

# LINDSAY-STRATHMORE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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## NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS

March 1, 2018

The weather patterns have returned to drought mode. Following a near record breaking 2017-18 water year, with deliveries in the Friant-Kern Canal at full capacity for nearly the entire year, runoff predictions this year are near record lows.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation has announced a preliminary water supply declaration for the Water Year 2018-19 (March 1, 2018 – February 28, 2019) of 30% Class 1. Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District's Class 1 contract maximum is 27,500 acre-feet (AF). Therefore, the District's allocated share of Class 1 delivered in the Friant-Kern Canal is  $30\% \times 27,500 \text{ AF} = 8,250 \text{ AF}$ . This will not meet the demand of our growers for the Water Year 2018-19. Total demand in the District from March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018 was 22,600 AF. And, that was a wet year.

The District has sources of water other than our supply of Class 1. We are hopeful that the total amount available to the District from these other sources will allow full irrigation demand to be met by District deliveries. However, at this time, these other sources are not fully developed and can vary considerably until May or June.

**Therefore, until further notice, the Board of Directors has authorized an initial allocation of 1.00 acre-foot per acre starting March 1, 2018. The District will make monthly allocation updates as the water supply season progresses.**

**HOWEVER, BE ADVISED THAT THIS AMOUNT OF WATER MAY BE THE ONLY ALLOCATION FOR THE YEAR IF WATER SUPPLIES DO NOT DEVELOP.**

**Your total allocation is based on the number of acres you pay taxes on according to District records. No water will be allowed to be used on land owing delinquent standby charges or assessments. All accounts must be current in order to use the water or transfer water to another landowner. Once your allocation is exhausted, your meter will be locked. Any subsequent unauthorized use will result in your meter being removed, the service disconnected and a fine of \$10,000 placed on your account. Each landowner's water is as important as all others. There will be no tolerance for theft or unauthorized use.**

Water is allocated to each eligible acre that pays District Proposition 218 assessments and the District Acreage Standby Charge. All water allocated to a landowner can be used on any parcel the landowner chooses. A landowner not using his/her allocation can agree to have that water transferred to anyone they choose. If you think a parcel is not going to use the allocation, the District will help you locate the owner. Any arrangement between landowners is not subject to District approval. However, the District will need to have a signed agreement between landowners transferring water from one landowner to the other for our records. We have a form for your use.

**Those landowners who may be able to deliver groundwater into the Friant-Kern Canal to supplement their surface water allocation should contact the District immediately.** The District is working with the Bureau of Reclamation to finalize the parameters of pumping groundwater into the Friant-Kern Canal. We expect an agreement to be forthcoming. No groundwater may leave the District; however, pump-in groundwater can be used on any parcel within the District's boundaries. Groundwater may also be transferred to other landowners within the District.

Please contact the District office at 559-562-2581 if you need further information.