

Tulare Irrigation District
 6826 Avenue 240
 Tulare, California 93274

LOOK INSIDE...

GW—Pumping
 GW—Report
 Water Bond
 TID Landowner Meeting

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

November	1 - 2014-15 Tax Assessments Mailed 4 - National Election Day 11 - TID Board of Directors Meeting 27 - Thanksgiving (closed)
December	20 - 1st Tax Assessment Delinquent (10% Penalty) 9 - TID Board of Directors Meeting 25 - Christmas (closed)
January	1 - New Year's Day (Closed) 13 - TID Board of Directors Meeting
February	10 - 12 - World Ag Expo

The TID Tidings is published quarterly by the Tulare Irrigation District. Questions about the articles or items appearing in the TID Tidings can be answered by reaching the Tulare ID office at (559) 686-3425



TID TIDINGS

Newsletter of the Tulare Irrigation District

**GROUNDWATER PUMPING
 STATE SAYS ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!**

Use of groundwater below has been considered a property right here in the San Joaquin Valley for decades. Going way back to the early flowing wells of the late 1800's to the boon resulting from deep well turbine pumps in the 1930's, groundwater has been the backbone water supply in dry times for agriculture and the sole source for cities and towns for well over 100 years.

But, things are now changing. More intensive farming, growth in urban areas and the ongoing drought have put the spotlight on groundwater use that won't go away. So much so that the state legislature finally has signed into law a series of bills that gave the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) authority over groundwater usage much like it has had over surface water diversions. What the SWRCB will now require is that each groundwater basin in the state achieves a state of sustainability, such that the excess pumping over time is eliminated and groundwater levels cease their rapid and steady drop.

One positive aspect of this new law is that we'll have time to reach this so-called sustainability goal, as much as thirty years from now. And we'll have the opportunity first to do it ourselves, without state intervention. Thirty years is a long time, but there is much to do. Everybody's in this together – the upcoming regulations will affect farmers, cities and industry, and small rural communities. If there's any silver lining to all of this, it's that these new requirements will be one more tangible reason that the state and federal governments should no longer put off the ultimate need to do their own part as they've done historically, that is to restore and develop surface water systems so that our regional economy, which will surely shrink with reduced access to groundwater, may remain sustainable.

TID is planning a landowner meeting later this fall to discuss this and other developments in the water supply outlook for the area. Look for a flyer soon for more details on this meeting.



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

3rd/4th Qtr. 2014

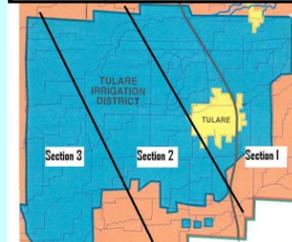
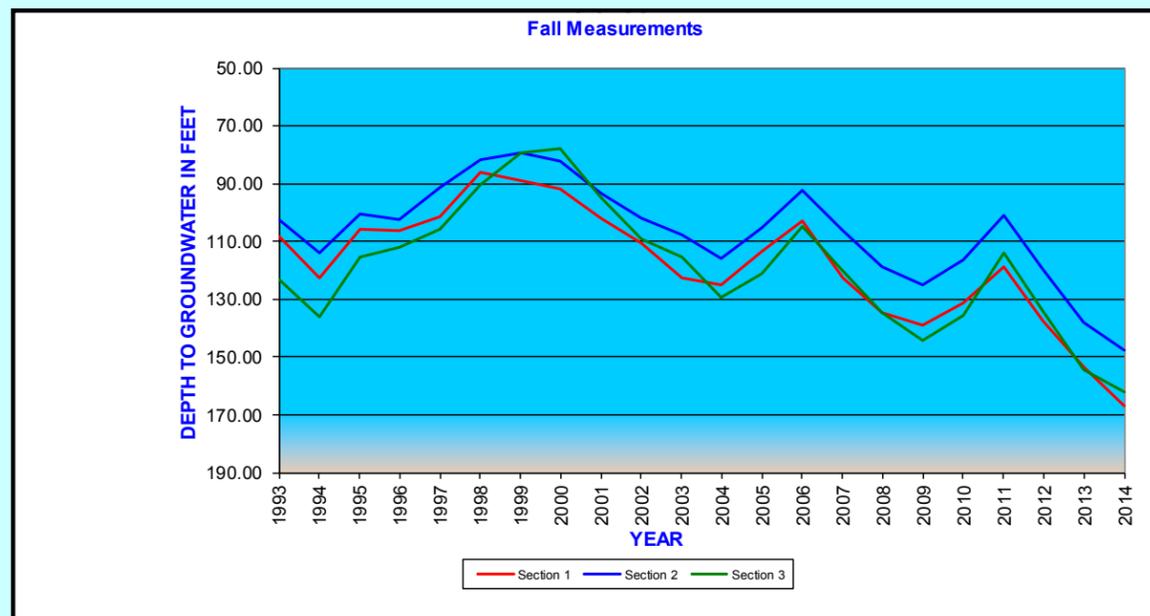
In This Issue:

Groundwater - Pumping	Cover
Groundwater Report	2
Employee News	2
Water Bond	3
Here Come The Kiwis!	3
Landowner Meeting	3

Groundwater Report

We've dreaded the fall well readings, the ones showing the impact of yet another summer without any ditch water in our system. Surprisingly, the drop in water levels since last fall was only 10 ft., as compared to the last two years' fall readings for which the drop was about 19 ft. each, nearly twice as much. Of course any decrease isn't good, but hard to avoid in extreme drought cycles such as the one we are now experiencing.

Why the numbers came in as they did (see chart below) and how they relate to the recent past requires some study to fully interpret. What's obvious is that we don't know as much as we are going to need to concerning what goes on beneath us in the aquifer. The various clay lenses, water flows between them, impacts of pumping from our neighbors to the east and west, etc. What we do know is that depths to groundwater trend continues downward, and we've established a new low at 159 ft. This trend is something we can no longer ignore, as the ink has just dried on new laws governing groundwater management signed by Gov. Brown. See "Groundwater Pumping – State Says Enough is Enough" article in this issue.



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Section 1	135	139	131	119	137	154	167
Section 2	119	125	116	101	120	138	148
Section 3	135	144	135	114	134	155	162
Averages	130	136	127	111	130	149	159

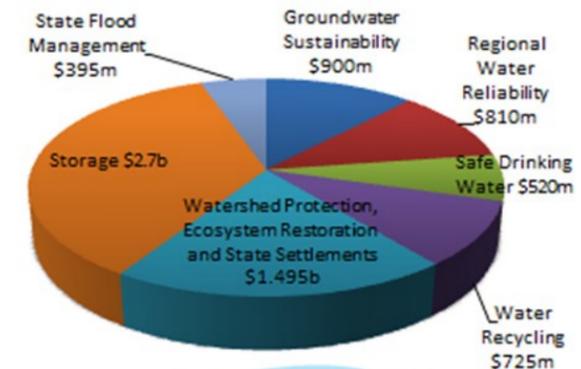
Water Bond Makes it to the Ballot

After several years of delay due to concerns over polling state deficits, a bona fide water supply bond is now on this November's ballot. It's not as big as it originally was – the \$11.1 billion bond has shrunk to \$7.1 billion, with another \$.4 billion being added from existing state funds on hand. The smaller number is generally well received, being that some of what was in the original 2009 bond was considered "pork." Still there are critics of the bond, saying it doesn't go far enough in guaranteeing specific storage projects such as Temperance Flat Reservoir on the San Joaquin River. Nor is it anywhere near the complete solution for all of the state's water woes in terms of paying for everything ultimately needed. [Sidebar: Recent study by consortium of business and water leaders says the full "fix" costs \$45 billion]

But it's a start, and represents the first time in decades that a water bond contains money for storage and with prospects of real water supply development in the offing.

Proposition 1 Funding Categories

Total Expenditures = \$7.545 billion



HERE COME THE KIWIS!

New Zealanders, that is. On November 15, an agricultural group from New Zealand will pass through the Tulare area while on a tour of water and agricultural operations here in the San Joaquin Valley and elsewhere. The group consists of irrigators, managers and related industry types from that country eager to learn of what goes on here. We plan to showcase our groundwater recharge operational practices, the planned McKay Pt. Reservoir and water deliveries from the Visalia recycling plant, and advances in irrigation efficiencies at the on-farm level. If you are interested in meeting these folks and giving them a Tulare farmer's perspective, let us know.



Landowner Meeting

A lot has happened in the recent past regarding water supplies in the southern San Joaquin Valley that is and will have an impact on water users within TID. This record-setting drought has precipitated some state and federal actions regarding rights to water deliveries that might have otherwise been unanticipated. So much so that the District is calling for a landowner meeting to discuss these occurrences and what TID plans to do about them.

Employee News



Alejo Munoz began his stint with the District as a temporary employee in October 2012 and became permanent on August 25, 2014. Alejo Munoz is married to Consuelo Munoz and they have three daughters - Jennifer, Natalie and Kimberly. And two grandkids. He came to us with considerable construction experience having worked for Wright Construction. His role in maintenance and construction work can and will serve the district well. While not exactly brand new on the job, the District welcomes aboard Alejo!

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2—Employee News

With the departure of **Matt Limas** back to Quad Knopf Engineers, his former employer, we have promoted **Joe Mello** to the position of Engineering Technician. Joe began with the District in 2009 and has worked as a Ditch Maintenance Person and Ditch Tender since that time. He too came to us originally from Quad Knopf and brings a skill set and dedication he will be applying to his new position. Best of luck to Joe in his new capacity!

