



THE GROWER


FEB 2021

January Storms Can't Erase a Dry Year

The 2020-2021 Precipitation Year, which began in September 2020, looked very similar to the year prior, and early dry conditions did not offer much optimism in the way of recovering from the dry 2019-2020 year. With only 5.05 total inches of precipitation recorded in the Tuolumne River Watershed between September and the end of December 2020, compared to an average 12.57 inches historically, the outlook for 2021 appeared almost in parallel to 1977, the driest year on record.

Late January offered a ray of hope in the form of a moderate Atmospheric River (AR) that brought roughly 6.54 inches of precipitation to the watershed. As Don Pedro receives the majority of its water from snowpack run-off, it was perhaps more important that the cold storm increased snowpack in the watershed from 43% of average to 72% of average. Although the AR provided, in a single storm, more rainfall than the average for the month of January (6.44 inches), it left the District at 64% of average for the year to date.

February is typically the 2nd wettest month on record (behind January) and hopes were high that the wet weather would continue. However, as of February 17, less than one inch of rain is forecasted for the duration of February.

While it is possible that March and April could deliver storms that would continue to increase precipitation numbers, it is unlikely at this point that the 2020-2021 water year will even meet average year markers. If the year continues to follow a dry pattern between now and August, it is likely that the watershed will finish the water year at less than 40% of average.

If we did receive an average amount of precipitation before the end of August, we would end the year near the same markers at which we finished 2020. As this would result in a second consecutive dry year, it would mean there will likely be less irrigation water available to Growers. The TID Board of Directors will consider these factors when they take up the issue of the parameters placed on the upcoming irrigation season at a March meeting.

Visit www.tid.org/irrigation for the most up-to-date Hydrology Report.

What technology would make your life easier?

TID is looking to up it's game by adding new tools that will help make your irrigation operations easier and provide you with the information you need, when you need it.

Please access the QR code below to take a 2 minute survey to let us know what tools you would like to see made available.



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No Off-Season for Construction & Maintenance



The irrigation “off-season” is when the opportunity turns on for the TID Construction & Maintenance Department to complete repairs and maintenance projects in the canals and laterals. When the canals are emptied of irrigation water, Construction & Maintenance team members and Water Distribution Operators use that window to repair, renovate and refurbish TID infrastructure to ensure that our 100+ year old, gravity fed canal system continues to reliably provide water to growers.

This winter, the list of projects included Capital Projects such as: automating head gates on Laterals 1, 6, Lower Lateral 2.5, and Turlock Main Drop 3, applying 5,000 feet of Gunitite on Cross Ditch 2 & 2,000 feet on Lateral 6, making repairs on the Upper Main Canal. In addition, maintenance projects included: cleaning of canals and removal of debris, patching and repairing of canal lining, maintaining and rebuilding of automatic structures and completing side gate maintenance and repairs.

Agriculture Water Management Plan

The Ag Water Management Plan (AWMP) was originally conceived in the late 1990's as a voluntary program. It is now mandatory under SBx7-7 and must be updated every 5 years. TID last updated the plan in 2015 and begun the process of bringing the plan current in 2020.

The plan is currently open for public comment until March 23, 2021. To find out more about the plan itself, please visit: www.TID.org/Grower.



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Irrigation Rule

SECTION 4: DUTIES OF IRRIGATOR

4.1 IRRIGATOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

4.1.1 When water is made available to an irrigator by the District's Water Distribution Operator, the irrigator must have a responsible person present, and the land to be irrigated must be properly prepared to efficiently take the water.

4.1.2 From the time delivery of water is commenced to the completion of irrigation, the irrigator shall, day and night, attend and control the water.

4.1.3 When water is delivered to the irrigator, the irrigator shall be responsible for the water at all times after it leaves the District conduit.

4.1.4 The irrigator is responsible and liable for any damage caused by the irrigator's negligence or careless use of water, or the result of failure of the irrigator

to properly operate or maintain any ditch, pipeline, or other facility for which the irrigator is wholly or partially responsible.

4.1.5 It is the irrigator's responsibility to close all of the irrigator's private valves at the end of each irrigation.

4.1.6 It is the irrigator's responsibility to clear the common facilities by opening stopgates and closing sidegates, unless directed otherwise by rules of that distribution system.

4.1.7 It is the irrigator's responsibility to call the next irrigator in line and inform them in a timely manner that they are going to receive the water. It is also the irrigator's responsibility to call their Water Distribution Operator immediately after the irrigation to report irrigation times on and off. Irrigation time may be estimated by the Water Distribution Operator, if the irrigator does not call in a timely manner.



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WATER CALL CENTER

Open 7 days a week during irrigation season from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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