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

July 28, 2021

Re: 2021 Drought: Be prepared for Fall Water Allocations and/or early shutdown

Dear Patterson Irrigation District Landowner and/or Water User,

**Be prepared for potential water rationing being imposed on water users within the District boundaries by the Patterson Irrigation District (PID or District) beginning August 17, 2021. The estimated ration will be determined soon. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is considering adoption of emergency regulations that would allow the implementation of curtailments affecting PID's water right. That curtailment date could be as early as August 17, 2021.**

On July 23, 2021,

- SWRCB issued notices of unavailability to:
  - All post-1914 appropriative water rights in the Delta Watershed including the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers,
  - All pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the San Joaquin River (this includes PID),
  - All pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in the Sacramento River with a priority date of 1883 or later; and
  - Some pre-1914 appropriative water right claims in specific Sacramento River tributary sub-watersheds with a priority date earlier than 1883. These claims face water unavailability either due to limited local supplies or the need to bypass natural flows so that more senior water rights downstream can be met.
- SWRCB issued draft emergency regulations for the Bay Delta watershed (includes the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers)
  - These regulations include the provisions and authorities for the SWRCB to issue curtailments regardless of priority of right of type of right.
  - PID is providing comments on these regulations for a SWRCB workshop on July 27.
  - These regulations will be adopted on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be submitted to the California Office of Administrative Law (OAL).
    - Review at OAL may be as short as 2 weeks
  - The regulations may be in effect in as soon as August 17, then the SWRCB will have authority to curtail as necessary

Currently, PID has shored up some additional supplies that should help us finish out the summer; however, conditions may change, and we may have trouble serving all demands. During the week of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the PID Board of Directors may have a special meeting to review supplies and an early shut down period. After this meeting a shut down date may be adopted and growers will be notified of the ration of water that will be made available to their accounts through the shut down date.

For the remainder of the irrigation season please keep in mind that:

1. District policies are being strictly enforced to prevent the waste of water and to ensure the most efficient use of water. Meaning:
  - a. Providing advance notice to your DSO of start and stops of your irrigation water to ensure seamless deliveries and to reduce spills.
  - b. Monitoring your irrigations and tailwater to ensure efficient irrigation.
  - c. Plan irrigation events to match actual crop needs and not preconceived schedules, and
  - d. Failure to comply with PID's policies will result in fines and service disconnects.

In response to the most recent drought, in January of 2014, the Board of Directors adopted a Drought Mitigation Policy which established how the District will ration its limited supplies. This policy, in addition to any relevant drought information is available on PID's website at <http://www.pattersonid.org/>.

PID remains committed to doing all we can to work with our landowners and growers with flexibility during these drought conditions. PID and its consultants are continuing to monitor conditions in the Delta, San Joaquin River and San Luis Reservoir for the continued service to PID water users. 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,



Vince Lucchesi, PE  
General Manager  
Patterson Irrigation District