MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Turlock, California
21 February 2020

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Turlock Irrigation District was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in special session on the 21st day of February 2020. Present were: Directors Rob Santos (President), Michael Frantz (Vice-President), Ron Macedo (Secretary), Charles Fernandes and Joe Alamo, General Manager Michelle Reimers and Executive Secretary to the Board Tami Wallenburg.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was none.

DISCUSSION REGARDING PROPOSED ACTION ITEM

Utility Analyst/Hydrology Olivia Cramer presented an update on hydrology statistics in preparation for the 2020 Irrigation Season. Accumulated precipitation in the Tuolumne River Watershed shows a total of 11.66 inches to date, or 50.2 percent of average. Snow sensors are at 38.5 percent of average to date. Computed natural flow for the 2020 water year is at 163,058 a.f., or 35.9 percent of average. Ms. Cramer then reviewed different exceedance scenarios in planning for the 2020 irrigation season including Observed plus 90 percent forecast which is at 96 percent exceedance, Observed plus 50 percent forecast which shows 90 percent exceedance, and Observed plus 10 percent which is estimated at 60 percent exceedance. She also noted the 90 percent exceedance scenario would only allow 27 inches in carry-over storage. Ms. Cramer then reviewed historical figures from 1977 (driest year on record) for carry-over storage and available releases (acre-feet) when compared to current projections for 2020/2021.

Water Distribution Department Manager Mike Kavarian presented staff recommendation of running from a normal water year rate schedule and providing irrigators with 42 inches of available water which will allow customers to complete their final irrigation in early fall. He recommended a 216 day irrigation season with a start date of March 5, with canal filling to begin on March 2 and the Call Center to begin taking orders on March 4. Staff also recommends that due to the below average water year that no replenishment water will be available for those outside of District boundaries. He also noted there are several canal projects which have not been completed including valve slide gates which will not arrive until March 2 and new Rubicon gates coming from Australia mid-March.

Members of the public made several comments focusing on the need for irrigation water as soon as possible but also understanding there are canal projects which need to be completed. Board members discussed several scenarios including the proposed length of the 2020 irrigation
season, a possible shut-down of the system mid-season to save water, as well as projections for carry-over storage for the 2021 season. Mr. Kavarian was opposed to shutting down the system mid-season as it takes approximately two to three weeks to do so but instead suggested a decreased inflow when water orders are at a low noting this option would also take more time for water to reach the irrigator. General Manager Michelle Reimers stated that information could be included in the Irrigator letter going out the following week. After further discussion on the current canal projects, it was determined the earliest water could be brought into the system would be February 29. Mr. Kavarian then stated he would instruct staff to open the Call Center on March 1, with water delivery beginning March 2 and ending the season on October 28. Board members agreed to discuss the matter again further into the season in case modifications need to be made. As the discussion moved to current groundwater levels, Director Alamo recommended irrigation customers sign up for alerts on www.turlockgroundwater.org which will also cover a sustainable long term plan for groundwater recovery. Hearing no further comments, the Board took the following action:

RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 13

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2020 IRRIGATION SEASON

WHEREAS, the Tuolumne River Watershed has received 50.2% of average precipitation for this date; and

WHEREAS, the full natural flow of the Tuolumne River thus far in the 2020 Water Year is 35.9% percent of the historical average; and

WHEREAS, to-date, the 2020 Water Year has recorded the fourth lowest precipitation levels on record.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Turlock Irrigation District that:


2. Irrigation water shall be available for purchase using the Normal Year Water Rate Schedule, pursuant to Resolution 2015-1, adopted January 13, 2015.

3. The amount of water available for each acre of irrigated land during the 2020 Irrigation Season shall be 42 inches per acre. The maximum amount of water a grower will be allowed to go over their available water will be four (4) inches. Growers will be allowed to go over their available water to complete their final irrigation at the appropriate tier.

4. Garden head parcels shall be delivered irrigation water once every two (2) weeks. The fixed water charge shall be $350 for each gardenhead parcel.

5. All irrigated parcels are required to place water orders for each lateral and sidegate combination to receive irrigation water from the District.

6. Sidegates will be required to be shut when not in use.
7. The Water Distribution Department Manager may adjust the season due to weather conditions and crop requirements.

Moved by Director Macedo, seconded by Director Alamo, that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Upon roll call the following vote was had:

Ayes: Directors Fernandes, Frantz, Alamo, Macedo, Santos
Noes: Directors - None
Absent: Directors - None

The President declared the resolution adopted.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Hearing no further business, Director Macedo motioned, seconded by Director Fernandes, that the special meeting of the Board of Directors be adjourned.

All voted in favor with none opposed. The President declared the motion carried.

Tami Wallenburg
Executive Secretary to the Board of Directors