



Truckee-Carson Irrigation District

Newlands Project

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District Manager

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NEWS BULLETIN FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All Media Outlets

Re: **Precautionary Release of Water from Lahontan Reservoir and Special Meeting of Board to Set Start of Irrigation Season**

Owing to the extraordinarily wet conditions existing throughout the Carson River watershed, the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (District) will commence a precautionary draw-down (draw-down) or release of water from Lahontan Reservoir commencing Saturday, February 11, 2017. When a draw-down is made, prior to the irrigation season, such water may be made available to any lands, whether water righted or not, without charge against a water user's annual allocation. A system of priorities will be followed first by delivery to the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, the Stillwater Wildlife Management Area, the Fallon National Wildlife Area, the Carson Lake and Pasture and Marsh, and the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Indian Reservation. Water will also be stored in regulatory reservoirs throughout the Newlands Federal Reclamation Project.

The draw-down is intended to balance the in-flow from anticipated run-off from the Carson River with releases of water to be made at Lahontan Dam. The draw-down is further intended to manage against any possible flood conditions that may ensue in the Lower Carson River channel in the Lahontan Valley. The rate at which releases will be made will coincide with current run-off forecasts. Area residents will first see water flow in V-Line and T-Line Canals. We anticipate introducing flows in the Carson River, below Carson Diversion Dam, at or near the same time.

We join with Churchill County Sheriff Ben Trotter in encouraging home owners residing along the Carson River channel in the Fallon area to remove any items of personal property within the channel that may serve to impede river flow. Such items may include fences or landscaping features that may cause the collection of debris during high river flows.

In the week up-coming, a survey will be made of conditions within the three-mile reach of the Carson River below Bafford Bridge on State Route 726. We encourage home owners in the area to allow entry by surveyors, through private lands where necessary, to facilitate the project. The survey will assist the District in the evaluation and management of future flows in the Lower Carson River. The District will provide notification of the survey to the Bafford area residents by telephone.

The District and Reclamation on a daily basis evaluate weather forecast and stream flow information provided by the National Weather Service, the Federal Water Master, the River Forecast Center in Sacramento, California, and the National Resources Conservation Service.

The District Manager will appear before the Board of County Commissioners for Churchill County, on Wednesday, February 15, at 2:00 p.m., and there provide the Commission with the latest run-off forecast and strategy for water management.

The Board of Directors for the District will conduct a special meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 and consider a start date and conditions of water delivery for the 2017 Irrigation Season.