



BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday- February 27th, 2025

125 S. 13th Street ~ Sunnyside, WA 98944

Dial in by phone: +1 323-538-4434 ~ Phone conference ID: 935 491 482#

AGENDA

1. 2025 water supply, water leases, funding and drought preparation update.
2. Executive Session:
 - a. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Potential and pending litigation- State v. Acquavella.
 - b. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(2)(a)(iii). To evaluate the legal risk of a proposed action.
 - c. Executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b). Selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate.

Item #1



To: Board of Directors

From: Scott Revell, District Manager
Sage Park, Policy Director

Date: February 27, 2025

Re: 2025 Water Supply Update & Drought Preparations

2025 Water Supply Update

✓	<u>Reservoir storage status on February 26, 2025</u>		<u>Capacity (Ac. Ft)</u>
	Keechelus	23%	157,800
	Kachess	27%	239,000
	Cle Elum	14%	436,900
	Bumping	20%	33,970
	Rimrock	26%	198,000
	Total	21% of capacity	1,065,670

- ✓ Water in storage is **35% of average**, which is the 3rd lowest since 1971.
- ✓ Precipitation for the water year is **78% of average** to date which began on Oct. 1, 2024. The water year to date is similar to the 1993 and 1994 water years.
- ✓ Snowpack is **89% of average** in the upper Yakima River mainstem basin and **101% of average** in the Naches River basin.
- ✓ The first 2025 water supply forecast will occur on Thursday March 6th.

2025 Drought Year Water Supply Scenarios (Each scenarios assumes 8,560-acre leased)

Supply %	Prorationing	Shutdown	Peak Delivery	Season End
40%	May 1	15 days	36 days at 3.6 gpm/ac	Oct 1
45%	May 1	15 days	41 days at 4.0 gpm/ac & 33 days at 3.6 gpm/ac (on the shoulders)	Oct 1
50%	May 1	10 days	61 days at or above 4.0 gpm/ac	Oct 1

More leased water, longer shutdown(s), a different season end target or revised delivery amounts can all be used as the supply forecast varies from these amounts.

Senior Rights Water Sources (@\$300/AF)

Entity	Acre feet	Cost	Status	Notes
SMID	7,500 (up to)	\$2,250,000	Option agreement executed (not exercised)	Option must be excised by 3/15 1,182.5 AF in April* 1,182.58 AF in May*
<u>Estoos</u>	<u>1,060***</u>	<u>\$ 318,100</u>	Authorized by the Roza Board on 2/11/25	Contract being drafted, should be complete by 2/28 (not leased in 2024)
Total	8,560	\$2,568,100		
New Suncadia	689	\$ 206,700	Not authorized	Owner is willing to lease (amount could go down due to trib curtailments)
Mack Creek Ranch	284.82	\$ 85,446	Not authorized	Owner is willing to lease
<u>SC Aggregate</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>\$ 42,600</u>	<u>Not authorized</u>	<u>Inquiry pending-very likely</u>
Total	1,115	\$ 334,746		Would total 9,676 AF & \$2,902,846 if authorized***
SVID**	7,500 (up to)	\$2,250,000		Would total 17,176 AF & \$5,152,846

*Prorationing occurring in April or May will reduce the amount available. This water may not be able to be moved for use past Sept 30.

**Some or all of this water could go for instream flows if Roza does not pursue it and it may be possible to access other funding for this water and which could reduce TWSA impacts to Roza.

***\$1,395,154 would remain from \$4,298,000 (which equates to 4,650 AF)

Available Funds

Source	Amount	Notes
Roza drought fund (2/1/25)	\$3,400,000	\$225,000 of this amount has been spent for the SMID option fee
Ecology 2024 funds	\$ 148,000	Pending-highly likely. Reimbursement for 2024 drought expenses
Ecology 2025 funds	<u>\$ 750,000</u>	50% match up to 25% of total \$3M Ecology drought fund. Reimbursable to Roza from state. Approval appears very likely.
Total	\$4,298,000	14,326 AF if all funds were used (w/ reimbursements)

Note: Each additional 5,000 AF leased = \$1,500,000 (@\$300/AF)

Water Leasing Issues:

1. **Is the Board interested in leasing New Suncadia/Mack Creek Ranch & SC Aggregate water?** If we lease one of them, we should lease all of them, because the amounts are small. For the same reason, if the Board chooses not to lease from one of them the District should probably not lease any of them.
2. **Should SVID water be leased? If so, how much? Should this be based on available funds?** If the Board choose to lease water until the found funds are exhausted it may be possible to the use federal/state funds to lease water from SVID land owners for the in-stream benefits to fish and reduce the amount of reduction to the proratable supply (May 10, 1905 priority date), which includes Roza's water supply.
3. **Should the District stop leasing water at or below \$3.4M expended?** The Board could choose to:
 - Not to lease any additional water, or
 - Could choose to wait until after the March water supply forecast is issued, or
 - Reprogram other funds to lease more water
4. **Should less than \$4,298,000 be leased in order to begin rebuilding the drought fund for 2026 and beyond?** There are not expected to be federal funds available in 2025 to replenish the drought fund. Expected state funds are listed on page 2. If there the drought continues into 2026 the district will need to replenish some or all of the drought funds.

A drought which extends into 2026 could cause the Board to redirect the \$2.3M +/- that would have gone to capital projects (previously the pressure project line item which funded ECS projects) in 2026 to drought fund.

Roza Supply W/ Leases in Prior Drought Years (Water right entitlement is 375,000 AF)

Typical annual Diversion	300,000 aft +/-	
	176,000 af	
	<u>+11,000 af</u>	
2015 Diversion	187,000 af +/-	w/ 11 KAF of leases & pump backs
	154,278 af	• 41% w/out transfers
	<u>+28,381 af</u>	• 28.3 KAF of leases & pump backs
2005 Diversion	182,659	• 49% supply in 2005
	143,185 af	• 38% w/out transfers
	<u>+16,818 af</u>	• 16.8 KAF of leased water
2001 Diversion	160,003 af	• 43% supply w/ transfers in 2001

Effects of a shutdown on Water Supply Management

Length of Shutdown	Net AF (after draining/filling)	Days added in Sept/Oct at minimum flows	Points (.03-.04gpm/ac) that could be added during the peak (if not added to Sept/Oct)
8 days	5,650	7	+2 for 3 weeks (900AF= +1 pt/week)
10 days	7,250	9	+2 for 4 weeks
12 days	8,850	11	+2 for 4.9 weeks
14 days	10,450	13	+2 for 5.8 weeks
16 days	12,050	15	+2 for 6.7 weeks

✓ The same principle applies to leasing equivalent amounts of senior water

Prior Drought Year Shutdown Comparisons

Storage control	Year	Shut down began	Shut down ended	Days off	End of season date
May 21	2025	May 22	May 31	10	October 12
April 15	2015	May 10	May 31	21	October 12
May 25	2005	April 6	April 29	23	October 1
June 6	2001	May 8	May 29	21	September 24
June 1	1994	May 16	June 6	23	September 8
June 13	1993	N/A	N/A	N/A	October 4
May 16	1992	N/A	N/A	N/A	September 16

Fallowed Roza Acres

Year	Total assessed acres fallowed
2015	4,872
2021	4,127
2024	6,290
2025	Anecdotally will increase by 1,500+ acres

Winter Minimum Flow Table & Fisheries

Chris Lynch will discuss USBR's historical approach to maximize stored water and USBR's Yakima Project system operations, flow measurements, measurement calibration, adjustments during the winter, field checks, flood control and the role of the regional office in Boise. He can also discuss snow measurement methodologies and their variables and accuracy.

Walt Larrick will discuss development of the flow table below following the 1980 federal court decision (Quackenbush) which required water to be released to incubate salmon/steelhead eggs and how the approach has changed over time as the science has evolved.

Yakima Basin Minimum Flows

Table 3-3. Minimum winter instream flow targets (cfs).

Location	Minimum Flow (cfs) by Water Year Type		
	Dry	Average	Wet
KEE	Inflow - 80	100	120
KAC	Inflow - 30	30	30
EASW	190	250	300
CLE	Inflow - 180	220	250
BUM	Inflow - 130	Inflow - 130	Inflow - 130
RIM	Inflow - 50	75	90
TICW	75	100	120

- El Nino winter 2023-2024, indicates winters having near to below average precip and warmer than normal temps.
- Nov 1 carry-over of less than 150 KAF
- These call for Spawning flows set to the low range:
- Kee-80, Kac-30, Easw-190, Cle-180, Bum-130, Rim-50, Ticw-75 cfs.