

ORLAND-ARTOIS WATER DISTRICT

April 2020

2020 WATER OUTLOOK, CHARGES, & WATER APPLICATION

On February 25th 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. On April 13th the District was notified that Sacramento River Settlement Contractors were determined to be at a "Shasta Critical Year". This means that they are now allocated 75% of their contract water. To the District this means that we lose some water from multiyear contracts with Settlement Contractors and an increase in the price of water we transfer into the District. The District has found water to replace the lost water with additional transfers and operating the 2 District wells. Unfortunately, with the decrease in supply the water rate will increase and the District will need water commitments and payment in advance for committed water because **the District must pre-pay at a higher rate for transferred water in short water years.**

At the April 21st Board meeting the Directors increased water rates starting May 1st as follows: the Base water rate for irrigation 2020 to **\$97.00** per acre-foot, the M&I water rate at **\$97.00** 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 in a "Shasta Critical Year", if the allocation increases the cost of water could go down a small amount.

The 2020 Water Application requires a deposit of ½ acre-foot per acre of assessed land. For the "Shasta Critical Year" the District will require a signed commitment by 4:00 PM May 10th for the amount of water needed for the remainder of the 2020 water year (May 1-Feb 28, 2021). Payment for first half of committed water will be required by May 29th. Payment for the second half of committed water will be due June 29th. When you commit to an amount of water, you will be required to pay for it whether you use it or not. There will be no credits issued for unused water. Any existing credit on account as of May 1st can be applied towards payment of committed water.

To be eligible for District water all of the necessary paperwork, including a 2020 water application, any required Bureau Forms, and paid operations charge and water advance must be completed. **The final deadline for water applications is April 30th.** **After April 30th water applications will not be accepted.** All District Rules and Regulations will apply to all water delivered and the District will not deliver water to delinquent lands.

If Reclamation determines that it is no longer of a Shasta Critical Year and OAWD is still at a 50% allocation, the water application process will revert to normal. The water commitments and payments for committed water will not be due and water credits on accounts will not be subject to a use or lose it criteria.

This newsletter along with water rates, applications, water order forms, and RRA forms are available on the District's website, oawd.org. **Due to COVID-19, the District doors are locked but staff is available by phone and/or email. There is also a dropbox for forms roadside and by the front door of the office.** If you have any questions, please give me a call at the District office.

Emil Cavagnolo
Manager 530-865-4304

Important Dates:

April 30th Applications and Water Advance due. (This must be received in order to be eligible for water commitments).

May 10th Water Commitments due in the office by 4:00 PM May.

May 29th First half of committed water payment due.

June 29th Payment of the remainder of committed water due.