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2022 Critical Year Water Management and Conservation Policy Special Conditions

Background

On February 15, 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) announced that 2022 will be a Critical Year per the terms of the District's Sacramento River Settlement Contract. Water Year (WY) 2022 is anticipated to be one of if not the driest year on record. Location and amount of precipitation in WY 2022, combined with low carryover storage in Shasta Lake at the end of WY 2021, have resulted in untenable and unprecedented water supply conditions in the Sacramento Valley.

The District estimates the available supply from the Sacramento River will be approximately 148,500 acre-feet of water during the irrigation season (April through October). Further, allowable diversion rates off the river will have monthly constraints and will be significantly reduced. Operation of the District's facilities and ability to reliably deliver to water users will be extremely hindered.

The District's Critical Year Conservation Policy will remain in effect, however in order to most equitably and transparently serve the landowners and water users of the District, the following additional operational considerations and rules will be in place for the 2022 Settlement Contract delivery period (April 1 through October 31).

District Operations

District operations will be significantly impaired and the following conditions will apply to all water delivered:

1. Water deliveries will be variable and may be unreliable or at times unavailable, exposing all crops to significant risk.
2. To minimize conveyance/seepage losses, no partial fields will be allowed, and plantings will need to be consolidated to the extent possible.
3. Rice field deliveries will be at a greatly reduced flow rate compared to prior years and maintenance flows will be reduced or at times not available.
4. Water deliveries for all crops, including rice, will be scheduled on rotation cycles.
5. All water deliveries will be measured by staff.
6. All gates will be locked for the duration of the season and adjusted only by staff.
7. Water deliveries, no matter the stage of life cycle of the crop, will be terminated for the duration of the season once the unity duty is met.



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Sacramento Valley for more than a century

Delivery and Use of Water

1. Water Operations staff will coordinate with water users on scheduling of irrigations.
 2. Unless otherwise agreed to by operations staff, all deliveries will be on a strict 24-hour delivery schedule.
 3. Water deliveries will not be available until the District completes an initial operations plan that includes the landowner diversion, lateral diversion, and water operator area diversion as those relate to the District's monthly flow schedule and total use.
 4. No spills will be allowed for any crop.
 5. Unauthorized use or waste of water will result in penalties and possible termination of water service pursuant to the District's Rules and Regulations.
 6. Water users may not purchase water from the Supplemental Water Purchase Pool that, when combined with other water available to them, would result in the water user having an amount of water available to them in excess of that required for the crop applied for based on the applicable unit duty.
 7. A landowner or water user may transfer, using an assignment form, a portion of their water allocation to another water user who does not have sufficient water ('in-season water trading') subject to that water being delivered in accordance with the District's monthly/seasonal Sacramento River diversion limits and the District's internal Operations Plan.
 8. If after the District conducts an analysis of the completed water applications and initial Operations Plan and determines that an individual's application impairs the District's overall operations, then that individual may either 1) be permitted to submit a revised application that the District determines does not impair overall operations, or 2) assign that water to another individual within the District, or 3) sell their water to the Supplemental Water Purchase Pool.
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