

2022 Water Allocation and Transfer Recap

1/13 Board Meeting: Based on the significant rain in October and December, along with the lake levels and project inflows ACID anticipated a (Bureau of Reclamation) BOR Shasta Critical year designation. A 75% allocation equals an irrigation season for mid-April to September 30.

2/10 Board Meeting: Based on the dry January and forecast ACID was hopeful for 75% but considering the option for a BOR allocation of 50% to 75%.

2/15 BOR issues an initial Notification of Critical Year “Shasta Critical” but does not commit to a percentage allocation and includes a cautionary statement “As you know, dry hydrologic conditions continue throughout California, particularly in the Shasta watershed. Reclamation will review the forecasted full natural inflow to Shasta Lake as frequently as conditions and information warrant and will notify you of any significant changes in the forecast. If dry conditions persist, there may be additional actions needed to address the deepening drought. We will continue to coordinate with you on any additional actions needed.”

- ACID staff worked to identify private wells with significant production that might be used to augment the water supply. While there are some wells in the district the overall capacity is limited.

3/10 Board Meeting: BOR and the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC) ongoing discussion and modeling efforts indicated the dry January, February, and dry forecast will result in a significant reduction in available water 20% to 25%. Furthermore, the Sacramento River flows would be between 4,000-5,000 cubic feet second (cfs) but not to exceed 5,000 cfs. Previously the lowest summer river flows were 6,800 cfs. With river levels below 5,000 cfs the Churn Creek pumps cannot sustain pumping.

3/11 ACID staff submitted a request to BOR to reschedule the anticipated water supply into April, May and June so that a partial irrigation season might be available for the main canal from early April to early June which could support approximately 5 irrigations for the Main Canal only. The low river condition prevents any pumping for the Churn Creek area.

3/14 BOR issues an Update to Notification of Critical Year that states “As you make your decisions for 2022, plan for considerably less water for irrigation purposes than you have done in prior Critical Years. We are letting you know at this time that April supplies may be unreliable and limited in availability, if available at all. We will continue to communicate with you in the coming months.”

3/15 BOR staff responded to ACID request to reschedule stating “water will only be provided in proportion to our monthly contact quantities (no front-loading)”.

3/27 Board meeting: Based on the continued dry weather, forecast, and the going BOR and SRSC discussion. The modeling continued to indicate a worsening of conditions and without the ability to front-load ACID water diversions it seems that an irrigation season will not be possible. The Board requested that Staff explore all options.

4/14 BOR issues a Second Update to Notification of Critical Year that states “we estimate for most SRS Contractors sufficient tributary flows and natural accretion exists upstream of the SRS Contractors' point(s) of diversion and is available for diversion under the SRS Contracts through the end of April 2022