

# GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION POLICY

### I. INTRODUCTION

This *Water Management and Conservation Policy* establishes practices and procedures to promote efficient water management and maximize water conservation. The District's Board of Directors requests that all water users review and adhere to the provisions of this Policy, with the recognition that its success requires cooperation and close communication between water users and District personnel.

### II. GENERAL WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PROVISIONS

- 1) Incorporation into the District's Rules and Regulations: This *Water Management and Conservation Policy* is referenced and incorporated within the District's *Rules and Regulations*.
- 2) Identification of "designated irrigator" and "responsible party": In order to promote effective and direct communication between water users and District staff, the water user is required to identify a "designated irrigator," and a "responsible party" on the water application form at the time the application for water is submitted to the District.
  - a) The "designated irrigator" is the person responsible for irrigating the land applied for on the water application, including placing water orders, communicating with the water operations worker, making gate changes pursuant to Section II 7(e), ensuring spills are consistent with this policy, and all other water use from the District. The District considers the "designated irrigator" to be the designated point-of-contact for all problems associated with water management and water conservation issues. If the 'designated irrigator' cannot be reached during an emergency, the 'responsible party' will be contacted.
  - b) The "responsible party" is the person who accepts responsibility for the actions of the "designated irrigator," for all application fees, charges, and for water management and conservation violations and penalties. The "responsible party" could include the landowner, tenant, designated irrigator, or other agent associated with the water applicant.
  - c) The landowner is required to sign all water applications, and has ultimate responsibility for all application fees, charges, and water management and conservation violations and penalties.
- 3) Acreage measurements: All acreage measurements are based upon District maps and figures.
- 4) Water quality: The District will monitor electrical conductivity (EC) as a measure of water quality at key points in the water distribution system, and

will blend water supplies, as is feasible, to maintain EC at 1.00 deciSiemens per meter (ds/ m) or less throughout the water distribution system.

- 5) Waste of water: If, in the opinion of the General Manager and/ or designated staff, a landowner or water user is wasting water, either willfully, carelessly, negligently, or due to defective private conduits, the District will limit, discontinue, or refuse the delivery of water until the wasteful conditions are remedied in accordance with the District's *Rules and Regulations* (Rule 7.3 Penalties and Enforcement of Unauthorized Use of Water). Wasteful water use practices include, but are not limited to the following:
- a) Allowing water to flow onto roads, vacant land, or land previously irrigated.
  - b) Flooding land to depth of more than six inches (6") at the highest point of a field. **An exception is made for cultural practices related to organic rice cultivation.**
  - c) Using water on land that has been improperly prepared that either requires excess depth or excess flow onto a field.
  - d) Delivery to or shutting off flows from a turnout that would cause unsafe flows and levels in the canal upstream or downstream of that turnout.
  - e) Allowing an unnecessary amount of water to drain or spill from any irrigated field or lateral if water is shut off the field by the landowner prematurely. The responsible party will assume liability for downstream damages caused by landowner's mismanagement of their water.

The District reserves the right to refuse delivery of water when, in the opinion of the General Manager and/ or designated staff, the proposed use, or method of use, will require excessive quantities of water that constitute waste of water.

- 6) Water delivery: All water orders for changes in flow must be ordered with the District as follows:
- a) Water orders including turn-ons, changes-in-flow, or turn-offs will be placed with the area water operations worker. If the water operations worker is unavailable, water orders may be placed with the water supervisor or at the District's main office.
  - b) Water orders will be accepted during normal work hours. If excess system capacity exists, water orders will be accepted and require up to three days for delivery. If the system is at maximum capacity, water orders will be scheduled at least three days out and to a time when capacity exists.
  - c) Advance notice for turn off orders must be communicated to the water operations worker as soon as reasonably possible.

- d) Water users will provide the following information when placing water orders:
- Field delivery number (gate number)\*
  - Parcel and field number\*
  - Crop\*
  - Flow change (cfs or other commonly understood description of flow)
  - Delivery date and time
  - Name of the person making the water order

\*This information is included on all “acknowledgment maps” provided to all landowners and water users with their Water Application.

7) Water Management:

- a) Water users will structure irrigation patterns and water management to allow for continuous day and night (24-hour) water delivery for water applications requiring more than a partial day to complete.
- b) The District makes no guarantee as to when water can be delivered, particularly during the rice flooding periods, or following shut-down periods; however, every effort will be made to schedule deliveries as equitably and rapidly as possible.
- c) The General Manager and designated staff have sole responsibility for the operation of the District’s water conveyance system and associated facilities, including point-of-delivery field turnouts.
- d) Water users shall make every effort to manage their irrigation timing to allow flow adjustments including turn-ons, changes-in-flow, or turn-offs to occur as early in the day as possible to allow the water conveyance system to be balanced prior to the end of the water operations worker’s shift.
- e) Under certain circumstances, and at the sole discretion of the District, ordered flow adjustments in District facilities including turn-ons, changes-in-flow, or turn-offs may be delegated to the water user or “designated irrigator.” Steps must be taken to allow water operations workers the ability to take water measurements during the normal work hours schedule. The water operation worker and the water supervisor will determine these changes on a case-by-case basis.
- f) Flow adjustments in District facilities, including changes-in-flow, turn-offs, and moving water from one field delivery gate to another, that are scheduled to occur after the normal water operations worker shift ends, will be performed by the water operations worker or water supervisor. If the designated irrigator requests the water operations worker be called out after normal work hours to make a gate/ canal change, the

water user will be charged a \$100 fee for services to cover the cost of the District making such adjustments.

- g) Water delivery will be made on a rotation basis, where it is deemed necessary by the District. Water delivery for service to portable sprinkler booster pumps will be delivered through the field delivery turnout that normally serves the field to be irrigated. The water user is responsible for the construction of a “sump” on the field side of the field turnout delivery to accept the pump suction.

### III. RICE IRRIGATION – WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION RULES

- 1) Rice field spillage: Water may be reasonably spilled from rice fields using the following method, provided that if it is implemented, enforced, and monitored by the “designated irrigator”: Each field must be fitted with a standard approved measured weir board\* containing a notch as specified on the attached Exhibit “A.” In addition, a 3-1/2” board must be placed on top of the notched weir board to allow for greater operational flexibility and day-to-day fluctuations (a standard, finished 2” x 4” or 1” x 4” will be accepted). Any flow over the top of these boards will be deemed to be a violation of the Policy. Due to the potential for smaller fields with smaller notches to experience “notch plugging” causing a higher incidence of flow fluctuations, rice fields of 50 acres or less may substitute a 50 acre notched board with a board on top, or a notched board without a board on top with equal flow potential (contact your water operations worker for notch sizes required without a board on top). When using the notched board without a board on top, any flow above the notch will be deemed a waste of water and a violation of the Policy.

**\*The notched weir board provided for under this section must be in place throughout the irrigation season.**

- 2) Drainage and re-flooding of water during the rice growing season: Drainage and re-flooding of water, in addition to the spillage allowed under Section III, is allowed under the following conditions:
  - a) Drainage and re-flooding prior to July 1: Drainage and re-flooding of water during the rice stand establishment period is allowed prior to July 1.
    - i. Designated irrigators who drain their field due to cultural practices or wind events risk the District not having adequate capacity to refill the field to the same level or in a reasonable amount of time;
    - ii. The District must provide water to all growers within the District on a fair and impartial basis and due to demands on the conveyance system, may be unable to provide more than 1.8 acre-feet per acre per month or a total of 3 acre-feet per acre prior to July 1.
  - b) Crop Stress: Drainage and re-flooding of water to address water quality and associated crop stress may be approved by the District at any time

during the growing season, contingent upon a verifiable written recommendation from a pest control advisor (PCA) or other expert crop advisor. However, the District may not have adequate capacity or supply to re-flood to the same level, in a reasonable amount of time, or at all.

- c) Drainage of water during the rice crop maturation period after July 1: Drainage of water after July 1, but prior to termination of irrigation, must be requested at least 24-hours in advance, and may be allowed on a limited case-by-case basis depending on the circumstances and upon approval by the District.
- d) Maintenance of rice field drainage tail box: Prior to commencement of irrigation water deliveries, the rice field drainage tail box will be fitted with a notched weir board with a board on top, in accordance with Section III 1) Rice field spillage of this Policy. Notched weir board must be confirmed by the District water operations worker.
- e) Drainage of rice fields at the end of the irrigation season: At the end of the irrigation season, the water user must terminate water deliveries at least 7 days prior to requesting the drainage of water prior to harvest. The District must be notified at least 24-hours before a field is to be drained. The water operations worker will coordinate all drainage to ensure the capacity of the drains is not exceeded, to avoid flooding of adjacent fields.

#### **IV. PERMANENT AND OTHER CROPS – WATER MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION RULES**

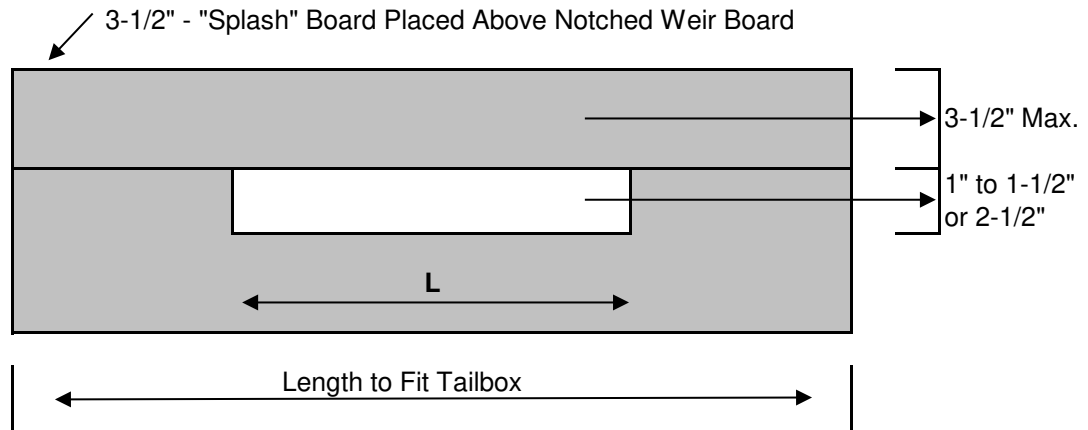
Permanent and other crops are all non-rice crops including, pasture, field crops, row crops, and orchards generally irrigated by flood, row, sprinkler, micro-sprinkler, or drip irrigation.

- 1) Release of tailwater: Water users are expected to efficiently manage irrigation water applications and minimize tailwater releases.

Delivery of water: Water must be used on a continuous (24-hour) period.

# "EXHIBIT A"

## GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT Weir for Rice-Field Tailbox



1", 1-1/2" & 2-1/2" NOTCH DEPTH vs. LENGTH

