



## KENNEWICK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

### Policy 8.3

### Drought Resiliency

The Drought Resiliency Policy describes how the district will manage its water resources during a year of pro-rationed supply or drought, and authorizes the District Manager to take operational and legal steps necessary to effect this policy. It is in the interest of the District to engage in long term planning to increase resiliency and minimize the effects of future droughts, and to engage in near term planning to increase resiliency and minimize the impacts of a drought in any given water year.

#### **1. Authorized Activities:**

- 1.1. KID's planning should emphasize an adaptive approach to managing water in future droughts in order to maximize the District's flexibility;
- 1.2. KID should budget annually to build emergency drought mitigation funds in full water supply years in order to be prepared for the costs associated with drought (Reference Policy 2.37 Drought Mitigation Fund);
- 1.3. KID management is authorized to request storage releases from Total Water Supply Available (TWSA) to meet demands consistent with the parameters of KID's repayment contract with USBR, and the 2001 water rights settlement agreement and its 2011 amendment.
- 1.4. KID will continue to pursue electrification of the hydraulic pumps at Chandler to meet demands in a water short year, pursuant to Section 1208(d) of the 1994 YRBWEP II legislation, as amended.
- 1.5. KID will pursue additional water supplies from the Columbia River, groundwater (wells) or the Yakima River.
- 1.6. KID will continue to increase efficiencies through canal lining and the strategic placement of automated gates on District canals and laterals.
- 1.7. KID will explore sites for the placement of storage reservoirs to help supplement supplies during times of supply shortages, and to assist with peak instantaneous flow issues (i.e. Badger Coulee, Amon, etc.)
- 1.8. KID will continue to develop shallow aquifer recapture wells that allow the District to reuse project water stored artificially in the shallow aquifer (i.e. Badger Coulee, etc.)
- 1.9. KID management is authorized to pursue purchase of supplemental water or access to supplemental water as needed;
- 1.10. Conserved water savings should be placed in Ecology's Trust Water Rights Program for use in future drought years;
- 1.11. KID should be prepared to pay agricultural landowners (e.g. those larger than ten (10) acres of annual crops) to fallow their land during a drought to the extent that wise fiscal management of District resources allows, and may adopt an enabling provision in the applicable District policy;
- 1.12. KID water users who have a water allotment and who have beneficially used water on their property have protected rights. In years of adequate water supply, KID does not attempt to regulate or prioritize the nature of irrigation performed by its water users beyond limiting use to the amount of the annual allotment. In drought conditions, KID attempts to deliver to water users the most equal share of water available subject to delivery system limitations and instantaneous demand. However, in severe drought

conditions, the equal distribution of limited water supplies among KID water users may not generate significant beneficial use. KID’s water supply may be reduced to the point that no water users would be able to generate significant benefit if the water is shared as equally as possible. In such circumstances, KID will prioritize water deliveries based on the ability to beneficially use the water, i.e. KID will prioritize the uses to allow the available water to be beneficially used by at least some landowners. Traditional beneficial use principles and Washington state law (*see RCW 90.03.005*), deplore the waste of water: a use of water that creates no significant benefit is waste. State law directs water managers to allocate water among potential uses and users “based generally on securing maximum net benefits for the people of the state.” See RCW 90.54.020(2). Thus, in order to maximize those benefits, KID shall prioritize<sup>1, 2, 3</sup> the types of uses that get more or less of their allotment than the projected pro-ration percentage when there is insufficient water for all users to obtain significant benefit from the most equal share possible as follows:

**1.12.1.** Perennial crops and plants, including, residential and commercial landscape trees, shrubs and other perennial vegetation, residential fruit and vegetable gardens, and public space trees, shrubs, and perennials, including street trees. Perennial crops do not include hay, alfalfa, lawns, or grasses.

**1.12.2.** Annual crops

**1.12.3.** Public space lawns (parks, cemeteries, schools,)

**1.12.4.** Golf courses, residential lawns, and annual ornamental gardens

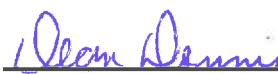
**1.13.** KID management is authorized to direct staff to prepare plans to be ready to drill emergency drought relief wells quickly if authorized by the Governor, and should also be prepared to assist farmers with existing wells to supplement with groundwater during a drought, if such actions are determined to have a beneficial impact on water supply (Reference WAC 173-166-070).

**1.14.** KID management is authorized to explore possible District actions which would encourage xeriscaping and other drought tolerant landscaping of all types.

<sup>1</sup>American Water Works Association (2011). *Drought preparedness and response*. Denver, CO: Author

<sup>2</sup>Pacific Northwest Project (2012). *The economic importance of western irrigated agriculture: water values, analysis methods, and resource management decisions*. Kennewick, WA: Author

<sup>3</sup>American Planning Association (2013). *Planning and Drought*. Chicago, IL: Author

Date	Rev. #	Action	Signature
Sept. 20, 1994	0	Policy #61 Water Rationing	John C. Pringle Board President
Feb. 6, 2001	1	Procedure #61 Water Rationing	John C. Pringle Board President
Mar. 18, 2014	0	Initial Approval as Policy 8.3 Drought Plan	Kirk Rathbun Board President
Oct. 6, 2015	1	Revision	David McKenzie Board President
Jan. 15, 2019	0	Initial Approval as Policy 8.3 Drought Resiliency	 Dean Dennis Board President