

ORLAND-ARTOIS WATER DISTRICT

February 03, 2023

District Land Based Charges

District Landowners and Water Users, Happy New Year.

On September 15, 2020 the Directors approved OAWD Resolution 2020-07, which approved and imposed the 2021-2025 charges. On November 15, 2022 the Directors approved the 2023 O&M Budget. The District charges for 2023 will be as follows:

*The Distribution System Assessment will be paid by original landowners at **\$21.76** per-acre per-year. This charge pays for the distribution system by which water is delivered for irrigation.*

*The CVP Construction Charge will be paid by all acres which are able to receive District water at **\$23.00** per-acre. This charge pays for the District's share of the Central Valley Project construction costs.*

*The Operations Charge will be paid by all acres which are able to receive District water at **\$37.40** per-acre. This charge pays for District operations, the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority's annual assessment, and California's Water Rights Fee.*

All 3 charges will be billed in 2 installments and will be levied whether or not District water is available or used. The payment schedule is included with this newsletter. Invoices are enclosed with this newsletter. After the due date, all charges are subject to penalties and interest. There are no penalties for paying before the due date.

The good news is that the Operations Charge was reduced by \$0.04/acre for 2023. This happened for three reasons, a reduction in reserve building, a reduction in long term projects, and the TCCA drought budget for a third year. The TCCA Assessment is about 45% of OAWD's O&M Budget and therefore affects the operations charge significantly.

2023 Water Outlook

2022 was a difficult year for water users and the District. The water outlook for 2023 is not great, but better than last year. Shasta reservoir is higher than at any time last year, and even though we have had good rains to date, we have a long way to go to receive an allocation. We are hoping that settlement contractor's water will be available for transfer so we can take advantage of the District agreements for transferred water. The District Wells have not recovered much from the last 2 years of pumping. Groundwater from groundwater substitution programs is questionable at this time. The District has joined other TCCA Districts in an environmental document for the transfer of Forbearance Water if needed and if available. There will also be the Warren Act Contract in place for those able to make use of it. Hopefully we get enough rain and most of this will not be needed, but the District will work to deliver water for irrigation. You will be kept up to date as the water situation evolves. 2023 Water rates and application dates will be announced as soon as the information is available. The 2023 Water Year starts on March 1st.

*For frost protection water in February; at this time, zero water is available. The Directors will be deciding whether the District Wells will be used in 2023. If you will need water from the District for Frost Protection, you will need to make arrangements in advance and it will depend on the availability of water. If there is more rain and river flows increase, there may be high-flow water available. **Any water use must be ordered 24 hours in advance** and you will be told then if water is available. The unauthorized use of water will have consequences including penalties and the shut off of turnouts. The District is responsible for the delivery of water and can suffer the same consequences for unauthorized use, which could include the locking up of its diversions off the TC Canal.*

Orland A Farmers Group Annexation Project

The Orland A Farmers Group Annexation is moving forward and will include about 12,000 acres which are currently in orchards being irrigated with only groundwater. The annexed acres will be Class 2 water users and only eligible for excess District water, if available, or transferred water. Delivery of water will be via

new infrastructure and in some cases, improved existing infrastructure. The goal of this project is to protect groundwater without negatively impacting current landowners' ability to purchase and receive water. The consultants working on the project, Water & Land Solutions, are working closely with the District, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Glenn County LAFCO. The 30% designs for the new infrastructure are almost complete and much of the environmental work has been done. All of the project costs are being paid by the landowners requesting annexation. Much of the land being annexed is located in an area with subsidence and all of it is located in places experiencing depleted aquifers. It will take some time, but if we reduce pumping and start recharging, some of these problems can be solved. Groundwater depletion and subsidence are real problems, and if not corrected, will be detrimental to the economy of Glenn County.

Glenn Groundwater Authority

OAWD is a member of the Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA), the local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The GGA is working on starting up recharge projects in the OAWD area. Consultants have been hired and grant funding has been applied for. The Orland A Farmers Group Annexation project has a recharge component and is included in a recent grant application through the GGA. The grant funding would offset some of the construction costs and allow the project to produce results sooner rather than later.

In order to have a strong economy in an agricultural area we need a consistent water source. The OAWD area has two water sources, groundwater and surface water. Both have limitations. Groundwater is limited to how much is in an aquifer and depends on rain to be replaced. Surface water depends on rain and storage. At this time aquifers are depleted, there is measured subsidence in the OAWD area, and storage is low. By reducing the pumping of groundwater and increasing recharge we are hoping to bring the basin into a sustainable condition.

*This newsletter along with water rates, applications, and water order forms are available on the District's website, oawd.org. **The OAWD staff is available by phone and/or email. There is also a mailbox for payments and forms roadside and a drop box by the front door of the office.** If you have any questions, please give us a call at the District office.*

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