

METROPOLITAN TO CUT AGRICULTURAL WATER DELIVERIES ON JANUARY 1, 2008

Yesterday (6-11-07) the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) announced that the agency intends to send a notice to its member agencies before the end of June 2007, advising that agricultural water deliveries will be interrupted beginning January 1, 2008. Growers who participate in Metropolitan's Interim Agricultural Water Program should expect to have their water deliveries cut by at least 30% at that time.

The base year against which cuts will be measured is expected to be the period from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Reductions will be based on monthly targets, but they will be reconciled over two, six month blocks. Penalties will be applied for overuse. Growers are advised to contact their local water retailers to discuss how the reductions will be calculated, since there may be some differences in how agencies administer the program at the local level.

According to Metropolitan's General Manager, Jeff Kightlinger, the decision to curtail agricultural deliveries is based on environmental issues surrounding the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Drastically reduced pumping from the Delta has severely limited State Water Project supplies which Metropolitan relies upon, in part, to service southland customers. The situation is further exacerbated by this year's limited precipitation.

Metropolitan expects to give its member agencies six months to prepare for the IAWP reductions. In the event that the region experiences heavy rain during the fall and winter months, Metropolitan has indicated that it will consider rescinding the interruption. Meanwhile, growers within Metropolitan's service area should contact their local water retailer to prepare for the cuts.

A list of Metropolitan's member agencies can be found at:

<http://www.mwdh2o.com/mwdh2o/pages/memberag/member04.html>

A map of Metropolitan's service area can be found at:

<http://www.mwdh2o.com/mwdh2o/pages/memberag/member03.html>

A list of San Diego County Water Authority sub-agencies is at:

<http://www.sdcwa.org/about/member-map.phtml>

WE WILL KEEP YOU APPRISED OF DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR. IN THE MEANTIME, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL WATER DISTRICT FOR DETAILS SPECIFIC TO YOUR SERVICE AREA.



Tom Bellamore

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