



**GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

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Thaddeus L. Bettner, P.E.

March 21, 2022

Dear Landowner and Water User,

We have entered an unprecedented period in the history of Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID or District), the Sacramento Valley and the State of California. This historic drought - marked by unparalleled low levels in Shasta Reservoir and limits on the Sacramento River Settlement Contract diversions - poses daunting challenges to GCID's water supply for 2022.

Shasta Reservoir storage stands at approximately 1.7 million acre-feet and with continued dry conditions, will likely not increase much before starting to decline in the spring, summer and fall. Given this storage and the need to keep some minimal level of storage for temperature control and carryover into 2023, diversions among all settlement contract holders are expected to be 500,000 acre-feet or less, with GCID's diversions expected to be 205,000 acre-feet or less.

GCID water deliveries will be the most limited ever in the District's history. Based on current projections, allocations will likely be one (1) acre-foot per acre or less, about one-fourth of past critical year allocations. A final allocation is expected by early April.

GCID is taking action to address this dire situation and make the most of the water that the District will be allocated. GCID's goal is to provide water users as much flexibility as possible and is also asking water users to adjust operations to ensure the lowest possible financial impacts.

Some changes and information to be aware of:

- Planting non-permanent crops will be risky since water supply will be limited.
- The likelihood of a groundwater substitution transfer program or a crop idling transfer program is very low.
- Water deliveries will be made on a rotational basis at the discretion of District staff throughout the season.
- All gates and field turnouts will be locked and operated only by GCID staff.
- District staff will monitor and measure usage throughout the season.
- GCID recommends working together to aggregate land holdings to minimize seepage, optimize use of conveyance system and reduce the amount of water needed to charge laterals.
- GCID will deliver as much water as possible before April 1, absent Term 91 curtailments.

The District will continue to provide updates as more information is received. However, this year will pose numerous trials to the local community and economy. GCID is working with both the State and Federal representatives to mitigate financial challenges during this difficult time.

As soon as more information is available, GCID will be holding a water user meeting to discuss options and what water supplies may look like in the coming months.

Please feel free to contact the District office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Thad Bettner  
General Manager

Protecting agriculture and wildlife in the  
Sacramento Valley for more than a century