

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

2020 Water Supply Announcement

On April 13, 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) declared that 2020 has been determined to be a Shasta Critical Year, which occurs when the forecasted inflow to Shasta Lake for a particular water year is equal to or below 3.2 million ace-feet. This means that Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC), including Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID), will receive 75% of their annual water supply under the SRSC contracts. The following are a list of frequently asked questions associated with the development, payment, and implementation of water applications.

For additional information or appointments for water application assistance, please contact the GCID office at (530) 934-8881. A list of staff contact information and mobile phone numbers is available on the GCID web site at www.gcid.net, under staff directory.

FAQ Index (Click on topic or scroll to questions)

- 1. Critical Year At-a-Glance**
- 2. Water Application Process**
- 3. Critical Year Water Operations**
- 4. General Water Operations**
- 5. Engineering Department Services**
- 6. Maintenance Department Services**

Critical Year At-a-Glance

How much water do I receive in a critical year, when the District's water supply is reduced to 75%?

In a critical year, each landowner will receive an allocation of 4.1 acre-feet (ac/ft) per deeded acre, regardless of the type of crop that will be planted.

Is there a possibility that the water supply amount will be changed during the season?

The District will consider the April water supply announcement as final and base its 2020 operational decisions on the 75% water supply announcement.

Do I have to complete an application and make a payment before I can receive water?

Yes; water applications and the down payment must be submitted before receiving irrigation water. Application packets were mailed on April 14, 2020. District staff will help you with the application process, and then contact the water operator(s) to inform them that your application is complete.

Is there information available about what I applied for in the last critical year?

A detailed report can be provided to you showing the parcels and crops you applied for in 2015, the last critical year we experienced. You may contact the District office for this information and they will make arrangements to get it to you.

Are the water rates different in a critical year?

Yes; the 2020 Critical Year water rate will be \$20.80 per acre-foot. There is no fixed charge per irrigated acre levied in Shasta Critical Years.

Water Application Process

Back
to
Index

When will I receive my water application information?

Application materials were completed for mailing immediately after the District received the final water supply announcement from Reclamation. Water application materials were mailed on April 14, 2020. If you have not received your materials within a few days of this date, please contact the GCID office at (530) 934-8881.

Assistance with Application Submission; Coronavirus/COVID-19

Due to the threat posed by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic, the District's office doors have been closed to the public, and will likely remain closed to the public until the threat posed by the pandemic sufficiently subsides. GCID urges landowners and tenants to either mail their water applications to the GCID Post Office Box or deposit them in the drop box that has been installed outside the District office's main entrance, rather than returning them in person in order to limit possible exposure. If it is absolutely necessary to receive assistance from office staff in person, please call the GCID office to arrange an appointment.

Kathy Barr: kbarr@gcid.net,

Mary Spooner: m Spooner@gcid.net

Cheryl Taylor: ctaylor@gcid.net

How do I make a payment?

At this time, GCID can only accept checks or cash. Down payments may be made through the U.S. mail or by using the drop box located at the front door of the office.

What are the office hours?

The office staff is available by phone and email, Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The District office has been closed to the public, and will likely remain closed to the public until the threat posed by the Coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic sufficiently subsides.

▲ Critical Year Water Operations

Back
to
Index

Where is the information on what amount of water (unit duty) is needed to grow specific crops?

The unit duty information is included in the water application packets being mailed and is also listed on the website at www.gcid.net, beneath the Water Supply and Operations menu item, under Water Applications.

Is the Water Management and Conservation Policy different during a critical year?

Yes; due to the reduced water supply it is important to manage and conserve the available water supply in order to be able to deliver the allocated 4.1 ac/ft per deeded acre to landowners. There is a Critical Year Water Management and Conservation Policy included in the water application materials being mailed and it is also available on the District's website at www.gcid.net, beneath the Water Supply and Operations menu item, under Water Applications.

How do I calculate the amount of water I need to grow a specific crop, such as rice?

Example: A landowner receives an allocation of 410 ac/ft for 100 deeded acres (4.1 ac/ft x 100 deeded acres) and plans to grow rice. (The unit duty for rice is shown on the "2020 Applied Water Unit Duties for Summer and Winter Crops-75% Water Supply" found in the application packets and on the GCID web site at www.gcid.net.) The unit duty for rice is 5.5 ac/ft per irrigable acre, so the total 410 ac/ft allocation is divided by the 5.5 ac/ft rice unit water duty for a total of 74.5 acres of rice that can be planted.

How do I make up the difference in water needed to grow rice, or other crops that require more than the 4.1 ac/ft per deeded acre allocation?

There are several methods that can be used to make up the difference between the allocation and the required unit duty:

- 1. The 4.1 ac/ft allocation is based on deeded acres, which includes the entire acreage including houses, buildings, roadways, and other property features. The crop unit duty is based on irrigable acres and that is only the acreage that can actually be planted. Therefore, there is often a discrepancy between the two and allocation remaining between deeded acreage allocation and the required unit duty. This amount can be transferred and used to meet a higher unit duty crop requirement.*
- 2. If you irrigate other crops that use less than the 4.1 ac/ft allocation there is a remainder amount that can be applied to higher unit duty crops.*

Example: The landowner has a total of 410 ac/ft allocation for 100 acres, and plans to plant 50 acres of rice and 50 acres of tomatoes. The unit duty for rice is 5.5 ac/ft - $5.5 \text{ ac/ft} \times 50 \text{ acres} = 275 \text{ ac/ft}$. The unit duty for tomatoes is 2.3 ac/ft $\times 50 = 115 \text{ ac/ft}$. The total amount of allocation needed to plant 50 acres of rice and 50 acres of tomatoes is 390 ac/ft. This leaves 20 ac/ft that can be applied or transferred elsewhere ($410 \text{ ac/ft} - 390 \text{ ac/ft} = 20 \text{ ac/ft}$).

- 3. You may find other landowners who have additional allocation remaining and that can be transferred to you to make up the deficit on higher unit duty crops. These arrangements are strictly between landowners and water users; the District just needs a copy of the assignment form for its records.*
- 4. If you own a groundwater well you may participate in a District program to commingle the groundwater from your well with your District surface water allocation to meet the unit duty requirements for the crops you are irrigating that exceed the 4.1 ac/ft allocation. Groundwater may also be transferred to another District landowner, or you may receive a groundwater transfer from another*

How do I get more information about the Groundwater Commingling Program?

If you are interested in commingling groundwater, you may contact Karen Alves at the District office, or by email at kalves@gcid.net, to obtain information. District engineering staff will make a site visit to assess the well and meter, and after District approval of the equipment, you will be asked to sign a "Wheeling Agreement for Private Well Water Supply."

▲ General Water Operations

Back
to
Index

When can I take water on a rice field?

Rice field deliveries can begin when the application and down payment process is complete, and a water order is placed with the water operator.

How do I contact my water operator?

There is a list of water operator phone numbers on www.gcid.net under Staff Directory, ranging from (530) 518-7120 to 518-7133, depending on which water area your field(s) is in. Water users may also call the District office at (530) 934-8881, and staff will direct them to the correct phone number.

What time of day do water orders need to be placed?

Water orders are to be placed with a water operator before 1:30 p.m. on the day prior to needing the water.

How much notice do I need to give my water operator before turning down or turning off irrigation deliveries?

During a critical year water operators will make every attempt to take back water with very little notice.

With a late start to the irrigation season, will I be able to flood my rice fields when I place a water order or will there be delays based on the number of growers waiting for water?

It may be necessary to rotate deliveries if a lateral or any other portion of the District's conveyance system reaches its maximum capacity, in order to keep flooding fields in the order in which they have been scheduled.

With a late flooding season and a critical year, will I be able to re-flood immediately after chemical applications and draining my fields?

If initial flooding of fields is still taking place, re-flooding can take additional time. Please contact your water operator prior to draining any field(s) and coordinate any scheduled re-flooding with them.

▲ Engineering Department Services

Back
to
Index

How do I request to have the acreage of a field(s) measured for water application purposes?

Please submit your request to the office staff and they will coordinate with the Engineering Department staff to update the irrigable acreage of your field(s).

How do I get approval to install private infrastructure along District canals?

Please contact the office staff who will coordinate with the District Engineering Department to supply you with a one-page request form. Subject to District approval, an encroachment permit will be issued. Please apply well in advance of the date you seek to install the encroachment.

May I request a modification or replacement of District infrastructure, such as my field turnout gate, a nearby check structure, etc.?

Yes, please contact the office staff who will coordinate with the District Engineering Department to supply you with a one-page request form, and review the proposed work to make a determination and follow-up with you. You are encouraged to submit requests well advance to allow time for planning and scheduling.

▲ Maintenance Department Services

Back
to
Index

Who do I contact to determine if it is the District's responsibility to clean or maintain a lateral?

You may contact your water operator or one of the maintenance superintendents of supervisors.

Maintenance Superintendent Kevin Nelson: (530) 518-7115

Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Jeremy Richardson: (530) 685-0189

Willows Maintenance Supervisor Steve Osa: (530) 518-7151

Williams Maintenance Supervisor Sal Covarrubias: (530) 518-7106

Is it possible to have the District perform private work on my irrigation facilities?

Yes, it is possible, depending upon the District's work load. You can contact one of the maintenance superintendents or supervisors, listed above, for further details and information about the private work hourly charge rate.

Who do I contact to report a severe weed problem in a District lateral or drain?

Please contact Abatement and Canal-Roadway Supervisor Juan Silva at (530) 518-7104, or the Willows or Williams Maintenance Supervisor, listed above.