



WATER SHORTAGE ALLOCATION POLICY

When Western Canal Water District is notified of a water deficiency of 25% pursuant to its contract with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and/or in the opinion of the Board of Directors of Western Canal Water District there is a water shortage, the water will be apportioned on a pro-rata basis to all primary acreage for which a standby fee is paid. Secondary acreage will not receive any water allocation from the District. Secondary acreage may receive water by assignment pursuant to this policy.

The Board will determine the amount of water to be shared, including water needed to cover system losses and other obligations. The Board will use the preliminary forecast as provided by the DWR on or before February 15 in considering the water allocation. This does not limit the Board in considering other factors, including applications for water, or in amending (increasing or decreasing) the allocation at any time.

The Board's preliminary allocation will be made on March 15. Complete applications for water will be due on or before April 15. Should no application be made at the proper time and in the proper manner, no water will be served, except upon direction of the Board, for that parcel for that irrigation season pursuant to Water Code section 35453.

After receipt of applications, the District will mail out a final water allocation, invoices, and issue notice of rules, rates and policies regarding drought conditions.

1. Surface Water

- a. The District will deliver water only to Applicants who have timely and completely filed out an application.
- b. The District reserves the right to increase or decrease the final allocation at any time based on new information or changed circumstances. The District will notify all Applicants concerning any amendments to their allocation.
- c. The District will not supply water in excess of each Applicant's allocation. During the irrigation season, the District will keep track of Applicants' water use and will periodically notify each Applicant of then-current usage and remaining allocation. Failure of the District to provide notice shall not permit Applicant to divert water in excess of their allocation; each Applicant is expected to monitor their diversions to ensure they do not exceed their allocation. The District will cease deliveries once an Applicant's allocation has been met.

d. **Assignments of Surface Water**

- i. Upon notice to the District, any Applicant may assign all or a portion of their surface water allocation to different fields within the District that are owned or leased by the same Applicant.
- ii. Applicants may assign all or a portion of their surface water allocation to another landowner/grower within the District, provided:
 1. The Applicant and the assignee complete a District assignment form and pay for the water in advance, including a one-time administration/wheeling charge of \$200.
 2. Completed assignment forms may be approved by the General Manager at any time. If the General Manager denies a request for assignment or, due to unique circumstances, is unwilling to approve or deny the request, the assigning landowner may seek reconsideration by the Board of Directors. Requests for reconsideration must be received by the District office on or before the Wednesday before the District's regular board meeting (the third Tuesday of each month) so the item may be placed on the agenda for consideration by the Board of Directors.
 3. The District reserves the right to deny assignment requests for any reason, including without limitation inadequate capacity to wheel the water through the District's facilities.

2. Groundwater

- a. The District will not allow the use of its facilities to wheel or accommodate the transfer or assignment of groundwater that may be pumped by landowners. Upon application, a landowner may be allowed to utilize District facilities to convey groundwater to the same landowner's fields. The District reserves the right to grant or deny such request for any reason.

3. Out of District Assignments

- a. Upon request, the Board of Directors of the District will consider assignments of any Applicant's surface water allocation to any Joint District. Prior to making the request, the Applicant must first have obtained the written consent of the applicable Joint District to the possible assignment. Notwithstanding the consent of the applicable Joint District, the District reserves the right to grant or deny any out of district assignment for any reason.
- b. The District will not permit out of District assignments to entities or individuals outside the Joint Districts.