

Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District
14181 Avenue 24 Delano, CA 93215
Telephone: (661) 725-2526
Fax: (661) 725-2556
E-mail: deid@arrival.net

DEID

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April 1 Snow Measurements Show Improvement

The critical April 1st snow pack survey results in an increase in the 2002 water supply, more may be coming.

Even with a conservative approach to the 2002 water supply forecast, the San Joaquin river watershed snow pack measurements taken on April 1st provided good news to water users in the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project (CVP).

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) officials announced that Friant districts will receive 100 percent of their respective Class 1 water allocations in 2002, up from the 85 percent declaration forecast that was made in March. The Bureau was reluctant to announce any availability of the less reliable Class 2 water at the present time.

However, most believe that some small amount of Class 2 water will ultimately be made available, probably in the 5 to 10 percent range.

Below Average Water Year

Even though the increase in the Class 1 declaration was welcome news, the Friant Division is still suffering from its second consecutive year of below-average water

conditions. A 100 percent Class 1 water supply means that there will be 800,000 acre-feet available for water users on the east side of the San Joaquin valley. In a normal year, approximately 1,500,000 acre-feet of Class 1 and Class 2 are made available to Friant water users. If full contract quantities were to be delivered to east side CVP contractors, 2.2 million acre –feet would be available. The 2002 water year declaration of 100 percent Class 1 is only 53 percent of normal, and 36 percent of total contract entitlements.

Conservative Forecast

The Bureau continues to choose a conservative approach to the 2002 water supply declaration. Its 100 percent declaration is based on a 90 percent exceedence forecast, which means that under similar circumstances, history would support that amount of water 90 percent of the time. A 50 percent exceedence forecast (similar circumstances has historically produced this result in 5 out of 10 years) would support a 2002 water supply forecast of between 5 and 10 percent Class 2 water.

Another Look Due

Bureau officials are meeting with Friant districts later this week. Another bump in the water supply may be announced at that time.

Meanwhile, the District has not changed its

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The 100 percent Class 1 declaration is based on a conservative forecast.

Chances are that the 2002 water supply will continue to improve.

Confused about Class 1 and Class 2 terminology?

See page 3 for an explanation.

CIMAS Station Installed

Grant received by the District from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation funds construction of a state-of-the art CIMAS station.

The Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District headquarters is the latest site in the State of California's network of California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMAS) weather stations that provide information and other important data to local farmers and ranchers.

Funded by a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and installed with technical assistance from the State Department of Water Resources (DWR), the new station was erected in March. The communication link to the State web site that will display the collected data is nearing completion.

Water Management Data Provided

Area water users will now be able to access reliable data that is local. Previously, the closest CIMAS station to the District was at the Highway 99 - Highway 46 interchange, near Famoso.

Data that will be available includes air and soil temperature, humidity, rainfall totals, air speed and direction, and evapotranspiration values.

Information is continuously recorded and stored in an electronic data logger

contained within the station housing. The stored information is downloaded each night by DWR computers, and the information is displayed on the Department's web site the following day.

The District is also currently investigating the possibility of displaying the same



information on a web site of its own. The goal is to make the information available to local growers on a real-time basis, eliminating the 1-day delay in posting the information on the DWR web site.

Management Plan Goal Attained

The installation of the CIMAS station completes a long-standing goal that is a part of the District's Water Management Plan. With the passage of the Central Valley Project Improvement Plan in 1992, DEID and other CVP water contractors were required to develop a Water Management Plan (originally called a Water Conservation Plan) that was to be used to enhance and promote water management activities within the District. The establishment of a local CIMAS station was one of the goals identified by the District in its original plan.

The CIMAS station will be maintained in the future by the District with technical assistance provided by the DWR under a cooperative agreement.

The DWR CIMAS web site may be accessed via the Internet at www.cimas.water.ca.gov.



Is the pressure getting to you?

An important key to applying irrigation water in a uniform manner through a drip or micro system is to be sure that uniform pressures are present throughout each irrigation block. Varying pressures can get to you, right in the wallet. Details about this important principle and practice are included in an [Irrigation Tech-Line](#) that has been inserted in this edition of the *DEID PIPELINE*.

The [Irrigation Tech-Line](#) is included periodically during the year in our monthly newsletter as a service to our growers. The [Irrigation Tech-Line](#) is an important part of the District's overall goal of encouraging continued implementation of sound water management tools and practices by our growers. We hope that you find it helpful and of value.

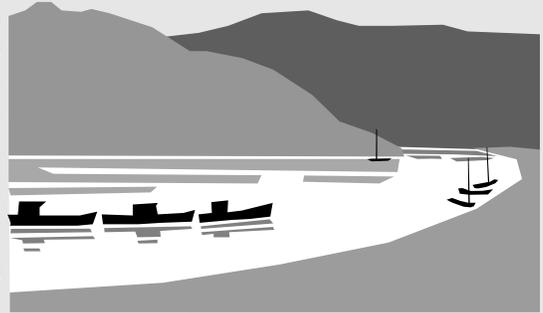
Our continued thanks to the Friant Water Users Authority for producing and providing the [Irrigation Tech-Line](#) to the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District and its water users.



Class 1 and Class 2 Water???

Sometimes the talk of water can get a bit confusing. For instance, what is "Class 1" and "Class 2" water all about?

When the Friant Division of the CVP was built, a water supply priority system was created unique to Friant. This was necessary to account for the large size of the single watershed (the San Joaquin River) that supplies water to the Friant Division, and the relatively small reservoir (Millerton Lake) that is the primary water storage feature on the San Joaquin. With little room for carryover storage from year to year, the Friant system and its water users are dependant on the water supply that occurs in each individual water year. That meant that Friant needed a water priority system to account for the wide fluctuations in water supply that can occur in any given year. A drought one year can be followed by a flood the next. With little carryover storage, peaks and valleys in the water supply must be weathered in each and every year.



A priority of water supply was indeed developed. The first 800,000 acre-feet of water supply that is not required for in-stream diversions and other uses is known as "Class 1" water. Although it is commonly referred to as the "firm yield" of the Friant project, it is not always available in every year. In fact, the long-term average availability of Class 1 water is about 92 percent.

The next 1,400,000 acre-feet that occur is the "Class 2" water supply. This water is less reliable than Class 1 water, and is therefore given a lesser priority and costs less than Class 1 water.

Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District has a Class 1 contract for 108,800 acre-feet. This is the largest Class 1 contract within the Friant Division, equal to 13 percent of the total Class 1 water supply. The District also has a smaller Class 2 contract of 74,500 acre-feet.



SIERRA SNOW SENSOR DATA as of 04/18/02

| <u>San Joaquin River Reporting Station</u> | <u>elevation (feet)</u> | <u>water content (inches)</u> | <u>Average April 1 water content (inches)</u> | <u>Percent of April 1st average</u> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Mammoth Pass | 9,500 | 28.3 | 42.4 | 67% |
| Kaiser Pass | 9,200 | 11.7 | 37.8 | 31% |
| Green Mountain | 7,900 | N/A | 30.8 | N/A |
| Tamarack | 7,600 | 6.2 | 30.5 | 20% |
| Chilkoot Meadow | 7,150 | 18.5 | 38.0 | 49% |
| Huntington Lake | 7,000 | 6.0 | 20.1 | 30% |
| Graveyard Meadow | 6,900 | 4.1 | 18.8 | 22% |
| Poison Ridge | 6,900 | 3.0 | 28.9 | 10% |
| San Joaquin River Average | | 9.7 | 30.9 | 33% |
| Weighted Average | | 9.7 | 28.2 | 34% |

DEID PIPELINE

PROVIDING INFORMATION ON ISSUES OF INTEREST
TO WATER USERS AND GROWERS IN THE
DELANO-EARLIMART IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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14181 Avenue 24
Delano, CA 93215

Phone: (661) 725-2526
Fax: (661) 725-2556
Email: deid@arrival.net

Water Fact:

Millerton Lake is impounded behind Friant Dam. It contains 520,000 acre-feet of storage, but 135,000 of that amount is "dead pool" storage, unavailable for diversion to Friant water users.

(WATER SUPPLY: Continued from page 1)

2002 water supply strategy. DEID growers are not subject to any supply prorates for 2002. Continued improvement in the water supply picture, including receipt of near normal rainfall during April, will help insure that position.

Turnout Project Status

The District's \$3,000,000 Turnout Renovation Project continues to make good progress and is on schedule with its winter and spring construction goals.

The Renovation Project has now completed its work on all laterals with the exception of portions of the Avenue 40 lateral (113.7W) west of the Friant-Kern Canal. The pumped sublateral lines that run parallel and are west of the Canal on the Avenue 56 lateral also remain to be completed.

The crew will continue to work on Avenue 40 sublaterals until completed or

when irrigation demands necessitate stoppage. Any remaining turnouts that are not completed this spring will be renovated next winter during the scheduled dewatering of the Friant-Kern Canal (see article below).

There are 625 individual grower turnouts in the District that are being renovated. As of mid-April, the Project crew had completed work on 553 turnouts, which is 88 percent of the total.

Friant-Kern Canal Dewatering This Winter

The Friant Water Users Authority has announced its plans to dewater the Friant-Kern Canal during December of 2002 and January of 2003 so that it can conduct major maintenance operations within the prism of the Canal.

Water deliveries for all Friant water users, including those in DEID will be curtailed during that time. During this same time, the District will also complete any remaining turnout renovation work that needs to be done.

Growers are encouraged to make plans for this extended surface water outage.