

Staff Report

for the Water Rates Committee Meeting of October 20, 2020

TO: Water Rates Committee

FROM: Greg Jones, MBA, Interim General Manager

DATE: October 15, 2020

SUBJECT: University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Draft
Placer-Nevada Irrigated Agriculture and Water Use Survey

OPERATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and discuss UCCE's draft survey.

BACKGROUND:

The University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) is preparing to send a survey to raw water customers of Nevada Irrigation District, the Placer County Water Agency, South Sutter Water District, and other producers in the two-county region.

The survey is currently in draft format and is attached for discussion.

Attachments: (1)

- Draft Survey prepared by UCCE

Placer-Nevada Irrigated Agriculture and Water Use Survey

Commercial agricultural production uses a significant amount of irrigation water in the Sierra foothills, and water represents a significant overhead expense for most commercial producers. In most cases, this cost cannot be passed on to consumers. Crop selection criteria (high-value vs. low-value, water demand, etc.) are likely limited by soil type, climate, markets, and operator characteristics.

Introductions: The University of California Cooperative Extension is conducting this survey to better understand how agricultural irrigation water is used, the types of crops it supports, and economic and ecological impact of irrigated agriculture within Placer and Nevada Counties. This survey is being sent to raw water customers of the Nevada Irrigation District, the Placer County Water Agency, South Sutter Water District, and other producers in the two-county region. All responses will remain confidential and anonymous. Please answer each question as accurately and completely as possible. The results of this survey will help inform future educational programs, local decision-making, and policy development.

Note: if you lease your property to another individual or business, please work with your tenant to complete this survey.

1. What best describes you? Check all that apply:		
<input type="checkbox"/> I own property that I irrigate.	_____ acres	_____ individual parcels
<input type="checkbox"/> I lease property that I irrigate.	_____ acres	_____ individual parcels
2. Please indicate which of the following are true. Check all that apply:		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of the PNSSNS Subwatershed Group or obtain alternative coverage under the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I own and/or lease property that is enrolled in the Williamson Act.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I file an IRS Schedule F with my federal taxes.		
<input type="checkbox"/> None of the above.		
3. Please indicate which county/counties the parcels that you irrigated (regardless of the source of water) are located in:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Nevada (acreage: _____)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Placer (acreage: _____)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yuba (acreage: _____)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (list: _____) (acreage: _____)		
4. What are the sources and quantities of irrigation water you use? Please complete all that apply.		

<i>Agency or Source</i>	<i>Quantity Purchased / Used</i>	<i>Unit (AF, Miner's Inch, etc.)</i>
NID		
PCWA		
SSWD		
Permitted Stream Diversion		
Ground Water		
Other: _____		

5. How many acres of each of the crops below do you irrigate?

<i>Acres</i>	<i>Crop</i>
	Cereals - Corn
	Cereals - Rice
	Cereals - Wheat
	Cereals - Other
	Forage - Alfalfa Hay
	Forage - Hay Other
	Forage - Irrigated Pasture (including pasture that may be cut for hay)
	Forage - Silage
	Forage - Other
	Fruits - Apples
	Fruits - Berries - All
	Fruits - Cherries
	Fruits - Citrus - All
	Fruits - Grapes - Table
	Fruits - Grapes - Other
	Fruits - Kiwi
	Fruits - Peaches
	Fruits - Pears
	Fruits - Plums
	Fruits - Other
	Fruits - Persimmons
	Fruits - Apricots
	Nursery
	Nuts
	Nuts - Walnuts
	Nuts - Chestnuts
	Nuts - Pistachios
	Nuts - Almonds
	Golf Course
	Family Garden, Orchard, Landscaping
	Other

6. Do you use surface water (water district or other sources) for livestock drinking water? _____

7. Please describe the non-agricultural benefits from irrigation on property you own or lease (e.g., reduced fuel danger, wildlife habitat, etc.)

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8. How much do you currently pay for all of the water you purchase or use?

<i>Agency or Source</i>	<i>Total Amount</i>	<i>Per (year, month, etc.)</i>
NID		
PCWA		
SSWD		
Permitted Stream Diversion		
Ground Water		
Other: _____		

9. Please quantify the other annual cash costs associated with irrigation.

<i>Cost</i>	<i>Category</i>
	Capital costs (equipment, infrastructure, etc.)
	Pumping costs (if not included in Question 8)
	Labor
	Regulatory Costs (permits, fees, membership dues, etc.)
	Other: _____

What percentage of your total operating costs are the costs you reported in question 8 and 9 (water purchases and associated costs)? _____%

10. What would you do with the land you irrigate under the following water price increase scenarios? Check all that apply.

5% Increase	10% Increase	25% Increase	50% Increase	100% Increase
<input type="checkbox"/> Convert to a higher value crop <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in more efficient irrigation <input type="checkbox"/> Convert land to a non-agricultural use <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase less water <input type="checkbox"/> Pay the increased cost and continue operating <input type="checkbox"/> Sell the land <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Convert to a higher value crop <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in more efficient irrigation <input type="checkbox"/> Convert land to a non-agricultural use <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase less water <input type="checkbox"/> Pay the increased cost and continue operating <input type="checkbox"/> Sell the land <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Convert to a higher value crop <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in more efficient irrigation <input type="checkbox"/> Convert land to a non-agricultural use <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase less water <input type="checkbox"/> Pay the increased cost and continue operating <input type="checkbox"/> Sell the land <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Convert to a higher value crop <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in more efficient irrigation <input type="checkbox"/> Convert land to a non-agricultural use <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase less water <input type="checkbox"/> Pay the increased cost and continue operating <input type="checkbox"/> Sell the land <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Convert to a higher value crop <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in more efficient irrigation <input type="checkbox"/> Convert land to a non-agricultural use <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase less water <input type="checkbox"/> Pay the increased cost and continue operating <input type="checkbox"/> Sell the land <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

11. In the last 10 years, have you
 Increased acreage under irrigation

- Decreased acreage under irrigation
- Changed the crops you produce
- Sold land
- Purchased land
- Leased additional land
- Other: _____

12. Demographic Information:

What is your age? _____

Including you, how many generations of your family have farmed or ranched? _____

How many years have you personally managed your current operation or property? _____

What is the highest educational level you attained?

- High School
- Community College
- 4-year Degree
- Advanced Degree