



Staff Report

for the Board Meeting of June 9, 2021

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Chip Close, Water Operations Manager
DATE: June 1, 2021
SUBJECT: NID Water Shortage Contingency Plan Stages

OPERATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the NID Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) stages and provide guidance to Staff on a potential escalation of water shortage stage.

BACKGROUND:

The severely dry hydrologic conditions across the West continue to stress water resources across California. On April 21, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a State of Emergency Proclamation, stating that “much of the West is experiencing severe to exceptional drought”. The drought emergency included multiple counties across California including all of NID’s service area. NID declared its own drought emergency at the April 28, 2021 Board of Directors meeting and conditions have deteriorated since that time.

On May 26, 2021, the Board of Directors proactively purchased surplus water to support public health and safety needs for NID customers. During the conversation, talks of increasing the drought stage was briefly discussed, and followed with a request to agendize the topic for the next Board of Directors meeting.

In response, Staff has provided the latest version of the District’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan, along with the Hardship Committee guidelines. Staff will explain the options of each water shortage stage in an effort to obtain guidance on a preferred drought stage.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Will be discussed as part of the WSCP stage discussion.

Attachments (2):

- NID Water Shortage Contingency Plan
- Drought Hardship Guidance

Stage 1 – 10% Supply Shortage	
Forecast April 1 Available Supply: 234,999 to 211,500 AF Actions include normal rules and regulations plus those listed below	
Treated Water and Municipal Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 10 Percent	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate conservation regulations as identified in Section 3.05 of District Rules and Regulations. • Encourage customers to limit outdoor irrigation to every other day. • Request fire department limit practices drills and hydrant flow testing. 	
Ag Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 10 Percent	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow Ag customers to voluntarily reduce purchase allotment for the year while reserving their right to return to their previous allotment in the following year if water supply is available. 	
District Actions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare no new or increased surplus water availability. • Leak repair receives higher priority. • Increase drought awareness through additional public outreach measures that notify public and customers for declared stage, requirements, and available conservation program support. • Standard rates in effect. 	
Enforcement Measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard measures per District Rules and Regulations. 	

Stage 2 – 20% Supply Shortage
<p>Forecast April 1 Available Supply: 211,499 to 188,000 AF Actions include Stage 1 plus those listed below</p>
<p>Treated Water and Municipal Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 20 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor irrigation limited to every other day and maximum three days per week. • Odd address number can irrigate outdoors on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. • Even address number can irrigate outdoors on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. • Customers shall adjust irrigation controllers to reduce usage for each zone by 20 percent. • Corresponding to Fall Daylight Saving Time, customers shall strive to limit outdoor irrigation to only once per week.
<p>Ag Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 20 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit new water sales and increases to 1 miners inch. • Impose changes to delivery schedules to achieve 20 percent demand reductions.
<p>District Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare no new or increased surplus water availability. • Declare no new or increase in Fall/Winter deliveries. • Communicate mandatory reduction targets to customers. • Inform Municipal customers of mandatory 20 percent reduction requirement. • Distribution system flushing only for public health & safety. • Organize Drought Hardship Committee. • Purchase available Contract water to achieve a target carryover of 110,000 acre feet. • Implement Stage 2 conservation rates.
<p>Enforcement Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written warning will be issued for a first violation. • A District imposed fine of \$250 for a second violation, and any subsequent violation, and doubling with each subsequent violation up to a maximum of \$1,000 for any single violation. • Upon a fourth violation, or upon an earlier violation the General Manager determines to create a significant threat to the goals of the stage, the General Manager may order the installation of a flow restrictor on service lines in question. • Similar penalties, fines and charges may be implemented by the District as needed to enforce the restrictions on specific prohibited water uses.

Stage 3 – 30% Supply Shortage
<p>Forecast April 1 Available Supply: 187,999 to 164,500 AF Actions include Stage 2 plus those listed below</p>
<p>Treated Water and Municipal Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 30 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor irrigation limited to two days per week. • Odd address number can irrigate outdoors on Thursday and Sunday. • Even address number can irrigate outdoors on Wednesday and Saturday. • Customers shall adjust irrigation controllers to reduce usage for each zone by 30 percent. • Irrigation of ornamental turf in public street medians with treated water prohibited.
<p>Ag Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 30 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit new water sale and increases to ½ miners inch. • Impose changes to delivery schedules to achieve 30 percent demand reductions.
<p>District Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare no surplus water availability for exterior boundary customers. • Declare no Fall water availability. • Communicate mandatory reduction targets to customers. • Inform Municipal customers of mandatory 30 percent reduction requirement. • Purchase available Contract water to achieve a target carryover of 100,000 acre feet. • Implement Stage 3 conservation rates. • Dedicate additional staff for increased water waste patrols.
<p>Enforcement Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written warning will be issued for a first violation. • A District imposed fine of \$250 for a second violation, and any subsequent violation, and doubling with each subsequent violation up to a maximum of \$1,000 for any single violation. • Upon a fourth violation, or upon an earlier violation the General Manager determines to create a significant threat to the goals of the stage, the General Manager may order the installation of a flow restrictor on service lines in question. • Similar penalties, fines and charges may be implemented by the District as needed to enforce the restrictions on specific prohibited water uses.

Stage 4 – 40% Supply Shortage
<p>Forecast April 1 Available Supply: 163,499 to 141,000 AF Actions include Stage 3 plus those listed below</p>
<p>Treated Water and Municipal Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 40 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor irrigation limited to one day per week. • Customers shall adjust irrigation controllers to reduce usage for each zone by 40 percent.
<p>Ag Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 40 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impose changes to delivery schedules to achieve 40 percent demand reductions.
<p>District Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare no new or increased Ag sales. • Communicate mandatory reduction targets to customers. • Inform Municipal customers of mandatory 40 percent reduction requirement. • Purchase available Contract water to achieve a target carryover of 90,000 acre feet. • Implement Stage 4 conservation rates.
<p>Enforcement Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written warning will be issued for a first violation. • A District imposed fine of \$250 for a second violation, and any subsequent violation, and doubling with each subsequent violation up to a maximum of \$1,000 for any single violation. • Upon a fourth violation, or upon an earlier violation the General Manager determines to create a significant threat to the goals of the stage, the General Manager may order the installation of a flow restrictor on service lines in question. • Similar penalties, fines and charges may be implemented by the District as needed to enforce the restrictions on specific prohibited water uses.

Stage 5 – 50% Supply Shortage
<p>Forecast April 1 Available Supply: 140,999 to 117,500 AF Actions include Stage 4 plus those listed below</p>
<p>Treated Water and Municipal Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 50 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor irrigation prohibited.
<p>Ag Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand up to 50 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impose changes to delivery schedules to achieve 50 percent demand reductions.
<p>District Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate mandatory reduction targets to customers. • Inform Municipal customers of mandatory 50 percent reduction requirement. • Purchase available Contract water to achieve a target carryover of 80,000 acre feet. • Implement Stage 4 conservation rates.
<p>Enforcement Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written warning will be issued for a first violation. • A District imposed fine of \$250 for a second violation, and any subsequent violation, and doubling with each subsequent violation up to a maximum of \$1,000 for any single violation. • Upon a fourth violation, or upon an earlier violation the General Manager determines to create a significant threat to the goals of the stage, the General Manager may order the installation of a flow restrictor on service lines in question. • Similar penalties, fines and charges may be implemented by the District as needed to enforce the restrictions on specific prohibited water uses.

Stage 6 – Over 50% Supply Shortage
<p>Forecast April 1 Available Supply: less than 117,500 AF Actions include Stage 5 plus those listed below</p>
<p>Treated Water and Municipal Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand greater than 50 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety use of water only.
<p>Ag Water Customers - Actions to Reduce Demand greater than 50 Percent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impose changes to delivery schedules to achieve target demand reductions.
<p>District Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate mandatory reduction targets to customers. • Inform Municipal customers of mandatory health and safety use only. • Purchase available Contract water to achieve a target carryover of 75,000 acre feet. • Implement Stage 4 conservation rates. • Other actions as identified specific to the shortage condition.
<p>Enforcement Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written warning will be issued for a first violation. • A District imposed fine of \$250 for a second violation, and any subsequent violation, and doubling with each subsequent violation up to a maximum of \$1,000 for any single violation. • Upon a fourth violation, or upon an earlier violation the General Manager determines to create a significant threat to the goals of the stage, the General Manager may order the installation of a flow restrictor on service lines in question. • Similar penalties, fines and charges may be implemented by the District as needed to enforce the restrictions on specific prohibited water uses.

2.3.5 Communications

NID maintains an established and effective communications program to inform its customers, neighbors, and other stakeholders of issues, updates, and policies. Implementation of the drought plan will utilize the existing communication program structure to inform customers and others of the declared shortage stage and respective actions and restrictions in place.

The Board meetings addressing the Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment and/or a potential water shortage declaration will be noticed per normal Board meeting public notification procedures. The meeting will also be announced through regular press release protocols.

Once a shortage stage has been declared by the Board of Directors, NID will notify its customers and others through a range of efforts. The stage and restrictions will be identified in a press release, as well as customer billing statements. The District’s website will be updated to feature the shortage declaration, restrictions, and resources available to customers from the District and other entities to help meet the restrictions. Subsequent Board of Directors meetings will include a review of the shortage condition, customer response results, and discussion and recommendations for potential modifications.

DROUGHT HARDSHIP COMMITTEE AND VARIANCES

During implementation of a mandatory reduction stage of the Drought Contingency Plan, the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District may appoint a Drought Hardship Committee. The Drought Hardship Committee is an advisory body and shall consist of one appointee from each director's division and the Water and Hydroelectric Operations (WHO) Board Committee. District Operation's staff will work closely with the committee.

The Drought Hardship Committee's purpose is to review the applications and determine whether additional water can be provided to the applicant. Before any appeal for a variance can be heard by the Drought Hardship Committee, the customer must submit a Drought Hardship Application and provide proof the water is being used for commercial agricultural purposes.

For the purposes of this Plan, the definition of commercial agriculture is an agricultural producer engaged in a for profit operation with a minimum gross annual sales of \$3,000 and a minimum capital investment of \$15,000. Commercial agricultural producers file a Schedule F with the Internal Revenue Service for their farming or ranching operation.

Preference will be given to applicants with an economic hardship and/ or those utilizing best management practices and with efficient irrigation practices in place. Variances may be approved for increases in water deliveries, seasonal variances or other protocols as determined by the Drought Hardship Committee. No such variance or appeal, however, shall be granted if the Board of Directors finds that the variance or appeal will adversely affect the public health or safety of others and is not in the public's best interest.

Under the California Water Code, in critical water supply situations, there is a priority that shall be allocated as follows:

1. Human Consumption
2. Livestock and Animals
3. Perennial Crops
4. Annual Crops

Upon granting a Drought Hardship Variance or appeal, the Board may impose any other conditions it deems to be just and proper.

APPLICATION FOR DROUGHT HARDSHIP

Name:		Canal:		
Address				
Parcel No.:		Phone No.:		
Land Utilization:		Map Attached	Yes	No
Livestock (number of)		Stock water needs: Yes or No		
Cattle	Horses			
Sheep	Other			
Hogs				
Crop	Acres Planted	Amount Water Applied	Period of critical water need	Method of Irrigation
Pasture				
Orchard				
Rice				
Other				
Total acres of land irrigated at location:				
		Year	Miners Inches	
Water Purchase				
Allocated				
Is property within Nevada Irrigation District boundaries?		Yes	No	
Do you have proof the water is being used for commercial agricultural purposes		Yes	No	
Statement by landowner of hardship				
Intended use of additional water by landowner				
Describe efficient irrigation practices in use				
Do you file a Schedule F with the Internal Revenue Service? Yes or No				

Please attach separate sheet for any additional information. Fraudulent statements will result in loss of water purchase.

I certify the above statements to be true and factual to the best of my knowledge.

Signed _____ Date _____