DIRECTORS:

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Mark Orme Manager-Secretary

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April 15, 2015

Dear Landowners and Water Users:

On April 10th the Department of Water Resources notified the District that it will impose full reductions under our Feather River settlement agreement. This means that Butte Water District will receive 50% of its 133,200 acre-feet full allocation. This is the first reduction since 1992.

Due to the reduction, the Board of Directors has implemented the District's Water Shortage allocation policy for the 2015 irrigation season. All applications for water should have been received at the District office by April 1, 2015. Any late applications will have to be reviewed by the Board at their regularly scheduled monthly Board meeting. At the end of March the Board implemented an emergency irrigation for permanent crops during the non-allocation period. However the District is still under the limitation period portion of our agreement with DWR which only allows us to divert up to 26,000 acre feet during the months of March, April, and May. For this reason the District will not re-introduce water into the system until April 27th. Prior to that time water users especially those with more than one parcel or field should supply the District with maps showing the fields to be irrigated with District water.

- Rice will receive an allocation for 50% of its historical planted acres
- Orchards and row crop will receive 4 irrigations
- Alfalfa will receive 5 irrigations
- Pasture will receive 6 irrigations

Conserving water will be a requirement and communication will be vital this year. Discharges from fields must be kept to a minimum at all times. Those using private ditches such as Biggs Ditch, Col. #3, Manzanita, Ownby or Water Users #1 need to have them in good repair and free of debris or no water will be introduced into those ditches.

The Districts Water Shortage Policy and all other forms and requirements can be viewed online at buttewaterdistrict.org. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Mark Orme, Manager Butte Water District