



Adopted: February 11, 2003
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Lower Tule River Irrigation District Groundwater Export Policy

Background

One of the primary goals and purposes of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District is to enhance the groundwater resources that underlie the District. The District has endeavored since its creation in 1950 to import as much surface water as possible to offset the use of groundwater for irrigation purposes and to replenish the aquifer through direct recharge via sinking basins, river channels and unlined canals.

California Law provides guidance relative to the use of groundwater and in particular the exporting of groundwater from within a defined basin. The policy of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District does not allow the exporting of groundwater outside of the groundwater basin that underlies the District in anyway that is inconsistent with California Law.

The Board of Directors recognizes that in certain instances groundwater can be the only source of irrigation water that can be utilized by landowners of the District. The District places no encumbrances on the use of groundwater for irrigation within District boundaries. The Board also recognizes that the groundwater basin underlying the District does not parallel the boundaries of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District.

In certain instances landowners have needed to use wells from within the District boundaries to pump groundwater that is ultimately delivered to lands outside the Lower Tule River Irrigation District. In order to protect the balance of the landowners within the District, to meet the stated needs and purposes of the District and to assist landowners with irrigation needs outside of the District boundaries the Board of Directors of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District has adopted a Groundwater Export Policy.

Policy

1. The Board of Directors on an individual case basis shall consider exporting of groundwater. Approval to export groundwater shall be by Board action on a case by case basis.

2. Permission to export groundwater shall be granted within the calendar year only. Allowances for exporting groundwater shall expire on January 1st of each calendar year and must be subsequently renewed thereafter.
3. Individual landowners shall be allowed to pump no more than 2,500 acre-feet for export purposes within each calendar year.
4. The landowner shall reimburse the District \$25 per acre-foot for each acre-foot extracted for export purposes. Said cost is representative of the annual average cost to the Lower Tule River Irrigation District for the recharging of groundwater.
5. Groundwater exported from the Lower Tule River Irrigation District under this policy shall be for the express purpose of agricultural irrigation on lands owned by the exporter.
6. All exports shall be consistent with applicable regulations.
7. The landowner shall notify the District office prior to the commencement of the export and shall allow District staff access to the well sites at all times.