

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHAT WATER RIGHTS DOES GCID HOLD?

The District's water rights were established in 1883, making it one of the oldest and largest on the Sacramento River. From that time until GCID was formally organized in 1920, several privately held companies owned the water rights and assets that ultimately were transferred to GCID. The District still retains its historic rights.

GCID's water supplies are diverted under the Sacramento River Settlement Contracts with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The first Settlement Contracts were established in 1964 to allow Reclamation to operate and divert water for the newly constructed Central Valley Project. The contract was renewed for another 40-year term in 2005. The contract provides GCID with 720,000 acre-feet of base water supply for the months of April through October, and 105,000 acre-feet of Central Valley Project water that is purchased during the months of July and August.

During a designated Critical Year, when natural inflow to Shasta Reservoir is less than 3.2 million acre-feet, Settlement Contractors' supplies are reduced to 75%. GCID's total supply is 618,000 acre-feet under those conditions. In 2022, however, the District's allocation was a historically low 18% due to ongoing drought.

The District also has rights under a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) permit to "winter water." These rights run from November 1 through March 31 and are for a total of 182,900 acre-feet. This water is used for rice straw decomposition, waterfowl habitat and crops.

Like other water districts in California, GCID continues to adjust and alter operations and diversions to comply with new legislation, guidelines and restrictions imposed by state and federal agencies.



HOW DOES SEVERE DROUGHT IMPACT GCID'S OPERATIONS AND SERVICES?

Recent recurring and unprecedented statewide droughts significantly impact the District. Combined with state restrictions and guidelines implemented in response to historic drought cycles from 2012 to 2016 and again beginning in 2020, GCID has been forced to reassess its planning and how water is allocated to growers. In 2022, a record low allocation from the Central Valley Project

prompted the District to implement several measures, including on-field metering and a supplemental purchase pool.

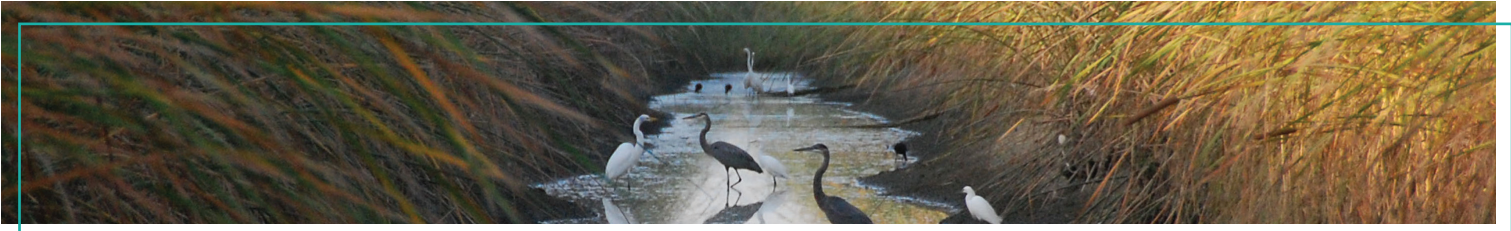
Reduced water sales affect the District's revenue and financial health and prompt the need for rate adjustments. Drought also requires GCID to focus on projects that help meet its environmental responsibilities and create greater water reliability.



WHAT IS GCID'S WATER TRANSFER POLICY?

GCID remains committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the surface and groundwater resources in the region. The Board of Directors policy states that water transfers will be evaluated on a year-by-year basis, based upon the current hydraulic and water supply conditions. In addition, the Board gives priority to in-basin agricultural transfers first, then environmental transfers, North-of-Delta transfers, and lastly South-of-Delta transfers. GCID water transfers must be determined to be necessary, short-term actions intended to help other regions meet shortages while also providing benefits locally.

During the drought in 2015, GCID coordinated with local landowners to transfer 10,000 acre-feet of groundwater "in-basin," and within Glenn and Colusa counties, to its immediate neighbors whose supplies had been reduced to zero for the purpose of keeping permanent crops alive. GCID also transferred 48,000 acre-feet of land idling water out of the basin to the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority. The water was held in Lake Shasta to provide for additional cold water to protect winter-run Chinook salmon. In October 2021, the Board suspended water transfer discussions with would-be buyers due to supply uncertainties.



FAQs



HOW IS GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT BEING ADDRESSED BY THE DISTRICT?

GCID is a member of the Glenn Groundwater Authority and the Colusa Groundwater Authority, groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that oversee management of basins in Glenn and Colusa counties, as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

GCID, along with other Sacramento Valley water resources managers and GSAs, is working to better understand local surface and groundwater resources and support groundwater management.



DOES GCID WORK WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON SUSTAINABILITY AND HABITAT PROJECTS?

In partnership with other agencies and organizations, GCID continues to develop, support, and fund local and regional projects that have improved migratory corridors and habitat for fish within the region.

For example, a cooperative effort with numerous other agencies resulted in the construction of a state-of-the-art fish screening facility at the Hamilton City pump station that prevents the loss of fish in the vicinity of the diversion.

The construction of a gradient facility helped restore and stabilize the river channel and surface water elevations at the fish screen to ensure safe fish passage conditions and effective performance.

The District works closely with American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, California Trout, Audubon California, Ducks Unlimited, California Waterfowl Association, Point Blue and many others.



WHAT IS GCID'S POSITION ON SITES RESERVOIR?

GCID is a founding member of the Sites Project Joint Power Authority, the proponent and facilitator for the Sites Reservoir, long viewed as one of the leading candidates for new surface storage in the state. Sites Reservoir, also referred to as North of Delta Offstream Storage, has been identified by the State of California and the federal government as an important component

of integrated water management in the Sacramento Valley that could advance long-term objectives of improved water management and restored ecological health for the Delta and the Sacramento River watershed. Sites would store a total of 1.8 million acre-feet with an estimated available average yield of 500,000 acre-feet.



WHAT IS GCID'S POSITION ON THE DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT?

As the project advances in its planning process and discussions focus on upstream operations and diversions, GCID will be carefully monitoring and engaging as necessary to protect its existing water supply.

GCID's concern, as a major user on the Sacramento River, is that changes to system operations proposed by the project would impact its diversions and beneficial uses of water. Any solution must preserve GCID's water rights.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR GCID?

GCID is focused on continuing to deliver a sustainable, reliable water supply by proactively responding to the ever-changing water landscape. As California's water landscape continues to change and external pressures are placed on GCID, the District is diligently working to position itself to respond strategically and responsibly to protect its water rights and ensure a reliable supply to District users.

The Board of Directors has identified these key focus for the District through 2020: providing reliable water supplies and resources; ensuring a stable financial position; and maintaining and improving infrastructure.