Smart Water Management:

NORTH KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Embracing Flexibility in On-Farm Irrigation

Fresno Irrigation District (FID) in cooperation with North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) encourages growers to make sure their irrigation systems and practices are set up to avoid over irrigation and join water conservation efforts.

IRRIGATION FLEXIBILITY IS THE KEY TO SMART WATER MANAGEMENT ON THE FARM

Being flexible when it comes to irrigation practices helps increase water supply reliability between the wet and dry years. Our groundwater supply is crucial during drought years when surface water is scarce. Ensuring its reliability is critical. Join other FID growers who participate in flexible irrigation practices that help increase the reliability of our groundwater supply so it's available not just during the next drought, but for the next generation on the farm.

USING SURFACE WATER MAKES ALL OF US MORE SUSTAINABLE

Growers are encouraged to use surface water when available to help improve groundwater conditions. **How growers can improve conditions:**

- Flood irrigation systems instead of drip to take more surface water in wetter years
- When excess water is available, take advantage of FID deliveries and spread for on-farm recharge or storage in a local, private pond
- Contact FID to explore options for using drip or micro irrigation systems directly off an FID canal

STAY FLEXIBLE WITH FLOOD AND DRIP SYSTEMS: Keep flood lines intact for use when extra surface water is available. Install and use your drip irrigation for times when surface water supply is limited, and especially when using groundwater.

FID recommends growers to use a combination of drip and flood irrigation methods to use available water effectively. Maintaining both irrigation methods allows growers to maximize their water use and contribute to local conservation efforts.

Growers, assess the water need: implement soil moisture sensors in the field.

Soil moisture sensors in addition to flood and drip irrigation assist growers in water conservation by preventing overwatering, ensuring optimal water conditions for crops, and enhances irrigation efficiency.

Growers with soil moisture sensors have reduced pumping costs because they help prevent over-irrigation by providing accurate soil moisture levels.

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"I've found that using a combination of drip and flood irrigation methods, as well as implementing on-farm recharge, is a strategic response to use available water effectively, both for growing our crops and for saving the water below our feet."

- Austin Hubbell, Ranch Manager for Marthedal Enterprises, Inc

To hear more from Austin Hubbell on the importance of flexible irrigation practices, use your phone to hover over the QR code to the left, or visit northkingsgsa.org/growers.

"With our soil moisture sensors, we can be more scientific and more accurate with our irrigation."

- Jerry Doyel, Owner of Doyel Ranch

To hear from Jerry Doyel on the benefits of using soil moisture sensors, use your phone to hover over the QR code to the right or visit northkingsgsa.org/growers.

Benefits from having both drip and flood irrigation systems:

- Improves local groundwater levels
- Increases water supply reliability
- Proactive approach for drought preparedness
- Improves groundwater quality

Funding for water conservation efforts

Receive funding to help with irrigation improvements on your field!

FID growers can apply for funding to make on-farm improvements in water conservation (like soil moisture sensors), irrigation efficiency, and for implementing groundwater recharge.

Receive funding for on-farm improvements in water conservation

FID growers can apply to receive funding to improve water conservation and irrigation water use efficiency through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's and US Bureau of Reclamation's EQIP-WaterSMART Initiative.

This opportunity is unique as the funding pool awarded to FID is confined to eligible farms within the District's boundaries, meaning growers compete for funding within a much smaller applicant pool than usual for EQIP.

Conservation practices eligible for funding include:

- Microirrigation system
- Irrigation ditch lining
- Irrigation pipeline
- Irrigation reservoir
- Irrigation water management
- and more!

Receive funding for groundwater recharge

FID growers are encouraged to apply for funding to conduct groundwater recharge on their land under the US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service's Groundwater Recharge Program.

Past funding opportunities include:

- Recharge basin:
  $4,032 - $4,232 per AF storage
- Trench:
  $3.59 per cubic yard excavated
- On-farm recharge:
  $99–$103 per acre, per year

Sign up to receive the latest updates on funding opportunities

For current information on funding opportunities and application deadlines, **sign up for FID's email list at fresnoirrigation.com.**

Contact Fresno Irrigation District Special Projects Manager Kassy Chauhan at (559) 233–7161 or kchauhan@fresnoirrigation.com to discuss smart water management practices or to learn more about grant funding opportunities.