Nevada Irrigation District

Staff Report

for the Board of Directors' Meeting of July 12, 2017

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Chip Close, Water Operations Manager

DATE: July 3, 2017

SUBJECT: **Water Service Rules and Regulations**
Section 4.06.03 Parcel Requirements – Addition of Commercial / Production Agriculture Category

OPERATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an addition to Section 4.06.03 of the District's Water Service Rules and Regulations, requiring treated water use parcels with commercial/production agricultural to install a dedicated irrigation meter and backflow device as recommended by the Water and Hydroelectric Operations Committee.

BACKGROUND:

Recent changes in water use philosophy at the State Water Resources Control Board have created a need for specific water use categories. Coming conservation regulation will require water use allotments for each connection based upon the customer's treated water use. If customers go over their allotted water budget, fines could be enforced by the State.

The proposed State regulations allow connections utilizing treated water for agricultural purposes to receive credits for their agricultural watering needs. This will allow commercial/production agriculture customers to utilize the water necessary to sustain their operations without being classified as a residential customer. These accounts will not be included in the states gallons per capita per day calculations and will have a water budget based on crops as opposed to occupants thereby reducing the potential for fines.

In order to appropriately track and categorize treated water agricultural use, Staff is recommending a modification to Section 4 of the District's Rules and Regulations to create a commercial/production agricultural water use category. The changes will require parcels utilizing treated water for commercial/production agriculture to install a dedicated irrigation meter and a back flow device.

The separation of domestic use from agricultural use will benefit Ag Customers by potentially eliminating water use fines and will better inform the District on where water use is truly occurring. The backflow device is necessary to protect the District's distribution from chemicals & chemigation, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers normally utilized in connection with commercial/production agricultural operations.

The addition of a treated water commercial/production agricultural category is timely as coming Nevada County zoning ordinances are anticipated to allow indoor and outdoor agricultural grows within residential zoning. This will undoubtedly increase the demand for treated water agricultural use and increase water budgeting challenges.

The treated water agricultural meter and backflow device will be subject to the regular capacity and connection fees as listed in the Districts rate schedule.

A red lined version of the proposed change is attached for review.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

None at this time

Attachments (2):

- Red Lined Rules and Regulations
- Resolution

AC

RESOLUTION No. 2017-19

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Modification of Rules and Regulations to Add Treated Water Commercial / Production Agriculture Use Category

WHEREAS, recent changes in water use philosophy of the State of California and its State Water Resources Control Board (collectively "State") have created a need for tracking specific uses of treated water;

WHEREAS, the State has proposed a treated water use allocation that would apply District wide that would limit the amount of treated water the District could deliver to its customers;

WHEREAS, the State's proposal includes potential penalties for excessive residential water use in the event the District exceeded its District wide water use allocation;

WHEREAS, credits for commercial agriculture utilizing treated water were authorized; however, the District presently has no means to account for treated water that is used for commercial agriculture purposes;

WHEREAS, in the event of a severe water shortage, the District may need to reduce the amount of treated water available to District customers and may need to prioritize traditional indoor uses of water for drinking and sanitation above other uses, such as commercial agriculture that utilizes treated water;

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the District to protect the treated water system from backflow hazards arising from the use of chemicals & chemigation, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers in connection with commercial/production agricultural operations utilizing treated water;

WHEREAS, the District desires to establish a separate customer category for commercial agriculture utilizing treated water so that it may separate such use from traditional residential use and more accurately track treated water use within the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Directors hereby adopts Revised Section 4 of the Policies entitled Treated Water Service.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of July 2017 at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT by the following vote:

AYES: Directors:
NOES: Directors:
ABSENT: Directors:
ABSTAINS: Directors:

_____
President of the Board of Directors

Attest:

_____
Secretary to the Board of Directors

4Section 4

SECTION 4

TREATED WATER SERVICE

4.1 SUPPLEMENTAL DEFINITIONS

4.1.1 Fully Treated Water

Water receiving treatment that will meet all applicable state health standards for a treated water system.

eff. 6/11/03

4.1.2 Tank or Temporary Construction Water

Water utilized from a non-permanent service point normally drafted from a fire hydrant, for temporary purposes, such as for construction activities. Water may also be provided from the District's raw water system. This class of water is not to be used for domestic purposes, except in an emergency situation as determined by the District.

eff. 8/12/87; rev. 6/11/03

4.1.3 Commercial Use

All uses of water except those categories included as non-commercial use.

4.1.4 Non-commercial Use

All uses of water by individual residences, as well as by public agencies, schools, churches, and documented non-profit entities.

4.1.5 Commercial/Production Agriculture Use

All uses of water for the production of crops, plants, or farm animals for sale or trade.

4.6.4 Extent of Service Through Meter

The District provides metered service by using two different concepts, individual meters and master meters.

Individual meters are used for residential, commercial, commercial/production agriculture, ~~and~~ industrial parcels and lots as well as townhomes, residential condominiums and mobile home subdivision lots. In general, individual meters are placed along the street frontage of each parcel at lot corners. In the case of individually metered condominiums and townhomes, the meters are placed in the general vicinity of each cluster of units in a manner acceptable to the District and the onsite waterlines leading to the meter complexes are conveyed to the District for ownership. Separate meters are required for green belt and common use areas in these types of developments.

Master meters are used for apartment buildings, mobile home parks, motels, hotels, campgrounds, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and board and care facilities. Master meters are generally placed along the project's frontage near the District's water main in a manner meeting District approval. In certain instances, the District may require conveyance and ownership of water mains located inside the project in order to properly serve areas lying beyond the project or to provide for future looping of the District's water distribution system. In these cases, master meters may be placed along the interior of the project in the general vicinity of the main building clusters in a manner meeting District approval.

Condominiums developed for office, professional, commercial, or industrial uses may be metered individually or by a master meter at the discretion of the owner. If a master meter is selected, an association or trustee must be assigned the responsibility for paying all water use charges.

Parcels involved with commercial/production agriculture use must have its own dedicated meter connection for irrigation use separate from the domestic use meter. Each meter is subject to all applicable connection and capacity fees. The irrigation and domestic meter shall be subject to backflow requirements as set forth in Section 9 of these regulations.

The metering concepts discussed above shall also apply to the conversions of existing buildings. As an example, conversions of a building to residential condominiums will require a meter for each unit.

From time to time, new state and county statutes may be adopted allowing for new types of developments. The metering concept to be used, either master meter or individual meters, in cases of types of developments not specifically discussed in these Regulations, will be determined by the District on a case-by-case basis.

eff. 6/11/03

4.6.5 Sizing

The customer will make the basic determination as to the size of meter required; however, the District reserves the right to approve the size of service allowed.

Services to individual homes are normally limited to 5/8-inch or ¾-inch size.

4.6.6 Customer Responsibilities

The customer is responsible for the acquisition and maintenance of any required easements or permits; the installation, maintenance and operation of the private service pipeline and appurtenances thereof located on the customer's side of the service valve. See additional responsibilities as outlined in Section 4.14 of these Regulations.

The customer must ensure that no landscaping, encroachments or any other form of property improvement shall be so placed as to cause a hindrance to the access between the road or street and the meter service box. Hindrance of District access to the meter may cause water service to be cut off. The customer's plumbing shall be connected to the meter box in a manner that will not hinder the maintenance or reading of the meter.