

Lower Tule River Irrigation District over the canal bank pumping policy

Background

Over the years the district has had a policy of not allowing over the canal bank pumping. Over the canal bank pumping causes issues with both accounting accuracies and operations capacities. With SGMA and recent flooding, the district has allowed some exceptions. There are times when allowing landowners to pump over the canal bank would be beneficial. Below is the district policy and terms under which over the canal bank pumping can be allowed.

Guidelines

The District General Manager will review and approve all requests for over the canal bank pumping on a case-by-case basis. Below are the minimum criteria for approval.

1. All pumps and pump locations must be approved by district staff. Pumps need to be placed off the canal banks to allow for travel to operate and maintain canals.
2. Pumps must have a barrier/ secondary containment to avoid fuel and oil spills.
3. Approval for over the bank pumping will be for no more than one single water season.
4. If landowners expect to take delivery of water on the property in the long term, they must have a plan or a long-term solution to continue taking surface from district facilities. Example, water users must have a plan to install a permanent turnout.
5. Water users must follow the districts ordering policy and process and take water in 24hr periods.
6. Pumps must have a meter at the pump or near pump area. Meters will be inspected by district staff to ensure meter is working correctly.
7. The pump in use must have telemetry or 24hr surveillance to notify if pump quits working. The ongoing issues of pumps shutting off is cause for a revocation of the annual approval. The water user will take responsibility for canal damage and property damage to other landowners as a result of any malfunctioning of pump operations. All requests must be accompanied by a signed liability form (attached).
8. The District may add other criteria based on specific locations and circumstances of each request.

Enforcement. If guidelines in an approved request are not met the approval will be revoked and the water user will be required to remove their equipment off district property.