

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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# ORLAND-ARTOIS WATER DISTRICT

(A UNIT OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY CANALS)

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## **GENERAL MANAGER**

Justin Dahl

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OAWD Landowners and Water Users,

On February 22, 2024, the Bureau of Reclamation announced a 75% allocation for North of the Delta Water Service Contractors including OAWD. This allocation means the district will receive 39,750 acre-feet of its contract water and 7,500 acre-feet of transfer water under contract. A total of 47,250 acre-feet of water will be available for irrigation on District lands. The cost of this water is \$51.00 per acre-foot for base water and \$86.00 per acre-foot for M&I water. There will be transfer water available if more water is needed, and there is a chance the allocation will be increased. Water rates are the actual cost of water to the District.

Water applications will be attached to this mailing. They will be due back by April 30<sup>th</sup>, or before water is used. To purchase water for the 2024 water year you will need to commit to the amount of water you want to purchase for the water year. You will be required to pay for half of the water when you turn in the application and before you use the water, or by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Please check with the office for any 2023 unused water credit that can be used for the 2024 water purchase. The second half of the water will need to be paid by July 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no refunds or credits for unused water for the 2024 water year. Remember, the district will not deliver water to delinquent lands and there are no penalties or interest for early payment.

To plan for the coming water year, the District needs to know how much water to purchase. If water users would let the District know how much water they plan to purchase by April 10<sup>th</sup> it would be a great help. Even a good estimate will tell us if we have enough water, or if we should be looking for more.

When High Flow Water is available the cost will be \$21.20 per acre-foot, subject to change due to flows in the river. With the wet season, there has not been much demand for water for irrigation. The only demand for water has been for frost protection.

The OAWD Directors decided to make a limited amount of high-flow water available for recharge projects at no cost to the landowner. There are several projects currently operating in the district. These projects include flooding pastures and filling ponds and sumps. We are avoiding flooding orchards because, with all of the gravels in this area, there is no need to risk damaging trees. Some of the larger projects are near dedicated monitoring wells. At other sites domestic wells and old ag wells are being measured. The results have been positive. The current project's goal is to extend what mother nature is providing. We are hoping that we can use the work we are doing this year to help build larger permanent projects in the future. If you have a potential recharge project in mind,

contact the district office. The projects need to be on district land and have a well nearby that can be measured. Pilot recharge projects will be evaluated by district staff and depends on the availability of High Flow Water, monitoring, costs for connections, and safety.

OAWD has added a new General Manager to the team. Justin Dahl has been in the water world for approximately 18 years, and resides in the little town of Artois Ca, with his wife Ashley and four children Emme, Lane, Wade and Virgil. Justin started his career at Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, where he dedicated 16 years of service in the water industry. In 2022, Justin went on to become the General Manager of Maxwell Irrigation District. In June of 2023, Justin decided to accept the role of Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District General Manager. After some unexpected life changes, Justin decided he wanted to be closer to home and applied for Orland-Artois Water District. Justin accepted the position of General Manager and has started his new role as of February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Justin can't wait to see what the future brings for the District and looks forward to working with every landowner and water user long into the future.

Best regards,

Justin Dahl, General Manager  
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Reminder: The first installment of the Operations Charge is due on or before April 1st.