July 10, 2014
Irrigation Allowance Index Workshop

Four Goals

1. Understand the background on Emergency Ordinance E.
2. What is the Irrigation Allowance Index and what does it mean to Growers.
3. What online resources/tools are available.
4. How to do paperwork.

What is the Irrigation Allowance Index?

- It is a annual reporting requirement by the FCGMA, that is used by Growers and the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency to determine a groundwater extraction allocation.

- The index should be below 1.0. If its greater than 1.0, surcharges can be assessed by the FCGMA.

How is it computed?

- It is a ratio:

$$\frac{Applied\ Water}{Irrigation\ Allowance}$$

- Where do the terms come from?
  - Applied water is all sources of water, groundwater, surface water, potable water, etc.
  - Irrigation Allowance is computed based on crop type, acres, duration grown

Where do I get the numbers?

- Applied Water
  - Extractions from wells are included (already reported).
  - Deliveries from United Water Conservation District, Pleasant Valley County Water District, mutual water companies, municipal entities, etc. are included.
  - Deliveries of water from a neighbors well would be included. Note-form change.
  - (This goes on the IAI form)

Where do I get the numbers?

- Irrigation Allowance
  - Agricultural crops receive an irrigation allowance (it is in acre feet per acre)
    - Some allowances are for permanent crops, such as avocado and citrus
    - Some allowances are for seasonal crops.
  - Computing the allowance is fairly straightforward, but it can be tricky in some cases (multiple crops)
    - Today's workshop is designed to clarify these cases.
  - (This goes on the IAI form)

Where did the Irrigation Allowances come from?

- Multi year analysis from the Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center- with tech support from:
  - U.C. Cooperative Extension
  - Growers

- The FCGMA recently reduced these numbers by 25% as part of Emergency Ordinance E.
  - Extensive review of data indicated that many of the irrigation allowances were high.

Will new Irrigation Allowances be developed?

- Yes.
- We are using standard CIMIS based methods to develop additional numbers right now.
  - Pasture, Artichokes, Cover Crop (mustard), Wine Grapes, and Stonefruit.

- We are obtaining input from the U.C. Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor's office.

Will the FCGMA consider reducing the numbers again?

- Yes.
- On February 1, 2015, the Board may undertake an additional adjustment to irrigation allowances, or other pumping restrictions, in order to achieve a cumulative 10% reduction in pumping by Agricultural Operators.

- The same step occurs August 1, 2015 to achieve a cumulative 20% reduction in pumping.

Other Questions

- Is there a cap on extractions?
  - Yes. Its crop specific. Note that there is an overall cap of 4 AF/acre in the Las Posas Basins already.

  - The Board may consider setting an overall cap for other areas within the Agency.

  - We are seeking the Board's direction August 15, 2014 to make the upper limit more clear.

Other Questions.

- I'm a well owner/operator and customer of a water company. Who files this IAI paperwork?
  - The agricultural property owner.

- I don't own a well but am a customer of a water supplier? Who files this IAI paperwork?
  - We are working with water suppliers to find best solutions.

- We are seeking the Board's direction August 15, 2014 on this issue.

Other Questions.

- Can the FCGMA assess surcharges for water that is not groundwater?
  - No.

  - The Ordinance Code is not as clear on this issue as it needs to be. We are seeking to clarify this at the Board's August 15, 2014 meeting.

Other Questions.

- What's the fallowed acreage water allocation?
  - Stakeholders and the Board determined that if there were a case where the irrigation allowance (AF/Acre) became lower than the crop water demand (AF/Acre), some land may be fallowed.

  - In that event, a fallowed land irrigation allowance can be used to provide water from the fallowed area to the area currently under irrigation.

Reporting Period has changed.

- Shift to crop year starting August 1 means there is a "Restart" in the reporting period.

  - First- close out first 7 months of calendar year 2014.

  - Then- restart reporting August 1.

Reporting for first seven months of 2014

- You will receive the Semi-Annual Statement for 2014-1, but it will cover **7**, not 6 months.
  - Mail to you first/second week of August.
- Allocations pro rated for 7 months/12 months
  - Except for certain seasonal crops.
- Option to file as usual under pro rated AHA+BL or Irrigation Allowance Index (IAI).
- Extraction charge remains $4.00 and acre-foot (AF).

Reporting Starting August 1, 2014

- Agricultural well operators report extractions for the first and second half of each calendar year.
  - August 1- Dec 31
  - January 1- July 31 (reports due Aug-Oct)
    - Change to Aug-Dec 31 will be considered by Board soon.

- Filings for the Irrigation Allowance Index (IAI) are now due after the crop year ends (reports due Aug-Oct)

What does the Grower need to do starting August 1.

- Learn how to calculate the Irrigation Allowance.

- Calculate it for your crops.
  - If your crops change, revise the calculation.
  - If you need assistance, please contact FCGMA staff.
  - Because the FCGMA may reduce the allowance in February, and August plan accordingly.
  - Learn how to use a mapping tool.
- Check FCGMA website for training and tools.

What does the Grower need to do starting August 1.

- Using the Irrigation Allowance, determine how much water can be applied to your crops without exceeding the IAI of 1.0.

- Track your water use accordingly.
  - Record groundwater extracted
  - Record other water sources
    - Water company? Neighbor's well?

- Put the required data on Agency paperwork.

What does the Grower need to do starting August 1.

- First part of 2014/2015 crop year
  - Read flowmeters August 1 and Dec. 31
  - Report extractions/pay extraction charge ($6 AF)
- Second part of 2014/2015 crop year
  - Read flowmeter July 31, 2015.
  - Report extractions/fill out the IAI paperwork/pay extraction charge ($6 AF)
  - Consider using the online filing system to <u>make map, calculations, and save time</u>.

-- End --