



7995 Bruns Road  
Byron, CA 94514  
(209) 835-0375

**THE WEST SIDE  
IRRIGATION  
DISTRICT**

P.O. Box 177  
Tracy, CA 95378  
(209) 835-0305

**RICK GILMORE**  
General Manager

December 30, 2020

TO: All Landowners and Water-Users within the West Side Service Area

FROM: Rick Gilmore, General Manager

SUBJECT: Informational Update

---

I want to take this opportunity to inform you of several matters involving your Service Area.

**CONSOLIDATION:**

On August 13, 2020, the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission (SJ LAFCo) adopted Resolution 1435 ordering the consolidation of The West Side Irrigation District (WSID) and Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID or District) with BBID as the Successor Agency. On September 2, 2020, the San Joaquin County Recorder's Office filed and recorded the Certificate of Completion with a completion date of August 31, 2020. As a result of the consolidation former WSID President Jack Alvarez and Vice President Tom Pereira now serve on the BBID Board.

**STAND-BY CHARGE:**

In 1978, the WSID Board of Directors voted to partially defray costs of operating and maintaining the District by imposing an advance deposit of water payment (\$7.50 per acre) and a Stand-By Charge to be assessed upon all lands within the District.

In 2016, during the height of the litigation against the State Water Resources Control Board and the Curtailment Hearings, WSID's Board of Directors adopted and amended the 1978 Stand-By Charge to convert it to a Minimum Water Service Stand-By Policy (Stand-By Policy) assessing all irrigable land \$25.00 per acre (Stand-By Charge) as the Landowner's partial share of the District's operation and maintenance expense. In addition, under the Stand-By Policy the Stand-By Charge was collected in full, but the Charge was "credited back" to the landowner/water-user as irrigation occurred. If irrigation did not occur, the Stand-By Charge was non-refundable. Since the adoption of the Stand-By Policy, WSID reserves have reduced by approximately \$1.6 million.

Because of this reduction in reserves, and because of increased costs associated with healthcare for retired directors/employees, right of way maintenance involving urban encroachment and homeless camps, and deferred maintenance of District works, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution 2020-12 authorizing the following:

1. The Stand-By Charge will continue to be assessed upon all lands capable of receiving irrigation service at \$25.00 per acre. Irrigable lands of 2 acres or less will be exempt and subject to a Minimum Flat Rate Charge.
2. The Stand-By Charge will no longer be credited back to the landowner/water-user as irrigation occurs.
3. The Stand-By Charge will be due prior to the first irrigation or April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, whichever occurs first. If payment is not received by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, (a) irrigation service will not be made available to the land until payment is received by the District; and (b) the District will record a lien on the subject property for the unpaid Stand-By Charge with the San Joaquin County's Recorder's Office pursuant to Section 25806 of the California Water Code.
4. The Advance Deposit for Water Payment (\$7.50 per acre) is terminated, effective immediately.

**PG&E WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTION TARIFF INCREASE:**

The West Side Service Area receives a wholesale power supply from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) via the Power and Water Resources Pooling Authority (WAPA/PWRPA). PG&E distributes the WAPA/PWRPA power from PG&E's Herdlyn Sub-Station to PG&E's sub-station on Wicklund Road through a Wholesale Distribution Tariff (WDT). PG&E recently filed a proposal with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a 650% increase to the WDT. Based on an average energy/water demand, the proposed WDT increase results in an additional pumping charge of \$25.00 per acre-foot for the West Side Service Area service from the Wicklund Pump Station. (Current pumping charges are approximately \$36.00 per acre-foot.) FERC approved the proposed increase but suspended the effective date until April 1, 2021, pending negotiations between PG&E and the PWRPA which challenged the increase. The District is exploring every avenue available to prevent the increase. BBID recognizes such a dramatic increase in the WDT, and the resulting increase in water rates, will carry significant financial consequences for District water-users, and impact the agricultural community within the region. We will update you regarding this matter.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me directly.