

James Irrigation District

Drought Management Plan

Adopted: August 9, 2016

OBJECTIVES

This drought contingency plan has been developed for use by the James Irrigation District. This drought contingency plan serves to:

- Conserve available water supplies during times of drought and emergency
- Minimize adverse impacts of water supply shortages
- Minimize the adverse impacts of emergency water supply conditions.

OFFICIAL DESIGNEES

The Official Designee is responsible for ordering the implementation and termination of drought response stages. The Official Designee for the James Irrigation District is:

Steven P. Stadler, P.E.
General Manager
(559) 693-4356

The Official Designee may designate additional individuals to perform the duties.

INITIATION AND TERMINATION OF DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGES

The Official Designee will order the implementation of a drought response stage when one or more of the trigger conditions for that stage are met. The Official Designee may order a drought response stage prior to the conditions being met at their own discretion.

The Official Designee may also order the termination of a drought response stage when the termination criteria are met or at their own discretion.

DROUGHT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE STAGES***Stage 1 - Mild***

This stage is intended to raise awareness of potential drought problems.

Trigger Conditions

- When James Irrigation District's Central Valley Project contract allocation is equal to or less than 40%.

Actions Available

- Communicate the current drought stage with growers
- Request that growers take voluntary measures to reduce water usage

Stage 2 - Moderate

This stage is intended to raise awareness of potential for drought management actions.

Trigger Conditions

- When James Irrigation District's Central Valley Project contract allocation is equal to or less than 10%.

Actions Available

- Communicate the current drought stage with growers
- Request that growers take voluntary measures to reduce water usage
- Advise growers of potential operational actions

Stage 3 - Severe

This stage is intended to undertake planning for drought management actions and to advise growers of potential allocation of irrigation supplies and/or deliveries.

Trigger Conditions

- When James Irrigation District's Central Valley Project contract allocation is 0%.

Actions Available

- Communicate the current drought stage with growers
- Request that growers take voluntary measures to reduce water usage
- Advise growers of potential operational actions.
- Prepare Schedule for Allocation of Irrigation Supplies
- Prepare Schedule for Allocation of Irrigation Deliveries
- Provide Schedule for Allocation of Irrigation Supplies and Schedule for Allocation of Irrigation Deliveries
- Review available water supplies and inform growers if the allocation schedules will be implemented

Stage 4 - Emergency

This stage is intended to implement drought management actions the allocation of irrigation supplies and/or deliveries.

Trigger Conditions

- When James Irrigation District's Central Valley Project contract allocation is 0%
- When the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation declares a Shasta Critical Year.

Actions Available

- Communicate the current drought stage with growers
- Request that growers take voluntary measures to reduce water usage
- Advise growers of potential operational actions.
- Prepare Schedule for Allocation of Irrigation Supplies
- Prepare Schedule for Allocation of Irrigation Deliveries
- Provide Schedule for Allocation of Irrigation Supplies and Schedule for Allocation of Irrigation Deliveries
- Implement allocation schedules and revise allocation schedules as required.

OPERATIONAL ACTIONS

During times of drought, there may be constraints on the District's delivery system that are caused by the District's effort to utilize its water efficiently. An example of this may be a delay in filling a lateral until the lateral can serve multiple water orders or limiting the time certain laterals are running to limit losses. These actions are undertaken in certain situations which are hard to predict. When these actions are undertaken, the grower generally received all of the water that was ordered but must take delivery at a different time than was originally scheduled.

These operational actions are available to the District at any time but are typically undertaken more frequently during drought periods. To avoid undue impacts on growers, the District will communicate the potential for these actions to occur.

ALLOCATION OF IRRIGATION SUPPLIES

The allocation of irrigation supplies is required when the quantity of water available to the District for the water year will not meet the quantity of water requested by the growers during the season. If this occurs, the water supply shall be allocated to growers based on their acreage such that growers will receive an equal amount on a per acre basis. The amounts will be determined and then placed on a Schedule for Allocation of Irrigation Supplies. This schedule shall be used by growers to determine the amount of water they will have available for the remainder of the water year. This schedule will also be used by District staff to limit irrigation deliveries to those growers exceeding their allocation.

ALLOCATION OF IRRIGATION DELIVERIES

The allocation of irrigation deliveries is required when the quantity of water available to the District for the water year will meet the quantity of water requested by the growers during the season but the demand for water to growers at certain times will exceed the rate at which water is brought into the District. If this occurs, the water delivery shall be allocated to growers based on their acreage such that growers will receive an equal rate of delivery on a per acre basis.

Smaller growers will be pooled together and each smaller grower will be allowed to receive a delivery rate consistent with his irrigation method for a fixed time duration. The deliveries for the smaller growers will be rotated.

The amounts will be determined and then placed on a Schedule for Allocation of Irrigation Deliveries. This schedule shall be used by growers to determine the rate of water they can receive at any given time. This schedule will also be used by District staff to limit irrigation deliveries to those growers exceeding their allocation.

PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF WATER USE RESTRICTION

The James Irrigation District receives and approves irrigation water orders to its customers. In most instances, the District also has to fill District laterals and open turnout gates to effectuate water deliveries. Given that the District has control of the water being delivered to its customers, the water use restrictions are under the control of the District and there are no penalties under this drought contingency plan for violating water use restrictions.

Customers circumventing the District's management actions to impose allocations will be in violation of the District's Rules and Regulations and will be subject to the penalties prescribed therein.

REVIEW AND UPDATE OF DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN

This drought contingency plan will be reviewed and updated at least every five years. It is recommended that the drought contingency plan be reviewed and updated in coordination with the review and update of the District's Water Management Plan.