Previous Discussions & Actions
- 2013-2015 Drought Operations
- Irrigation Rules
- Ag Water Management Plan (Appendix G)
- Drought Incident Action Plan

There are many variables with every drought
Drought plans that are too rigid will not work
Objectives

- Product needs to be comprehensive
  - Existing components
  - New components
- Product needs to be flexible
  - Drought Planning "tool-box"
  - "Tools" are applied to each drought year based on their applicability
- Product should be utilized early and re-assessed often as conditions change
  - October 1st Drought Group Meeting
Review and Discuss Drought Planning Components
Discussion of 2021 Water Year Initial Drought Planning Assessment & Actions
• Board Interactions & Approvals
  • Policy, Rules, & Resolutions affecting available water, season duration, rate schedule, etc.

• District Operations
  • Watershed monitoring & modeling, weather modification program, Turlock Lake operations, conjunctive management program, maintenance work, storm water, water conservation efforts, etc.

• Grower Assistance Programs
  • Pump rental, pumping for credit, Transfer program

• Online Tools
  • Online account, ordering, dashboard, etc.

• Grower Communications
  • Email, phone, & call center: focus groups, newsletters, grower meetings, etc.
Board Interactions & Approvals

- **Board Interactions**
  - Weekly hydrology updates
  - Drought planning agenda items
    - Early (Initial assessments, multi-year carryover, & presentation of drought “components”)
    - Post precipitation update

- **Board Approvals**
  - Early irrigation
    - Timing and length
  - Regular irrigation season
    - Length of irrigation season
    - Available water
    - Garden head frequency
  - Water rate schedule
    - Normal year rate schedule
    - Dry year rate schedule
  - Irrigation rule adjustments
District Operations

- Upper Watershed Monitoring & Modeling
  - Increase monitoring & modeling
  - Early ASO flights
- Weather Modification Program
  - Increase flights
- Turlock Lake Operations
  - Conservation mode both during irrigation & off-season
- Conjunctive Management Program
- In-Canal Maintenance Work
- Off-season Irrigation
- Storm Water & TID Drainage Well Water
  - Lateral 8 Reservoir
- Water Conservation Efforts & Projects
  - Reduce spills to less than 5%
  - Ceres Main Regulating Reservoir
  - Finish automating of heads of canals
  - Automating additional drainage wells
  - Potentially automating rented wells
Existing Grower Assistance Programs

- **Pump Rental Program**
  - District rents private/ID pumps to augment surface water supply
  - District provides additional surface water to pump/ID owner(s)

- **Pumping for Credit Program**
  - Grower provides pump water to District
  - Grower builds credit for use at another time and/or location

- **Existing Transfer Program**
  - Grower can transfer water from properties owned and/or rented
Drought Transfer Program

- Make Unused Water by Some Growers Available to Other Growers

- Grower Benefits
  - Provides more options/flexibility to growers

- Potential Risks
  - Could result in delivering more water than planned
  - Could lead to price gouging
  - Could lead to increased groundwater pumping
- Could Result in Delivering more Water than Planned
  - Acreage that has not historically utilized all available water could do so

- Potential Mitigations
  - Only allowed by those that irrigated in previous year(s)
  - Limit individual transfer volume to previous year’s usage
  - Limit total transfer volume

Example - 36” available water year

- Represents potential increase in delivery
Drought Transfer Program Risks / Mitigations

- Could Lead to Price Gouging
  - Unrestricted Transfer between growers could lead to exorbitant water prices

- Potential Mitigations
  - Transfer via District
    - Could be on a lottery system or first-come first-served
    - Could limit buyer to only one irrigation’s worth
  - District sets price of water
Could Lead to Increased Groundwater Pumping

- Growers who historically applied surface water, could move to groundwater in order to transfer

Potential Mitigations

- Only allowed by those that irrigated in previous year(s)
- Limit individual transfer volume to previous year’s usage
- Limit total transfer volume
- District sets price of water
Potential 2021 Drought Transfer Program

- Focus Group
  - Grower diversity, interest, cost, behavior, etc.

- Board Workshop

- Draft Program Development
  - Participation criteria
  - Volume limitations
  - Pricing
  - Program implementation details & logistics
Online Tools

- Develop Mobile-Friendly Online Account Access
- Online Account
  - Grower Dashboard
  - Usage graphs
  - Text alerts
  - Planning calculator
  - Training videos
- Focus Group – seek feedback
Grower Communications

- **Usage Notification Alerts**
  - (25%, 50%, 75%, last irrigation)
  - Call center, online account, text alert & email

- **Increase Grower Communications**
  - Grower meetings
  - Social media
  - Text & email
  - Outreach letters
  - The Grower Newsletter
  - Regional drought information

- **Focus Group(s)**
  - As necessary for specific purposes
2021 Water Year

Early Operations & Actions
2021 Water Year – Early Operations & Actions

- **Board Interactions & Approvals**
  - Weekly Hydrological Reports
  - Early irrigation Discussion

- **Operational Impacts & Actions**
  - Increase Watershed monitoring & modeling
  - Increase weather modification plans
  - Prioritize & Modify construction & maintenance work
  - Early planning of Pump Rentals & Pumping for Credit
  - Increase development coordination
  - Capture storm flows in Lateral 8 Reservoir
  - Coordination Off-season irrigation
Drought Transfer Program
- Conduct Transfer Program focus group
- Hold Transfer Program Board workshop
- Transfer Program development

Online Tools
- Develop, test and implement additional tools ASAP

Communications
- Prepare call center & online usage notifications
- Utilize virtual mediums
- Reports & updates on social media & email
- Prepare communications for potential early irrigation