

Tri-Basin NRD Water Conservation Incentive Program Ranking System

9/30/19 Revised 11/10/20

Introduction: Tri-Basin NRD launched the Water Conservation Incentive Program (WCIP) in March 2019. The program was initially aimed at groundwater irrigators. One of the main benefits that is anticipated is that it will encourage participants to be more efficient irrigators and help sustain groundwater supplies. We initially excluded CNPPID customers from the WCIP because the incentives set up for groundwater irrigators don't encourage conservation on commingled fields. We want to encourage irrigators who have parcels that have both surface water turnouts and groundwater wells (commingled parcels) to use canal water rather than groundwater on those fields to the greatest extent possible. This has the dual benefit of reducing groundwater pumping and increasing groundwater recharge.

Tri-Basin NRD plans to offer WCIP contracts to landowners on up to 8000 acres of groundwater-irrigated land and up to 8000 acres of commingled (CNPPID contract+ groundwater well) land. Because we anticipate that this program will be popular enough to attract more than 16,000 acres of total applications, we have developed a ranking system to identify those applications that will provide the greatest benefit to groundwater resources. The Tri-Basin NRD Board of Directors have targeted applications that score five or more points as the minimum acceptable for funding for 2021.

WCIP application ranking system for CNPPID customers

Phelps Canal East of Hwy 183 or E-67 system= 6 points

CNPPID water use in past three years totals less than three inches per acre= 3 points

Add 20+ newly contracted acres to existing CNPPID contract= 2 points

Rescind cancellation (pre-2020) of existing CNPPID Contract= 2 points

Fully contracting a parcel with CNPPID= 1 point

Parcel located in a Phase 2 or Phase 3 groundwater quality or groundwater quantity management area= 1 point

Existing flowmeter on well= 1 point

WCIP application ranking system for groundwater users

Parcel located in Phase II or Phase III Groundwater Quantity Management area= 2 points

Total pumping capacity on parcel exceeds 1000 gallons per minute= 1 point

Existing flowmeter= 1 point