



## **INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN**

**April 12, 2024**

### **REVISED: 2024 ALLOCATION and WATER RATE**

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) revised their initial allocation from 60% to 95% and it is anticipated to go to 100% of the Districts BOR contract. At the April 9, 2024, Board meeting, the Board approved increasing the initial surface water allocation to growers from 0.72 to 1.00 acre-feet per acre. The water rate was reduced from \$344 to \$300 per acre-foot.

The District understands the importance of minimizing water costs and is doing everything prudently to keep water costs down. The District was awarded \$234,000 grant funds to replace a half-mile of pipe and the District continues to seek additional grant funding opportunities to help with infrastructure replacement. As stated below, the District's infrastructure is in dire need of upgrades. The 2024 budget included approximately \$130,000 to refurbish all the boosters and pumping stations; \$200,000 for pipeline leak repair, and \$800,000 to replace  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of pipeline.

In preparation for drier years, the District is negotiating a five-year agreement to acquire up to 1,600 acre-feet annually of additional water. This would equate to an additional 0.15 allocation to growers. The cost of this water is between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, which is also a part of this year's water costs.

The District strongly encourages its growers to maximize their dry year reserves by using surface water deliveries when available. Using surface water deliveries provides a grower with future year credits to be used offset the lack of future surface water supplies. Reminder: The East Kaweah GSA rules and regulations establishes a \$500 per acre-foot penalty for going over the "Native Yield" allocation of .85 acre-feet per acre (ETa) and additionally applies a reduction to the following year's "Native Yield" allocation by the amount of the overage. If a grower goes over their "Native Yield" allocation and multiple consecutive dry years are experienced, there will be little hope for a grower to recover and to be sustainable. Surface water credits or other credits can be used to supplement the permitted Native Yield for a total ETa not to exceed 2.50 acre-feet per acre, excluding rainfall.

### **REMINDER: AGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

One component of the \$300 water rate is to address the District's aging conveyance infrastructure. The District's water delivery infrastructure is over 75 years old and deteriorating rapidly. Replacement of the infrastructure will require millions of dollars. There are two ways to raise the amount of money required for the conveyance system upgrade. Growers/Landowners can elect to increase the current assessments by a 218 Election process or put the cost of the upgrade on to the water rate, which the District has done over the two years. Due to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the District has no options but to replace its infrastructure so to assist its growers/landowners in becoming

sustainable. Over the next few months, the District will be preparing the necessary cost analysis required by the 218 Election process and submit the findings to you, the grower/landowner, for approval.

**2024 WATER ORDERS AND OFFICE OPERATIONS:**

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

For the 2024 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, the **call-in time** 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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