

**IRRIGACIÓN**  
Agua que da vida



**WATER  
AUTHORITY**  
PROVINCE OF MENDOZA



Departamento  
General de Irrigación



@IrrigacionMza



irrigacionmza



@DGIrrigacion



## GENERAL INFORMATION



### **Province of Mendoza**

#### **Surface**

148.827 km<sup>2</sup>

#### **Population 2021**

2.000.000 inhabitants

#### **Population density**

13,4 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>

#### **Climate**

Arid and semi-arid

#### **Average Annual Precipitation**

220 mm

#### **Territorial Development**

3,5 % oasis

96,5 % desert and mountains

## About us

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The *General Department of Irrigation* (DGI, as per its acronym in Spanish) is the **general and exclusive authority in water matters**, as stated by the Water Act passed in 1884 and ratified by our Provincial Constitution in 1916.

The DGI is an autocratic and independent entity, in relation to the central government of the Province of Mendoza.

It is this autonomy that has allowed the DGI to prevail over time and to be recognized worldwide.

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The main attributes of the DGI are the following:

Decentralization



Decentralized public entity in charge of managing the water resources of the Province of Mendoza. The DGI has legal capacity and possesses its own assets.

Autocracy



**Autarquía Financiera:** Autonomous agency that plans, approves, administers and executes its own budget with its own income.

Autonomy

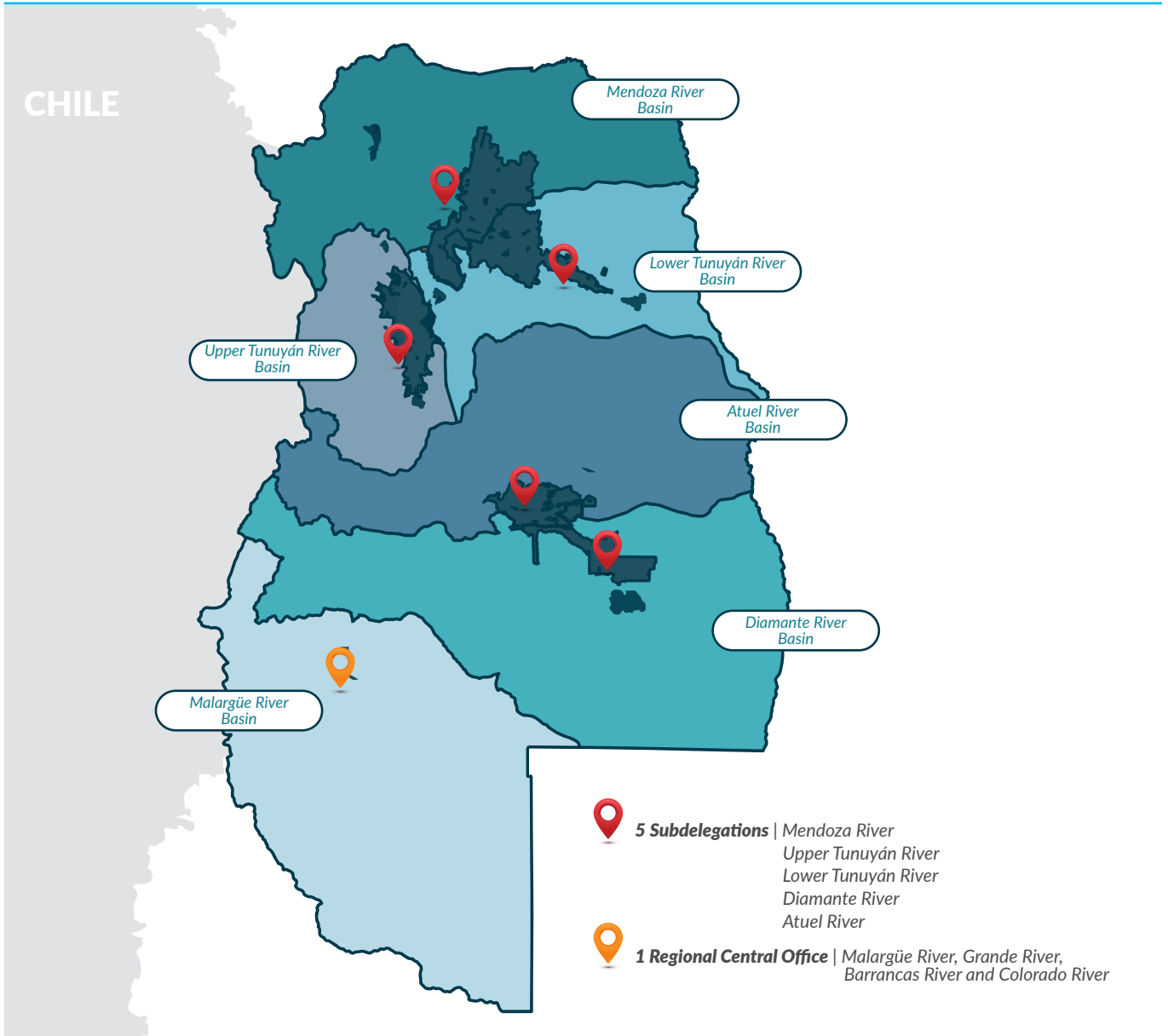


**Autonomía Institucional:** autonomous entity, as it is independent from the Executive Power.

## Main Characteristics



## Hydro-Political Division



**BASINS - RIVERS >**

**MENDOZA**

**LOWER  
TUNUYÁN**

**UPPER  
TUNUYÁN**

**DIAMANTE**

**ATUEL**

**MALARGÜE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

SUBDELEGATIONS	1	1	1	1	1	
REGIONAL CENTRAL OFFICE						1
BOARDS	7	4	2	1	4	
WATER USER ASSOCIATIONS	51	24	20	18	23	2

**NUMBER OF USERS**

SURFACE WATER	50.849	15.659	7.415	17.810	11.877	991
GROUNDWATER	11.334	3.509	2.559	2.086	412	106
POLLUTION CONTROL	615	531	150	143	181	36

## Organizational Structure

### DGI



#### Superintendent

The Superintendent is the supreme authority of the DGI, appointed every 5 years by the Executive Power, with the consent of the Senate. The Superintendent is responsible for the general administration of the DGI and has regulatory power over all water resources and natural channels. The Superintendent must take all the necessary steps to guarantee the proper use of water resources.



#### Honorable Administrative Board

1 CONSULTANT PER BASIN  
+ SUPERINTENDENT

It serves as the Legislative Power, within the DGI. It is responsible for introducing regulations, approving the budget and issuing the calculation of water resources.



#### Honorable Board of Appeals

1 CONSULTANT PER BASIN

It has jurisdiction over the resolutions adopted by the Superintendent that are appealed. The rulings issued by this Board can only be appealed before the Supreme Court of Justice of Mendoza.

### Primary distribution

#### 5 Subdelegations

- » Mendoza River
- » Upper Tunuyán River
- » Lower Tunuyán River
- » Diamante River
- » Atuel River

The **Subdelegations** represent the DGI in respect to each basin and in all operative aspects related to the infrastructure of irrigation and drainage systems. The **Consultants** represent the Superintendent and they have full powers over their corresponding basin. They administer, manage and control all the aspects related to the water resource.

#### 1 Regional Central Office

- » Malargüe River, Grande River, Barrancas River and Colorado River

The **Regional Central Office** is an administrative unit similar to the subdelegations, which has less farming hectares, but more participation in the control of mining and oil activities.

## Water governance matrix

# USERS' COMMITTEES

The decentralization of processes related to the management of water resources has allowed the different Users' Committees to administer, maintain and preserve the primary canals, tertiary canals and drainages that are part of the secondary network. This is possible thanks to a highly democratic organization that allows for the adoption of an economy of scale, suitable for each unit.

### Secondary Distribution

#### 138 Water User Associations

- » Direct Democracy
- » Users' Meeting

***Water User Associations** are local agencies formed -mandatorily- by the Irrigators of a canal. Their mission is to achieve participation in the administration and allocation of water resources and in the maintenance of the secondary network. Each Association designs and approves its own budgets and elects its own authorities. They are autocratic, non-state entities of Public Law. They are supervised by the DGI, through the Honorable Administrative Board and the Superintendent.*

#### 18 Water User Boards

- » Participation of irrigation users

*The Water User Associations «may» join forces in the form of **Boards**, for the proper fulfillment of their duties, the protection of rights and the promotion of the interests of the different communities, provided that these Boards are compatible with an efficient management of the resources and in procurement of the regional wellbeing.*

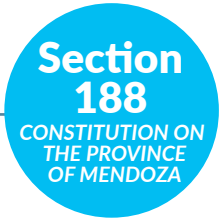
Superintendent

Primary Distribution

Secondary Distribution

## What do we do?

All matters related to Irrigation in the province of Mendoza, and that are not under the jurisdiction of the courts of law, are dealt with exclusively by the General Department of Irrigation. The DGI is made up of a Superintendent, appointed by the Executive Power, with the consent of the Senate; a Board, whose members are appointed in the same manner as the Superintendent; and other authorities, as determined by law.



## How do we work? Interinstitutional Coordination

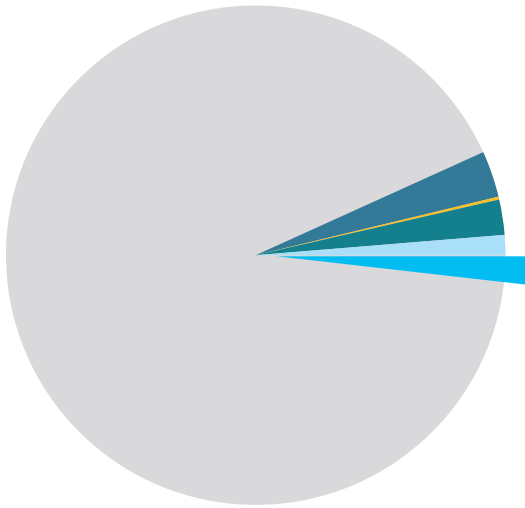
In the province of Mendoza, there are other institutions related to the different aspects of water resources and the DGI interacts with them on a permanent basis.



We also forge alliances with another entities:



## Water Uses and priority, as determined by Law

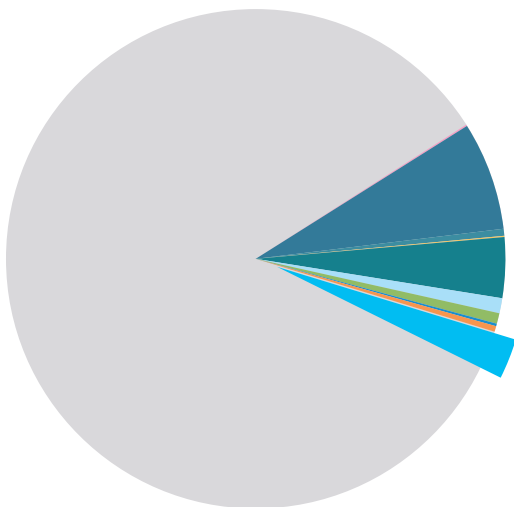


USES	REGISTERED SURFACE	REGISTERS
<b>Population Supply</b>	<b>1,8 %</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Irrigation</b>	<b>91,4 %</b>	<b>59.543</b>
Industries	3,0 %	90
Mining and Oil	0,2 %	-
Entertainment	2,3 %	36.564
Public	1,3 %	1.516
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100,00</b>	<b>97.746</b>

## SURFACE WATER

The "POPULATION SUPPLY" has legal priority over the other uses.

## GROUNDWATER



USES	%	DRILLINGS
Common or domestic	7,03	1.414
<b>Population Supply</b>	<b>2,62</b>	<b>527</b>
Reinforcement of supply capacity	0,68	137
<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>83,68</b>	<b>16.814</b>
Livestock	0,45	91
Public	0,16	33
Industries	3,93	790
Mining and Oil	0,08	16
Mineral water	0,03	6
Entertainment	0,98	197
Thermal	0,00	1
Aquifer monitoring	0,36	73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20.126</b>

## Economic and Financial Regime

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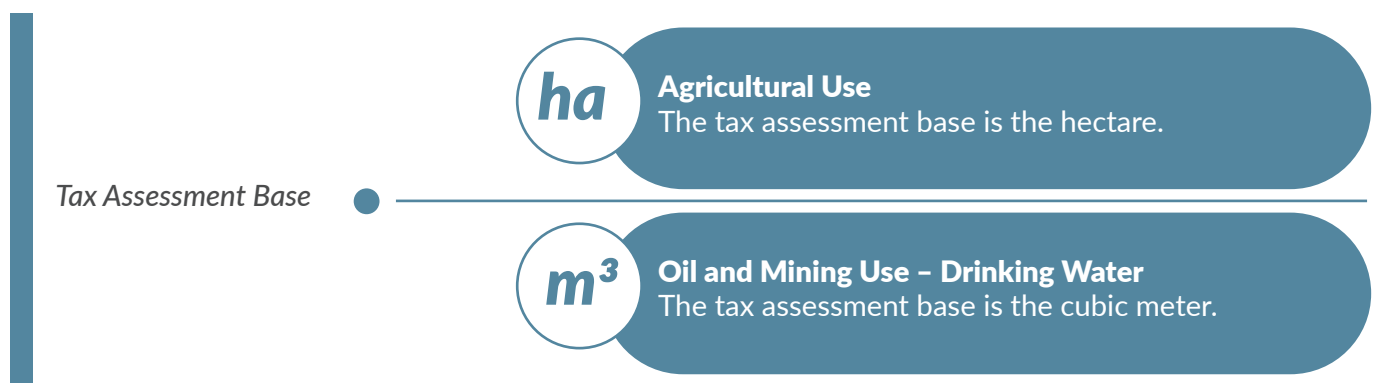
As stated before, the DGI is a self-governed, autonomous entity and, therefore, its economic and financial framework is structured under the standards of self-sustainability, which allows for the administration of the water system of the Province of Mendoza.

In the case of Surface Water, the tax is payable annually and the tax assessment base is the hectare. This canon is made up of a "funding fee", that is paid by whoever has a water right. Secondly the services provided by the DGI to users are charged.

The ownership fee is variable, depending on the basin, and is made up of rates that represent the main concepts that compose the organizational scheme of the water system.

- » Headquarters funding fee
- » Subdelegation funding fee
- » Primary distribution system funding fee
- » Mechanical equipment service funding fee
- » Telemetry network funding fee (snow and flow measurement)
- » Permanent funding funds for water infrastructure

The fee for the agricultural use is the basis for the estimation of the rest of the uses. The tax is composed by an ownership fee defined by the DGI, plus the one determined by the Water User Associations.



## Economic Resources according to Service Types



USES	%
Surface water	30
Groundwater	22
Pollution Control Fee	8
Works reimbursement and capital resources	30
Miscellaneous incomes	10
	<b>100,00</b>

## Billing scheme

<b>Fee » DGI</b> Ownership revenue (regardless the use)	<b>Canal fee » Water User Associations</b> Service fee
<b>Mechanical Equipment Works</b> <b>Network Telemetry, others » DGI</b> Service fee	<b>Works reimbursement » DGI</b> Contributions for improvements

### Tax Collection Process



We rely on different tools that help us manage tax collection, such as service suspension and collection enforced by a court of law, in cases of default in payment by the users.

## Where are we going?

Our *Aim* is to *Guarantee Hydric Safety* and to achieve this, we take all the necessary measures to provide a reliable water supply, which is qualitatively and quantitatively acceptable for our consumers' health, for the production of goods and services, and for the means of subsistence, together with an acceptable level of risks related to water.

## Core Planning



## Objectives

- 1 | Management of water supply:** gain a better understanding of the water supply.
- 2 | Management of water demand:** improve the management model based on the water demand, from an environmental perspective of the water resource.
- 3 | Optimization of water availability:** improve the availability and the quality of the water resource, in relation to surface water and groundwater, management, distribution and implementation, with the purpose of enhancing the efficiency of the system for the social-productive development, on the basis of equitable distribution.

- 4 Economic and financial perspective:** achieve economic sustainability, based on debt collection, new collection strategies and improvements in the planning of the budget, with the purpose of increasing the capital expenditure annually.
- 5 Governance:** analyze in detail the governance processes in order to achieve a balanced relationship between the civil society and the water management matrix of Mendoza.
- 6 Modernization:** update the DGI's management, by redesigning processes and incorporating new IT tools to achieve an efficient, effective and transparent management, and at the same time, obtaining economy in its processes.

## Strategic Processes in progress



**Water Plan**  
2030 | 2040 | 2050

The Water Master Plan states the water policies to be adopted for the years 2030 to 2050, and establishes a line of work together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the provinces and the Federal Investment Council (Consejo Federal de Inversiones), with the purpose of promoting a technical-institutional bond between the local administration entities and the Israeli state company, Mekorot.



**Water Code**

A draft of the first Water Code of the Province of Mendoza is currently in the preliminary stages. This Code will contain a systematic integration and update of the guiding principles of the provincial constitution, with the different laws and regulations passed in the last 130 years.



**Development Financing**

Water infrastructure is a key factor for the economic and social development of Mendoza, a province that has only 3,5% of irrigated surface. The possibility of working on funding and financial schemes to develop infrastructure and sustainability over the years is a vital component for the sustainable development.