GCID Water Focus
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

GCID Water Supply Update

Water Use

There are apparently no “normal” years when it comes to agriculture and water supply. The unusual spring and summer weather conditions, excessive wind and extreme heat, have resulted in increased water use for the months of April, May and June. To date, the District has used 407,500 acre-feet of water compared with 318,000 acre-feet in 2012. This is a 28% increase in inflow and the drain outflows have increased by 40%, primarily due to winds that required releases to control fields. The additional water use in June required the shifting and rescheduling of 20,000 acre-feet of water, under the terms of GCID’s Sacramento River Settlement Contract (SRSC), from the month of September to June at a cost of $10 per acre-foot that will add an unanticipated $200,000 to the District’s water supply costs for the year. It is hoped that the early planting season and anticipated early harvest will decrease Project water use in the months of July and August, as that is the most expensive water under the SRSC.

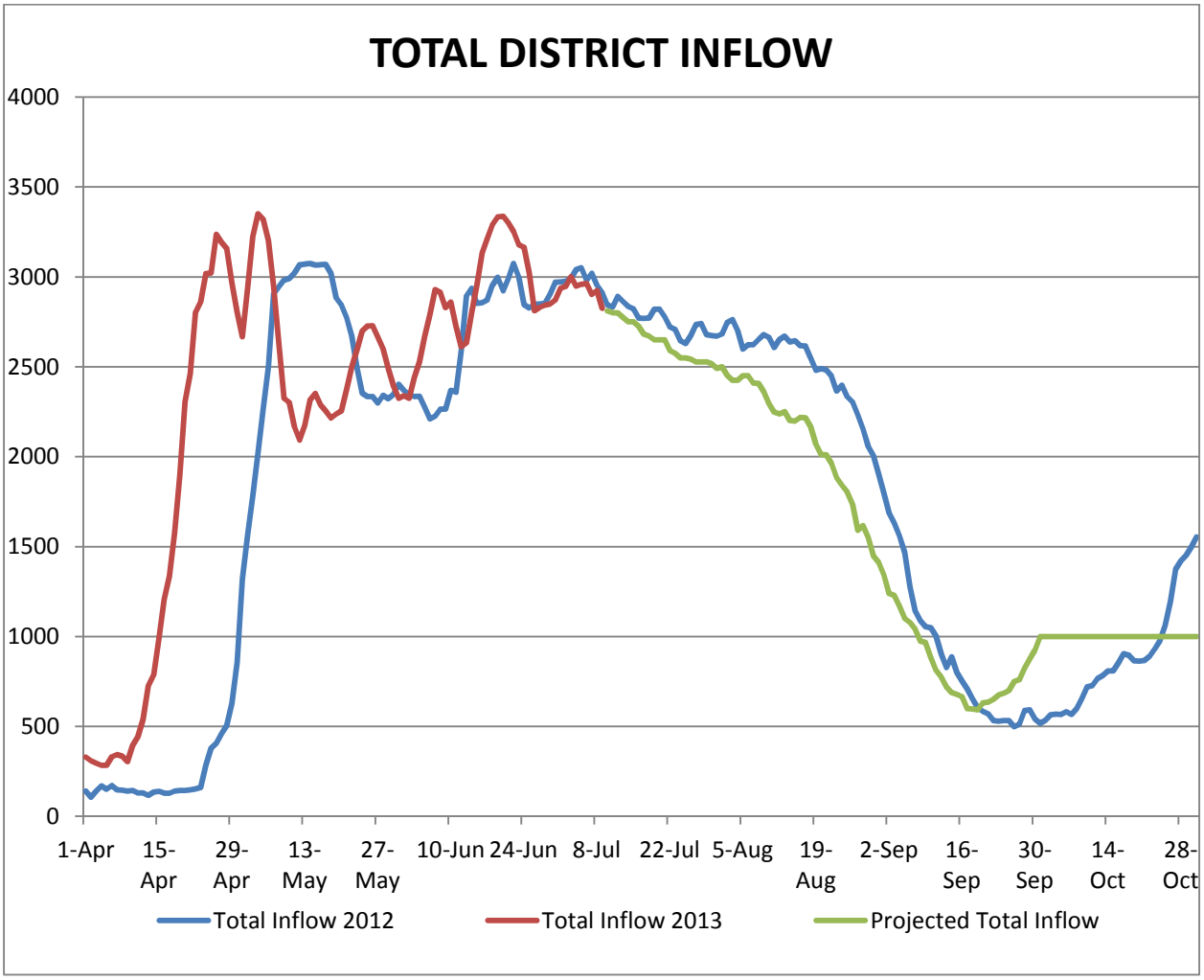
For the remainder of the season, water users need to adhere to the District’s *Water Management and Conservation Policy (Policy)* and use the required notched weir board in each rice field. This is an essential step in controlling water use in rice fields. It is also very important to follow the *Policy* and terminate water deliveries at least 7 days prior to requesting the drainage of water before harvest. Please contact your water operator with shut-off dates. All other crops need to utilize good water management and conservation practices as well.

Projected Water Conditions

According to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the time period from January to the present is the driest year on record, including the drought years of 1977 and 1924, with only 9.4 inches of rainfall in the Sacramento watershed. These extremely dry conditions could once again trigger the Term 91 winter water right diversion restrictions. GCID’s winter rights permit is subject to diversion limitations under Standard Permit Term 91, which can be enforced during dry year conditions. Term 91 does not impact the diversion and delivery of water under GCID’s Sacramento Settlement Contract from April through October 31. If Term 91 restrictions are placed on the District, water would not be available after November 1 to meet rice straw decomposition needs and winter waterfowl habitation flows until significant rainfall occurs. The District will keep you updated regarding any Term 91 developments as information becomes available.

Summary of 2013 Water Use

The chart below illustrates the 2013 water use pattern as compared to the 2012 season. The red line depicts the amount of inflow and when it was used, and the blue line shows 2012 water use.



DIRECTORS: Peter Knight, Division 1 · Sandy Willard Denn, Division 2 · John P. Sutton, Division 3 ·
· Donald R. Bransford, Division 4 · Bruce Rolen, Division 5 ·
STAFF: Thad Bettner, General Manager · Cynthia F. Davis, Personnel and Communications Director ·
· GCID is located at 344 East Laurel Street, Post Office Box 150, Willows, California 95988 (530) 934-8881 ·
· www.gcid.net ·