Dear Grassland Landowners, Members, and Managers,

As all of you are aware, California continues to face exceptional drought conditions. In an effort to preserve the District’s limited surface water allocation for fall flood up the amount of water available this spring is limited to the amount of water the District rescheduled from the last water year and any groundwater we can develop locally. The District is making every effort to use our limited water supply efficiently to limit negative impacts on habitat productivity and on the local breeding birds while at the same time preserving as much water as possible for the fall/winter season.

Unfortunately, Reclamation’s allocation of 75% for Refuge Level 2 water supply for Water Year 2021 and the amount of Incremental Level 4 water it is forecasted to acquire will only allow for an allocation of 1.5 acre-feet per acre for the coming fall/winter season. The 1.5 acre-feet per acre will be based on total club assessed acreage. The District will try to provide maximum flexibility in the delivery of your allocation this season in coordination with nearby clubs. This allocation of water is being made so that clubs can begin planning on how they intend to use their limited water supply and to allow time to make the changes necessary to manage their limited water supply.

Later this summer the District will contact your club representative to discuss delivery schedules. Based on the feedback the District receives, we will develop a delivery schedule for each property.

Under these extreme conditions, water conservation is of the utmost importance. Please inspect all of your levees and water control structures as soon as possible and make all repairs prior to flood-up. Double-boarding and tarping weirs are great ways to conserve and stretch your allocation. Carefully monitor your pond water depths and set boards appropriately to retain any operational spill or precipitation.

This is going to be a challenging year and we need your continued cooperation and patience. Please direct all water related questions to either your water tender or me directly.

Respectfully,

Ken Swanson, PE
District Engineer/Watermaster
559-287-0326

South Grassland Water Tender Derrick Iudice 209-704-5184
North Grassland Water Tender Mike Boffa 209-704-5187
Water Department Supervisor Rob Kocher 209-704-5191