Tulare Irrigation District 6826 Avenue 240 Tulare, California 93274

LOOK INSIDE...

More from Sinking Basins Friant Lawsuit Mid-Kaweah GSA





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.

tober	11 - TID Board of Directors Meeting
vember	 2016-17 Tax Assessments Mailed National Election Day TID Board of Directors Meeting 24 - 25 - Thanksgiving (Office Closed)
ember	 13 - TID Board of Directors Meeting 20 - 1st Tax Assessment Delinquent (10% Penalty) 26 - Christmas (Office Closed)
nuary	 New Year's Day (Office Closed) TID Board of Directors Meeting



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TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICA

Now with groundwater regulation essentially upon us in the form of the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), any ability to achieve more bang for the buck out of our basins will enable TID to take better advantage of the surplus wet-year supplies we know will occur on occasion in the future. This recharge basin study is one key element of an overall strategy to be able to improve our regional *water budget* – a critical metric that will determine how much each and every grower will be able to use their deep well(s) in the future. The closer we can get to a water budget that's out of the red, so to speak, the more TID's growers can count on their wells to irrigate crops.

Other elements of this strate
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through our merger into the
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agricultural irrigation needs

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



GETTING MORE OUT OF SINKING BASINS



Deep Trenching by Montgomery Engineers at Creamline Basin

egy include a comprehensive projection of future surface water District, use of new soils mapping and other tools to help evaluate ities, on-farm programs to achieve recharge on existing farm lands, ties of Tulare and Visalia for groundwater management and recharge Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Aaron Fukuda, seeing many of these recharge enhancement efforts, says of their istrict's current assets for groundwater recharge with the science to nost efficient recharge practices, the District hopes to meet the s of today and tomorrow."

COST OF WATER

Everywhere we hear the complaint: "Costs are going up." In our public water district operation, like your farming business, this unfortunately holds true. Our costs, particularly in the acquisition of imported water from Millerton Lake on the San Joaquin River, are much higher now than in the past. TID has held our water sales rate at \$33 per acre-foot for many years now - ever since 2004. Still true today, we are advantaged by a major part of our supply being a low-cost local source (the Kaweah River), and a delivery system that depends almost entirely on gravity flow (no high-energy) costs for pumping water uphill). This is not the case for many of our neighboring Friant districts, and for those reasons their water sales rates are three times higher or more.



QUEST FOR WATER

TULARE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

ITS HISTORY, PEOPLE AND PROGRESSION

RICHARD ZACK

Over the last several months, the District's Board of Directors has been reviewing budget projections which indicate a significant increase in the sales rate is going to be needed. The Board is mindful of the rate-payer support process necessary to implement any rate increases and, on that important note, look for a landowner town hall meeting announcement in the near future to present more on this topic.

QUEST FOR WATER

At last, after over five years of research, travel to historical archives housed in distant libraries, fact-checking and fact-checking one more time, and exhaustive professional editing, we are there! Richard Zack's manuscript of TID's history, starting with its formative years in the late 1880s up to current times, is now made ready for publishing in book form. It contains some 450 pages and is chock-full of many older photos heretofore unseen in any publication.

TID's story is a tale of water and all that is involved in securing its application in producing food for a growing nation. Maybe it's a small history in a little corner of the world. Histories of big achievements by notable people have been well-documented and read by many. Smaller histories are lesser known, but they are no less rich with insightful and noble people and their astounding accomplishments. This book represents but one recordation of a rich history out of one of those distant corners and serves as a tribute to the many individuals, past community leaders, ancestors, and citizens long forgotten who worked so hard and beat all odds to get the Tulare Irrigation District "on the map."

Tulare Irrigation District remains as the fourth public water district to form since the passage of California's Wright Act in 1887 and, for this and other reasons, its well told saga is worthy of a professional-grade publication. If you wish a copy of this rather unique book of water development titled "Quest for Water," please call the District office to place your order.

FRIANT CONTRACTORS FILE LAWSUIT AGAINST U.S.

After 60-years-plus of dependable deliveries of water from the Friant Unit for irrigation and groundwater recharge within the District, we were allotted nothing in 2014. And again in 2015. It took awhile but, after extensive discussions and numerous meetings, things finally came to a head in the form of a lawsuit against the U.S., filed in the Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C. Many of the Friant water contractors, including TID, have joined in on a massive damage claim against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for CVP water allocations denied in 2014. The claim is for \$350 million of damages across the Friant service area wrought from the lack of water and attendant loss of permanent crops, fallowed ground, and accelerated depletion of groundwater reserves in that year.

Beyond the money, the lawsuit's ultimate aim is to alter the operational practices of USBR in future years to protect the District and its growers' property right to apply water for beneficial use. It had been hoped that this legal course of action would be avoided, but we now join the ranks of other water agencies in California and in the West seeking to use the courts to preserve and protect water property rights in this era of limited supplies



The march towards groundwater sustainability is slow but steady. We are making progress in the area of data analysis, a necessary step in assessing the workload ahead of us. Our local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) has had its hydrogeologic consultant delve into existing studies of the Kaweah Sub-Basin, and their conclusion is that the prior work is sound and will serve as a good foundation for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) preparation down the road.

The studies, prepared under the auspices of Kaweah Delta WCD, segregate the sub-basin into six hydrologic regions for water accounting purposes, and our review intimates that adjustments to this regional approach will be necessary as ours and other sub-basin GSAs carve out new territories different than those assumed in the studies. There are, however, apparent data gaps along the sub-basin's eastern region, and these will require additional work to fulfill.

Having access to KDWCD's sub-basin studies puts us miles ahead of other basins in the state who possess a much lesser understanding of conditions in their groundwater basin. It's not enough to know that depths to groundwater are increasing over time. Knowing why and where, and optimal ways to address the problem require considerably more information.

Our stakeholder outreach efforts are progressing, primarily through a series of Advisory Committee meetings. We are getting members of the public to engage in these meetings as well. The first two have been focused on SGMA background presentations and sub-basin assessment reviews, intended for all participants to get up to speed on the issue. Contact this office if you wish to receive E-mail notices of these stakeholder meetings.

There are enormous challenges ahead in complying with SGMA. One example is the requirement to measure groundwater pumping. Our two other GSA members - the cities of Tulare and Visalia - already do this as do all municipal groundwater users in the state. How we go about doing this will be a topic soon to be dealt with, and more on this topic will be presented at upcoming landowner meetings (soon to be announced).

Your Irrigation Scheduling Practices – Help Researchers Advance the Knowledge

The California Farm Bureau Federation is collaborating with PG&E on a grower survey that Fresno State's Center for Irrigation Technology has developed, which assesses water and energy usage in order to determine if there are technologies or measures that increase effective use of the two resources. The survey should only take 5 or 10 minutes to complete and all responses will remain anonymous

Simply follow this link to the survey in order to complete it:

https://fresnostate.col.gualtrics.com/ife/form/SV_0enDVxjgmYYhe05