



ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

April 15, 2022

Subject: 2022 Water Year - Drought Allocation Program

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Dear Landowner/Water User:

The Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (District) Board of Directors, pursuant to the District's Rules and Regulations, Article 9b (Proration of Water Delivery: Water Shortage), at the April 12, 2022 Board of Directors' meeting, approved a 2022 Drought Allocation Program (attached), which components are:

1. A 5-Month Prorate Period
2. Up to three (3) voluntary turnback/reallocation pools
3. Limited Pump-in Program
4. Continued relaxation of 24-hour delivery requirement

In summary, the water shortage period is for a 5-month peak irrigation period of May through September (Prorate Period) when surface supplies are necessary to supplement District supplied groundwater to provide requested deliveries. For the remaining months of our water year (October through February 2023), the irrigation demand can typically be met with the District's instantaneous well production from water bank facilities; and

therefore, no prorate is required during the off-peak months at this time.

The prorate amount allocated for the Prorate Period is 1.5 acre-feet per acre (AF/AC). Note that the recent historical usage for this Prorate Period is also 1.5 AF/AC. Federal water supplies previously declared by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) are currently at risk of dropping to zero percent Class 1 as a result of USBR's determination to meet San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor obligations, which San Joaquin River releases began on April 1.

Landowners/Water Users will be allowed to combine their turnouts, contracts, and Prorate Period allocation into farming units. The total Prorate Period allocation can be moved around within those farming units for contract lands. Initial schedules for the use of Prorate Period water will be required, and up to three (3) turnback/reallocation pools (April, July, and August) will be administered by the District to reallocate water from those that don't need their full/remaining Prorate Period supplies to those Water Users that request more. Please note the initial cost for pooled water this year is \$400/AF (attached).

Pump-in Programs are approved at a limited basis (for Pool participants only) at this time and up to the extent/amount that Landowners/Water Users do not receive their requested pool amounts. If surface water supplies combined with instantaneous well production are unable to meet peak irrigations demands, the Pump-in Program could also allow the District to purchase groundwater from willing sellers at \$400/AF. In addition, in an effort to avoid the penalty charges, Pump-in may also occur post September in-lieu of payment.

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Finally, as instituted in May 2014, the Flexible Ordering Program, which relaxed the 24-hour delivery rule, has and will continue into 2022 for those water users in good standing and so as to give water users maximum flexibility.

More specific details of the 2022 Drought Allocation Program components are attached.

Please note that your schedules must be received at District offices by close of business on Friday, April 22, 2022. Schedules may be submitted by email, fax, mail or hand delivered to our Bakersfield Office, 4700 Stockdale Hwy., Suite 115, but email is requested so as to expedite. Note that the schedule has an entry to request contribution to, or delivery from, the first pool. If the schedule is not submitted, the District will assume you do not plan to irrigate this year, and your Prorate Period allocated amount will be forfeited and made available to others.

The District has included your farming unit schedule based on your current 2022 information. If you plan to make changes to your farming unit for the Prorate Period, please notify the District as soon as possible so the required forms can be completed. An electronic copy of this schedule for your use can be made available upon request.

The District is available to schedule meetings to discuss the Prorate Period programs as well as other issues.

Lastly, while the District has endeavored to provide you with the most accurate information and expectations, water supplies this year continue to be highly speculative on many fronts, and subsequently, are subject to change.

Please feel free to call the District for further assistance.

Sincerely



Edwin Camp
Board President



Jeevan Muhar
Engineer-Manager

Enclosures:

1. Drought Allocation Program (DAP)
2. Schedules
3. Allocation Pools (sell/buy)

cc: Board of Directors
Scott Kuney, Esq.
All Employees (w/DAP only)

ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT
2022 DROUGHT ALLOCATION PROGRAM

5-MONTH PRORATE PERIOD

- (1) **Water Shortage/Prorate Allocation.** District Landowners/Water Users (Water Users) will be subject to water shortage/prorate for the 5-month peak irrigation period of May through September inclusive (Prorate Period). Unless conditions change significantly, there is no need to prorate deliveries during the remaining months of the water year. **The 2022 prorate allocation amount is 1.5 acre-feet per contract acre (AF/AC).** Such allocation may be used by Water Users through any turnout serving District contract lands under their ownership or control (Farming Unit), at any time during the Prorate Period and consistent with District Rules and Regulations for Delivery of Water. For those wanting to add additional contract land into their farming unit, the Operating Agent forms must be completed and/or updated. However, certain deliveries may still be subject to additional daily proration due to the historical pumping and pipeline capacity limitations, which occur from time to time during normal operations. Water Users will be curtailed once they reach their allocated amount and those who exceed their 5-Month Prorate Period Allocation will be subject to a tiered penalty as follows:

\$1,000/AF for overuse less than 0.1 AF/AC
\$2,000/AF for overuse between 0.1 to 0.2 AF/AC
\$3,000/AF for overuse above 0.2 AF/AC

In-lieu of a penalty payment, Landowner/Water User could Pump-In to supplement their schedule for the amount of overuse.

TURNBACK/REALLOCATION POOL

- (2) **Schedules.** Please submit a schedule for the 5-Month Prorate Period on the form supplied by the District. These schedules will also be the basis of a turnback pool to reallocate water to others that requested such during the Prorate Period, if any exist. Such schedule shall indicate usage by month, amount of water to be returned, if any, and a request for additional water (beyond the prorated amount) if additional water is desired including to be eligible for Pump-In. The District must receive the schedule by close of business on Friday, April 22, 2022. If a schedule is not submitted, the Prorate Period allocation will be forfeited and the water will be made available to others with a credit/payment to the forfeiting Landowner/Water User. Water Users may schedule any portion of the water allocation within the Prorate Period but no prorate allocation may be carried over beyond September 2022. There is no prorate declared after September, therefore carryover is not necessary.

All Prorate Period water allocation returned into the pool, and allocated to other farming units, will receive a credit/payment from the District. Any water not reallocated shall be returned to the original farming unit. All additional water allocated from the pool will have an additional charge above all normal and customary water and energy lift charges (2022 rate sheet is attached). Similar to prior Prorate Programs, the District anticipates having three (3) separate reallocation pools, which are expected in April (initial), July, and August. The Credit/payment and charge for each pool will have varying amounts, for example \$400/AF, \$300/AF and \$200/AF, respectively. Note the pool charges are in addition to all normal and customary water and energy lift charges.

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2022 DROUGHT ALLOCATION PROGRAM

The initial pool has been set at \$400/AF; however additional pools and pricing amounts are subject to change by Board of Directors.

No individual transfers of Prorate Period water allocation will be allowed. Any and all requests and reallocation of water must go through the District.

- (3) **Initial reallocation.** Water Users requesting additional Prorate Period water allocation, if it becomes available, will receive notification of the reallocation of water by April 29, 2022. Allocation of returned water will also be prorated on a contract acreage basis among those Water Users requesting additional water. All water requested and received by the first reallocation shall become a part of the Water User's Prorate Period water allocation, and the additional water shall be charged for at a rate of an additional \$400/AF above all normal and customary charges. Payment for the additional water shall be due within 15 days of notice. Payments for normal water/lift charges will follow typical protocol. Similar procedures will follow for subsequent reallocation pools. Landowners/Water Users must request pool amounts to be eligible for Pump-In and will be limited to the extent/amount of such request.
- (4) **Subsequent reallocations.** After the initial May pool reallocation, the District will administer up to two additional pools during the Prorate Period, which are anticipated in July and August. All water requested and received by reallocation shall become a part of the Water User's Prorate Period water allocation and the additional water is subject to Board of Director approval but anticipated to be charged at a rate of an additional \$300/AF and \$200/AF, respectively, above all normal and customary charges. It is possible, however, that the requested amounts may never be met. Landowners/Water Users must request pool amounts to be eligible for Pump-In and will be limited to the extent/amount of such request.
- (5) In the event that the reallocation return water requests exceed additional water requests, the District will post, at the District office, the quantity of remaining Prorate Period water and it shall become available for transfer on a first come, first serve basis for the balance of the Prorate Period.
- (6) Additional contributions and requests for water received after the August pool will be posted at the District office and also be administered on first-in first-out basis. Additional water credits and charges will remain at Board of Director's discretion.
- (7) **No water to leave District.** The District's long-standing policy of not allowing the transfer of surface water or groundwater to outside of District boundaries will continue to be enforced.
- (8) Please contact District Management if you wish to import surface water from other areas to supplement your schedule. Import will be subject to reimbursement of pump lifts and incur 10% losses.

CANAL PUMP-IN PROGRAM

- (9) Canal Pump-In Program is approved at this time for Pool participants and eligible only if each Pool request is not fulfilled (amount would also be limited to the individual requested Pool amount) and subject to the below additional provisions.

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2022 DROUGHT ALLOCATION PROGRAM

- i. New individual agreements with District through September 2022
 - ii. Wheeling Fee of \$173/AF, which amounts to no relief in District invoicing
 - iii. 10% loss to District (90% to supplement Farming Unit schedule)
 - iv. “Banking” limited to import times only or instantaneous demand
 - v. District Surface Water Service Area contract lands only
 - vi. Can transfer to other Farming Units
- (10) In response to the potential emergency need to meet peaking needs if surface supplies cannot be imported, District could purchase groundwater from willing sellers at \$400/af for District-wide use.

PIPELINE PUMP-IN PROGRAM

- (11) Similar to the Canal Pump-In Program, the Pipeline Pump-In Program is approved provided adequate engineering design is approved by District consultants that would be protective of District facilities.

FLEXIBLE ORDERING PROGRAM

- (12) Since 2014, this experimental program has continued and allowed water users to place orders for irrigation runs for less than 24-hour deliveries, and so to best meet the needs of their farming operations. **It is imperative; however, the water user accurately communicate to Watermaster the actual delivery rate and duration (start and stop time) for each turnout.**
- (13) The District does not have ample field personnel to continue historical practice of locking and unlocking turnouts, and accordingly, all turnouts in good standing will be left unlocked (except end-of-line turnouts to prevent damage to District facilities).
- (14) Violations of the communication protocols will be enforced and violators may lose privileges to participate in this program at any time.
- (15) Water Users must be in compliance with the water order they have placed. If a turnout is found out of compliance with their water order the turnout will be locked for the remainder of the day. The Water User must then call into the Watermaster and explain the reason before they will be allowed to run again. If the same turnout is caught a second time the turnout will be locked, and the Water User must make an appointment to meet with either the District's Engineer-Manager or Deputy General Manager before they will be allowed to run again. Should a turnout be caught a third time out of compliance, they will no longer be able to participate in the Flexible Ordering Program and will have to return to the policy of a minimum 24-hour run.

All of the above programs/procedures are subject to amendment at any time as the District Board of Directors determines to be appropriate. These procedures supersede the District's Rules and Regulations for the Distribution of Water for the Prorate Period, and only to the extent these procedures vary from the Rules and Regulations.

ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

2022 FIRST DROUGHT ALLOCATION POOL TURN-BACK REQUEST FORM

TURN-BACK REQUEST

The undersigned Landowner/Water User, hereinafter '**Farming Unit**', hereby confirms its turn-back to the District up to _____ acre-feet of water at a purchase cost of \$ **400.00** /AF from the District. The water is to be removed from the Farming Unit's lands currently receiving water service under the 2022 Drought Allocation Program for the 2022 Water Year pursuant to an Agricultural Water Service Contract with the District.

Under the Turn-Back/Reallocation Pool the water to be turned back will be prorated based upon the amount of water requested from the Pool.

A **W-9 Form** must be submitted and on file with the District **before** payment will be made to '**Farming Unit**'.

Response Due by: 4:30 pm - Friday, April 22, 2022

Dated: _____, 2022

Landowner/Water User/Farming Unit:

[Name Farming Unit/Entity]

By: _____
[Signature]

[Print Name]

ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

2022 FIRST DROUGHT ALLOCATION POOL REQUEST FORM

POOL REQUEST

The undersigned Landowner/Water User, hereinafter '**Farming Unit**', hereby confirms its request for an additional _____ acre-feet of water from the District. The request will be prorated on a per-acre basis, which is based on the amount of acre feet turned back at a cost of **\$400.00** AF. The water purchased will be added to the Farming Unit's lands currently receiving water service under the 2022 Drought Allocation Program for the 2022 Water Year pursuant to Agricultural Water Service Contract with the District.

Response Due by: 4:30 pm - Friday, April 22, 2022

Dated: _____ 2022

Landowner/Water User/Farming Unit:

[Name Farming Unit/Entity]

By: _____
[Signature]

[Print Name]

1.5

2022 PRORATE PERIOD ALLOCATION SCHEDULE

FARMING UNIT	Contract			5 MONTH SCHEDULE					
	Turnout	Ac	AF	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
	Total								

Example Schedule Only