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DATE: September 17, 2020
TO: GCID Landowners and Water Users
SUBJECT: Fall/Winter Water Applications and Operations

Fall/Winter Water Applications

Currently, water is available for rice straw decomposition and wetland habitat needs in September and October. GCID’s Sacramento River Settlement Contract extends through October 31, and water can be diverted during September and October under the terms of the contract. Landowners and water users are encouraged to take water as early as possible to fully utilize available contract supplies. However, some delays or adjustments will be necessary for fall critical infrastructure maintenance projects and to avoid seepage for late harvesting of fields. To apply for fall/winter water, please contact the office at (530) 934-8881 to request an application or complete it over the phone.

- The cost of the water for fall/winter purposes is \$8.23 per acre-foot, and it is based on the length of time you plan on using the water. There is no deadline to apply for fall/winter water.
- The dates below may be subject to change later in the season, depending on weather and other conditions.
- Water users who wish to irrigate permanent crops between November 1 and January 6 must submit water applications to use the District’s winter water rights.
- Conservation and good water management practices will remain an essential component of maximizing the available fall/winter water supply.

2020 Rice Straw Decomposition Water (Time frame and acre-feet per acre)

October only	1.5 acre-feet
September to January 6	2.8 acre-feet
November to January 6	2.1 acre-feet
One Irrigation - September to January 6	1.0 acre-feet

2020 Habitat Wetland Water (Time frame and acre-feet per acre)

Continuous flow - September to January 6	3.0 acre-feet
One Irrigation - September to January 6	1.0 acre-feet

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Fall Operational Changes

Reclamation is working on a Sacramento River Temperature Plan with fishery partners, including GCID and other water districts, to consider operational adjustments to help manage water temperature in the upper Sacramento River to improve spawning conditions for both winter-run and fall-run Chinook salmon. These changes will provide benefits to the fishery and benefits to Sacramento River diverters, including GCID. Following are some elements of the fall operational adjustments:

- Reclamation will decrease Shasta Reservoir releases beginning in early October; until then all District diversion demands can be met.
- In October, the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors will need to share approximately 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of diversions, which may result in some delays and scheduling of deliveries to water users.
- In exchange for reducing diversions in October, GCID will be able to extend diversions and uses into November; this water supply is not subject to Term 91.

Potential Term 91 Restrictions

GCID's winter water right, from November 1 through March 31, is subject to diversion limitations under Term 91, whenever the Central Valley Project and State Water Project are releasing any stored or imported water to implement Bay/Delta water quality objectives, which occurs under dry conditions.

- If dry conditions continue through the fall months, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) can prohibit any diversions from November through March, depending upon whether the lack of precipitation results in the need to use stored water to meet water quality conditions.
- Typically, the diversion restrictions are lifted once enough precipitation occurs to meet water quality objectives.

Partnership Program with The Nature Conservancy

GCID, as part of its on-going commitment to support a healthy environment, will be working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to offer growers the opportunity to participate in a water for birds program this fall and spring. Growers will be able to purchase water to flood fields within the program's parameters. Water delivered within the TNC program is not subject to term 91 restrictions, therefore making it more reliable. It is available at a slightly higher rate than water purchased under the District's winter water permit. Please contact Water Operations Superintendent Jered Shipley at (530) 518-7187 for additional information on this program.

GCID will continue to keep landowners and water users updated on developments regarding fall/winter water availability and the implementation of Term 91 conditions as they occur. Water Operations Superintendent Jered Shipley can be reached at (530) 518-7187 to answer questions and provide additional information on fall/winter availability and operations.