

SURFACE WATER LOAN INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

There is no excuse not to use surface water! Stockton East Water District has two programs available to agricultural water users in the district, making it easy to finance the improvements needed to take advantage of surface water supplies. Two programs, individually or combined, are now available, each requiring an agreement from the landowner to use surface water on the property. Cost of installation is determined by the agreed-upon cost less any reimbursements by other agencies

Cost Recovery Program

With this program the landowner can recover the entire cost of installation by receiving low-cost water from the district.

The landowner initially installs the improvements at his or her cost. As surface water is used on the property, the landowner pays only the groundwater charge for water (currently \$4.58 per acre foot) rather than the currently applicable surface water rate (currently \$20.00 per acre foot), until the landowner recovers the entire cost of the improvements. Although it could take longer, recovery typically occurs in less than seven years.

Low Interest Loan Program

With this program the landowner obtains a loan from the district for the full amount of improvements. The loan is paid in five equal annual installments at low interest (currently about 4%).

STOCKTON EAST IS HERE TO HELP YOU DIVERT SURFACE WATER

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ENCOURAGING THE USE OF SURFACE WATER

The California legislature established Stockton East Water District in 1948 to insure proper management of the underground water basin and provide supplemental water supplies. The district provides surface water for both agricultural and urban uses, and encourages the continued expansion of surface water diversions instead of pumping groundwater for the benefit of the groundwater basin. By providing surface water for agricultural irrigation, the district supports a reliable water supply for a San Joaquin County's agricultural industry that is the area's leading economic activity.

SURFACE WATER USE CHECKLIST

1. Contact Stockton East (district)
2. Obtain easement (if needed)
3. Obtain California Department of Fish & Game (Fish & Game) and other permits (if needed)
4. Comply with California Environmental Quality Act
5. Install facilities per approved plans and agreement with Stockton East

Additional information and links to forms and the Fish & Game can be found at www.sewd.net/surfacewater.htm.

CONTACT STOCKTON EAST WATER DISTRICT

The first step in the process of using surface water is to contact the district. The district will let you know if surface water is available in your area, provide you with directions on how to start the process, and assist you through the process.

WHEN DO YOU NEED AN EASEMENT?

The first determination is whether or not you need an easement to reach the natural watercourse closest to your property. If your property does not abut the natural watercourse, you will need an easement or other right from the owner(s) of the property through which your pipeline to the watercourse must run. You can negotiate an agreement with your neighbor, or the district will help you in that regard. The district has easement and license forms available for your use, can assist with development of the required legal description, and can provide you with limited legal assistance to complete, notarize and record the legal documents required to confirm your right once all negotiations are complete. Sample legal documents can be found at www.sewd.net/surfacewater.htm.

WHEN DO YOU NEED A FISH AND GAME PERMIT?

Fish & Game Code section 1602 requires notification to the Fish & Game before beginning any activity that will:

1. substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream or lake;
2. substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake; or
3. deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake.

If needed, a Streambed Alteration Agreement will be prepared between the landowner and Fish & Game, which includes reasonable conditions necessary to protect the watercourse ecology. Links to Streambed Alteration forms at the Fish & Game website can be found at www.sewd.net/surfacewater.htm.

Permits may also be required from San Joaquin County (SJC) and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB).

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA

If a Streambed Alteration Agreement is necessary, its completion must follow documentation required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Stockton East will assist the landowner by acting as lead agency for preparation and certification of a CEQA document for use by Fish & Game.

COSTS

The landowner will be required to reimburse the district for any direct costs associated with his or her project, i.e., Fish & Game, SJC & CVFPB (a minimum of \$2,500 in 2008). District indirect costs (assistance) will be provided at no cost to the landowner with a commitment to use surface water.