



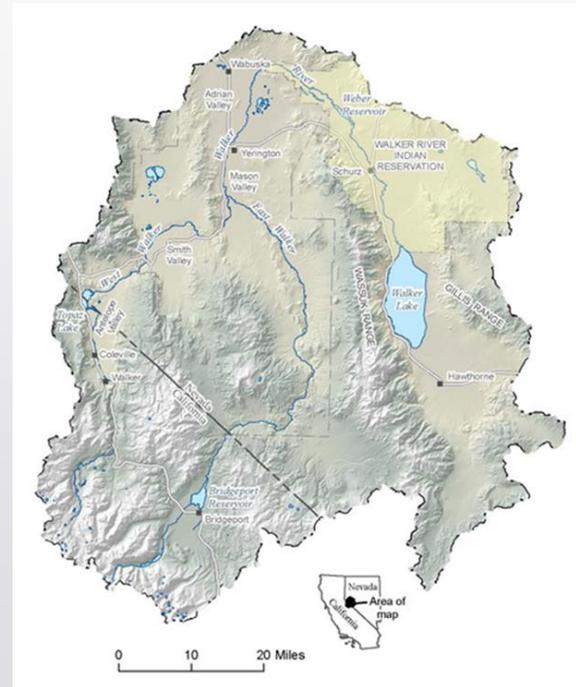
Walker River Irrigation District Water Rights Workshop

June 20, 2018

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WRID GM

Hydrologic Map of the Walker River Basin





Walker River Irrigation District

- **Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) was formed in April 1919 under the authority of the Nevada Irrigation District Act, now NRS Chapter 539. WRID encompasses approximately 235,000 acres of which 80,000 are irrigated. WRID owns and operates two storage reservoirs; east fork storage is located in Bridgeport, CA and west fork storage is located at Topaz Reservoir, a bi-state facility. WRID operates and maintains extensive, approximately 200 miles, drainage systems in both Smith and Mason Valleys. WRID is an independent (not a Reclamation Project) irrigation district. WRID is governed by a 5-member Board of Directors. Directors are water right holders elected at Large, but must reside within a division of the district. They are elected to a four-year term. An elector of the district must own land within the District with a surface water right appurtenant to it.**



US Board of Water Commissioners

- The US Board of Water Commissioners (USBWC) was formed under the C-125. It is a six person board appointed pursuant to the orders of the court United States of America, Plaintiff v. Walker River Irrigation District, et al., Defendants. There is also a Chief Deputy Water Commissioner or Water Master. The USBWC and the Water Master are an extension of the Federal Decree Court and their main purpose is to apportion and distribute the water of the Walker River, its forks and tributaries in accordance with the Federal Decree (C-125) in the Walker River System. The System includes: Bridgeport Valley, Antelope Valley, Smith Valley, Mason Valley, and the Walker River Paiute Tribe lands.



Water Master

- Monitor river flows and reservoir storage daily.
- Determine the year of priority to be served on a daily basis.
- Regulate, monitor, and maintain daily records of flows at points of diversion, including water for storage and stored water.
- Coordinate with the Antelope Valley Mutual Water Company, the Walker River Irrigation District and individuals to determine daily delivery schedules and daily delivery records.
- Direct the operation of Topaz and Bridgeport Reservoirs according to the Walker River Decree, and as to Bridgeport Reservoir, consistent with the Operations Manual.
- Maintain water right and assessment records.
- Prepare budget for annual operating expenses.
- Prepare annual plan of distribution of water which is submitted to the Decree Court.



WRID Reservoirs

- Topaz
 - Topaz Reservoir was completed in the early 1920's.
 - WRID storage right is recognized by a California water right license and in the Walker River Decree.
 - Capacity of approximately 60,000 AF with refill rights.
- Bridgeport
 - Bridgeport Reservoir was completed in the early 1920's.
 - WRID storage right is recognized by a California water right license and by the Walker River Decree right.
 - Capacity of approximately 42,500 AF with refill rights.
 - Bridgeport has an Operations Manual as required by Order WR 90-18 of the California State Water Resources Control Board and Order 6-89-154 of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.



WRID Drains

- WRID has drains that are owned and operated by Local Improvement Districts in both Smith and Mason Valley.
- The drains are over 224 miles long.
- The vast network of drains connect from the bottom of canal and ditch systems back to the Walker River for return flows.
- The drains work with the C-125 Decree because of return flows help to satisfy or replenish other Decree priorities downstream of where they enter back into the system.



C-125 Decree Water Rights

- Some incorporated from Rickey Decree No. 731.
- Approved in 1936 and amended in 1940.
- Priority system ranging from 1859-1921.
- Decree Water Rights based on Claims.
- Decree “Natural Flow” water, from rivers, creeks, lakes & tributaries. WRID Storage Rights listed under the C-125 Decree.
- Irrigation Season March 1st to October 31st, except in Bridgeport Valley and upstream of the Coleville gage (March 1st to September 15th).
- Stock water November 1st to last day of February.
- Covers Antelope Valley, Bridgeport Valley, Smith Valley, Mason Valley, & Walker River Paiute Tribe.
- 1953 Rules and Regulations: For the Distribution of Water.



Establishing Decree Water Priority (C-125)

- The 1953 Rules and Regulations of the United States Board of Water Commissioners provides that the Chief Deputy Water Commissioner is to determine the year of priority to be served to the individual Decreed users under the Walker River stream System utilizing the following formula: “He shall determine the total amount of water entering the Walker River Stream System through natural channels. He shall add to this accumulated total of natural flow water the amount of return flow he computes to be returning to the stream system through seepage, drain canals or any other sources. The sum total of water from these two sources shall be considered to be the total amount of water available to serve the vested rights under the Decree and the year of priority to be served shall be determined daily by the chief Deputy Water Commissioner from this information. If at any time the Chief Deputy Water Commissioner determines that there is more water available in the stream than is required to fill the rights of all of the vested users including the rights of the Walker River Irrigation District and other similarly situated to store water, then he shall prorate such excess water to all users in proportion to the rights already established.” (Page 4 of the 1953 Rules & Regulations)



WRID Storage Water Rights

- WRID has Storage Water Rights Licenses for Diversion and Use of Water with the California State Water Rights Board for Topaz and Bridgeport Reservoirs. Water may be stored without regard to priority from November 1st to last day of February and anytime during the irrigation season when Full Decree is being delivered. Dates for use of stored water are set by the WRID Board during the March monthly meeting every year.
- Supplemental Storage Water Rights are associated with Decree (Natural Flow) Priorities from 1874 to 1906.
- Newlands Storage was created after the completion of the Reservoirs and allocated “New Lands” a Storage Water Right within the described District lands.



WRID Certificate Water Rights

- WRID has State of Nevada Certificates for surplus Walker River surface water in Nevada. Certificates 8859 & 8860.
- Certificate 8859 is for the West Walker from May 1st to July 31st for a Duty not to exceed 89476.39 AFA.
- Certificate 8860 is for the East Walker from May 1st to July 31st for a Duty not to exceed 63688.00 AFA.



WRID Well Permit Water Rights

- WRID has State of Nevada underground Well Permit Rights Certificate 8861.
- Certificate 8861 makes this water available within the District by an exchange of surface water to holders in the described lands in the District from April 1st to September 30th not to exceed 3269.63 AFA.
- WRID bases the deliveries on a lottery system on years that the Well is operated.



WRID Info or Any Questions

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