



May 2015

#### Mission statement

To protect and develop Oakdale Irrigation District water resources for the maximum benefit of the OID community by providing excellent irrigation and domestic water service.

OID

# PIPELINE

Excellence in affordable, reliable and innovative water management

## 2015 DROUGHT RULES FOR AGRICULTURAL CUSTOMERS

Here is what you should know to help you best manage water on your ranch, orchard or field:

### Allotments

- 36 inches per assessed acre for Tier 1 customers
- 10 inches per assessed acre for Tier 2 customers
- All water used thus far in the season counts toward the overall allotment
- "Unused water" at the gate may be transferred to other gates within the OID service area only through the Farmer to Farmer Transfer Program

### Private Deep Well Conveyance Agreements

- Groundwater from private deep wells may be conveyed from one farm to another in the district via OID's canal system
- Groundwater inlet must be upstream of the destination parcel(s)
- There is \$354 processing fee for each conveyance agreement application
- OID approval and at least 15 days' notice required before the delivery can occur
- Private deep wells must be metered upstream of the inlet to OID's canal system

### Other Important Points

- A drought surcharge of \$6.10 per acre will be charged in 2015
- All of OID's 23 deep well pumping systems will be maximized to make water supplies available
- Repair leaking ditches and pipelines. Systems not in good shape to receive water may not get it.
- Trinitas Farming, if it receives 10 inches of water for its 7,200 acres, will pay \$524,000 this year. All of OID's other customers – representing about 60,000 acres – will generate about \$1.62 million. That's an important budgetary consideration for a district expected to draw down its reserves \$17 million in 2014-15.

## Calculations

To calculate the inches applied to your parcel during each irrigation event, use the following formula:

$(\text{Flow rate in cfs} \times \text{Hours of irrigation}) \div \text{Total Parcel Acreage} = \text{Inches of water applied}$

If you don't know your flow rate, ask your DSO.

### Farmer to Farmer Transfer Program

- Surface water may be transferred from one parcel to another. Applications are available at the OID office and will be processed free of charge.
- Farmers with multiple parcels will be able to use less water on parcel and move that savings to another
- OID requires at least 15 days' notice before any transfer can occur
- Notices of private water available from other landowners may be posted on the bulletin board in OID's front office

### Rotations

- Rotation intervals will be based on weather and crop-water-soil moisture loss values (evapotranspiration). The season will start with 17- to 20-day rotations, dependent upon weather.
- By late June and July, we anticipate 12- to 15-day rotations
- In August, rotation intervals again will lengthen to match evapotranspiration losses
- OID anticipates making water deliveries through September; an October rotation is unlikely
- Stick to your rotation times. Coordinate any time changes with your ditch tender/DSO.
- Have an irrigator on-site at the start of your rotation and at appropriate times during the rotation. Unless you have made prior arrangements with your ditch tender, you may not receive your rotation until an irrigator is present. This will be left up to the ditch tender.

## Be Responsible

- Fines will be assessed for unauthorized use of water or tampering with OID water conveyance facilities. The first offense is a \$1,500 fine; the second is a \$2,500 fine and loss of water privileges for the remainder of the season. DO NOT take water unless you have contacted your ditch tender or he/she has contacted you.
- Unreasonable tail water runoff will not be tolerated. Water flowing down and across roadways, flooding of neighbors, excessive ponding, etc., will be strictly addressed. Landowners will be on a one-warning notice and then a loss of water for the season.

It Will Take **ALL** Of Us Working Together To Get Through This Water Season



#### **Board of Directors**

Frank Clark – District 1  
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## The OID **PIPELINE**

### **Drought requires OID to institute important changes in 2015**

This fourth year of drought has been the driest yet in our region. It will require the Oakdale Irrigation District and its 2,900 agricultural customers to work together to responsibly manage, use and conserve water.

OID has invested \$55 million since 2000 to improve, automate and meter its delivery system, all in an effort to keep water costs down while providing reliable, beneficial and innovative service. Our customers, too, have worked to increase irrigation efficiencies on their properties.

Those investments paid off the past three years when OID customers were spared water cuts while those around us managed on less. That will change in 2015.

For the first time ever, OID farmers will be limited in how much water they can have access to this year. They also will be allowed to sell or transfer water within the district. And, they will pay a small drought surcharge to help partially offset the costs of groundwater pumping.

There is no way to know when the drought may end. But one thing is certain: the more water we save now, the more potentially will be available in 2016.

