

## New Policy Explanation for Water Users

POLICY: WMD 300

AFFECTS: STARTUP PLANNING AND PROCEDURES



The TID board recently reviewed planning and procedures to be prepared for and execute startup efficiently and fairly and developed a formal policy to ensure accountability. This explanation is provided to help you understand the process we adopted and how it affects your first water of the irrigation season.

Ditchriders are to be given time to inspect their areas during shutdown so they can list and prioritize maintenance issues and get a start on routine repairs. The TID Engineering and Operations & Maintenance departments are required to formalize processes to assure that maintenance and rehabilitation projects are planned and executed effectively using appropriate resources and have a low risk of interfering with the start of the irrigation season. Contingencies are built in to curtail non-essential work and hire additional contractors to complete those that must be finished.

TID must communicate effectively with SMRID and RID to get an estimate of when water is likely to be available. This helps us with timing wrap-up of maintenance and construction projects. The three boards approve the recommended startup week based on weather. TID needs to be careful because if SMRID is ready earlier than they expect and we aren't aware of this, we look like we aren't ready to go. TID will post the advertised startup week on our website and direct to water users through the TID text/email notification system.

Administration is required to have the parcel information ready for ditchriders to review before they run water. Ditchriders are to be given time and seasonal workers to inspect and clean out their works before we start turning water into TID works. They also are to be given time to review their seasonal parcel information.

**The green light for ditchriders to start taking water order requests** will be one day after Horsefly Check is up AND SMRID is receiving TID water orders OR the first day of the advertised startup week, whichever is earlier. Even after receiving a water order request, **these can only be fulfilled** for those areas that are able to be served. This means:

- The upstream system has been flushed, checked up (canals) and charged (pipelines)
- There is sufficient water flowing in to meet the demand out
- If from a reservoir, that the reservoir is at least at minimum operating level
- If from the SMRID main canal (direct or pipeline), SMRID is receiving TID water orders

Water orders will then be filled on a first come, first served basis.

The TID website will update startup progress daily until all areas are running.

The TID board and staff thank you for your cooperation as we implement this new policy!