



March 2022 District Update

With the start of the irrigation season quickly approaching the district is providing a quick update on recent activities and items of interest.

2021 Account Credits

On March 24, 2022, the district sent out assessment invoices to most district water users reflecting 2021 assessment credits. The invoice includes the application of a credit related to the district receiving drought aid funding from the State. If you recall the district received \$5.5 million for purposes of compensating district patrons for water shortages due to extreme drought and Endangered Species Act obligations, preventing water user accounts from being in arrears, and ensuring NUID remains financially solvent and can continue to deliver water to district patrons. To date, \$4.6 million has been credited to patron accounts. The district anticipates having the remaining credits issued by the end of April 2022.

Lake Billy Chinook Project

On March 3, 2022, the district requested initiation of an agreement between the district and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to conduct an appraisal or other relevant study of the proposed Crooked River Water Quality and Supply Reliability Pumping Plant (Project), better known as the Lake Billy Chinook Pumping Project. The study is needed to further refine conceptual design of the proposed Project including any required documentation related to the problem, needs, project area, participants, proposed solution, and potential obstacles. Additionally, initiating this study is needed to further define the ecosystem benefits and allow for a determination of the likelihood of the Project moving to a full Feasibility Study. A USBR Project Manager has been assigned to the study project and a study project kick-off meeting is in the planning stages. In addition, the district is in initial discussions with Oregon State University to assist the district with an Economic Study of Jefferson County and the economics related to agriculture.

FY 2023 Congressional Directed Spending Requests and 2022 Earmark

The district is currently preparing Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests for the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations process. The district is requesting funding for several district projects including funding for the Lake Billy Chinook Project (Priority 1). A CDS is a type of federal grant, with the primary difference being the recipients, amounts, and purposes are specifically listed in annual congressional appropriations bills. In addition, the district was the recipient of \$550,000 congressional earmark to line a portion of the districts main canal that has significant seepage.

2022 Water Year and Emergency Drought Declaration

The district understands many are anxious about the upcoming irrigation season and what water allotments might look like. The North Unit board will be holding a special board meeting on March 29 to discuss 2022 water supplies and 2022 irrigation allotments. An allotment announcement will be sent out to water users following the March 29 meeting. On March 21, 2022, Governor Brown issued Executive Order NO. 22-04 declaring "A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN CROOK, JEFFERSON AND MORROW COUNTIES." This declaration can open doors to funding opportunities for producers through State and Federal drought aid programs.