



ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

May 24, 2021

Subject: 2021 Water Year – Water Supply Update

Dear Landowner/Water User:

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The 2021 Drought Allocation Program is continuing in its implementation (May through September Prorate Period of 1.6 acre-feet per acre, a voluntary turnback/reallocation pools and continued relaxation of 24-hour delivery requirement). It shall be noted that the initial turnback purchase pool was 100% satisfied for those requesting additional water as there was more sellers than buyers.

The District has endeavored to provide you with the most accurate information and expectations as water supplies for this year continue to be highly speculative on many fronts. As such, the state is truly in unprecedented times related to drought conditions and the lack of snow/precipitation is setting new records! There are *daily* discussions with state, federal and water authority leaders regarding the allocation of available surface water supplies for competing needs (environmental, senior water rights, etc.). While the Governor's Emergency Declaration is helpful, the decisions by water leaders will have a direct impact to available surface water supplies that were anticipated for delivery into the District, and therefore, could have negative impacts to Prorate Period operations.

There could be a scenario whereby District wellfields, coupled with available surface water including return of banked supplies from others, may not be sufficient to meet daily peak irrigation needs, and consequently, a daily District wide prorate could be necessary. One option to mitigate the lack of District supplies would be to institute a "Landowner Ground Water Pump-In Program" (GW Program) solely for the District to purchase groundwater to supplement District supplies. This GW Program would assist in resolving to some extent a situation, for example, if irrigation demands are 450 cfs but total District supplies are only 400 cfs, there could be a need to call on the GW Program to purchase 50 cfs. The alternative would be to reduce orders by 50 cfs and spread the reduction from water orders equally over farming unit acreage under contract. Staff will be contacting Landowners that are currently connected to the District's system to determine the level of interest for the GW Program. A reduction in the prorate amount of 1.6 acre-feet per acre is not anticipated at this time.

As a reminder, the remaining months of the water year (October through February 2022) 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. Please feel free to call the District for further assistance.

Sincerely,

Edwin Camp
Board President

Jeevan Muhar
Engineer-Manager

cc: Board of Directors
Scott Kuney, Esq.
All Employees

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