

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

2021 Water Supply Announcement

On February 23, 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) declared that 2021 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 acre-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 website at www.gcid.net, under the GCID Home menu tab on the Staff Directory website link.

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?

No, this is a Shasta Critical Year and there is no chance that it will be changed.

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 2, 2021. 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 2020, when we operated under critical year conditions during the application process which was reversed in June. 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 2021 Critical Year water rate will be \$21.79 per acre-foot. There is no fixed charge per irrigated acre levied in Shasta Critical Years.

Water Application Process

When will I receive my water application information?

Application materials were completed for mailing immediately following the Board of Directors meeting on April 1. Water application materials were mailed on April 2, 2021. 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; COVID-19

As COVID-19 continues to pose a threat to health, GCID requests that landowners and tenants who are able to complete their water applications without assistance either mail the applications to the GCID Post Office Box (P.O. Box 150, Willows, CA 95988) 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 assistance is needed in completing the water application, please call the GCID office and staff will assist you in preparing your application over the phone. As a reminder, be sure to have your application materials in front of you prior to calling. If it is 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

Karen Alves: kalves@gcid.net – Water transfers and groundwater commingling

How do I make a payment?

GCID can accept payment by check, cash or electronically through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) process. If you would like to make a payment via ACH, contact the office and a form will be provided for you to supply the information needed to process your payment.

What are the office hours?

The office staff is available by phone and email, Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Water Transfers

Are there water transfer programs available in 2021?

Yes, the District is developing both crop idling and groundwater transfer programs in 2021. Landowners were requested to express interest in participating in these programs by March 12, 2021.

*Crop Idling Transfer Program: If you expressed interest in participating in the crop idling transfer program, please contact Karen Alves at the District office to complete the required land idling agreement and other forms between **Monday, April 5 and Monday, April 12.***

Groundwater Transfer Program: If you expressed interest in participating in the groundwater transfer program, District staff will contact you to complete the required agreement and other forms.

Critical Year Water Operations

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 tab on the Water Applications website link.

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. The special critical year water conservation rules were included in water application packets and are also available on the District's website at www.gcid.net, beneath the Water Supply and Operations menu tab on the Water Applications website link.

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 acre-feet (ac-ft) for 100 deeded acres ($4.1 \text{ ac-ft/deeded acre} \times 100 \text{ deeded acres}$) and plans to grow rice. (The unit duty for rice is shown on the “2021 Applied Water Unit Duties for Summer and Winter Crops-75% Water Supply” found in the application packets and on the GCID website 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 per irrigable acre 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 acre-feet (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 $5.5 \text{ ac-ft} \times 50 \text{ acres} = 275 \text{ ac-ft}$. The unit duty for tomatoes is $2.3 \text{ ac-ft} \times 50 = 115 \text{ ac-ft}$. 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 ($410 \text{ ac-ft} - 390 \text{ ac-feet} = 20 \text{ ac-ft}$).

- 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 District landowner.

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 well infrastructure, you will be asked to sign a "Wheeling Agreement for Private Well Water Supply."

General Water Operations

When can I take water on a rice field?

Rice field deliveries can begin on April 2, 2021, if the application and down payment process is complete, and a water order is placed and scheduled 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 the GCID Home menu tab on the Staff Directory website link, ranging from (530) 518-7120 to 518-7133, depending on which water operator 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, at minimum, before 1:30 p.m. on the day prior to needing the water, but service may be subject to an alternative schedule based upon irrigation water availability and conveyance system limitations.

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 be especially responsive to requested irrigation delivery changes and will make every attempt to implement such changes with very little notice, in accordance with District water conservation measures.

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

How do I request to have field acreage 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 that 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. Upon receipt and review of the proposed work application, GCID staff will make a feasibility determination and then follow-up with you. You are encouraged to submit requests well in advance to allow time for planning and scheduling.

Maintenance Department Services

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, one of the maintenance supervisors or the maintenance superintendent.

Acting Maintenance Superintendent, Jeremy Richardson: (530) 685-0189
Willows Maintenance Supervisor, Steve Osa: (530) 518-7151
Williams Maintenance Supervisor: (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 workload. You may contact the maintenance superintendent or supervisors, listed above, for further details and information about the private work hourly charge rate for District labor and equipment, as well as for material costs.

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 the Williams Maintenance Supervisor, listed above.