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DATE: August 5, 2021

TO: GCID Landowners and Water Users

SUBJECT: State Water Resources Control Board Curtailment Order

As you have likely heard in the news, the State Water Resources Control Board has voted to issue an emergency curtailment order covering the rivers of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta watershed. While unprecedented, it was not unexpected, as California's dire water conditions are forcing drastic actions and decisions. While the implementation of this curtailment was not ideal, we do support the curtailment process and system currently in place. We are all in the same boat and will have to work together as this drought continues.

What does this mean for GCID?

First off, and most importantly, the **curtailments do not apply to contracts for water that is already in storage**. This includes GCID and other Sacramento River Settlement Contractors that have a specified amount of water allocated and stored in Shasta Reservoir as part of their contracts. Also, groundwater can be pumped as an alternative supply, and we are continuing the District's emergency groundwater pumping program. In short, GCID will be able to finish irrigating crops during the April through October contract period. In the short term, our District is better situated than most.

More broadly, the emergency order will remain in place for one year and proposes to curtail all State Water Board permits and licenses: post-1914 water rights; pre-1914 water rights with a priority date of 1883 or later; and some riparian rights on a correlative basis on the Bear River, the Upper American River, and Putah Creek.

While it is impossible to know where things will go from here, it is a fair assumption that this emergency curtailment order will not be the last bit of bad news we have to face. The longer-term outlook is grim for the entire Western United States. Realistically, it's going to take a good wet winter to change our circumstances.

For GCID, our focus remains on what we can control. We are continuing maintenance and infrastructure projects to ensure not a drop of water is wasted. District staff is also working regionally and statewide on water management and, of course, planning ahead for the worst case. We know there will be no fall water available until we get significant precipitation and increased river flows. Our team is already exploring water supply scenarios in preparation of the upcoming months and year.

We will continue to update you throughout this process and should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.