



INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

June 21, 2023

2023 ALLOCATION and WATER RATE

At the June 13, 2023, Board meeting, the Board approved the 2023 surface water allocation at 1.46 acre-feet per acre. The water rate was set at \$180 per acre-foot, starting July 1, 2023. The water rate is structured to cover the million dollars budgeted to repair approximately a mile of aging infrastructure.

It is anticipated that water deliveries will cease by November 15, 2023. The Friant-Kern Canal will be dewatered after November 15, 2023, for major repairs. The Canal is expected to be back in operation on February 1, 2024. There is a truly short window to deliver 2023 allocated water. 2023 carry-over water will be limited to 650 acre-feet, which is 10% of the District's Class 1 contract.

AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

This 2023 run-off season has provided growers with a much-needed boost of surface water supply and a reprieve from relying solely on groundwater. However, a few growers have become frustrated, since they had to rely more on their wells and some lost the opportunity to take advantage of potential recharge projects, due to the District's aging infrastructure that is over 75-year-old.

The District understands growers' frustrations. The abundant water supply has put more pressure on the conveyance system, which has developed an alarming number of leaks over this year's continued operation. The leaks are due to deteriorating valves and concrete piping, which causes safety concerns and high-risk liability, if left unattended.

Replacement of the deteriorating conveyance system will require millions of dollars to upgrade. There are two ways to raise the amount of money required for the conveyance system upgrade. One, is to hold 218 Election and adopt raising the current assessment rate or two, put the cost of the upgrade on to the water rate. Over the next few months, the District will be analyzing the best way to raise the funds required for this capital improvement and report to you the findings.

Leaks or valve failure has nothing to do with the performance of staff's duties. So, please be patient with staff, they are doing their best to get water to the turnouts. If you need to express a complaint or concerns, please address them towards the General Manager, Gene Kilgore. He can be reached at 559.906.1402.

2023 WATER ORDERS AND OFFICE OPERATIONS:

The District office is open Monday through Friday, **7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

In the past, all water orders, including changes were required to be called in 48 hours prior to delivery or shut-off. For the 2023 season, to accommodate the District’s growers and encourage surface water use, water orders only need a **24-hour advance notice**.

To accommodate the advance notice change, the **call-in time has been changed** as well and will be strictly adhered to, with no exceptions.

- Water orders for Tuesday through Saturday must be placed by **8:00 a.m.**, preceding next day delivery.
- Water orders for Sunday and Monday must be placed by **12:00 p.m.** on the preceding Friday.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

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