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*Director*

**Frank Trinta**  
*Director*



**Vince Lucchesi, PE**  
*General Manager*

**Toni Russell**  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

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Vince Lucchesi, PE  
Patterson Irrigation District  
948 Orange Avenue  
Patterson, CA 95363

May 11, 2021

Re: 2021 Drought

Dear Paterson Irrigation District Landowner and/or Water User,

Earlier in 2021, it was anticipated that the snowpack and the potential for rain in the months of March and April would help relieve the water supply shortage we are facing. Unfortunately, the rain and snow did not materialize other than a few shots here and there. The little snowmelt that did fall is melting and percolating into the ground rather than running into the reservoirs to refill. These conditions are difficult to plan or predict for; however, on May 10, 2021 California Governor Gavin Newsom expanded his drought emergency proclamation to include the Klamath River, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Tulare Lake Watershed counties. In total, 41 counties are now under a drought state of emergency. As a result, Patterson Irrigation District (PID or District) is issuing this letter to provide an update on water supplies and where PID stands as of this moment.

Drought conditions have the potential to cause several water supply impacts to PID. PID receives water from three sources including the Delta-Mendota Canal through a Central Valley Project Contract, from groundwater, and through water rights on the San Joaquin River (River). For 2021, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) announced a five (5) percent allocation to water service contractors and 75-percent to water rights contractors statewide. Reclamation then announced that the water service contractor's allocation is on hold until further notice. On the River, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has provided indications that there will be notices of unavailability and potential curtailments to junior water rights holders (post-1914 water rights). Although the SWRCB has not indicated that there will be curtailments on pre-1914 water rights holders, PID was curtailed in 2015. In the previous drought, PID was notified in January 2014 and 2015 of potential curtailments; and as of May 11, PID has not been notified formally of unavailability of water or curtailments. This is creating a significant amount of uncertainty for the District on its largest source of supply, the River.

In evaluation of current conditions on water supply, conditions indicate that water supplies in the summer will reflect that of 2014 conditions, one of the worst years of the previous drought cycle. PID was not curtailed in 2014, but in January 2014 was provided notice by the SWRCB that curtailments may come to senior water rights holders. PID was able to manage through its groundwater wells, stored water and its limited diversions off of the River.

PID staff are continuing to monitor conditions in the Delta, San Joaquin River and San Luis Reservoir for the continued service to PID water users. The District request growers to implement the following actions into 2021 to improve irrigation and delivery efficiencies:

- Hiring night irrigators to actively manage irrigation events,
- Check sprinkler and micro-irrigation systems for leaks and inefficiencies,
- Plan irrigation events to match actual crop needs and not preconceived schedules,
- Reduce surface tailwater runoff,
- Be flexible to start and stop irrigation events as soon as water is made available, and
- Coordinate with District staff ahead of irrigation start and stop times so that water can be efficiently passed from grower to grower.

PID has shored up some additional supplies during the summer including pumping and storing water in the Federal facilities. PID remains committed to doing all we can to work with our landowners and growers with flexibility during these drought conditions. We will continue to update growers as soon as we receive new information. In the meantime, please contact the District office if you have any questions.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vince Lucchesi', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vince Lucchesi, PE  
General Manager  
Patterson Irrigation District