



Walker River Irrigation District

Established in 1919

March 9, 2021

Dear Stored Water User:

The Walker River Irrigation District (the "District") and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ("NFWF") entered into a Grant Agreement dated April 28, 2011, as subsequently amended (the "Grant Agreement"). Among other things, the Grant Agreement provides for a water leasing demonstration program to increase Walker Lake inflows and for use in obtaining other information. The water leasing demonstration program which has been established is a one-year "Stored Water Program."

In order to implement the Stored Water Program, the District has received the necessary approvals to release up to a combined total of 25,000-acre feet of stored water from Bridgeport and Topaz Reservoirs to flow to Walker Lake. The Stored Water Program is a voluntary program. Through it, individual farmers within the District may, for an agreed upon payment, voluntarily dedicate a portion of their allocated stored water supply to the Stored Water Program for one year.

Subject to available water supply, the District plans to implement the Stored Water Program during the 2021 irrigation season. As part of that planning, the District is notifying all owners of land with apportioned stored water benefits within the District about the Stored Water Program, and providing an application form for those who, at least preliminarily, intend to participate.

Preliminary Interest in Participating

This letter and the enclosed Application are intended to obtain information on the interest of those landowners in participating in the Stored Water Program. Those landowners will not be required to make a final decision on their participation and the extent of that participation in the Stored water Program until May 21, 2021.

In the event there is a re-allocation of storage water in May, a second application period will be opened and all landowners will be able to apply their re-allocation to the Storage Water Leasing Program. Any unused storage water can be applied at that time. A Re-allocation Application will be mailed out following a re-allocation which must be submitted to our office by June 1, 2021.

Payments to participating farmers will be made for each acre foot of Stored Program Water enrolled in the Program and released from storage based on the results of a qualified third-party appraisal, which NFWF requires. That appraisal has been made, and the proposed payment for 2021 is \$147.00 per acre foot.

In the event the above Stored Water Program price does not result in sufficient participation in the Program, the District, at its discretion, may then utilize a reverse auction or any other means of procurement so long as any price offered to participants in excess of the final appraised value has been approved in advance by NFWF consistent with Reclamation Guidelines. If that should occur, all participating landowners will have the right to receive the higher price for each acre foot the landowner enrolled into the Stored Water Program.

Minimum Participation and Other Requirements

Stored water enrolled in the Stored Water Program in 2021 will be considered as water used for purposes of determining quantities of any water to which you may be entitled to under permits or certificates issued by the Nevada State Engineer which limit the quantity to 4.0-acre feet per acre from all sources. In other words, if a participant holds a supplemental groundwater right which is subject to a duty limit of 4.0-acre feet from all sources, the State Engineer will treat the stored water as having been used to irrigate even though the stored water is enrolled in the Stored Water Program.

For example, assume a participant has 10 acres of land which includes appurtenant stored water of 20-acre feet and also a supplemental groundwater right with a limit of no more than 4.0-acre feet per acre from all sources, or 40-acre feet. If the participant enrolls the 20-acre feet of stored water in the Stored Water Program, the State Engineer will limit pumping of the supplemental groundwater right to 20-acre feet (40-acre feet less the 20-acre feet enrolled in the Stored Water Program).

In order to assist the Nevada State Engineer in enforcing that requirement, the District will be filing a temporary change application for each reservoir, which will require the District to identify by District User Number all participants in the Program and the extent of their participation.

Application

If you are interested in participating in the Stored Water Program during the 2021 irrigation season, you need to complete the enclosed Application and return it to the District office by May 1, 2021. You will be required to make a final decision on participation by May 21, 2021, at which time you will be required to execute and deliver to the District a Stored Water Program Participant Agreement. The form of the Stored Water Program Participant Agreement is also enclosed.

Please do not hesitate to call the District office at (775) 463-3524 if you have any questions concerning the Stored Water Program.

Sincerely,



Robert C. Bryan, General Manager

Enclosures