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**CONVEYANCE. COMMITMENT. CUSTOMER SERVICE.**

January 13, 2023

**RE: Upcoming FID Proposition 218 Election**

Dear FID Landowner,

For over 100 years, Fresno Irrigation District (FID) landowners like yourself have invested in a legacy of water by financially contributing to infrastructure, facilities, and supply to support the production of bountiful crops, local jobs, and community growth.

Continuing this legacy will require further investments in activities that increase water supply capture and delivery efficiency; build infrastructure to help make the District drought resilient; and protect and defend local water rights for the future. At its Board meeting on January 12, the Board of Directors unanimously approved proceeding with a Proposition 218 election in 2023. As an FID landowner, you will be asked to vote in an upcoming Proposition 218 election to assist in these key areas. Ballots to vote in the election will be mailed to your parcel address in April.

Benefits of the increased investments will be focused in three key areas:

- **Surface water infrastructure:** Both new and improved water delivery infrastructure and services including necessary upgrades to aging infrastructure, to make sure we get water where it needs to go – to your farms and businesses.
- **Groundwater sustainability:** We plan to continue building new recharge basins and adding interties to as many existing basins as possible. We must continue progress towards achieving the benchmarks of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and other regulatory programs. Not only does this keep local control over our groundwater supply, but it also helps stabilize the local groundwater table.
- **Legal and water rights defense:** There are active threats against our water rights. FID will be enabled through Prop 218 investments to continue to protect and defend our area's precious surface water supplies against both existing and future threats.

To continue FID's next century of service, the Proposition 218 election proposes an initial Water Service Rate increase in 2024 to \$89/acre with additional increases over time to reach \$128.75/acre in 2028\*. This equates to \$35.60 per acre-foot of water delivered in

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President RYAN JACOBSEN Vice-President JERRY PRIETO, JR. CHRISTOPHER WOOLF  
GEORGE PORTER GREGORY BEBERIAN General Manager BILL STRETCH

2024 which remains some of the lowest rates when compared to neighboring irrigation districts.

There are several ways to learn more and have your questions answered by engaging with us over the coming months in the following ways: visit our Prop 218 webpage at [www.fresnoirrigation.com/prop218](http://www.fresnoirrigation.com/prop218) where you'll find resources like FAQs and the Engineer's Report; attend upcoming FID grower meetings this April (dates to be announced in February 2023); or reach directly out to our staff by phone at 559-233-7161 or email [Prop218@fresnoirrigation.com](mailto:Prop218@fresnoirrigation.com).

It's time to invest in the next era – to continue FID's legacy of providing reliable water and service.

Sincerely,



Bill Stretch  
General Manager



## CONTINUE THE LEGACY

### FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT PROPOSITION 218 ELECTION



**GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY**



**SURFACE WATER  
INFRASTRUCTURE**



**LEGAL AND WATER  
RIGHTS DEFENSE**

### WHY IS FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT HOLDING A PROPOSITION 218 ELECTION?

For over 100 years, the Fresno Irrigation District's (FID) constituents have financially invested in our area's extensive water rights, facilities, and infrastructure to grow bountiful crops, provide jobs, and grow communities. Building on the strong foundation, it's time to invest in the era that follows. FID is holding a Proposition 218 election to increase local investments in water management infrastructure and strategies, with an aim to continue the legacy our landowners have built in the greater Fresno area.

### COUNTING ON FID TO SERVE ITS LANDOWNERS

Through its history FID has demonstrated its commitment to agriculture, industry, cities, and communities by responding to the present and planning for the future. Over the last 20 years alone, FID has added key infrastructure and operations tools including groundwater recharge and regulation basins, pipeline, and canal lining. FID plans to continue investing in what leads to more efficient and reliable surface water deliveries and sustainable groundwater conditions for our landowners.

**+180** acres of recharge basins built since January 2020

**+370** acres secured since 2021 to build basins, with even more planned

*With over 100 successful years behind us, FID is ready to take the next steps necessary for another successful century. It starts with investing in the right tools and people to manage our precious water resources.*

**F** ORWARD PROGRESS ON GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY

**I** NVEST IN OUR SURFACE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

**D** EFEND OUR KINGS RIVER WATER RIGHTS

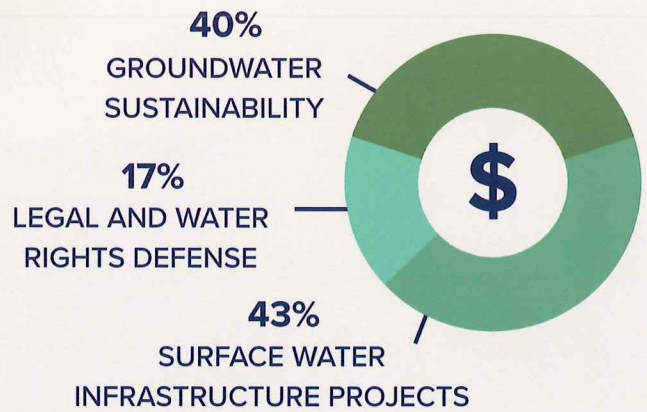
### WHAT IS MY ROLE AS AN FID LANDOWNER?

You are being asked to vote in a Prop 218 election using the ballot included in this package. The investment in FID from the election assessments are critical to continue the history of water supply reliability, conveyance, and excellent customer service to our growers and partners throughout the region.

We encourage you to visit [www.fresnoirrigation.com/prop218](http://www.fresnoirrigation.com/prop218) where you'll find Prop 218 documents and resources. We are available for your questions! Call us at 559-233-7161 or email [Prop218@fresnoirrigation.com](mailto:Prop218@fresnoirrigation.com).

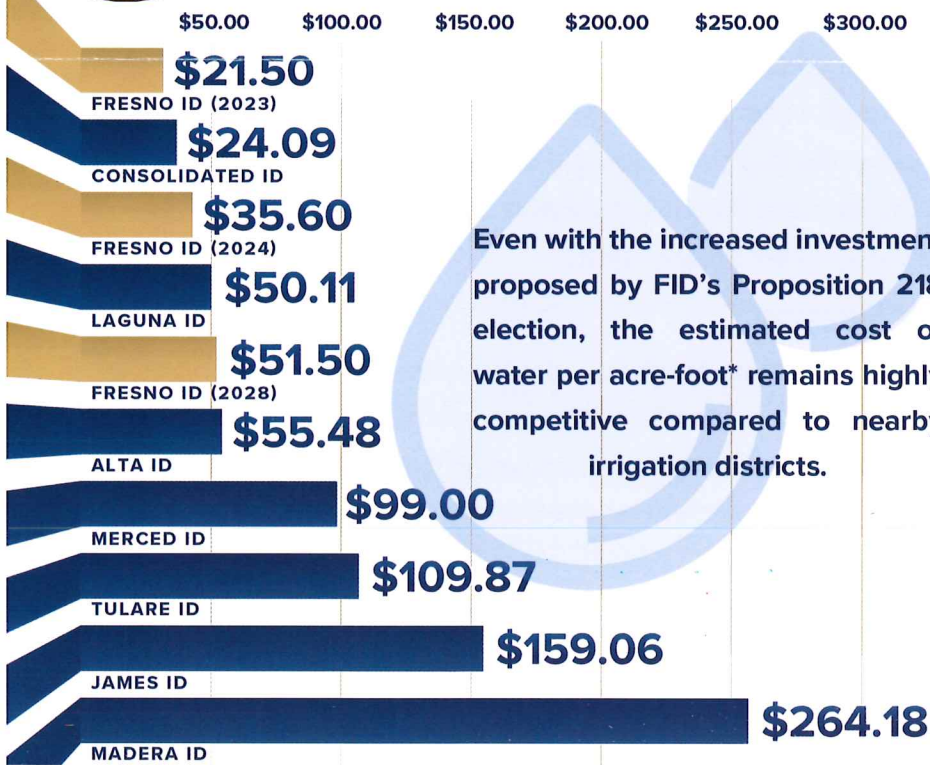
## PROPOSED ASSESSMENT

FID is proposing an initial Water Service rate increase in 2024 with gradual increases through 2028. For detailed information and a rate classification breakdown, review FAQs or the Engineer's Report on our website. FID will use assessment dollars to develop and maintain surface water infrastructure and protect the legacy of our landowners through action on drought, regulation, and existing threats to our Kings River water rights and future water rights battles.



## WATER COST COMPARISON

Estimated Cost of Water in FID Compared to Nearby Districts (per Acre-Foot)



Even with the increased investment proposed by FID's Proposition 218 election, the estimated cost of water per acre-foot\* remains highly competitive compared to nearby irrigation districts.

\*An acre-foot of water is equal to ~360,000 gallons, enough water to cover an acre of land about 1 foot deep. This chart was developed assuming an average 2.5 acre-feet per acre.

## EXCEPTIONAL WATER SUPPLY CONTINUES TO BENEFIT OUR LANDOWNERS

FID holds one of the strongest water supply rights on the Kings River, and on an annual average runs a four-to-five-month delivery of nearly 500,000 acre-feet.

*Despite facing the driest 3 years on record across California, FID made irrigation deliveries with a 3-month run in 2020, 1-month in 2021, and 3-month in 2022.*

Not all districts can say they have delivered irrigation water during the driest times.

*Fresno Irrigation District landowners have direct influence over the legacy of their land and our area's water supply. Prop 218 elections require the support of voters – FID landowners – to invest in activities that increase water supply capture and delivery efficiency, make us drought resilient, and protect local water rights.*

We encourage you to visit [www.fresnoirrigation.com/prop218](http://www.fresnoirrigation.com/prop218) where you'll find FAQs, Prop 218 documents like the Engineer's Report, and more. We are available for your questions! Call us at 559-233-7161 or email [Prop218@fresnoirrigation.com](mailto:Prop218@fresnoirrigation.com).

