



TID TIDINGS

Newsletter of the Tulare Irrigation District

Board of Directors

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Vice President

Michael Thomas

Scott Rogers

Dave Martin



J. Paul Hendrix
General Manager

The Board of Directors holds regular public meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am at the District office in Tulare

2013 WATER SUPPLY

Going, going, gone! That's the story around our water inventory this summer. One only has to drive around the TID canal system to see this – what should otherwise be a full system of canals and ditches this time of year is empty, and it's been empty for some time. Water ran for about a week last December, and another couple weeks during January/February. Not since last July did the District's service area see any appreciable irrigation run, and it was a short run at best. Despite a solid December snowpack, the lowest precipitation amounts on record for the five-month period January through May put the kibosh on any chance of a healthy run this summer.



The Main Intake Canal Southeast of Visalia - June 2013

Not that we didn't have *any* water. By latest measure we've got about 20,000 AF to work with for the summer period, plus the meager 5,800 AF already run last winter. Put in perspective, last year (also a dry one) we diverted about 50,000 AF, average years bring in about 150,000 AF, and in really wet years such as 2011, we diverted a whopping 345,000 AF. In actuality, in those wetter years such as 2011 and the year prior, half of the large diversions are devoted to recharging the underground reservoir from which growers draw from heavily in years like this one.

When the TID Board made the decision not to stage an irrigation run in early May, it looked like we had only 15,000 AF. The Friant Class 1 allocation, after dropping to a near all-time low of 45% the day prior to the May meeting, has inched up twice since, to 55% now. These increases afforded another 5,000 AF, adding maybe 4 to 5 days to a run, but still leaving TID with little to work with this summer. The Kaweah snow melt runoff finished out at only 29% of normal, even lower than projected a month or two ago. It's our Kaweah water rights and the Friant Class 2 water – TID's backbone supplies – that fuel the District's long spring and summer irrigation and recharge runs. Neither amounted to much this year, with the Kaweah supply being very minimal and, with USBR unable to meet its full Class 1 allocation, our Class 2 supply remaining at zero. The flows going down the San Joaquin River for the Restoration Program haven't helped either, but even in their absence this plays out to be a very water-short year.

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2nd Qtr. 2013

We aren't the only ones locally in this boat – Farmers Ditch Company, Lakeside Irrigation District, Corcoran Irrigation District and the lower Peoples Ditch Company systems aren't running either. For the most part, with the exception of Persian Ditch Company and Evans Ditch Company, the entire Kaweah channel system west of Hwy 99 is off for the summer. Heavy losses to transport water westerly to this part of the basin are part of the problem we were all facing. Many other parts of the Valley are looking at much shorter irrigation runs as well. The situation is worst on the south Valley's west side, where the Central Valley Project allocation is 20% and the State Water Project allocation stands at 35%, including to areas with vast permanent crop holdings and little groundwater to speak of.

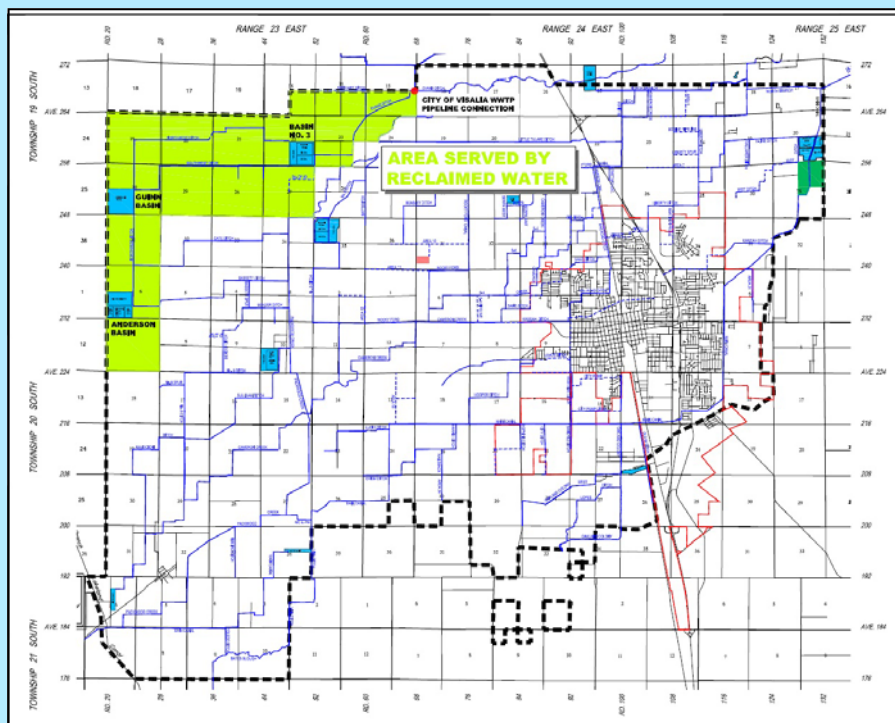
This has happened before in recent history. Since the advent of the Friant project and Kaweah water storage made possible by Terminus Dam, TID had no summer runs in 1977 (still the driest single year on record), and again in 1987 and 1990. Similar to this year, these three all brought little summer irrigation water to comprise a run, given inevitable canal and ditch seepage losses and the sheer number of turnouts to potentially serve. The infamous seven-year drought during 1928-34 brought with it several years too in which TID had little or no water to speak of.

So, what happens to the water supply we do have? In each of

these past years, TID has peddled off its water in sales and trades to other needy districts to salvage some value for it. It'll be no different this year. The TID Board directed staff to first find deals for water this year in trade for greater amounts back in future years of more ample snow and rainfall conditions. Some trades of this type have been secured, and others have been outright sales. Recipients include other east-side Friant districts, some with lesser access to groundwater as a backup supply are short of water for irrigation needs, much of this need being for permanent crops. All in all, the transfers and exchanges for some 20,000 AF this year will guarantee a return of a like amount of water in the near term future plus a substantial amount of revenue.

This insurgence of money will be deposited into the District's Groundwater Replenishment Reserve Fund and be dedicated to buying more water in future, more plentiful years for irrigation and recharge, and these purchases will occur at times when prices are much less. In the end, the District's supply balance will wind up water ahead by a wide margin, as we may well bring in five times as much extra water to our area as is being sent out this summer. In terms of maintaining groundwater stability in the region, this is a positive outcome despite the tough sledding this year in the absence of ditch water.

VISALIA EXCHANGE MOVES CLOSER TO REALITY



Highlighted in Green: Evans Ditch Company Service Area

An agreement has been struck between TID and the City of Visalia for a water exchange that will provide a year-round supply to a portion of our service area fed by Evans Ditch pictured at left, which includes the Northwest and Southwest ditch systems out of Basin No. 3. The arrangement will provide some 12,000 AF each year to this area from a pipeline coming from the Visalia wastewater treatment plant, in trade for 6,000 AF to be returned to Visalia on average, mostly in wetter years. The extra water from the City should help reduce groundwater pumping in the area and provide flexibility in moving other water supplies to the balance of the District. The return flows are not expected to materially impact our operations and will occur in times of surplus flows from the Friant-Kern Canal.

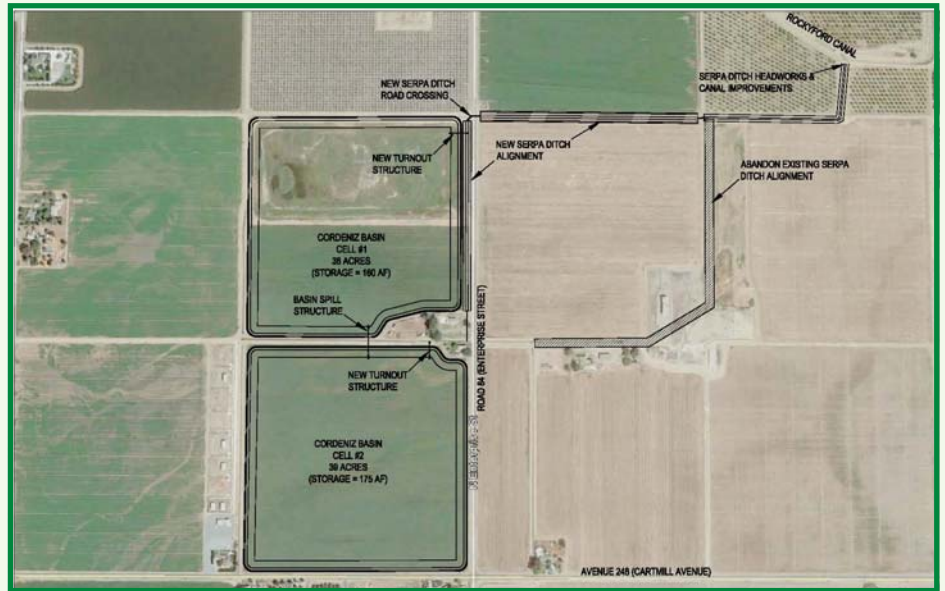
Water from Visalia's treatment plant will be treated to essentially drinking water standards and suitable for all crop types. TID commissioned a study by CSUF's Calif. Water Institute to examine the proposed exchange and its water quality impacts upon TID. The results of the study were favorable and discussed at grower meetings held at TID back in early March. There was general support amongst those landowners slated to have access to this new water supply source and, with such support confirmed, the TID Board approved execution of the water exchange agreement later that month. Approvals are now being sought from the state RWQCB and USBR to implement this innovative program.

New Federal Grant Award

The NRDC v. Rodgers Settlement and San Joaquin River Restoration Program brought with it a federal commitment to secure \$50 million in grant funding, over time, to pursue local water projects to mitigate for Settlement impacts. The first \$10 million of these grant funds has been made available this year under a competitive application process, and TID was one of four Friant districts awarded such a grant, ours in the amount of \$1.95 million. With this money, the District will provide matching funds to

- ◇ Assuming property acquisition, construct a 60-acre basin next to Enterprise Basin for groundwater recharge in partnership with KDWCD
- ◇ Conduct a study and prepare a plan for long-term expansion of recharge facilities within the District
- ◇ Propose and implement a long-term exchange program within the Friant Division to gain more imported water for conjunctive use recharge operations within our service area, and
- ◇ Utilize federal grant funds to purchase water in pursuit of the exchange program.

Our intention is to view this initial program as a pilot project of sorts, and test the effectiveness of expanding groundwater recharge efforts, both directly in basins and via in-lieu deliveries to growers, with full utilization of surplus Friant water supplies in wetter years. As more of the \$50 million in grant funding becomes available, TID will be in the running to secure more federal dollars to advance projects to further reduce the adverse impacts now being faced with implementation of the Restoration Program and its use of water from Lake Millerton historically diverted for delivery to the Valley's east side.



Cordeniz Basin to Adjoin Enterprise Basin

EMPLOYEE NEWS



With the departure of the District's prior Controller in February, we have found a very knowledgeable replacement with the arrival of Kathi Artis in late May. She comes to us from Artis & Company in Visalia. Since her post-high school education at COS and B.S. degree in Accounting at Fresno State, she has become a licensed CPA and gained extensive experience working as a public auditor with special district clients such as Kaweah Delta WCD and the Kaweah River Power Authority. Kathi thus brings with her a working knowledge of many of the local players in the water arena, and her understanding of general accounting and Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) compliance requirements will be of great benefit to financial activities here at TID.

Kathi lives in Visalia with her husband Gary and daughter Kelsi. Between them Kathi and Gary have four children and three grandchildren. Kathi enjoys traveling around the country to visit friends and fishing trips to Alaska, Mexico and Canada. Kathi enjoys her work as CFO for the Miss Tulare County Scholarship Pageant and is a member of the Visalia United Methodist Church.

Welcome Kathi!



*Tulare Irrigation District
6826 Avenue 240
Tulare, California 93274*

LOOK INSIDE...

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Visalia Exchange Moves Closer
to Reality
New Federal Grant Award
Employee News*

*Visit us at...
www.tulareid.org*



Founded in 1889, Tulare ID was one of the first irrigation districts in California. Its purpose is to serve the water supply needs of the greater Tulare area, a rich and agriculturally diverse region within the Southern San Joaquin Valley. The water provided comes locally from the Kaweah River and is also imported from the Federal Central Valley Project.

Important Dates to Remember

July

4th—TID Office Closed for Holiday
9th—TID Board of Directors Meeting

August

13th—TID Board of Directors Meeting
13th—Board Fixed Time and Date of Board of Equalization Meeting
8th, 15th, and 22nd—Delinquent Publication Notice
29th—Record Certificate of Sale—Tax Sales

September

2nd—TID Office Closed for Holiday
10th—TID Board of Directors Meeting
10th—Date Specified in the Notice for the Board to Act as a Board of Equalization to Hear and Determine Objections to the Valuation
20th—Board of Equalization Session Closed