

# ORLAND-ARTOIS WATER DISTRICT

February 2020

## **2020 WATER OUTLOOK, CHARGES, & WATER APPLICATION**

On February 25<sup>th</sup> the Bureau of Reclamation announced the initial allocation for the 2020 water year. North of the Delta water service contractors are to receive 50% of their contract allocation. With some more rain we hope the allocation will increase. At 50%, based on use over the past 2 years, the District has enough water for our growers needs.

At the February 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting the Directors set our Base water for irrigation rate for 2020 at **\$85.50** per acre-foot, the M&I water rate at **\$88.00** per acre-foot, and the Full Cost water rate at **\$238.00** per acre-foot (The water rates are strictly a "pass through" cost of what the District is paying for the water). These rates are based on the 50% allocation, if the allocation increases the cost of water could go down a small amount. At 100% the rate would decrease to \$76.50 per acre-foot. **To help District staff, please contact the District office and let us know how much water you plan to use in the 2020 water year at the 50% rate. This is important information that we need to be sure there will be sufficient water available.**

Our new water year will begin on March 1<sup>st</sup> and all of the necessary paperwork, including the first installment of the Operations Charge and any required Bureau Forms will need to be completed before any water can be used. This includes any water used for frost protection. The final deadline for water applications is April 30<sup>th</sup>. After April 30<sup>th</sup>, if it is a 100% year and water is available, we will take late applications but the rate will be increased by 5%.

Enclosed with this newsletter you will find a 2020 water application. Be sure to include the acres, crops, and the amount of water you plan to use. To use water, you will need to have a signed 2020 Water Application on file at the District Office and you will need to pay the water advance. The water advance is ½ acre-foot of water per assessed acre of land in the District multiplied by the water rate. The water advance is to be collected on all of a landowner's land that is assessed by the District. This money will be credited to your account and used to pay for the water as you use it. When the credit runs out the District will bill you on a monthly basis. If you do not use the credit, it will remain on your account.

All District Rules and Regulations will apply to all water use and the District will not deliver water to delinquent lands. If you think you may need water anytime during the water year be sure to have a signed 2020 water application on file with the District office.

## **Groundwater**

Groundwater levels in the District area have not recovered from the previous drought years. This winter has not provided enough rain to add much recharge to the local groundwater aquifers and they are low. Over the next few years the Glenn Groundwater Authority will be addressing this problem. To minimize possible future pumping restrictions under possible SGMA regulations, it is recommended that you use as much district water as possible so we can reverse declining groundwater levels.

This Newsletter along with water rates, applications, water order forms, and RRA forms are available on the District's website, [oawd.org](http://oawd.org). If you have any questions, please give me a call at the District office.

Emil Cavagnolo



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Please be advised, the Willows phone line, 530-934-4039, is no longer active due to lack of use.