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August 30, 2019

Dear Irrigator:

RE: WATER ORDERING

This letter is a reminder that irrigators must contact their ditchrider(s) when ordering water for their irrigation systems or shutting them off. **If you are ordering water and communicating shutoffs to your ditchrider, thank you for your cooperation and we trust that you will continue to do so.** This information is an essential part of the BRID's operations and planning. The level of communication seems to be deteriorating in some areas, largely those with few open canals, and must improve. The BRID board of directors is currently investigating methods to ensure compliance with the water ordering requirements and penalties for non-compliance.

It may seem like there is no need to order water on a pipeline since the water is always there, but when you take water without ordering, you are stealing it from other irrigators further downstream on the canal that feeds your pipeline.

The ditchriders make every effort to deliver water as soon as possible after it is ordered, but all irrigators should order water the day before they plan to irrigate to ensure that their water arrives on time. In some locations, irrigators may have to order water up to 48 hours in advance of the time required. Irrigators are also reminded that they are required to give 24 hours advance notice of shutoffs whenever possible.

If a system is recorded as being in use, and the shutoff time is not communicated, the shutoff time may not be recorded until the ditchrider notices that your system is off. This will result in the running time being recorded as longer than the actual usage, which may result in the recorded water usage exceeding the 24" per acre limit. In that case, the system would no longer be allowed to be irrigated in that season. In discussions with other irrigation districts, most of which have a limit lower than the BRID's 24", it was discovered that the level of compliance is much higher. The odds of running out of water due to lack of communication with your ditchrider are much greater with a lower limit. If non-compliance regarding the ordering of water continues, the district will consider lowering the 24" per acre limit.

Irrigators should be able to contact their ditchrider(s) and receive a response between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and 7:00 A.M. to noon on Saturdays. They are not expected to make deliveries on Sundays. Messages, whether by phone or text, can still be sent at any time but the ditchriders are not expected to respond before 7:00 A.M. or after 7:00 P.M. Contacting your ditchrider by texting is encouraged as the preferred method of communication, as it ensures that a record of communication exists between both parties.

We trust that we will have your cooperation with our efforts to maintain accurate water use information and the efficient operation of the district.

Sincerely,

Walter Unruh
Board Chairman