or "treasurer of the county" or other reference to that office means the treasurer of the district, if the district has designated its own treasurer, unless the context clearly requires otherwise. [1979 ex.s. c 185 § 17.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.010 Revenue bonds authorized.** The board of directors of any irrigation district in this state which is furnishing or may furnish irrigation water, domestic water, electric power, drainage or sewerage services for which rates or tolls and charges are imposed or contract payments made, or any combination of such services, shall have authority to issue and sell bonds of the district payable from revenues derived from district rates or tolls and charges or contract payments for such service or services, and to pledge such revenues from one or more of such services for the payment and retirement of bonds issued for irrigation water, domestic water, electric power, and drainage or sewer improvements: PROVIDED, That nothing in this section shall authorize a district which is not on March 8, 1973, engaged in providing electrical service permission to pledge revenue from water and sewer service to support the issuance of revenue bonds for the acquisition or construction of electrical power facilities other than those authorized by RCW 87.03.015(1), as now or hereafter amended. [1979 ex.s. c 185 § 8; 1973 c 74 § 1; 1949 c 57 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.015 Interest bearing warrants authorized—Form, covenants, issuance and sale.** Irrigation districts may also issue interest bearing warrants to provide interim financing pending the issuance of district revenue bonds. The items, form and content, and the manner of the issuance and sale of such interest bearing warrants as well as any covenants for the redemption of such warrants shall be established by resolution of the district's board of directors. Such warrants may be in any form, including bearer warrants or registered warrants as provided in RCW 39.46.030. Such warrants may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 236; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 18.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.020 Form and terms of bonds.** (1) Said bonds shall be in such form as the board of directors shall determine; shall be in bearer form or registered as to principal or interest or both as provided in RCW 39.46.030, and may pro-

vide for conversion between registered and coupon bonds; shall be in such denominations, shall be numbered, shall bear such date and shall be payable at such time or times up to a maximum of not to exceed forty years as shall be determined by the board of directors; shall bear interest at such rate or rates, payable at such time or times as authorized by the board of directors; shall be payable at the office of the county treasurer of the county in which the principal office of the district is located or at such other place as the board of directors shall provide and specify in the bonds; shall be executed by the president of the board of directors and attested and sealed by the secretary thereof and may have facsimile signatures of the president and secretary imprinted on any interest coupons in lieu of original signatures and the facsimile seal of the district and the facsimile signature of either the president or the secretary on the bonds in lieu of a manual signature. Said bonds may provide that the same or any part thereof at the option of the board of directors may be redeemed in advance of maturity on any interest payment date upon the terms and conditions established by the board, may include in the amount of the issue funds for the purpose of paying interest on the bonds during the period of construction of the facility being financed by the proceeds of the bonds, and may include in the amount of the issue funds for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, or increasing reserves in the manner, for the purposes, and subject to the restrictions set forth in RCW 39.44.140.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be issued and sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 237; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 9; 1973 c 74 § 2; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 99; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 58; 1949 c 57 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-11.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

*Facsimile signatures:* RCW 39.44.100.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.030 Bonds payable only from special funds—Lien on revenues.** The board of directors of the issuing district shall have authority and is required to create a special fund or funds to be carried in said county treasurer's office for the account of the district for the sole purpose of paying the interest and principal of such bonds. The board of directors of the issuing district shall obligate and bind the district to set aside and pay into such special fund or funds a fixed proportion, or any fixed amount of and not exceeding a fixed proportion of, or a fixed amount or amounts without regard to any fixed proportion of the gross revenues from the charges made by the district for the irrigation water, domestic water, the electric power, drainage, or sewer service, or any combination of such services as the case may be, for which the bonds are issued, and such bonds and the interest thereon shall be payable only out of such special fund or funds but shall be a lien and charge against all revenues received for the service or services the revenues of which are pledged to such fund or funds and payments received from any utility local improvement district or districts pledged to secure such bonds, subject only to operating and maintenance expenses of such service. [1979 ex.s. c 185 § 10; 1973 c 74 § 3; 1949 c 57 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-12.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)



**87.28.035 Determining amount payable into special funds.** In creating such special fund or funds the board of directors of the district shall have due regard for the cost of the operation and maintenance of the district system required by the district to furnish said irrigation water, domestic water, electric power, drainage, or sewer service, as the case may be, and shall not set aside into such special fund a greater amount or proportion of the revenue of such service or services, than, in its judgment, will be available over and above such cost of maintenance and operation and the amount or proportion, if any, of the revenue previously pledged to such special fund or funds. [1979 ex.s. c 185 § 11; 1949 c 57 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-13. Formerly RCW 87.28.080.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.040 Bonds do not constitute general debt of district.** Any such bonds, and interest thereon, issued against a special fund as herein provided shall be a valid claim of the owner thereof only as against said special fund or funds and its fixed proportion or amount of the revenue pledged to such fund or funds and shall not constitute a general indebtedness against the issuing irrigation district. Each such bond shall state upon its face that it is payable from a special fund or funds only, naming the special fund or funds and the resolution creating the fund or funds. [1983 c 167 § 238; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 12; 1949 c 57 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-13a.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.070 Sale of bonds.** (1) Such revenue bonds shall be sold in such manner as the board of directors shall deem for the best interests of the irrigation district, either at public or at private sale and at any price and at any rate or rates of interest, but if the board of directors shall dispose of said bonds in exchange for construction of improvements or for materials, such bonds shall not be disposed of for less than par for value received by the district.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, such bonds may be sold in accordance with chapter 39.46 RCW. [1983 c 167 § 239; 1970 ex.s. c 56 § 100; 1969 ex.s. c 232 § 59; 1949 c 57 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-14.]

**Purpose—1970 ex.s. c 56:** See note following RCW 39.52.020.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.090 Board to set rates to provide necessary revenues.** The board of directors of any irrigation district issuing such revenue bonds shall provide for revenues by fixing rates and charges for furnishing the service involved as the board shall deem necessary, in the manner provided by law and as fixed by resolution, the total revenues to be so estimated and determined as to be sufficient to take care of costs of maintenance, operation interest and principal amortization requirements and other charges involved. [1949 c 57 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-15.]

*Assessments and levies:* RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.305.

**87.28.100 Fixed share of revenues must be paid into special fund.** When a special fund has been created and bonds have been issued as herein provided, the fixed proportion or amount of the revenues pledged to the payment of the bonds and interest shall be set aside and paid into the special fund monthly as collected, as provided in the resolution cre-

ating the fund, and in case any irrigation district shall fail thus to set aside and pay said fixed proportion or amount as aforesaid, the owner of any bond against the special fund may bring appropriate court action against the district and compel such setting aside and payment. [1983 c 167 § 240; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 13; 1949 c 57 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-16.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.103 Election on proposed bond issue—Exception.** When the directors of the district have decided to issue revenue bonds as herein provided, they shall call a special election in the irrigation district at which election shall be submitted to the electors thereof possessing the qualifications prescribed by law the question whether revenue bonds of the district in the amount and payable according to the plan of payment adopted by the board and for the purposes therein stated shall be issued. The election shall be called, noticed, conducted, and canvassed in the same manner as provided by law for irrigation district elections to authorize an original issue of bonds payable from revenues derived from annual assessments upon the real property in the district: PROVIDED, That the board of directors shall have full authority to issue revenue bonds as herein provided payable within a maximum period of forty years without a special election. [2013 c 177 § 11; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 14; 1949 c 57 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-17. Formerly RCW 87.28.050.]

*Bonds, election for, etc.:* RCW 87.03.200.

*Qualification of voters:* RCW 87.03.045.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.108 Payment of bonds—Covenants for securing authorized—Scope.** The board of directors may make such covenants as it may deem necessary to secure and guarantee the payment of the principal of and interest on revenue bonds of the district, including but not being limited to covenants for: The establishment and maintenance of adequate reserves to secure or guarantee the payment of such principal and interest; the protection and disposition of the proceeds of sale of such bonds; the use and disposition of the gross revenues of the service or services of the district providing revenues for the payment of such bonds and any additions or betterments thereto or extensions thereof; the use and disposition of any utility local improvement district assessments; the creation and maintenance of funds for renewals and replacements of the service or services providing revenues for the payment of such bonds; the establishment and maintenance of rates and charges adequate to pay principal and interest of such bonds and to maintain adequate coverage over debt service; the maintenance, operation, and management of the service or services providing revenues for the payment of such bonds and the accounting, insuring, and auditing of the business in connection therewith; the terms upon which such bonds or any of them may be redeemed at the election of the district; limitations upon the right of the district to dispose of its service or services providing revenues for the payment of such bonds or any part thereof; the appointment of trustees, depositaries, and paying agents to receive, hold, disburse, invest, and reinvest all or any part of the income, revenue, and receipts of the district; and the board of directors may make such other covenants as it may deem necessary to accomplish the most advantageous sale of such bonds. The

board of directors may also provide that revenue bonds payable out of the same source or sources may later be issued on a parity with any revenue bonds being issued and sold. [1979 ex.s. c 185 § 21.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.110 Payment of bonds.** Said county treasurer shall have authority to pay said bonds and any appurtenant coupons in accordance with their terms from any moneys on hand in said special fund and when said bonds with interest have been fully paid, any moneys remaining in the fund shall be transferred to the expense fund of the district and the special fund closed. [1983 c 167 § 241; 1949 c 57 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.120 Objects executed by resolution—Determining legality of proceedings.** The board of directors of the issuing district shall have full authority by resolution to carry out the objects of this chapter in accordance with the provisions hereof and the same shall be liberally construed. The court shall have full jurisdiction under the irrigation district law to examine and determine the legality of the proceedings held to authorize and dispose of such revenue bonds, in the same manner and with the same legal effect as that provided in the case of other bonds of the district. [1949 c 57 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7434-20. Formerly RCW 87.28.120 and 87.28.130.]

*Bonds: RCW 87.03.200 through 87.03.235.*

**87.28.150 Refunding revenue bonds authorized—Revenue bond redemption fund established—Use.** The board of directors of any irrigation district may, by resolution, without submitting the matter to the voters of the district, provide for the issuance of refunding revenue bonds to refund one or more of the following: Outstanding assessment bonds, revenue bonds, contracts with the United States or state of Washington, or any part thereof, and all outstanding local improvement district bonds, at maturity thereof, or before maturity thereof if they are subject to call for prior redemption or if all of the owners thereof consent thereto. The refunding bonds shall be issued in the manner and for the purposes set forth in chapter 39.53 RCW.

Whenever district bonds or contracts payable in whole or part from assessments have been refunded pursuant to this section, all assessments remaining unpaid shall thereafter when collected be paid into the revenue bond redemption fund established for payment of the refunding revenue bonds, and the cash balances, if any, in the reserve or guaranty funds for such refunded bonds and the proceeds received from any other assets owned by such funds shall be used in whole or in part as a reserve or guaranty fund for the refunding revenue bonds or be transferred in whole or in part to any other funds of the district as the board of directors may determine. In the event that any warrants are outstanding against the local improvement guaranty fund of the district at the time of the issuance of such refunding revenue bonds, said bonds shall be issued in an amount sufficient also to fund and pay such outstanding warrants. [1983 c 167 § 242; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 22.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.200 Utility local improvement districts—Authorized—Special assessments—Limitations.** Any irrigation district shall have the power to establish utility local improvement districts within its territory and to levy special assessments within such utility local improvement districts in the same manner as provided for irrigation district local improvement districts: PROVIDED, That it must be specified in any petition for the establishment of a utility local improvement district that the sole purpose of the assessments levied against the real property located within the utility local improvement district shall be the payment of the proceeds of those assessments into a revenue bond fund for the payment of revenue bonds, that no warrants or bonds shall be issued in any such utility local improvement district, and that the collection of interest and principal on all assessments in such utility local improvement district, when collected, shall be paid into that revenue bond fund, except that special assessments paid before the issuance and sale of bonds may be deposited in a fund for the payment of costs of improvements in the utility local improvement district. [2013 c 177 § 12; 1979 ex.s. c 185 § 19.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.28.210 Utility local improvement districts—Conversion of local improvement districts to.** The board of directors of any irrigation district may by resolution convert any then existing local improvement district into a utility local improvement district at any time prior to the adoption of a resolution approving and confirming the initial assessment roll of such local improvement district. The resolution so converting the local improvement district shall provide for the payment of the special assessments levied in that district into the special fund established or to be established for the payment of revenue bonds issued to defray the cost of the local improvement district. [1979 ex.s. c 185 § 20.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

## Chapter 87.48 RCW

### INDEMNITY TO STATE ON LAND SETTLEMENT CONTRACTS

#### Sections

- 87.48.010 Contracts for indemnity authorized.
- 87.48.020 Approval of contract—Execution—State obligation to enter into land settlement contract with federal government.
- 87.48.030 Assessments—Indemnity fund—Transfer to maintenance fund, when.
- 87.48.040 Estimate of expenses and losses—Payment.

**87.48.010 Contracts for indemnity authorized.** Any irrigation district by and through its board of directors is hereby authorized and shall have the power to enter into a contract with the state of Washington whereby it shall agree to repay to the state of Washington any expenses incurred by the state of Washington and to indemnify the state of Washington against any and all losses and damages which the state of Washington may suffer, under any contract between the state of Washington and the United States relating to land settlement in said district. This chapter shall apply to all irrigation districts and shall not be otherwise construed. [1925 ex.s. c 34 § 1; RRS § 7525-1.]

**87.48.020 Approval of contract—Execution—State obligation to enter into land settlement contract with federal government.** When any such irrigation district shall have duly executed and tendered to the state of Washington the contract of indemnity as it is herein empowered to do, the director of ecology is hereby authorized, empowered and required to sign and execute such contract on behalf of the state of Washington. After having received any such contract of indemnity from any such irrigation district the said director of ecology is hereby authorized, empowered and required to enter into a contract on behalf of the state of Washington with the United States relating to the land settlement in such district if such contract shall be presented, or tendered by the United States, which contract, if entered into on or before June 30, 1926, shall have the same terms and provisions of that certain contract submitted to the state of Washington under authority of the act of congress approved March 3rd, 1925, entitled "An Act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926, and for other purposes." PROVIDED, That the liability of the state of Washington to the United States under such contract, if entered into on or before June 30, 1926, shall be limited to three hundred thousand dollars and be subject to appropriation therefor being made by the legislature. PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the said director of ecology or any other officer of the state of Washington shall not enter into any such contract with the United States after June 30, 1926, unless and until any such contract shall have been presented to the legislature by the governor through the director of ecology and approved by a joint resolution of the legislature, which resolution shall be passed by a constitutional majority of both branches of the legislature by roll call. [1988 c 127 § 60; 1925 ex.s. c 34 § 2; RRS § 7525-2.]

**87.48.030 Assessments—Indemnity fund—Transfer to maintenance fund, when.** Any such irrigation district which shall have entered into any such contract of indemnity with the state of Washington is hereby empowered and shall annually be required to levy assessments against all the property within said district from time to time in such amounts as shall enable it to reasonably anticipate and promptly comply with its said contract with the state of Washington. Such assessments shall be levied and be payable at the time and in the manner that its regular assessments are made and shall have the same validity, force and effect as assessments for any other purposes. Such assessments shall be levied for and shall be paid into a fund to be known as "The Indemnity Fund" and such fund shall not be used for any purpose other than to fulfill its obligations under its indemnity contract with the state of Washington. PROVIDED, That when all expenses, losses or damages for which the district may become liable to the state of Washington under RCW 87.48.010 shall have been paid to the state of Washington any money then remaining in "The Indemnity Fund" shall be transferred to the maintenance fund of said district. [1925 ex.s. c 34 § 3; RRS § 7525-3.]

**87.48.040 Estimate of expenses and losses—Payment.** When the state of Washington shall be required to make any payment or expend any money in the performance of any such contract entered into with the United States, an

estimate of the amount of expenses likely to be incurred in such performance, together with an estimate of future losses or damages that may occur under such contract shall be made by the director of ecology, who shall thereupon return a statement thereof to such district, and the board of directors of such district shall from time to time as required by the director of ecology levy against all the property within said district such assessments as may be necessary to repay to the state of Washington such estimated expenses, losses and damages. PROVIDED, If such district has no money in the "The Indemnity Fund" to repay such expenses when the same shall be incurred or to pay such losses and damages as the same shall accrue it shall be the duty of the board of directors to cause warrants of the district to be issued in payment of such indebtedness, which warrants shall bear interest at a rate determined by the board and be paid from moneys paid into the indemnity fund by assessments levied as hereinbefore provided. [1988 c 127 § 61; 1981 c 156 § 32; 1925 ex.s. c 34 § 4; RRS § 7525-4.]

**Chapter 87.52 RCW  
DISSOLUTION OF DISTRICTS WITHOUT BONDS**

Sections	
87.52.001	Actions subject to review by boundary review board. 1897 ACT
87.52.010	Dissolution authorized.
87.52.015	Petition.
87.52.030	Election—Ballots—Qualified electors.
87.52.040	Vote required—Petition to court—Notice and publication of hearing—Court order.
87.52.060	Board of directors as trustees—Duties—Records to be delivered to clerk. 1939 ACT
87.52.070	Dissolution when not brought under irrigation for twenty years.
87.52.080	Petition.
87.52.090	Election—Procedure when three-fifths vote for disorganization.

*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

**87.52.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 87.52 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 67.]

1897 ACT

**87.52.010 Dissolution authorized.** Any irrigation district, organized and existing by virtue of laws of this state, which has no bonded indebtedness outstanding, may be disorganized and its business and affairs liquidated and wound up in the manner hereinafter provided. [1897 c 79 § 1; RRS § 7526. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1897 c 79 § 2; RRS § 7527, now codified as RCW 87.52.015.]

**87.52.015 Petition.** A petition signed by one-third or more holders of title or evidence of title to lands within said district who shall be qualified electors thereof, reciting the fact that said district has no bonded indebtedness and praying that said district be disorganized under the provisions of RCW 87.52.010 through 87.52.060, shall be delivered to the secretary of the board of directors of said district or to one of

the directors thereof. [1897 c 79 § 2; RRS § 7527. Formerly RCW 87.52.010, part.]

**87.52.030 Election—Ballots—Qualified electors.**

Upon the delivery of said petition the board of directors of said irrigation district shall, at their next succeeding regular monthly meeting, order an election, the date of which election shall be within twenty days from the date of said meeting of the board of directors and which election shall be conducted as other elections of irrigation districts are conducted. At said election the qualified electors of said irrigation district shall cast ballots which shall contain the words "Disorganize, Yes," or "Disorganize, No." No person shall be entitled to vote at any election held under the provisions of RCW 87.52.010 through 87.52.060 unless he or she is a qualified voter under the election laws of the state, and holds title or evidence of title to land in said district. [2013 c 23 § 517; 1897 c 79 § 3; RRS § 7528. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1939 c 149 § 3, part; RRS § 7527-3, part, now codified in RCW 87.52.090.]

*Irrigation district elections: RCW 87.03.030 through 87.03.110.*

*Voter registration: Chapter 29A.08 RCW.*

**87.52.040 Vote required—Petition to court—Notice and publication of hearing—Court order.**

If three-fifths of the votes cast at any election under the provisions of RCW 87.52.010 through 87.52.060 shall contain the words "Disorganize, Yes," then the board of directors shall present to the superior judge of the county in which said irrigation district is located an application for an order of said superior court that such irrigation district be declared disorganized and dissolved, and that its affairs be liquidated and wound up, as provided for in RCW 87.52.010 through 87.52.060, and reciting that at an election of such irrigation district, held as provided in RCW 87.52.010 through 87.52.060, three-fifths of the votes cast contained the words "Disorganize, Yes," and such petition shall be certified to by the directors of said district. They shall also file with said superior court a statement, sworn to by the directors of said irrigation district, showing all outstanding indebtedness of said irrigation district, or if there be no such indebtedness, then the directors shall make oath to that effect. Notice of said application shall be given by the clerk, which notice shall set forth the nature of the application, and shall specify the time and place at which it is to be heard, and shall be published in a newspaper of the county printed and published nearest to said irrigation district, once each week for four weeks, or if no newspaper is published in the county, by publication in the newspaper nearest thereto in the state. At the time and place appointed in the notice, or at any other time to which it may be postponed by the judge, he or she shall proceed to consider the application, and if satisfied that the provisions of RCW 87.52.010 through 87.52.060 have been complied with he or she shall enter an order declaring said irrigation district dissolved and disorganized. [2013 c 23 § 518; 1897 c 79 § 4; RRS § 7529. Formerly RCW 87.52.040 and 87.52.050. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1939 c 149 § 3, part; RRS § 7527-3, part, now codified in RCW 87.52.090.]

**87.52.060 Board of directors as trustees—Duties—Records to be delivered to clerk.**

Upon the disorganization

of any irrigation district under the provisions of RCW 87.52.010 through 87.52.060, the board of directors at the time of the disorganization shall be trustees of the creditors and of the property holders of said district for the purpose of collecting and paying all indebtedness of said district, in which actual construction work has been done, and shall have the power to sue and be sued. It shall be the duty of said board of directors, and they shall have the power and authority, to levy and collect a tax sufficient to pay all such indebtedness, which tax shall be levied and collected in the manner prescribed by law for the levying and collection of taxes of irrigation districts. Any balance of moneys of said district remaining over after all outstanding indebtedness and the cost of the proceedings under RCW 87.52.010 through 87.52.060 have been paid shall be divided and refunded to the assessment payers in said irrigation district, to each in proportion to the amount contributed by him or her to the total amount of assessments collected by said district. Said board of directors shall report to the court from time to time as the court may direct, and upon a showing to the court that all indebtedness has been paid, an order shall be entered discharging said board of directors. Upon the entry of such order said board of directors and all the officers of said district shall deliver over to the clerk of said court all books, papers, records, and documents belonging to said district, or under their control as officers thereof: PROVIDED, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to validate or authorize the payment of any indebtedness of said district exceeding the legal limitation of indebtedness specified by law for irrigation districts; or any indebtedness contracted by such irrigation district or its officers without lawful authority. [2013 c 23 § 519; 1897 c 79 § 5; RRS § 7530.]

*Assessments, levy and collection of taxes: RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.305.*

*Powers as to incurring indebtedness: RCW 87.03.475.*

1939 ACT

**87.52.070 Dissolution when not brought under irrigation for twenty years.**

Any irrigation district of the state of Washington, now existing or hereafter organized, which has no bonded indebtedness outstanding, and which has been in existence for more than twenty years without having secured the irrigation of any of its lands, may be disorganized and its business and affairs liquidated and wound up in the manner hereinafter provided. [1939 c 149 § 1; RRS § 7527-1. Formerly RCW 87.52.020, part.]

**87.52.080 Petition.** A petition signed by twenty-five or more holders of title or evidence of title to lands within said district who shall be qualified electors, reciting the fact that said district has no bonded indebtedness, has been in existence for more than twenty years, and has secured no irrigation for any of its lands, and praying that said district be disorganized under the provisions of RCW 87.52.070 through 87.52.090, shall be delivered to the secretary of the board of directors of said district or to one of the directors thereof. [1939 c 149 § 2; RRS § 7527-2. Formerly RCW 87.52.020, part.]

**87.52.090 Election—Procedure when three-fifths vote for disorganization.** Upon the delivery of said petition, as aforesaid, the board of directors of said district, the secretary thereof, and all other officials provided by law, shall call, notice, conduct and canvass an election, and if three-fifths of the votes cast at said election are in favor of the disorganization of the district, shall proceed with the disorganization of the district, all in the manner, with the same powers and with the same force and effect and in accordance with RCW 87.52.030 through 87.52.060. [1939 c 149 § 3; RRS § 7527-3. Formerly RCW 87.52.030, part and 87.52.040, part.]

### Chapter 87.53 RCW

#### DISSOLUTION OF DISTRICTS WITH BONDS

##### Sections

87.53.001	Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
87.53.010	Dissolution authorized—Consent of bondholders recorded.
87.53.020	Bondholders' consent necessary—Offer to buy district property.
87.53.030	Petition for dissolution.
87.53.040	Election to be called.
87.53.050	Manner of calling, noticing, conducting election—Ballot—Qualification of electors.
87.53.060	Election returns, effect—Records to auditor.
87.53.070	Transcript of proceedings—Financial statement.
87.53.080	Proceedings docketed in court—Notice to file claims—Claims barred, when.
87.53.090	Determination of claims—Court order—Appeal.
87.53.100	Trustee—Appointment—Compensation—Bond.
87.53.110	Sale of district assets.
87.53.120	Report of sale—Rights of purchasers.
87.53.130	Order of dissolution—Effect.
87.53.140	Assessments for unpaid obligations.
87.53.150	State's consent to dissolution.

*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

**87.53.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 87.53 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 68.]

**87.53.010 Dissolution authorized—Consent of bondholders recorded.** An irrigation district may be dissolved and its affairs liquidated as herein prescribed. If there are outstanding bonds of the district the acknowledged uniform consent in writing of at least two-thirds in amount of the holders of the bonds must be recorded in the office of the auditor of the county in which the district board has its office. [1951 c 237 § 1. Prior: 1899 c 102 §§ 1, 2; RRS §§ 7531, 7532.]

**Reviser's note:** For prior laws on this subject see 1899 c 102; RRS §§ 7531-7543.

**87.53.020 Bondholders' consent necessary—Offer to buy district property.** The acknowledged uniform written consent of one hundred percent of the holders of bonds may provide for cancellation of part of the bonds and for the manner and terms of payment of the balance. The bondholders may also make a firm offer for all property and rights of the district, except property in the district sold for taxes and district assessments, to be paid for by turning over for cancellation an appropriate amount in bonds with accrued interest. [1951 c 237 § 2.]

**87.53.030 Petition for dissolution.** At least one-third of the electors of the district shall sign and file with the audi-

tor a petition, reciting the substance of the uniform text of the bondholders' consent, that the consent has been filed, and praying that the district be dissolved and its affairs liquidated. [1951 c 237 § 3. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 3; RRS § 7533.]

**87.53.040 Election to be called.** The board of commissioners of the county shall at their present or next regular meeting, call an election to submit to the electors of the district the question of whether the district shall be so dissolved. They shall direct the auditor to give notice of the election and shall appoint the election officials. [1951 c 237 § 4. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 5; RRS § 7535.]

**87.53.050 Manner of calling, noticing, conducting election—Ballot—Qualification of electors.** The election shall be called upon the same notice and conducted in like manner as other elections of the district: PROVIDED, That when the bondholder's consent to dissolution provides for an adjustment of the bonded debt and/or the terms and method of its payment the notice of election shall recite the substance thereof.

The ballot shall contain the words "For dissolution, Yes" and "For dissolution, No." No person not a qualified elector under the general election laws and a freeholder of the district shall be deemed a qualified elector under this chapter. [1951 c 237 § 5. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 4; RRS § 7534.]

*District elections: RCW 87.03.030 through 87.03.110.*

*Qualification of voters: RCW 87.03.045.*

**87.53.060 Election returns, effect—Records to auditor.** The election officials shall file with the auditor the returns within ten days of the election, and at their next meeting the commissioners shall canvass the returns, and if a majority of the votes cast favor dissolution, the commissioners shall declare the election carried. All records of the district shall, upon demand, be delivered to the auditor. [1951 c 237 § 6. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 6; RRS § 7536.]

**87.53.070 Transcript of proceedings—Financial statement.** The auditor shall deliver to the county clerk a certified copy of the transcript of the proceedings of the commissioners on the matter together with a statement of the district's cash assets, segregated as to the bond fund and the total of all other funds, and a statement of the debts of the district as they appear on the records, taking into account any reduction in bond debt offered by the bondholders in their consent to dissolution; also a general inventory of the district property segregated only as to main classes, together with any offer for same submitted in the bondholders' consent to dissolution. [1951 c 237 § 7. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 7; RRS § 7537.]

**87.53.080 Proceedings docketed in court—Notice to file claims—Claims barred, when.** The clerk shall docket the proceedings entitled "In the matter of the dissolution of . . . irrigation district," and the court shall direct the clerk to give notice thereof. The notice shall contain a general statement of the nature of the proceedings, and notify all persons having claims against the district to present them on or before a day specified therein, and shall be published once a week for at least six weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. Any claim not so filed shall be barred.

[1985 c 469 § 91; 1951 c 237 § 8. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 8; RRS § 7538.]

*Official paper for publication: RCW 87.03.020.*

**87.53.090 Determination of claims—Court order—**

**Appeal.** If the court finds that the provisions of this chapter have been complied with, it shall then determine the validity and amount of the claims so filed. No claim barred by the statute of limitations shall be allowed. It shall separately determine the validity and amount of outstanding bonds with accrued interest, making allowances for any offer of adjustments contained in the bondholders' consent to dissolution, and shall order that all cash in the district's bond fund together with the proceeds from a sale of all the property and rights of the district shall be first applied to the redemption of outstanding bonds with interest; that other cash funds of the district be applied on payment of valid unsecured claims, and the remainder on the redemption of any balance of outstanding bonds with interest. The court shall further order that in the event the district's cash funds together with proceeds from the sale of district property and rights shall prove insufficient to discharge all valid obligations of the district, one or more annual assessments shall be made against the assessable property in the district, as herein provided, sufficient in amounts to discharge all valid debt. The district or any person affected by the judgment may appeal therefrom within ten days of the entry of judgment. [1951 c 237 § 9. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 9; RRS § 7539.]

**87.53.100 Trustee—Appointment—Compensation—**

**Bond.** Upon the entry of final judgment, the court shall issue an order appointing a trustee for the district and shall deliver to him or her a certified copy of the order. The court shall fix the compensation of the trustee and the amount of his or her bond to be obtained at the cost of the district. [2013 c 23 § 520; 1951 c 237 § 10. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 10, part; RRS § 7540, part.]

**87.53.110 Sale of district assets.** The trustee shall give notice that all the property and rights of the district, except property in the district sold for taxes or district assessments, will be sold pursuant to order of the court. The notice shall be given in the same manner and for the same time as for sale of real property on execution, except that it need not be posted.

The sale shall be made at public auction at the front door of the courthouse and may be adjourned from time to time not exceeding three weeks in all, by public announcement at the time and place of the sale.

Any claim established by the previous judgment of the court or any securities of the district may be accepted at face value on the purchase price: PROVIDED, That any offer made in the bondholders' written consent to dissolution shall be considered a bid and shall be accepted in the absence of a better offer. No bid shall be considered nor shall any sale be made for less than all the property and rights of the district. The trustee shall forthwith disburse the cash funds of the district in accordance with the order of the court. [1951 c 237 § 11. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 10, part; RRS § 7540, part.]

*Executions: Chapter 6.17 RCW.*

**87.53.120 Report of sale—Rights of purchasers.** The trustee shall file with the clerk a report of the disposition made of the cash funds and of the sale and if the court finds the sale was fairly conducted, it shall enter an order confirming the sale, and the trustee shall execute and deliver to the purchaser an instrument conveying to him or her all property and rights of the district, free from all claims of the district or its creditors, which shall entitle the purchaser to immediate possession. [2013 c 23 § 521; 1951 c 237 § 12. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 11; RRS § 7541.]

**87.53.130 Order of dissolution—Effect.** Upon verification of the disposition of the cash funds and confirmation of the sale the court shall enter an order dissolving the district and discharging the trustee, and a certified copy of the order shall be recorded in the office of the auditor. Thereupon the district shall cease to exist, except for the purpose of collecting its indebtedness. All records of the proceedings shall be delivered to the auditor. [1951 c 237 § 13. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 13; RRS § 7543.]

**87.53.140 Assessments for unpaid obligations.** Upon the dissolution of the district the county commissioners shall determine from the records the remaining bond and other indebtedness of the district, and shall determine the proper number of annual assessments, not over five, necessary to discharge the debt. They shall cause the county assessor to prepare the annual assessment roll for the lands in the district, based upon the acreages shown on the last district assessment roll. The commissioners shall levy annual assessments, not exceeding five, upon all property in the district assessed for the bond fund on the district's last assessment roll and according to the ratios of benefits there shown, sufficient to pay any remaining claims, including bonds. They shall levy and equalize the assessments, after the same notice of hearing as are required of district directors on irrigation assessments. The county auditor shall perform the duties of the secretary of the district and the county treasurer shall be ex officio treasurer of the district and shall collect the assessments. In all other respects the general irrigation district laws shall govern.

Any funds remaining after all assessments have been collected and all indebtedness and costs liquidated shall be paid over to the bondholders in cases where they have accepted a compromise settlement. Otherwise the surplus shall be distributed as by law provided. [1951 c 237 § 14. Prior: 1899 c 102 § 12; RRS § 7542.]

*General irrigation district laws: Chapter 87.03 RCW.*

**87.53.150 State's consent to dissolution.** Whenever any bonds of the district are held in the state reclamation revolving account, and, in the opinion of the director of ecology, the district is or will be unable to meet its obligations, and that the state's investment can be best preserved by the dissolution of the district the director may give his or her consent to dissolution under such stipulations and adjustments of the indebtedness as he or she deems best for the state. [2013 c 23 § 522; 1988 c 127 § 62; 1951 c 237 § 15.]

**Chapter 87.56 RCW**  
**DISSOLUTION OF INSOLVENT DISTRICTS**

## Sections

87.56.001	Actions subject to review by boundary review board.
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87.56.030	Powers of court.
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87.56.060	Notice of hearing—Publication.
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87.56.230	Final report of receiver—Apportionment of excess assets—Decree of dissolution.
87.56.240	Decree to be filed in each county.
87.56.900	Chapter alternative method—Saving.
87.56.910	Construction—1925 ex.s. c 124.

*Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts: Chapter 36.96 RCW.*

**87.56.001 Actions subject to review by boundary review board.** Actions taken under chapter 87.56 RCW may be subject to potential review by a boundary review board under chapter 36.93 RCW. [1989 c 84 § 69.]

**87.56.010 When district insolvent—Election to dissolve.** In all instances where fifty percent of the acreage within an irrigation district has been sold to the district on account of delinquent district assessments, and more than one year has elapsed since the sale of said property to the district without redemption by the owners thereof, and the district is unable to raise sufficient revenue to meet its obligations when the same become due and payable, such district shall be deemed insolvent and the district board shall have authority to call an election in the district to determine whether the district shall discontinue operation and dissolve: PROVIDED, That in case there are bonds of the district outstanding, written consent of the holders of at least fifty-one percent in amount of such outstanding bonds shall be obtained by the district board before calling said election: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That if any portion of such outstanding bonds are owned by the state of Washington the board of directors of such district shall give written notice to the director of ecology of the intention of the board of directors to call such election, and unless the director of ecology shall sign written objection to the calling of such election within ten days after the giving of such notice the state shall be deemed as consenting thereto.

Said election shall be called, shall be conducted and the results canvassed in the same manner substantially provided by law for a bond election in the district. [1988 c 127 § 63; 1931 c 60 § 11; 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 1; RRS § 7543-1.]

*Bonds, election for: RCW 87.03.200.*

**87.56.020 Majority vote—Action for dissolution.** If a majority of the votes cast at said election is in favor of dissolution of the district, the district board shall institute an action in the superior court of the county in which the office of the

board is located to determine the indebtedness of the district and to adopt a plan of appropriating the available resources of the district to the satisfaction of such indebtedness as in this chapter provided. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 2; RRS § 7543-2.]

**87.56.030 Powers of court.** The superior court in the exercise of its jurisdiction in matters of this kind shall have full authority to determine the indebtedness of the district and to determine the status and priorities thereof in accordance with the laws of the state relating to irrigation districts, shall have power to apportion the obligation of such indebtedness against the district and the several lands included therein; the court may award process and cause to come before it all persons whom it may deem necessary to examine and have and cause to be issued all such writs as may be proper or necessary, and do all things proper or incidental to the exercise of such jurisdiction. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 3; RRS § 7543-3.]

**87.56.040 Service of process.** Such action shall be one in rem and personal service of process shall not be required to be made on any interested person: PROVIDED, That the court shall be authorized in proper instances to order issuance and personal service of process specifying such time for appearance as the court shall require, AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That any owner of land within the district or any creditor of the district or their respective attorneys may file with the receiver provided for in this chapter, a written request that his or her name and address be placed on the receiver's mailing list and thereafter the receiver shall mail to such person at his or her given address at least ten days' written notice of all subsequent hearings before the court. Personal service of said notice may be made in any instance in lieu of mailing at the option of the receiver. [2013 c 23 § 523; 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 4; RRS § 7543-4.]

**87.56.050 Complaint—Contents.** The complaint in said action shall recite the holding of the election and the result thereof and shall give in general terms a summary of the district assets and the amount and character of its obligations and the maturities thereof; shall state that the district desires to discontinue operation and dissolve its corporate existence and shall pray that the court take the necessary steps to effect such an object. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 5; RRS § 7543-5.]

**87.56.060 Notice of hearing—Publication.** The court shall thereupon fix a time and place for a hearing of the complaint and notice of the hearing shall be published once a week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in each county in which any lands in the district are located. [1985 c 469 § 92; 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 6; RRS § 7543-6. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 7; RRS § 7543-7, now codified as RCW 87.56.065.]

**87.56.065 Hearing—Decree—Receiver.** At the time and place fixed in the notice the court shall hear the objections of interested persons and shall determine whether the district is insolvent within the provisions of this chapter and whether the district shall be dissolved. If the court concludes that the district shall not dissolve, the court shall so find and dismiss the action. If the court concludes that the district

should be dissolved, the court shall appoint a receiver to take charge of the district assets and to perform such other duties as may be required by the court or by law. [2004 c 165 § 45; 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 7; RRS § 7543-7. Formerly RCW 87.56.060, part.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165:** See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

**87.56.100 Unmatured claims—Acceleration.** If the owner or holder of a claim of indebtedness against the district not yet due or matured files a claim in any case in which a receiver is appointed under RCW 87.56.065, the maturity of the indebtedness owing to the person by the district shall be accelerated to such date as the court shall determine upon. [2004 c 165 § 46; 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 12; RRS § 7543-12.]

**Purpose—Captions not law—2004 c 165:** See notes following RCW 7.60.005.

**87.56.160 Liquidation—Assessments to pay remaining debts.** In the execution of a plan of liquidation, the court shall have authority to order the sale of any or all of the district property or the exchange of any of the district property for any evidence of district indebtedness in accordance with the rights of the district and of all the creditors concerned, and if upon the exhaustion of the district property in the payment of the district indebtedness including the costs of dissolution and receivership proceedings, any district indebtedness remain undischarged, the court shall have authority to order district assessments against the lands included within the operation of the district to continue to be made in accordance with the rights of the persons interested in the manner provided by law to pay the remaining indebtedness until sufficient revenue has been raised to pay fully all the obligations of the district. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 21; RRS § 7543-21.]

*Assessments, levies: RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.305.*

**87.56.170 Judgment upon stipulation—Payment.** Upon stipulation of the owners of lands within the district, and holders of bond liens against said lands, and the district creditors concerned, the court shall have authority in such proceedings in lieu of the plan of liquidation set forth in RCW 87.56.160, to determine the amount of the district indebtedness remaining after the exhaustion of the district property and the proportion thereof which each ownership of land within the district shall be obligated to pay, and judgment may be rendered in favor of the respective creditors against the several lands concerned. Said judgment may in the discretion of the court provide that the payment thereof shall be made by the landowners in one or more annual installments not to exceed ten in all with annual interest on all unpaid installments at such rate as the court shall fix not in excess of the rate to which the respective creditors may be entitled in their original evidences of indebtedness. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 22; RRS § 7543-22. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 27; RRS § 7543-27, now codified as RCW 87.56.205.]

*Prerequisite to judgment upon stipulation: RCW 87.56.205.*

**87.56.180 Trustee for creditors—Bond—Duties.** The judgment shall also name a trustee to be nominated by the creditors representing a majority of the indebtedness who

shall give bond conditioned for the faithful performance of his or her duties and the strict accounting of all funds received by him or her in such amount as the court shall determine, and who shall have authority to receive payment on account of said judgment and to satisfy said judgment against the several lands at the time payment thereon is made by the landowners in proportion to the amount of said payment. When any landowner shall make full payment of the amount of the judgment apportioned against his or her land, he or she shall be entitled to full satisfaction thereof of record. [2013 c 23 § 524; 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 23; RRS § 7543-23.]

**87.56.190 Enforcement of judgment.** In case any landowner fails to pay the judgment against his or her land or any installment thereof, when the same shall become due and payable, said judgment may be enforced by the trustee named in the decree in the manner provided by law for the enforcement of judgments in the superior court, and the costs of execution and sale shall be charged to the defaulting land. [2013 c 23 § 525; 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 24; RRS § 7543-24.]

*Enforcement of judgments: Title 6 RCW.*

**87.56.200 Distribution of funds—Court to retain jurisdiction.** The trustee named in the decree shall make distribution of all funds collected on account of said decree in such manner as the creditors shall agree upon, or in case of disagreement, then in such manner as the court shall direct, and jurisdiction of the court in the dissolution proceedings shall continue until full disbursement of funds collected on account of said judgment has been made to the judgment creditors. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 25; RRS § 7543-25.]

**87.56.203 Compensation of trustee.** The trustee named in the decree shall receive such compensation for his or her services as the court shall determine to be paid at such times as the court shall fix from funds collected on account of said judgment. [2013 c 23 § 526; 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 26; RRS § 7543-26. Formerly RCW 87.56.220.]

**87.56.205 Judgment upon stipulation—Prerequisites.** Before the court shall enter judgment upon stipulation of the parties as in this chapter provided, the creditors concerned shall file all evidences of district indebtedness held by them into the registry of the court to be held subject to the order of the court. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 27; RRS § 7543-27. Formerly RCW 87.56.170, part.]

*Judgment upon stipulation—Payment: RCW 87.56.170.*

**87.56.210 Judgment upon stipulation—Evidences of indebtedness to be canceled.** If the judgment rendered by the court, upon stipulation, be not appealed from as in this chapter provided and the time for appeal has expired, or having been appealed from has been finally determined upon appeal, the court shall upon application of the receiver, order all evidences of indebtedness filed in the registry of the court under the provisions relating to judgment upon stipulation to be delivered to the office of the county treasurer, who shall have authority and it shall be his or her duty to cancel the same, and said evidences of indebtedness shall thereafter cease to be obligations of the district, and the district thereaf-



ter shall be discharged of said indebtedness. [2013 c 23 § 527; 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 28; RRS § 7543-28.]

**87.56.225 Appellate review.** Any interested person feeling aggrieved at the judgment of the superior court dismissing the proceedings or determining the indebtedness of the district and the status and priority thereof and determining the plan of liquidation, may seek appellate review of such judgment in the same manner as in other cases in equity, except that notice of appeal must be both served and filed within sixty days from the entry thereof. [1988 c 202 § 89; 1971 c 81 § 174; 1925 ex.s. c 124 § 29; RRS § 7543-29. Formerly RCW 87.56.250.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.56.230 Final report of receiver—Apportionment of excess assets—Decree of dissolution.** When all district indebtedness has been discharged as in this chapter provided, and all expenses of the dissolution proceedings have been paid, the receiver shall report such fact to the court with a full account of all assets and moneys received and disbursed. The court shall examine said report and if found satisfactory shall approve the same; shall order any funds remaining after the payment of all indebtedness apportioned to the several owners of land within the district in accordance with the ratio of the last assessment roll of the district, and shall enter a decree dissolving and annulling the district, which shall thereafter cease to exist as a corporate entity. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 30; RRS § 7543-30.]

**87.56.240 Decree to be filed in each county.** A copy of said decree shall be filed for record forthwith by the receiver in the office of the county auditor and in the office of the county assessor, of the counties in which any of the lands within the district are situated, and said decree shall be recorded by each of said offices without charge of fee. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 31; RRS § 7543-31.]

**87.56.900 Chapter alternative method—Saving.** This chapter is designed to provide an alternative method for the dissolution of irrigation districts and shall not be deemed to repeal any other statute or statutes. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 32; RRS § 7543-32.]

**87.56.910 Construction—1925 ex.s. c 124.** Nothing in this chapter contained shall be construed to enlarge, abridge, modify or otherwise affect the rights, privileges or obligations of solvent districts, the lands therein or creditors thereof. [1925 ex.s. c 124 § 33; RRS § 7543-33.]

## Chapter 87.64 RCW

### ADJUSTMENT OF IRRIGATION, DIKING, AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT INDEBTEDNESS

#### Sections

87.64.010	State authorized to adjust indebtedness—When state owns entire bond issue.
87.64.020	State authorized to adjust indebtedness—When state owns part of bond issue.
87.64.040	Claim for moneys expended may be settled and compromised.
87.64.060	Cancellation of district's assessments and taxes.
87.64.070	Powers of district.

(2022 Ed.)

**87.64.010 State authorized to adjust indebtedness—When state owns entire bond issue.** Whenever the state shall now or hereafter own, the entire issue of the bonds of any irrigation, diking or drainage district, and in the judgment of the director of ecology such district is, or will be, unable to meet its obligations to the state as they mature, and in the judgment of the director of ecology the investment of the state can be made more secure by extending, without refunding, the time of payment of any or all said bonds and interest payments, or by the exchange of the bonds held by the state for refunding bonds of such district issued as in the manner provided by law at the same or a lower rate of interest and/or for a longer term, or by the cancellation of a portion of the bonds held by the state and/or interest accrued thereon, and the exchange of the remaining bonds held by the state for the refunding bonds of the district issued in the manner provided by law at the same or a lower rate of interest and/or for the same or a longer term, the director of ecology shall be and is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into contract with the district so extending the time of payment of said bonds and interest payments, without refunding or to so exchange the bonds held by the state for such refunding bonds or to cancel a portion of the bonds held by the state and/or interest accrued thereon, and exchange the remaining bonds held by the state for such refunding bonds as in his or her judgment will be for the best interest of the state. [2013 c 23 § 528; 1983 c 167 § 243; 1941 c 39 § 1; 1929 c 121 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7530-41. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1941 c 39 § 3, part, last am'ds 1929 c 121 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7530-42, part, now codified in RCW 87.64.020.]

*Dissolution: Chapter 87.53 RCW.*

*Refunding bonds: Chapters 87.19 and 87.22 RCW.*

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.64.020 State authorized to adjust indebtedness—When state owns part of bond issue.** Whenever the state shall, now or hereafter, own a portion of the bonds of any irrigation, diking, or drainage district, and in the judgment of the director of ecology such district is, or will be, unable to meet its obligations as they mature, and in the judgment of the director of ecology the investment of the state can be made more secure by extending, without refunding, the time of payment of any or all said bonds and interest payments or by exchanging the bonds held by the state for the refunding bonds of the district issued in the manner provided by law at the same or a lower rate of interest and/or for a longer term, or by the cancellation of a portion of the bonds held by the state and/or interest accrued thereon, and the exchange of the remaining bonds held by the state for the refunding bonds of the district issued in the manner provided by law at the same or a lower rate of interest and/or for a longer term, the director of ecology shall be and is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into contract with the district so extending the time of payment of said bonds and interest payments, without refunding, or to so exchange the bonds held by the state for such refunding bonds or to cancel a portion of the bonds held by the state and/or interest accrued thereon, and exchange the remaining bonds held by the state for such refunding bonds as in his or her judgment will be for the best interest of the state: PROVIDED, That the owners of at least ninety percent of all the other bonds of said district shall make and execute the

[Title 87 RCW—page 73]

same arrangement with the district: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That when, in addition to owning a portion of the first issue of bonds of any such irrigation, diking, or drainage district, the state also owns all the outstanding second issue of bonds of such district, the director of ecology shall be and he or she is hereby authorized and empowered to surrender and cancel said second issue of bonds held by the state upon whatsoever terms and conditions he or she shall deem to the best interest of the state: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That whenever the owners of at least ninety percent of all other bonds of such district and/or other evidences of indebtedness are willing to release their existing obligations against said district and to substitute therefor a contract to pay such existing indebtedness in whole or in part from the proceeds of the sale of lands owned by the district at the time of such settlement, or acquired by the district through levies then existing, the director of ecology shall be and he or she is hereby authorized and empowered to cancel the bonds held by the state upon whatsoever terms that he or she shall deem most beneficial for the state, or if deemed beneficial to the state, he or she may release the state's bonds and join with the other holders in the above mentioned contract for the sale of the district land as hereinbefore stated: AND PROVIDED FURTHER, That the director of ecology be and he or she is hereby authorized to accept in any settlement made under this chapter, refunding bonds of any irrigation district that may be issued in accordance with chapter 87.22 RCW, or any amendment thereto, and he or she is hereby authorized, when in his or her judgment it is to the interest of the state, to participate in the refunding of bonds of an irrigation district held under said chapter 87.22 RCW, or any amendment thereto. [2013 c 23 § 529; 1983 c 167 § 244; 1941 c 39 § 3; 1931 c 43 § 1; 1929 c 121 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7530-42. Formerly RCW 87.64.010, part, 87.64.020, and 87.64.030.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.64.040 Claim for moneys expended may be settled and compromised.** Whenever the department of ecology shall have heretofore entered, or shall hereafter enter, into a contract with an irrigation, diking, or drainage district and shall have expended moneys under said contract, and said district shall be indebted to the state for the moneys so expended, and in the judgment of the director of ecology said district shall have not received benefits equal to the amount of said indebtedness, the director of ecology shall be and is hereby authorized and empowered to settle and compromise the claim of the state against said district upon such terms and for such an amount as he or she shall deem fair and just to the state and the district. [2013 c 23 § 530; 1988 c 127 § 64; 1941 c 39 § 2; 1929 c 121 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7530-43.]

**87.64.060 Cancellation of district's assessments and taxes.** Whenever the director of ecology shall find any irrigation district is, or will be unable to meet its obligations and that refunding operations under this chapter are necessary, and that as a part of such refunding operations the cancellation of assessments and county taxes on the irrigation system and the irrigable lands in such district then delinquent, is necessary, the board of county commissioners of the county in which such irrigation district is situated may, upon request of the director of ecology, cancel any or all delinquent assess-

ments and county taxes levied upon the irrigable lands in such district and all county taxes levied upon the irrigation system of such district, if such board shall find that such irrigation district is or will be unable to meet its obligations and such refunding operations are necessary, of which the report of the director of ecology shall be prima facie evidence. [1988 c 127 § 65; 1929 c 121 § 5; RRS § 7530-44.]

**87.64.070 Powers of district.** Any irrigation, diking or drainage district now or hereafter coming within the provisions of this chapter shall be and it is hereby authorized and empowered to enter into contracts, issue evidences of indebtedness and otherwise carry out on its part the provisions of this chapter. [1941 c 39 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7530-45. Formerly RCW 87.64.050.]

### Chapter 87.68 RCW DISTRICTS UNDER CONTRACT WITH UNITED STATES

#### Sections

87.68.010	Resolution to fix time of paying assessments.
87.68.020	Discount on advance payments.
87.68.030	Meeting of board of equalization—Resolution—Notice.
87.68.040	Assessment rolls, resolution, to county treasurers.
87.68.050	Payment and collection of assessments.
87.68.060	Certain elections—Districts of two hundred thousand acres—Notice of election.
87.68.070	Deposit of funds in bank of board of control's choice.
87.68.090	Security for deposits.
87.68.100	Audit of board's records.
87.68.110	Costs, assessments for—Special funds—Investment of.
87.68.120	Contract for use of canal.
87.68.130	Contract with board to operate works.
87.68.140	Disposal of property authorized—Board may sue and be sued.

*Acquisition, construction, and operating funds—Tolls and assessments, alternative methods of—Liens, foreclosure of—Delinquencies by tenants: RCW 87.03.445.*

*Board's powers and duties generally (contracts with state and United States): RCW 87.03.140.*

*Bonds, election for (when contracts with United States): RCW 87.03.200.*

*Cancellation of assessments due United States—Procedure: RCW 87.03.280.*

*Certain purposes for which district may be formed: RCW 87.03.010(5).*

*Indemnity to state on land settlement contracts: Chapter 87.48 RCW.*

*Levies and assessments (for state or United States): RCW 87.03.260 through 87.03.280.*

*L.I.D.'s—Contract with state or United States for local improvement work: RCW 87.03.520.*

*Payment of bonds and interest (to state and United States): RCW 87.03.215.*

*Proposed works—Reclamation service may make findings: RCW 87.03.185.*

*Rights of federal agencies as to certain district bonds: RCW 87.03.235.*

**87.68.010 Resolution to fix time of paying assessments.** At the option of the board of directors assessments of irrigation districts in this state under contract with the United States involving payments thereto for the development and operation of their respective projects shall be payable on or before December 31st of the year in which the assessment is levied and upon the resolution of the board of directors of the district to that effect, adopted and entered at a regular meeting thereof not later than the second Tuesday of September of the year in which the levy is made. Such resolution shall thereafter remain in full force and effect until revoked by the board. [1941 c 141 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7525-13.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.68.020 Discount on advance payments.** In the event of the adoption and entering of such resolution by the board of directors, a person paying all or one-half of the current district assessment against any tract of land on or before December 31st of the year in which said assessment is levied shall be entitled to a discount of ten percent of said assessment if paid in full and ten percent of one-half of said assessment if one-half only is paid. In the event one-half of said assessment is paid on or before December 31st as aforesaid, the payer of the second half of said assessment shall be entitled to a discount of ten percent of the amount of said second half of said assessment if the same is paid on or before May 31st, next following the December payment. No discount shall be made for payment of district assessments except as herein specifically provided. [1941 c 141 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7525-14.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.68.030 Meeting of board of equalization—Resolution—Notice.** Said board of directors shall adopt and enter a resolution fixing the day, hour, and place when and where the board will convene as a board of equalization to equalize the assessment roll and a copy of the resolution adopting December 31st as the day on or before which assessments shall be paid, together with a notice signed by the secretary stating the day, hour, and place of the meeting of the board of equalization, shall be published for two consecutive weekly issues prior to the day of the convening of the board of equalization in some newspaper of general circulation in the district to be previously designated by the district board. [1941 c 141 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7525-15.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.68.040 Assessment rolls, resolution, to county treasurers.** The officers of said district shall cause said assessments to be made, levied and equalized and the assessment roll and any parts thereof to be delivered to the proper county treasurers on or before December 10th of said year and upon receipt of a certified copy of said resolution adopting December 31st as the day on or before which assessments shall be paid, the county officers charged with the collection of irrigation district assessments shall be authorized and it shall be their duty respectively to collect the same in accordance with the provisions of RCW 87.68.010 through 87.68.050 and of said resolution and to account for collections in the manner provided by the irrigation district law. [1941 c 141 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7525-16.]

*Assessments and levies:* RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.305.

*Claims, how paid, etc.:* RCW 87.03.440.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.68.050 Payment and collection of assessments.** Irrigation district assessments levied and becoming payable under the provisions of RCW 87.68.010 through 87.68.050 shall be payable on and after December 10th next following the levy and except as in RCW 87.68.010 through 87.68.050 otherwise provided shall become delinquent, shall be collected by the same officials and lands charged with said assessments shall be sold when delinquent; all at the same

times in the same manner with the same kind and length of notice and with the same force, effect, obligations, and privileges as provided by the irrigation district law generally for the collection of assessments, and for the sale and redemption of lands charged with delinquent district assessments. [1941 c 141 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1941 § 7525-17.]

*Assessments, sale, redemption:* RCW 87.03.240 through 87.03.475.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.68.060 Certain elections—Districts of two hundred thousand acres—Notice of election.** In any election called and held in an irrigation district organized and existing under the laws of this state, comprising two hundred thousand or more acres of land within its boundaries, for the purpose of voting on any proposed contract between the district and the United States or any agency thereof where the proposed contract is to include a provision in accordance with the fourth proviso in section 1(b) of the act of congress of May 27, 1937 (50 Stat. 208), the notice of said election shall state, in addition to the other matters and things required by law relating to elections in such districts, that the proposed contract shall include a provision in accordance with the fourth proviso in section 1(b) of the act of congress of May 27, 1937 (50 Stat. 208), and shall also set forth the provisions of section 1(a) and (b) of said federal act. [1939 c 190 § 1; RRS § 7402-283.]

*Qualification of voters:* RCW 87.03.045.

**87.68.070 Deposit of funds in bank of board of control's choice.** Funds in the custody of the board of control of the Sunnyside Division, Yakima Project, or any similar board created or operated by contract or otherwise under or pursuant to the federal reclamation laws, or acting as operating agent for the United States and/or irrigation districts of this state or of other states, may be deposited on general deposit in any one or more banks in this state which such board of control may designate. All such deposits shall be made in the name of the board and be subject to payment on demand on the check of any officer or agent fully authorized and designated by such board. The board of control of the Sunnyside Division, Yakima Project, referred to herein, is the board of control created by the respective contracts entered into by and between the United States of America and the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District and other irrigation districts of the Sunnyside Division of the Yakima Project, in the state of Washington, under the provisions of the act of congress of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388), and acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, all generally referred to as the federal reclamation laws. [1945 c 163 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7525-40. FORMER PART OF SECTION: 1947 c 265 § 2, part; 1945 c 163 § 7, part; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7525-46, part, now codified in RCW 87.68.140. Formerly RCW 87.68.070 and 87.68.080.]

**87.68.090 Security for deposits.** Upon the designation of any bank by the board of control as in RCW 87.68.070 through 87.68.140 provided, the bank shall furnish security for any deposits by mortgage, pledge or hypothecation of bank assets or otherwise in such manner as may be agreed upon between the board of control and the bank, or in lieu thereof, the bank shall file with the board of control a surety

bond to such board of control, properly executed by some reliable surety company qualified under the laws of this state to do business therein, in the maximum amount of deposits designated by said board to be carried in such bank, conditioned for the prompt and faithful payment thereof on checks drawn by the officer or agent fully authorized and designated by such board. [1945 c 163 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7525-41.]

**87.68.100 Audit of board's records.** The state auditor shall audit the books, records and affairs of the board of control every two years, or at such other times as the board shall request, and the costs of the audit shall be paid by said board. [1945 c 163 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7525-42.]

**87.68.110 Costs, assessments for—Special funds—Investment of.** Each irrigation district which has or hereafter may enter into a contract with the United States providing for the operation and maintenance, by means of a board of control, of irrigation works used in common with other districts, shall include in the annual levy of assessments a sufficient amount to pay the annual estimated pro rata proportion of the costs chargeable to such district and also such reserve fund as may be fixed by the contract: PROVIDED, That any district may appropriate moneys from other funds to pay said costs.

When assessments are paid to the county treasurer for the board of control fund, they shall be deposited in a special fund, known as the "Board of Control Fund," and when assessments are paid to the county treasurer for the board of control reserve fund they shall be deposited in a special fund known as the "Board of Control Reserve Fund," and said funds may be disbursed only upon vouchers approved by a majority of the voting power of the members of the board of control, and the county auditor shall issue warrants for the payments of such claims which shall be payable out of the funds on which the same are drawn.

Any moneys in the "Board of Control Reserve Fund," when so requested by the board of control, shall be invested by the treasurer of said county and under the direction of said board of control in U.S. bonds or bonds of the state or any bonds pronounced by the treasurer of the state as valid securities for the deposit of public funds. [1951 c 158 § 1; 1947 c 265 § 1; 1945 c 163 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7525-43.]

**87.68.120 Contract for use of canal.** Any irrigation district, city, town, or other water user or users whose lands are irrigated by water carried in works transferred by the United States to a board of control, are hereby authorized to enter into contract with another irrigation district whose lands are irrigated by water carried in the same canal to operate and maintain the main canal and other works known as transferred works, and to pay such district in a lump sum its pro rata proportion of the cost of maintenance and operation of such transferred works: PROVIDED, That the amount said pro rata proportion may be estimated and such estimated amount paid at the beginning of any year, and at the end of the year the board shall after determining the true pro rata amount of such user's cost, require such user to pay the balance, if any, of said true pro rata amount. [1945 c 163 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7525-44.]

**87.68.130 Contract with board to operate works.** Any irrigation district, city, town, or other water user or users whose lands are irrigated by water carried in works transferred by the United States to a board of control are hereby authorized to enter into contract with the board of control for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation works within the district by the board of control and to pay such district in a lump sum the cost of maintenance and operation of such works within the district: PROVIDED, That the amount of the cost of operation of the works in the district may be estimated and the estimated amount paid to the board. At the end of each year the board shall, after determining the true amount of such costs of operation, require such district to pay the balance, if any, of such true amount. [1945 c 163 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1945 § 7525-45.]

**87.68.140 Disposal of property authorized—Board may sue and be sued.** Any such board of control shall have authority to be exercised by a majority of the voting power of the board to sell at such price and upon such terms as may be fixed by said board and any real or personal property owned by the board of control and to authorize the execution by the president and secretary of said board of a good and sufficient conveyance therefor, and said board may sue or be sued in any of the courts of this state without joining the person, corporation or district for whose benefit the suit may be prosecuted or defended. [1947 c 265 § 2; 1945 c 163 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7525-46. Formerly RCW 87.68.070, part and 87.68.140.]

*Rules of court: Cf. Superior Court Civil Rules.*

## Chapter 87.76 RCW

### ASSOCIATION OF IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

#### Sections

87.76.010	Coordination of programs—Reports.
87.76.020	Coordinating agency—Expense, how defrayed.
87.76.030	General powers of directors.
87.76.040	Cooperation with other agencies authorized—Financial contributions—Contracts with public and private agencies.

**87.76.010 Coordination of programs—Reports.** The directors of the several irrigation districts in the state shall take such action as they deem necessary to effect coordination of their common programs for the economical and efficient operation of their districts and the reclamation of lands therein, and prepare reports annually for such operations. [1947 c 193 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7505-10.]

**87.76.020 Coordinating agency—Expense, how defrayed.** The directors of such irrigation districts may designate a statewide association dedicated to the promotion of irrigated agriculture as a coordinating agency in the execution of the duties imposed by this chapter, and pay dues or assessments, or both, to the association from district expense funds, and the several districts may levy assessments against the lands therein for this purpose. Such dues and assessments shall be paid only on vouchers approved by the board of directors of the contributing district in the manner provided for the approval of district vouchers generally. The total of such voucher claims for any district in any calendar year shall not exceed two percent of the total amount or its equivalent of

the expense fund levy of the district for that year. [1987 c 124 § 1; 1947 c 193 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7505-11.]

*Claims, how paid:* RCW 87.03.440.

*Power as to incurring indebtedness:* RCW 87.03.475.

**87.76.030 General powers of directors.** The board of directors of the several districts may effect the state organization herein contemplated and take such further and other action in behalf of their respective districts as they deem necessary to carry out the intent of this chapter, including support of and attendance at such meetings as may be required to promote and perfect the organization and to effect its purposes. [1947 c 193 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1947 § 7505-12.]

**87.76.040 Cooperation with other agencies authorized—Financial contributions—Contracts with public and private agencies.** To avoid duplication of effort the state association may, in the discretion of its officers, affiliate and cooperate with other organizations and agencies engaged in the furthering of reclamation of lands in the state and make financial contributions to them for such purpose. In carrying out the powers authorized by this chapter, the association of irrigation districts is authorized to enter into contracts with the federal government, the state, irrigation districts, boards of control, municipal or quasi-municipal corporations, cooperatives, other public or private agencies, and associate organizations. The association of irrigation districts is authorized to advance funds to promote the development and utilization of agricultural water and power resources and to employ the technical and professional assistance necessary to survey, plan, investigate, study, print, and publish information and literature to promote the development and utilization of such resources and provide and present data and information to members of congress, any committee of congress, and to other federal officials as an aid in securing needed legislation, contracts, and timely appropriations. [1996 c 214 § 2; 1987 c 124 § 2; 1951 c 202 § 1; 1949 c 41 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-13.]

**Chapter 87.80 RCW**

**JOINT CONTROL OF IRRIGATION DISTRICTS**

Sections

87.80.005	Definitions.
87.80.010	Board of joint control authorized.
87.80.020	Petition to create board required—Signatures—Filing.
87.80.030	Form and contents of petition—Map.
87.80.040	Petition filed if regular in form—Hearing set.
87.80.050	Notice of hearing.
87.80.060	Form and contents of notice.
87.80.070	Conduct and scope of hearing—Independent investigation authorized.
87.80.090	Creation of board of joint control—Resolution filed.
87.80.100	Principal office, oaths, terms, of board—Representation on board.
87.80.110	Organization of board—Meetings—Quorum.
87.80.120	Compensation of board members and employees.
87.80.130	Powers of board of joint control—Limitation.
87.80.135	Board's limitations.
87.80.160	Entity's levy to include budget apportionment.
87.80.190	Control fund created—Deposits and remittances.
87.80.200	Payments from control fund.
87.80.220	Agencies under contract with federal government—Ability to participate in board.
87.80.230	Board created among entities using Yakima river and tributaries—Coordination with federal and state programs.
87.80.900	Effect of chapter on general water rights adjudications.

87.80.901 Construction—2003 c 306.

**87.80.005 Definitions.** Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter.

(1) "Area of jurisdiction" means all lands within the exterior boundary of the composite area served by the irrigation entities that comprise the board of joint control as the boundary is represented on the map filed under RCW 87.80.030.

(2) "Irrigation entity" means an irrigation district or an operating entity for a division within a federal reclamation project. For the purposes of this chapter, a water company, a water users' association, a municipality, a water right owner and user of irrigation water, or any other entity that provides irrigation water as a primary purpose, is an irrigation entity when creating or joining a board of joint control with an irrigation district or operating entity for a division within a federal reclamation project.

(3) "Joint use facilities" means those works, including reservoirs, canals, ditches, natural streams in which the irrigation entity has rights of conveyance under RCW 90.03.030, hydroelectric facilities, pumping stations, drainage works, reserved works as may be transferred by contracts with the United States, and system interties that are determined by the board of joint control to provide common benefit to its members.

(4) "Ownership interest" means the irrigation entity holds water rights in its name for the benefit of itself, its water users or, in federal reclamation projects, the irrigation entity has a contractual responsibility for delivery of water to its individual water users.

(5) "Source of water" means a hydrological distinct river and tributary system or aquifer system from which board of joint control member entities appropriate water. [2003 c 306 § 1; 1996 c 320 § 2.]

**87.80.010 Board of joint control authorized.** A board of joint control may be created as provided in this chapter to administer: (1) The construction, operation, maintenance, betterments, and regulations of the joint use facilities, including reservoirs, canals, hydroelectric facilities within the works of the irrigation water supply system, pumping stations, drainage works, reserved works, and system interconnections, of two or more irrigation entities which are the owners of, have an ownership interest in, or are trustees for owners of water rights having the same source or which use common works for the diversion and either transportation, or drainage, or both, of all or any part of their respective irrigation water supplies; and (2) activities and programs that promote more effective and efficient water management for the benefit of member entities of a board of joint control. [1996 c 320 § 1; 1949 c 56 § 1; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-20.]

**87.80.020 Petition to create board required—Signatures—Filing.** (1) For the purpose of creating a board of joint control a petition signed by two or more entities that are owners of or hold an ownership interest in water rights having the same source of water or use common works for the diversion, transportation, or drainage of all or any part of their respective irrigation water supplies, must be filed with

the board of county commissioners of the county in which the greater part of the land irrigated from the source of water supply is situated.

(2) The petition shall also be filed with the board of commissioners of each county containing lands irrigated from the source of water supply of the entities signing the petition. The board of county commissioners making the review under RCW 87.80.090 shall consider any comments of other boards of county commissioners provided within the public hearing and comment period on the petition. [1996 c 320 § 3; 1949 c 56 § 2; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-21.]

**87.80.030 Form and contents of petition—Map.** The petition for the creation of a board of joint control shall be addressed to the board of county commissioners, shall describe generally the relationship, if any, of the irrigation entities to an established federal reclamation project, the primary waterworks of the entities including reservoirs, main canals, hydroelectric facilities, pumping stations, and drainage facilities, giving them their local names, if any they have, and shall show generally the physical relationship of the lands being watered from the water facilities. However, lands included in any irrigation entity involved need not be described individually but shall be included by stating the name of the irrigation entity and all the irrigable lands in the irrigation entity named shall by that method be deemed to be involved unless otherwise specifically stated in the petition. Further, the petition must propose the formula for board of joint control apportionment of costs among its members, and may propose the composition of the board of joint control as to membership, chair, and voting structure. When a board of joint control includes irrigation entities other than an irrigation district or an operating entity for a division within a federal reclamation project as provided in RCW 87.80.005, the voting structure must be such that the votes apportioned to those entities are less than fifty percent of the total votes.

The petition shall also state generally the reasons for the creation of a board of joint control and any other matter the petitioners deem material, and shall allege that it is in the public interest and to the benefit of all the owners of the lands receiving water within the area of jurisdiction, that the board of joint control be created and request that the board of county commissioners consider the petition and take the necessary steps provided by law for the creation of a board of joint control. The petition shall be accompanied by a map showing the area of jurisdiction and the general location of the water supply and distribution facilities. [2003 c 306 § 2; 1996 c 320 § 4; 1949 c 56 § 3; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-22.]

**87.80.040 Petition filed if regular in form—Hearing set.** Upon the filing of a petition for the creation of a board of joint control the board of county commissioners at a regular meeting or at a special meeting shall examine the petition and, if found regular in form, shall accept the same for filing, and shall fix a time and place for hearing said petition. [1949 c 56 § 4; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-23.]

**87.80.050 Notice of hearing.** Notice of the hearing on the petition shall be given by the clerk of the board of county commissioners by publishing the same, at the cost of the board of control, if created, otherwise at the cost of the peti-

tioners, in the official newspaper of each county containing lands irrigated from the source of supply of the entities signing the petition. The notice shall be published in at least three weekly issues thereof. However, the time of the hearing shall not be less than thirty days from the date of the first publication of the notice. A copy of the notice shall be posted at the regular meeting place of the board of directors of each irrigation entity concerned in the granting or denial of the petition and a copy of the notice shall be mailed to the department of ecology at Olympia at least thirty days prior to the day of the hearing. [1996 c 320 § 5; 1988 c 127 § 66; 1949 c 56 § 5; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-24.]

**87.80.060 Form and contents of notice.** The notice of the hearing on the petition shall state that a petition requesting the creation of a board of joint control to administer the facilities and activities, naming them if named in the petition, has been filed with the board of county commissioners of the county, naming the county; that the board of joint control, if it is created, will have authority to provide for apportionment of costs to carry out the objects of its creation among the member irrigation entities (naming them); shall state the day, hour, and place of the hearing on the petition; shall state that any person interested in the creation of the board of joint control may appear on or before the day of hearing on the petition, and show cause in writing, if any, why the same should not be granted, and the notice shall be over the name of the clerk of the board of county commissioners. [1996 c 320 § 6; 1949 c 56 § 6; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-25.]

**87.80.070 Conduct and scope of hearing—Independent investigation authorized.** The board of county commissioners, at the time and place mentioned in the notice of hearing or at the time or times to which the hearing on said petition may be adjourned, shall proceed to hear the petition and all evidence submitted against and in support of the same. The board of county commissioners shall have full authority to adjourn the hearing from time to time not exceeding four weeks in all and to grant or reject the petition, and to determine the matter; any irregularities or omissions in the allegations of the petition shall not be held or construed to deprive the board of county commissioners of jurisdiction and authority to consider and determine the matter of any such petition accepted by it for consideration and said board of county commissioners shall have full authority to make such independent investigation of the matter of such petition as it shall deem advisable and to base its judgment on such independent investigation as well as upon the evidence submitted for and against the petition upon a hearing thereon as hereinafter provided. [1949 c 56 § 7; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-26. Formerly RCW 87.80.070 and 87.80.080.]

**87.80.090 Creation of board of joint control—Resolution filed.** If the board of county commissioners determine[s] that the creation of a board of joint control is in the public interest, of benefit to the irrigation entities and individual water uses within those entities concerned, and will not be detrimental to water right interests outside the proposed board of joint control area of jurisdiction: Then the county board shall so find and adopt a resolution creating the board of joint control, designating it (name of county) County Joint

Control Board No. (specify number), and the county board at the same time shall appoint the first members of the board of joint control based on the board composition proposed in the petition and the board of joint control shall consist of this membership. A copy of the resolution creating the board of joint control certified by the clerk of the county board shall be filed with the county assessor of the county in which the board of joint control was created and with the county assessor in any other county in the state in which any lands involved are situated, within five days after the resolution is adopted. [1996 c 320 § 7; 1949 c 56 § 8; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-27.]

**87.80.100 Principal office, oaths, terms, of board—Representation on board.** The principal office and place of business of the board of joint control shall be at a place to be designated by the board in the county in which the board was created. Each member of the board before entering on the duties of his or her office shall subscribe a written oath for the faithful discharge of his or her duties as a member and file the oath with the county clerk of the county. The filing of the oath shall be without clerk's fee. The term of office of members of the board is for one year or a fraction thereof ending on the first Monday in March next following their selection and until their respective successors are selected as provided in this section. The term of the first members of the board shall also be as above stated. In January of each year the board of directors of each irrigation entity concerned shall designate in writing and deliver to the board of joint control, the name or names of the person or persons who constitute the entity's membership and who shall represent the entity on the board of joint control for the ensuing year. The persons designated under this section constitute the board of joint control for the year and until their respective successors are selected and have qualified. Any irrigation entity that fails to designate its representative and to file the same as provided in this section is not entitled to representation on the board unless and until the requirements are complied with. [1996 c 320 § 8; 1949 c 56 § 9; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-28.]

**87.80.110 Organization of board—Meetings—Quorum.** In the month of March, or another time as determined by the board of joint control, in each year the members of the board of joint control shall meet and organize as a board for the ensuing year and shall select a chair from their number and appoint a secretary who may, but need not, be a member of the board, and who shall keep a record of their proceedings, and perform other duties as the board prescribes. Business of the board shall be transacted at meetings thereof and a majority of the qualified membership of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business and in all matters requiring action by the board there shall be a concurrence of at least a majority of the members present. However, if an alternative voting structure was proposed in the petition and adopted in the board of county commissioners' resolution, this structure will govern the voting procedures of the board of joint control. All meetings of the board shall be public. [1996 c 320 § 9; 1949 c 56 § 10; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-29.]

**87.80.120 Compensation of board members and employees.** Each member of the board of joint control shall be compensated for services in accordance with the provisions of RCW 87.03.460. The amount must be fixed by resolution and entered in the minutes of the proceedings of the board. The board shall fix the compensation to be paid the secretary and all other agents and employees of the board. [1996 c 320 § 10; 1949 c 56 § 11; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-30.]

**87.80.130 Powers of board of joint control—Limitation.** (1) A board of joint control created under the provisions of this chapter shall have full authority within its area of jurisdiction to enter into and perform any and all necessary contracts; to accept grants and loans, including, but not limited to, those provided under chapter 43.83B [RCW] and RCW 43.83.340, to appoint and employ and discharge the necessary officers, agents, and employees; to sue and be sued as a board but without personal liability of the members thereof in any and all matters in which all the irrigation entities represented on the board as a whole have a common interest without making the irrigation entities parties to the suit; to represent the entities in all matters of common interest as a whole within the scope of this chapter; and to do any and all lawful acts required and expedient to carry out the purposes of this chapter. A board of joint control may, subject to the same limitations as an irrigation district operating under chapter 87.03 RCW, acquire any property or property rights for use within the board's area of jurisdiction by power of eminent domain; acquire, purchase, or lease in its own name all necessary real or personal property or property rights; and sell, lease, or exchange any surplus real or personal property or property rights. Any transfers of water, however, are limited to transfers authorized under subsection (2) of this section.

(2)(a) A board of joint control is authorized and encouraged to pursue conservation and system efficiency improvements to optimize the use of appropriated waters and to either redistribute the saved water within its area of jurisdiction, or transfer the water to others, or both. A redistribution of saved water as an operational practice internal to the board of joint control's area of jurisdiction, may be authorized if it can be made without detriment or injury to rights existing outside of the board of control's area of jurisdiction, including instream flow water rights established under state or federal law.

(b) Prior to undertaking a water conservation or system efficiency improvement project that will result in a redistribution of saved water, the board of joint control must consult with the department of ecology and, if the board's jurisdiction is within a United States reclamation project, the board must obtain the approval of the bureau of reclamation. The purpose of such consultation is to assure that the proposal will not impair the rights of other water holders or bureau of reclamation contract water users.

(c) A board of joint control does not have the power to authorize a change of any water right that would change the point or points of diversion, purpose of use, or place of use outside the board's area of jurisdiction, without the approval of the department of ecology pursuant to RCW 90.03.380 and, if the board's jurisdiction is within a United States reclamation project, the approval of the bureau of reclamation. Any change in place of use that results from a transfer of

water between the individual entities of the board of joint control shall not result in any reduction in the total water supply available in a federal reclamation project. In making the determination of whether a change of place of use in an area covered by a federal reclamation project will result in a reduction in the total water supply available, the board of joint control shall consult with the bureau of reclamation.

(d) The board of joint control shall notify the department of ecology, and any Indian tribe requesting notice, of transfers of water between the individual entities of the board of joint control. This subsection (2)(d) applies only to a board of joint control created after January 1, 2003.

(3) A board of joint control is authorized to design, construct, and operate either drainage projects, or water quality enhancement projects, or both.

(4) Where the board of joint control area of jurisdiction is totally within a federal reclamation project, the board is authorized to accept operational responsibility for federal reserved works.

(5) Nothing contained in this chapter gives a board of joint control the authority to abridge the existing rights, responsibilities, and authorities of an individual irrigation entity or others within the area of jurisdiction; nor in a case where the board of joint control consists of representatives of two or more divisions of a federal reclamation project shall the board of joint control abridge any powers of an existing board of control created through federal contract; nor shall a board of joint control have any authority to abridge or modify a water right benefiting lands within its area of jurisdiction without consent of the party holding the ownership interest in the water right.

(6) A board of joint control created under this chapter may not use any authority granted to it by this chapter or by RCW 90.03.380 to authorize a transfer of or change in a water right or to authorize a redistribution of saved water before July 1, 1997. [2015 1st sp.s. c 4 § 53; 2003 c 306 § 3; 1998 c 84 § 2; 1996 c 320 § 11; 1949 c 56 § 12; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-31.]

**87.80.135 Board's limitations.** A board of joint control created under this chapter is limited to the membership, area of jurisdiction, and other terms and conditions contained in the resolution of the board of county commissioners filed under RCW 87.80.090. Amendments may be proposed at any time by the board of joint control to the board of county commissioners and acted upon through the petition process contained in RCW 87.80.030 through 87.80.090. [1996 c 320 § 16.]

**87.80.160 Entity's levy to include budget apportionment.** Immediately after final adoption of the budget the secretary of the board shall mail or deliver a copy thereof showing the apportionment of the charge to each irrigation entity, to the secretary of each irrigation entity coming under the jurisdiction of the board of joint control and it shall be the duty of each irrigation entity to include in its levy for the ensuing year, the amount apportioned and charged to it in the budget. [1996 c 320 § 13; 1949 c 56 § 15; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-34.]

**87.80.190 Control fund created—Deposits and remittances.** There is created in the county treasurer's office of the county in which the board of joint control was created, a special fund to be designated Control Fund of the (naming the county) County Joint Control Board No. (specifying the number). The county treasurer shall distribute all collections for this fund to the control fund. The treasurer of any other county collecting assessments for this fund shall remit the assessments monthly to the county treasurer of the county in which the board of joint control was created. However, at the option of the board of joint control, a treasurer other than the county treasurer may be designated under RCW 87.03.440. [1996 c 320 § 14; 1949 c 56 § 18; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-37.]

**87.80.200 Payments from control fund.** When the county treasurer serves as treasurer for the board of joint control, the board of joint control shall issue vouchers for its operations against the control fund and the county treasurer shall pay out moneys from the fund upon warrants drawn by the county auditor of said county. [1996 c 320 § 15; 1949 c 56 § 19; Rem. Supp. 1949 § 7505-38.]

**87.80.220 Agencies under contract with federal government—Ability to participate in board.** An irrigation entity under contract with an agency of the federal government for the construction or operation of its irrigation system may not participate in a board of joint control under this chapter if this action is in conflict with provisions of the subject contract. If a responsible official of the federal agency notifies the board of county commissioners in writing on or before the day of hearing provided under RCW 87.80.060 of a conflict in contract provisions and evidences the conflict, the board of county commissioners must deny the irrigation entity's proposed participation. If subsequent to formation of a board of joint control, a judicial decision determines a conflict in contract conditions, the irrigation entity must not participate in a project or activity inconsistent with the court determination. [1996 c 320 § 17.]

**87.80.230 Board created among entities using Yakima river and tributaries—Coordination with federal and state programs.** A board of joint control created among irrigation entities utilizing waters of the Yakima river and tributaries shall, when undertaking water conservation projects, fully coordinate those projects with federal and state programs adopted under the Yakima river basin water enhancement project, P.L. 103-434. The projects shall be developed and implemented, consistent with the board's development schedule, within the framework of the Yakima river basin water enhancement project policies and procedures provided by the state and federal governments, as funds are available to the board of joint control for the projects. However, should there be no reasonable prospect of funding for construction by the federal and state government within three years of the date of the publication of the Yakima river basin conservation plan under P.L. 103-434, the board of joint control may pursue the projects under alternative funding programs and conditions. [1996 c 320 § 22.]



**87.80.900 Effect of chapter on general water rights adjudications.** This chapter shall not affect the final decree of a general adjudication conducted under RCW 90.03.110 through 90.03.245. [1996 c 320 § 23.]

**87.80.901 Construction—2003 c 306.** The provisions of chapter 306, Laws of 2003 shall not be construed or interpreted to authorize the impairment of any existing water rights. [2003 c 306 § 4.]

### Chapter 87.84 RCW

#### IRRIGATION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICTS

##### Sections

87.84.005	Purpose—Districts authorized.
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87.84.020	Petition to convert irrigation district to an irrigation and rehabilitation district, contents—Bond for costs.
87.84.030	Notice and hearing on petition.
87.84.040	Notice and election.
87.84.050	Purposes of organization.
87.84.060	Directors—Powers, rights and authority of directors and district.
87.84.061	Directors—Additional powers.
87.84.070	Special assessments—Notice and election—Collection.
87.84.071	Special assessments inferior to existing city or town L.I.D. assessments.
87.84.080	Rules and regulations—Authorized—Publication—Hearing.
87.84.090	Rules and regulations—Violation as misdemeanor—Jurisdiction—Penalty—Review.
87.84.100	Rules and regulations—Sheriff to enforce.
87.84.110	Corporate powers and authority.
87.84.120	City, town, county, powers not restricted—Title 79 RCW not modified.

**87.84.005 Purpose—Districts authorized.** The growing population of the state of Washington, coupled with increasing amounts of available leisure time have greatly expanded the need for and use of the larger lakes in the state of Washington, both by Washington state residents and guests from other states and countries. In order to make the use of such larger lakes safer, and more beneficial to all concerned, the state of Washington to further the health, safety, recreation and welfare of its citizens has authorized the conversion of certain irrigation districts to irrigation and rehabilitation districts. [1963 c 221 § 1.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.84.010 Eligibility.** Any irrigation district having the major portion of an inland navigable body of water within its exterior boundaries and which has filed with the department of ecology and been granted a water right certificate for fifty thousand acre feet of water or more shall be eligible to become an irrigation and rehabilitation district as provided in this chapter. [1988 c 127 § 67; 1963 c 221 § 2; 1961 c 226 § 2.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.84.020 Petition to convert irrigation district to an irrigation and rehabilitation district, contents—Bond for costs.** A petition to convert an existing irrigation district to an irrigation and rehabilitation district shall be signed by at least fifty holders of title or evidence of title to land within the district. The petition shall contain the following:

- (1) The legal description of the property to be served.

- (2) The signature and address of each petitioner, together with the legal description of the lands within the district owned by each.

- (3) Any other matter deemed material.

The petition shall be accompanied by a bond, to be approved by the board, in double the amount of the probable cost of organizing the district, and conditioned that the bondsperson will pay all the costs if the organization is not effected. [2007 c 218 § 80; 1961 c 226 § 3.]

**Intent—Finding—2007 c 218:** See note following RCW 41.08.020.

**87.84.030 Notice and hearing on petition.** A notice of hearing and a hearing on the petition shall be held as provided by RCW 87.03.020. [1961 c 226 § 4.]

**87.84.040 Notice and election.** A notice of election and election shall be held to determine whether the electors desire to convert the existing irrigation district to an irrigation and rehabilitation district.

The notice of election and election shall be governed by the applicable provisions of chapter 87.03 RCW relating to the original formation of districts. [1961 c 226 § 5.]

**87.84.050 Purposes of organization.** In addition to the purposes for which irrigation districts may be organized under RCW 87.03.010, an irrigation and rehabilitation district may also be organized or maintained to further the recreational potential of the area and to further the rehabilitation or improvement of inland lakes and shore lines and the modification or improvement of existing or planned control structures located in the district in order to further the health, recreation, and welfare of the residents in the area. [1963 c 221 § 3; 1961 c 226 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.84.060 Directors—Powers, rights and authority of directors and district.** The directors of the irrigation and rehabilitation district shall be the same as of the irrigation district and the directors shall retain all power, rights and authority heretofore granted to them or hereafter granted to them as directors of an irrigation district under any provision of Title 87 RCW or any amendments thereto or any authority granted to directors of irrigation districts under any other law of the state of Washington. The irrigation and rehabilitation district shall also retain all power, rights and authority heretofore or hereafter granted to irrigation districts under Title 87 RCW or any other law or laws of the state of Washington, and use said power and authority including local improvement district provisions to further irrigation and rehabilitation district purposes and in addition shall have authority to rehabilitate or improve all or a portion of any inland body of water including adjacent shore lines located in the district and shall have the further power of modifying or improving any existing or planned water control structure located in the district in order to further the health, recreation, and welfare of the residents in the district.

All rights held by the irrigation district to water located wholly or partially in the district including but not limited to rights granted by the department of ecology shall upon formation of the irrigation and rehabilitation district immediately vest in the irrigation and rehabilitation district and in

addition all water in the newly formed district as to which the prior district had any rights shall be held by the new district for all the beneficial uses and purposes for which the irrigation and rehabilitation district is formed. [1988 c 127 § 68; 1963 c 221 § 4; 1961 c 226 § 7.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.84.061 Directors—Additional powers.** The water in any natural or impounded lake, wholly or partially within the boundaries of an irrigation and rehabilitation district, together with all use of said water and the bottom and shore lines to the line established by the highest level where water has been or shall be stored in said lake, shall be regulated, controlled and used by the irrigation and rehabilitation district in order to further the health, safety, recreation and welfare of the residents in the district and the citizens and guests of the state of Washington, subject to rights of the United States bureau of reclamation and any irrigation districts organized under the laws of the state of Washington.

In addition to the powers expressly or impliedly enumerated above, the directors of an irrigation and rehabilitation district shall have the power and authority to:

(1) Control and regulate the use of boats, skiers, skin divers, aircraft, ice skating, ice boats, swimmers or any other use of said lake, by means of appropriate rules and regulations not inconsistent with state fish, game or aeronautics laws.

(2) Expend district funds for the control of mosquitoes or other harmful insects which may affect the use of any lake located in the district: PROVIDED, That the state department of social and health services gives its approval in writing to any district program instituted under the authority of this item. District funds may be expended for mosquito and insect control or other district projects or activities even though it may be necessary to place chemicals or carry on activities on areas located outside of an irrigation and rehabilitation district's boundaries. These funds may be transferred to the jurisdictional health department for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this item.

(3) Except for state highways, control, regulate or prohibit by means of rules and regulations, the building, construction, placing or allowing to be placed from adjoining land, sand, gravel, dirt, rock, tires, lumber, logs, bottles, cans, garbage and trash, or any loathsome, noxious substances or materials of any kind, and any piling, causeways, fill, roads, culverts, wharfs, bulkheads, buildings, structures, floats, or markers, in, on or above the line established by the highest level where water has been or shall be stored in said lake, located in the district, in order to further the interests of the citizens of the state of Washington, and residents of the district.

(4) Except for state highways, control, regulate and require the placing, maintenance and use of culverts and boat accesses under and through existing fills constructed over and/or across any lake located within the district to facilitate water circulation, navigation and the reduction of flood danger.

(5) Control the taking of carp or other rough fish located in the district and including the right to grant or sell an exclusive or concurrent franchise for the taking of carp or other rough fish, providing the department of fish and wildlife give

their approval in writing to any district project regarding the capture, or sale of fish.

(6) Control and regulate by means of rules and regulations the direct or indirect introduction into any lake within the district of any human, animal or industrial waste products, sewage, effluent or by-products, treated or untreated: PROVIDED, That the state department of ecology gives its approval in writing to any district program instituted under this section, and nothing herein shall be deemed to amend, repeal, supersede, or otherwise modify any laws or regulations relating to public health or to the department of ecology.

(7) Except for state highways, construct, maintain, place, and/or restore roads, buildings, docks, dams, canals, locks, mechanical lifts or any other type of transportation facility; dredge, purchase land, or lease land, or enter into agreements with other agencies or conduct any other activity within or without the district boundaries in order to carry out district projects or activities to further the recreational potential of the area. [1994 c 264 § 79; 1988 c 127 § 69; 1979 c 141 § 383; 1963 c 221 § 5.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.84.070 Special assessments—Notice and election—Collection.** The directors shall be empowered to specially assess land located in the district for benefits thereto taking as a basis the last equalized assessment for county purposes: PROVIDED, That such assessment shall not exceed twenty-five cents per thousand dollars of assessed value upon such assessed valuation without securing authorization by vote of the electors of the district at an election called for that purpose.

The board shall give notice of such an election, for the time and in the manner and form provided for irrigation district elections. The manner of conducting and voting at such an election, opening and closing polls, canvassing the votes, certifying the returns, and declaring the result shall be nearly as practicable the same as in irrigation district elections.

The special assessment provided for herein shall be due and payable at such times and in such amounts as designated by the district directors, which designation shall be made to the county auditor in writing, and the amount so designated shall be added to the general taxes, and entered upon the assessment rolls in his or her office, and collected therewith. [2013 c 23 § 531; 1973 1st ex.s. c 195 § 132; 1961 c 226 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.84.071 Special assessments inferior to existing city or town L.I.D. assessments.** The special assessments provided for in RCW 87.84.070 shall be subject to and inferior to existing local improvement district assessments of any city or town which is included within the boundaries of an irrigation and rehabilitation district. The collection of local improvement district assessments of a city or town, and the right to foreclose the same when delinquent, shall not be impaired in any manner whatsoever by subsequent special assessments of an irrigation and rehabilitation district. In the event that the county treasurer forecloses on land located within the corporate limits of a city or town for nonpayment of irrigation and rehabilitation district assessments, the certificates of sale and the deeds issued pursuant to the foreclosure proceedings shall contain a recital that the certificate of sale and/or deed is sub-

ject to outstanding local improvement district assessments of the city or town. [1965 ex.s. c 6 § 5.]

**87.84.080 Rules and regulations—Authorized—Publication—Hearing.** The directors of an irrigation and rehabilitation district shall have the authority to pass rules and regulations to accomplish district purposes. The rules and regulations shall (except in case of emergency) be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the district and a public hearing shall be held prior to adoption by the directors, at a regular public meeting. [1963 c 221 § 6.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.84.090 Rules and regulations—Violation as misdemeanor—Jurisdiction—Penalty—Review.** The directors may enact rules and regulations, the violation of which shall be punishable as a misdemeanor, and the district judges in said district shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such offenses. Penalty for violation shall not exceed a five hundred dollar fine or six months in jail: PROVIDED, That where a violation is designated a misdemeanor, the directors shall submit such rules and regulations to the county commissioners of the county or counties in which the district is located who shall review same and approve or disapprove thereof. Rules or regulations disapproved by county commissioners within thirty days of submission shall be of no force or effect. [1987 c 202 § 246; 1963 c 221 § 7.]

**Intent—1987 c 202:** See note following RCW 2.04.190.

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.84.100 Rules and regulations—Sheriff to enforce.** The sheriff's department of any county in which an irrigation and rehabilitation district is located shall enforce the rules and regulations of the district. [1963 c 221 § 8.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.84.110 Corporate powers and authority.** An irrigation and rehabilitation district shall possess all the usual powers of a municipal corporation and shall have the authority to sue and enforce its rules and regulations. [1963 c 221 § 9.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

**87.84.120 City, town, county, powers not restricted—Title 79 RCW not modified.** The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed so as to restrict the governing body of any city, town or county located on or adjacent to an inland body of water controlled by an irrigation and rehabilitation district from conducting or carrying out governmental or proprietary functions of said city, town or county: PROVIDED, That nothing herein shall be deemed to amend, repeal, supersede or otherwise modify any provisions of Title 79 RCW. [1963 c 221 § 10.]

Additional notes found at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov)

