



ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

January 18, 2023

Subject: Water Supply Update – Increase Surface Water Delivery

Dear Landowner/Water User:

Mother Nature has blessed the State with above average precipitation and snowpack to date with more anticipated. Accordingly, the Bureau of Reclamation has increased its declaration for the 2022 Water Year and we are currently in an Uncontrolled Season (similar to flood releases), which is anticipated to continue into the 2023 Water Year beginning on March 1st.

Given the District's current access to these high-flow short-duration supplies, the District anticipates (beginning on or about January 27 and possibly into May 2023) groundwater recharge in its facilities, both In-Lieu and Temporary Water Service, recharge on private farmland, and banking with others.

Due to the current outage along the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC), District anticipates beginning deliveries on or about January 27. It shall be noted that while the FKC Middle Reach Project to correct subsidence impacts is on-budget and on-schedule, districts south of the Project site will have access to roughly 50% (~1,400 cfs) of historical capacity (~2,800 cfs) until January 2024. Subsequently it is yet too early to make any determination about water deliveries (full or prorate) to long-term contract lands for 2023 Water Year.

Over the past several years, the District has noted a decrease in surface water deliveries with some Water Users acknowledging their increased reliance on groundwater well(s). The Board of Director's are considering reducing water charges during these wet period opportunities. Given that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation has begun, **the Board of**

Directors encourages all District water users with long term and temporary water contracts to stop using groundwater wells and exclusively use District surface water especially during these windows of plentiful water supplies. For the District to be successful with its SGMA plan, it is imperative that Water Users prioritize surface water over groundwater well(s).

The District has instituted a Landowner/Grower On-Farm Recharge Program and the District is paying water users \$40 per acre-foot to recharge the aquifer. In addition, when developing land and installing new irrigation systems, please consider a dual/split system, whereby, a flood/furrow type irrigation can be included to take advantage of these situations, which can also provide beneficial leaching practices.

District staff will be contacting those with Temporary Water Service Contract and In-Lieu Contracts to complete the necessary documents as required by these contracts. As a reminder, water available to lands under In-Lieu and Temporary Water Service Contracts are unreliable and can be interrupted/discontinued at any time.

All lands in the District are eligible for temporary water. For those lands that do not have a temporary contract to qualify a landowner must; 1) demonstrate that it has an active well that serves the property, and 2) be near to District distribution facilities such as a pipeline or canal.

For landowners that are interested in exploring On Farm Recharge Program (Mark Dawson) and/or Temporary Water Service Contract (Millie Kovacevich), please contact the District office for the above-named individuals in parenthesis.

Thank you,

Edwin Camp, President

Jeevan Muhar, Engineer-Manager

cc: Board of Directors/District Employees/Joe Hughes, Esq.

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