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2022 Water Allocation Adjustment

Dear Ag Water User:

As you may be aware, the Solano Irrigation District (SID; District) Board of Directors adopted an Agricultural Water Allocation Policy in 2015. On February 15, 2022, The SID Board of Directors adopted an Agricultural Water Budget setting forth the planned supply and demand quantities and Agricultural Water Allocation for the 2022 irrigation season of 2.95 acre-feet/acre.

Per the policy, staff returned to the July Board meeting to potentially adjust the water allocation. On July 19, 2022 the Board approved to increase the 2022 agricultural water allocation by 1.05 acre-feet/acre, thereby providing a total allocation of **4.0 acre-feet/acre**.

If you have questions please contact SID Agricultural Operations Supervisor, Stuart Chaney, at (707) 455-4031 or email at schaney@sidwater.org .

Sincerely,

SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL

POLICY TITLE: Agricultural Water Allocation Policy
POLICY NUMBER: 8200

8200 When the Solano Irrigation District (SID) was formed in 1948 its' specific purpose and charge was and still is as trustee of the District's Solano Project surface water allocation. The control and distribution of that surface water is controlled by the reasonable and beneficial standards under the California Water Code. With respect to those Codes and to the water allocations of SID, the District is committed to managing this allocation to the mutual benefit of all lands within the District's service boundaries first and foremost. The need to equitably distribute the water resources of the District to its constituents therefore necessitates an agricultural water allocation policy.

The Agricultural Water Allocation Policy is to be used as a guide for the District and its Board to equitably distribute its' surface and groundwater water resources within the SID service area.

Guiding Principles:

The guiding principles presented below are intended to illustrate the basic assumptions that were used to develop the policy. The guiding principles are as follows:

1. The District's obligation under California Water Code is to manage and deliver surface water resources under its charge in a reasonable and beneficial manner.
2. All agricultural lands within the District boundaries have an equal right to the availability of surface water, irrespective of use or crop(s) grown.
3. Annual allocation of surface water supplies will be based on a per irrigated acreage basis.
4. The determination of the allocation per irrigated acre will be made annually by the Board of Directors at the March Regular Board meeting. To the extent feasible, preliminary estimates of allocation will be published by the District in November for the following irrigation season.
5. Growers must submit crop declaration forms by February 15, to ensure that cropped acreage is included and receives an allocation. Growers can elect to use any portion of their total allocation on parcels under their control, with some exceptions as noted below.
6. The annual allocation is not transferable into future years.
7. Management and use of Solano Project carryover water, when available, is vitally important to ensure that Agricultural Water Users all benefit equally from the resource.

Annual Agricultural Water Allocation Procedure:

The agricultural water allocation will be determined by the Board on an annual basis, typically at the regularly scheduled March Board meeting. The decision on allocation amounts will be made by first determining the amount of surface and groundwater supplies available to the District with the Board subsequently determining the amount of irrigation water to be used during the irrigation season. Each year a Water Budget will be determined consisting of water resources available to the District as follows:

- a. Solano Project (SP) annual Agricultural Allocation of 121,000 acre-feet (af) or, the quantity made available to the District by the Solano County Water Agency. This budget is generally known in the fall of any given water year.
- b. Solano Project Carryover (CO), which varies each year and could be re-set to zero if/when Lake Berryessa Reservoir spills. The exact amount of carryover water is not known until March 1 of any given year.
- c. Groundwater (GW). The District has a groundwater well network and can deliver up to approximately 14,000 af. The District will manage its GW supply conjunctively with its surface water supply. GW budgeting depends on a number of factors (i.e. availability, impact on others, potential judicial issues, best management practices, pumping limitations as determined by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency, etc.). Nonetheless, the District will seek to make at least 5,000

af available during a normal year. During drought years, the District will seek to make its maximum pumping capacity available (about 14,000 af).

After which, the Water Budget to be allocated will be divided by the total irrigable acres, as determined by crop declaration forms returned to the District, to set the annual allocation.

The District will plan to use all of its Water Budget during any given year with no limitation.

- a. Base Allocation: Growers receive a proportionate share based on total irrigated acres of the SP plus GW water budget as a Base Allocation.
- b. Additional Allocation: The District will determine the amount of carryover (CO) to use for the year. The CO supply will be proportioned equitably to all irrigated parcels at the beginning of the irrigation season. For some, the Base Allocation plus the Additional allocation will be sufficient. For those that may need more water, the District will monitor the water usage within the District and may recommend an adjustment to the Board to allow for additional allocation at the July Board meeting. Doing so will allow customers the opportunity to have more allocation so long as the District's Total Water Budget for the year is not exceeded.

Once the annual allocation per irrigated acre has been determined, the District will assign a total allocation to each customer based on the acreage under the customer's control as determined on the crop declaration form submitted by February 15th. The customer may use any portion of their total allocation on individual parcels under their control within the District during the irrigation season, with one exception. For newly irrigated parcels (parcels which have not been irrigated within the prior three seasons), all water assigned to the newly irrigated parcel may not be transferred to other properties whether under control of the customer or not. Water assigned to newly irrigated parcels must remain on said parcel and be used for three (3) consecutive irrigation seasons prior to being eligible to transfer other properties under the customers control.

Parcels not enrolled by February 15th, may not be provided an allocation until after the regular Board meeting in July, at which the Board may elect to increase the allocation based on usage up to that point of the irrigation season and forecasted demand through the end of the season. It is the intent of the District to use all of the resources allocated in the annual Water Budget. If an increase in allocation is made, such increase will be applied to all parcels equitably.