

Tulare Irrigation District
6826 Avenue 240
Tulare, California 93274

LOOK INSIDE...
Landowner Town Hall
Water Supply Outlook
Employee News
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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	4 - Independence Day (Office Closed) 14 - TID Board of Directors Meeting
August	11 - TID Board of Directors Meeting 11 - Date of Board of Equalization Meeting Set 4, 11 and 18 - Delinquent Publication Notice 27 - Record Certificate of Sale—Tax Sales
September	1 - Labor Day (Office Closed) 8 - TID Board of Directors Meeting 8 - Board of Equalization Meeting re Assessments 18 - Board of Equalization Closed



TID TIDINGS
Newsletter of the Tulare Irrigation District

Board of Directors

David Bixler
President
Richard Borges
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

2nd Qtr. 2015

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LANDOWNER TOWN HALL



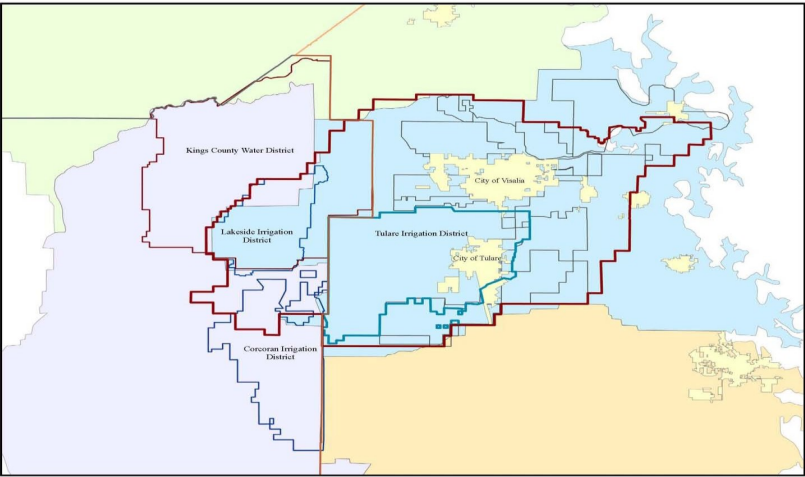
Local Farmers Meet and Confer at May 1st Town Hall

On the morning of Friday May 1st about 60 Tulare area farmers gathered at TID’s O&M facility to hear about a host of water reliability challenges facing the region and to engage in discussions over water scarcity and local impacts. TID’s General Manager Paul Hendrix and Engineer Aaron Fukuda delivered presentations on the current drought and how it compares to previous ones, top issues facing the Valley’s east side, and projects that we are pursuing to increase water availability in the District.

One key focus of the gathering was to explain what’s going on with our local groundwater supply and future accessibility. The state’s new law, called the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was summarized and its impacts over time on the Tulare area were discussed. Also, considerable time was devoted to the various projects and water management programs which are designed to maximize the District’s ability to comply with SGMA requirements in a manner to minimize the potential for restrictions on groundwater pumping in the region. Questions concerning water exchanges with other districts, the possible need for meters on deep wells, and the feasibility of solar panels at sinking basins were asked by farmers in attendance, all of which generated interesting discussions.

Visalia-Tulare-TID GSA

≈ 1/3 of Sub-Basin Area, Water Supply/Use



Two cities, combined pop. 190,000; one I.D., 70,000 acres

Cities all groundwater; TID 50% groundwater

Legend
Tulare County
Kings County
Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District
TID
City Limits
Other Communities
Kings County Water District
Corcoran ID
Lakeside ID
Tulare Sub Basin
Kaweah Sub Basin
Kings Sub Basin
Tulare Lake Sub Basin

Attendees learned more of TID’s proposed merger with the surrounding cities of Tulare and Visalia to join together as a single groundwater agency and develop recharge projects of mutual benefit. All three lie in the middle of the 700 sq mi basin and stand to gain from the partnership

Water Supply Outlook

Since the 1st quarter issue of TID Tidings, the news has gotten a bit worse. Despite the cool May weather and late-season storms, the snowpack has fallen to less than 5% of normal, and April-July runoff will be barely 10% of average. Many districts in the southern San Joaquin Valley, particularly those relying on open-channel systems subject to seepage losses, have little or no water for a meaningful summer irrigation. Unexpectedly, the west side is faring somewhat better than the east side, which is again coping with a zero Friant allocation. The west side, dependent in large part on Delta export supplies from the CVP and SWP, has seen some tough years in the past, but has reacted with active engagement with water suppliers in the Sacramento Valley and has secured deals to purchase and move water into storage in San Luis Reservoir for summer deliveries and hold-over storage. SWP agricultural users in Kings and Kern counties at least have a 20% entitlement allocation to work with. Being first in priority from the CVP’s pumping plant, the Exchange Contractor area also has enough supply to get by this summer, although they too are experiencing record shortages. It’s this group of districts that are slated to receive much of the water behind Friant Dam, based on Foundational agreements entered into when the CVP was being formulated.

As a means to get at least some water into the Friant-Kern Canal for farm deliveries, several Friant contractors have been working intensively with the USBR and the Exchange Contractor group on the lower San Joaquin River to put together an exchange plan. Water acquired from others, plumbed for delivery into San Luis, can be delivered to the Exchange Contractors. They, in turn, would leave water behind Friant Dam for delivery to the Friant system. At the most, maybe 50,000 AF is available in total for this exchange, and it’s not cheap. Other water is accumulating behind Friant Dam, thanks to the recent rains this spring.

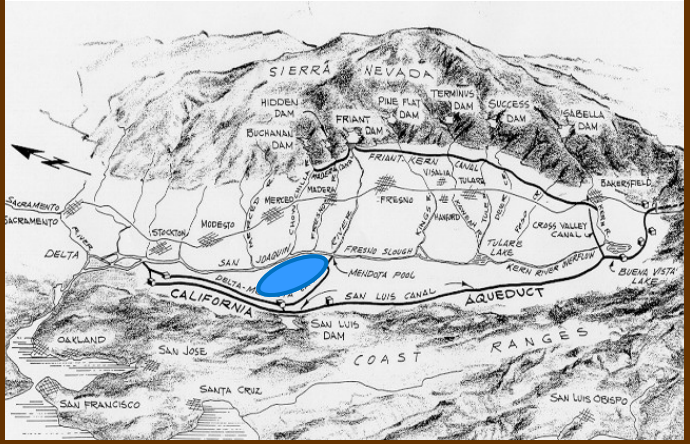


Behind Friant Dam sits Millerton Lake

Some of that could wind up as a Friant Class 1 allocation, based on the determinations of USBR as to the first-priority needs of the Exchange Contractors.

As has been publicized lately, the Friant districts are of the opinion that at least some of the water behind Friant Dam is theirs anyway, but that’s another story. Friant users expect to pay upwards of \$1,000/AF for this water. Driving up the price are those east-side areas with little or no groundwater, many with citrus trees hanging in the balance. The market continues to send signals that trying to secure sufficient water to amass an irrigation run within TID is not feasible in years like this. With our channel-system losses and the need to have a minimum of about 20,000 AF to stage an irrigation run, we’d be spending \$20 million for not much more than a week-long run. Needless to say, that wouldn’t be a realistic undertaking.

Long Forgotten Pact The San Joaquin River Exchange [Original Miller & Lux Lands = 230,000 acres]



Since the inception of the Central Valley Project, the San Joaquin River flows have always been accessible to the Exchange Contractors on the lower river in the event Delta export water was in short supply. This has never been a concern to Friant districts, until now in the midst of this unprecedented drought.

EMPLOYEE NEWS



Kevin Searcy began his career with the District on May 27, 1980. He is recognized for his 35 years of committed service as a dedicated experienced Construction Utility Carpenter and Ditch Tender. Kevin over the years has trained many and has given his all. Kevin ‘s wife is Darlene and together they have four children - Scott, Brandi, Gabriel and Christopher, plus two grandsons. Thank you Kevin for your devoted years of service!

Boosting Water Supplies in a New Era



Typical Deep Well—Historically Reliable Water

With the onset of the state’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), groundwater recharge and conjunctive use practices take on a new meaning. In the past, in areas like the Kaweah basin where farms and cities had ample access to the underlying groundwater supply, recharging groundwater was a wise practice which would help maintain underground water levels and keep deep-well pumping costs to a minimum. Overdraft of our aquifer has been a concern since the 1930’s, and holding this at bay always made good sense. Conjunctively using surface water and groundwater by direct recharge and turning off wells in surplus years, then turning to the stored water in dry ones furthered this practice. However, whether long-term overdraft was controlled or not, farms could always turn to deep wells for water if the ditches had little of it, and local towns could always add municipal wells and extract more water as they grew in population and supporting industries. The underground supply was always there and of generally excellent quality in the Tulare area. Even today the estimates range from 11 to 20 million acre-feet of usable groundwater that still resides beneath us.

But, due to the passage of the SGMA, how much of that supply can be expected to be taken out unrestricted in the future is going to soon change. Within a 25-year period, basins such as the Kaweah need to be sustainable, i.e., they need to eliminate long-term overdraft. The new law arrives at a difficult time, in the midst of a record-setting drought and with environmental regulations siphoning off surface water once depended upon to carry out recharge and conjunctive use operations.

TID is preparing for this new era in several ways and employing a number of complementary strategies: These strategies include:

- We’ve prepared a grant-funded System Optimization Report and are conducting further studies of an expansion of conjunctive use recharge within the District, efforts which are informing us how to take better advantage of wet-year supplies.
- TID has secured an agreement whereby we will soon receive 11,000 AF each year from the City of Visalia’s tertiary-level wastewater treatment plant, and in trade return half that amount from TID’s Class 2 surplus supplies for recharge deliveries in the upper part of the Kaweah basin.
- We’ve been steadily building additional sinking basin capacity, adding about 220 acres in the last several years which can absorb as much as 18,000 AF annually of new groundwater recharge when surplus water is available.
- We are participating in pilot projects to identify ways to maximize recharge rates in sinking basins and to identify and incentivize on-farm flood irrigation methods to capture flood water within the District.
- TID is constantly exploring leveraged exchange opportunities with other water districts, offering dry-year supplies in trade for supplemental water in wet years slated for groundwater recharge.
- TID is merging with its neighboring cities of Tulare and Visalia in the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency, a joint-powers authority to identify synergies among these public agencies to further expand groundwater recharge opportunities and comply with Sacramento’s new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.