



Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District News

May 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Update on Water Transfers, GCID Water Operations, Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan, Next Landowner/Water User Meeting

Water Transfer Status

Water transfer agreements are on track to move forward. GCID's water transfer agreements have been signed by GCID and the buyers, and the buyer districts have "called" on the water. The final necessary "forbearance" agreement is between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the buyers and the sellers and it is anticipated that Reclamation will approve and sign it on Friday, May 07, and the water transfers will proceed as planned.

GCID Water Operations Update

As expected, this has been a difficult flooding season due to it being a Critical Year with limitation on diversions and the need to hold pumping to a maximum of 2,000 cubic feet per second. Currently, it is estimated that approximately 85% of the 78,500 acres of rice that have been applied for have received irrigation water. Unfortunately, water users have experienced wait times for initial flooding and there has been difficulty getting supplies to the southern end of the main canal. The situation has improved now that the recent wind event is behind us and the majority of rice fields have received some water. In addition to the 78,500 acres of rice, there are also 19,500 acres of orchard, and miscellaneous other crops that will need irrigation water this year. Currently, Term 91 is in effect, curtailing diversions under the District's Winter Water Permit from November 1 through March 31. It is anticipated the curtailment will extend through the winter until there is significant rainfall.

Conservation and good water management practices will be essential this year. Notched weir boards are required in rice fields until June 30, and there is no spill allowed after July 1. The policy allows for one field drainage but there is concern that there may be difficulties getting the quantity of water back on fields in the necessary time frame. Water users are urged to carefully consider the need to drain fields and to communicate closely with their water operators before draining fields this year.

Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) held its public workshop on 2021 Sacramento River Temperature Management on April 21. Reclamation is required under SWRCB Water Right Order 90-5 to operate its facilities to meet temperature requirements for the protection of fish, including the winter-run Chinook salmon and other native fish species. The order specifically requires Reclamation to meet a daily average water temperature of 56 degrees Fahrenheit on the Sacramento River at Red Bluff Diversion Dam, approximately 60 miles downstream of Keswick Dam. Sacramento River Settlement Contractors worked with Reclamation on the

development of a Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan, and it was submitted to the SWRCB earlier this week. The SWRCB will review the proposed plan and respond within 10 days.

GCID Landowner and Water User Meeting, Wednesday, May 12 at 11 a.m.

GCID is holding its next **virtual** Landowner and Water User meeting to provide current information on the status of the water transfer programs, an update on GCID water operations, information on the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan, and more details on the Proposition 218 process for the proposed assessment and water rate restructuring effort.

To join by computer: see the meeting link on the email of this meeting notice or on the meeting notice at www.gcid.net

To join by phone: call 323-538-4371 and use conference ID number: 513 264 783#.