



RESOLUTION NO. 2022-10

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

REDUCING THE SEVERITY OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE DUE TO DROUGHT BY ADOPTING STAGE I DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS Nevada Irrigation District (NID) provides water for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, municipal, environmental, fire protection and prevention purposes as well as other beneficial uses of water; and

WHEREAS, 2020 was the start of multi-year dry conditions that created increased withdrawals from storage, reduced end of year carryover storage to below-average amounts, and increased operational costs, and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a State of Emergency Proclamation, stating that "much of the West is experiencing severe to exceptional drought and California is in a second consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in drought or near-drought throughout many portions of the State" and "drought conditions vary across the State and some watersheds...are extremely dry and are facing substantial water supply and ecosystem challenge"; and

WHEREAS, the 2020/2021 water year was classified as critically dry and resulted in drought conditions throughout the District's service area and watersheds, with precipitation being 49% or worse as compared to normal and actual snowpack runoff being historically low; and

WHEREAS, on April 28, 2021, due to continued dry conditions, the Board of Directors of the District adopted Resolution No. 2021-11 Declaration of Drought, which imposed increased conservation measures, and requested a 10% voluntary reduction in water use from all District customers; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2021, Governor Newsom issued a second Proclamation of a State of Emergency due to drought, observing "a historic and unanticipated" depletion of the expected snowpack runoff and declaring drought emergency in forty-one counties, including Nevada, Placer, and Yuba Counties; and

WHEREAS, on May 25, 2021, recognizing the sudden, unexpected lack of snowpack runoff which exasperated emergency drought conditions, the District, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of 16,000 acre-feet of water at the cost of \$700,000 from Pacific Gas & Electric Co.; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2021, to assure continued supply of water for public health and safety, including domestic, irrigation, sanitation, environmental and fire prevention and suppression uses during this drought, the District adopted Resolution 2021-21, implementing a modified Stage II of its Drought Contingency Plan (that did not include mandatory reductions for irrigation customers); and

WHEREAS, the 2021/2022 water year has begun with record-breaking precipitation in October and December, which has led to 43.46" of precipitation at the Bowman Lake reporting station, which is 123% of average for this date; and

WHEREAS, substantial precipitation produced a marked increase in the District's water storage reservoirs from the low point of 69% of average in October 2021 to 98% of average for the end of January 2022; and

WHEREAS, the results of the District's February 1, 2022, snow survey indicated a snowpack with 24.7" of water content which is 123% of average for this time of year; and

WHEREAS, conservative forecasting accounting for 50% of average precipitation and 60% runoff recovery, without the addition of PG&E purchased water in 2022, results in an anticipated water availability of 275,600 by April 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, per the District's Drought Contingency Plan, 275,600 acre-feet of water availability by April 1, places the District in a normal water year based upon supply; and

WHEREAS, the 2021/2022 water year started wet; however, long-term forecasting predicts a return to dry conditions continuing the need for water efficiency awareness and conservation in line with Stage I of the District's Drought Contingency Plan.

WHEREAS, drought surcharge pricing adopted on July 1, 2021, has allowed the District to recoup \$2.045 million in revenue to offset the \$1.935 million in costs due to drought; and

WHEREAS, on January 4, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted an emergency regulation that became effective January 18, 2022, to prohibit wasteful water practices, including irrigating ornamental landscapes when it is raining, using potable water to clean hard surfaces or driveways, and the use of ornamental fountains without recirculating pumps.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District that Resolution 2021-21 is rescinded, and for reasons set forth herein, the severity of response to local drought emergency is reduced to Stage I throughout the District's service area, which includes portions of Nevada County, Placer County, and Yuba County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to continue to conserve supplies, including carryover storage, required for various beneficial uses of water, and to preserve the health and safety of the customers of the District, the District will implement Stage I of the District's Drought Contingency Plan as provided here within.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Stage II drought surcharge pricing will terminate with the next billing cycle beginning March 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Manager is authorized to identify additional operational actions and request additional conservation measures as determined necessary to meet the needs of public health and safety. Additional conservation measures, as imposed, shall be specifically described and communicated to all customers through one or more of the following: newspaper, public posting, and website and reported to the Board of Directors at the next available board meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the target minimum carryover storage to be preserved for the 2023 water year shall be >110,000-acre feet for end of October storage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that water use for domestic, municipal, and industrial purposes by all District customers, including wholesale customers, shall observe the water use practices established in the District's Drought Contingency Plan Stage I.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that irrigation water customers shall be subject to the following reduction measures as established in Stage I of the District's Drought Contingency Plan. Staff shall utilize the methods below to equitably reduce irrigation water deliveries to conserve supply, including maintenance of adequate carryover storage, as necessary for public health and safety:

- (a) All District irrigation water customers are strongly encouraged to implement irrigation efficiency practices.
- (b) New and increased irrigation water sales to in-District customers shall be subject to review and approval by Staff to confirm that the order is limited to the smallest amount of water necessary to serve the customer's beneficial use.
- (c) Existing outside District sales shall be subject to restriction or interruption at any time

as needed to prevent harm or shortages to in-District customers and to ensure the District achieves its carryover storage target.

(d) Customers who request a reduction, or who voluntarily forego water delivery during the 2022 irrigation season will not lose their priority of service for 2023 allocations.

(e) Availability of fall and new winter water sales will be at the discretion of the General Manager based on actual and forecasted storage carryover targets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that preliminary forecasts show adequate water for surplus water sales; however, due to a dry short term forecast, staff will return to the Board with a complete surplus water analysis in March, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District incorporates the State Water Resources Control Board's prevention of drought wasteful water uses as set forth in California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 995.

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Nevada Irrigation District at a meeting duly called and held within the District on the 9th day of February 2022 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Directors:	Heck, Peters, Johansen, Hull, Bierwagen
NOES:	Directors:	None
ABSENT:	Directors:	None
ABSTAINS:	Directors:	None



President of the Board of Directors

Attest:


Secretary to the Board of Directors