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DEID

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Good News for 2002 Water Supply

Better late than never, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announces an increase in water supply for Friant Division water users.

The long awaited news of an increase in the 2002 water supply finally came. Since our last newsletter, the Bureau has declared 8 percent Class 2 water available to Friant water users. This is in addition to the 100 percent Class 1 declaration previously made by the Bureau.

A full Class 1 water supply for the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project is 800,000 acre-feet, and is considered the "firm" Friant water supply, typically available in most years. Class 2 water is the non-storable water that cannot be declared until all of the Class 1 water supply demands can be met in a given water year.

Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District has a Class 1 water supply contract for 108,800 acre-feet, (the largest Class 1 contract within the Friant Division), and a smaller Class 2 water supply contract amounting to 74,500 acre-feet.

The news of an increase in the 2002 water supply was welcome news at DEID. The District had taken an aggressive stance on the 2002 water supply made available to its

growers. Typically in a year where the District has only its Class 1 supply and no Class 2, a supply prorate is placed on DEID growers. The prorate limits the amount of water available to any given landowner, which is less than the amount necessary to produce a crop. In prorate years, DEID growers must turn to groundwater pumped from their private wells as a supplemental water supply.

In 2002, the District decided to not implement a prorate. The decision was based on having carried over a modest amount of water from the 2001 water year (7,500 af), observed changes in cropping patterns within the District prior to the start of the water year, and an analysis of the San Joaquin River water shed conditions that led to the belief that more water was available than what initial water supply forecasts were

saying.

The additional 8 percent Class 2 water supply declared now eliminates any possibility of a late season prorate.

*El Nino? La Nina?
Is one or the other on the horizon?
See Page 2 for what the experts are
saying.*



El Nino or La Nina-Either in 2003?

There has been some talk about another El Nino occurring next year. What might that mean to water users in DEID?

Most of us enjoy talking about the weather. Some even make a hobby out of observing it. Still others are involved in analyzing weather phenomenon as a life's work. Some of the latter are beginning to say that we may be in for another "El Nino" event in 2003.

What is an "El Nino"?

An El Nino is a warming pattern of the Pacific Ocean between South America and the International Date Line, centered directly on the equator.

Normally, there is a large mass of warm water far to the west, near Indonesia. Every three to five years a change in the direction of the trade winds shifts this area of warm water, roughly the size of Europe, east toward the South American coast. This shift causes significant changes in the jet stream, shifting the tropical storm belt.

El Nino and California

An El Nino event typically brings a wet weather pattern to California, but vary dependant on location and the strength of the El Nino. In southern

California, the October through March period tends to be wetter than usual, while Northern California precipitation is generally below normal. For Central California, (Sacramento to Bakersfield), the effects are variable, with no strong association with either wet or dry conditions being obvious. However, the larger the El Nino, the further that wet conditions push north.

What is a "La Nina" ?

La Nina is essentially the opposite El Nino in the effect on weather patterns. It is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the tropical Pacific. Stronger than usual trade winds push the warm water away from the equator, causing cold water to rise to the surface.

The resulting cold water suppresses the formation of rain-producing clouds and usually leads to dry conditions in California.

Unlike an El Nino, La Nina is a reliable predictor of precipitation. During the last 65 years, the appearance of La Nina has always resulted in dry winters in the southwestern states.

All Are Not Created Equal

The effect of El Ninos and La Ninas are largely based on the amount of warming or cooling of the ocean water near South America. There are weak El Ninos and La Ninas, and conversely, there are strong ones.

A mild El Nino or La Nina often has little effect on California's weather. However, when sea surface warming or cooling varies by more than 5-6 degrees, California can experience floods or droughts.

What Is In Store For 2003?

California is 6,000 miles from where the changes in ocean temperatures cause El Ninos and La Ninas, making their impact on California weather very difficult to predict. While the equipment used to make such weather predictions is extensive and improving all the time, forecasting the presence of either remains an inexact science.

Sea surface temperatures off of the coasts of Ecuador and Peru have been warming, but scientists say that it will be a few more months before they can tell if this warming will develop into a significant El Nino. Right now, most expect that it will remain

as a weak El Nino, having little effect on 2003 weather conditions in Central California.

If You Want To Know More

The Climate Prediction Center of the National Center for Environmental Protection provides an El Nino Advisory, which is updated monthly. Contact the Center by email at vernon.kousky@noaa.gov for more information on receiving electronic monthly updates directly.



For in-depth information about the development of El Nino and La Nina weather patterns and the economic impacts, go to the web site <http://geochange.er.usgs.gov/sw/changes/natural/elNino>.

A monthly Climate Diagnostics Bulletin is available at: <http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/tao/elNino/forecasts.html>.

General information is available at: <http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/tao/elNino/faq.html>.



DEID Pipeline acknowledges and thanks the USBR-Fresno Office for the basis of this article.

CalFed Bill Enters Final Weeks

With much on its plate, Congress has just a few weeks to deal with the CalFed reauthorization legislation.

On September 4 the Congress will return from its summer recess with only 22 legislative days scheduled to finish 13 appropriations measures and dozens of high-profile bills. This adds up to an unclear fate for the two CalFed bills that are in Congress.

Calvert Bill

Congressman Ken Calvert (*R-Riverside*) is sponsoring CalFed reauthorization legislation in the House. His bill (H.R. 3208) has been the subject of much lobbying from water users in the Central Valley Project over its inclusion of "assurances" language. This language guarantees that CVP districts on the west side of the valley, including the massive Westlands Water District, would receive 65-70 percent of their contractual water supply every year. Water users on the east side of the valley fear that a mandate such as that may require the transfer of east side water supplies to the west side in dryer than normal water years. Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District and other districts in the Friant Division of the CVP have been strident in their opposition to the Calvert

bill based on its inclusion of the assurance language.

Feinstein Bill

Senator Diane Feinstein (*D-California*) has introduced CalFed reauthorization of her own in the Senate. Her bill (S. 1768) is supported by Friant Division districts. While it too originally contained "assurance" provisions for the west side, Senator Feinstein later amended the bill to strip out the controversial language.

The Feinstein bill has already been the subject of compromise and politics. Her original bill has been scaled back to a 3-year, \$1.6 billion program that would target implementation of the program's first stage.

Senator Feinstein has also been successful in pushing through a \$30 million FY03 appropriation for CalFed. The House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee gave the FY03 CalFed funding request a big zero. Differences in the two FY03 CalFed appropriations bills will be negotiated in a House-Senate conference committee in September.

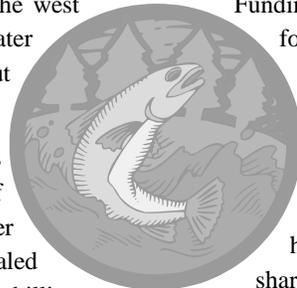
Now what?

Proponents and opponents of the both bills

are lining up for one last push. Agricultural, urban, and environmental interests alike are weighing heavily. At stake is the continued movement of the largest, most concerted effort to address California's resource concerns through a joint state/federal program.

California actions

Funding and other support measures for the CalFed program is also to come from the State of California. State Senator Jim Costa is moving aggressively with a CalFed governance bill and a number of meetings have occurred. However, it too shares an undecided fate at the present time.



Farm Bureau Files CalFed Lawsuit

In a legal brief filed by the California Farm Bureau Federation, the CalFed program is being accused of refusing to consider its impacts on farmland and agricultural water. The result, says the brief, was a "sustained, willful, and egregious violation" of state environmental law.

The lawsuit further requests that the court invalidate the Environmental Impact Report and Record of Decision issued by CalFed. These documents outline the recommended approach by the consortium of state and federal agencies that comprise

CalFed. CalFed was created to address water quality and water supply problems in the Sacramento Delta, the San Francisco Bay, and the state.

The Farm Bureau lawsuit states that the CalFed plan is flawed by failing to adequately analyze and address the environmental effect that it would have on the state's agricultural resources: its farmland and agricultural water.

The brief maintains that CalFed's fundamental objective from the outset "was to convert agricultural land and water to environmental uses. CalFed never had any intention of affording the same level of protection to agriculture that was afforded other parts of the environment."



DEID PIPELINE

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

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Water Facts:

Friant Dam is a concrete gravity dam 319 feet high. It impounds 520,000 acre-feet, of which 135,000 acre-feet are in the “dead pool”, below the canal inlets.

Friant Power Authority Bonds Retired

The eight districts that compose the Friant Power Authority celebrated a milestone in the history of the 16-year old project-ownership of its own construction bonds.

outstanding balance. The result was the ability of the member districts to purchase the remaining bonds late last year from the existing bondholder.

Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District and seven other Friant water districts joined together in the early 1980s to develop and construct a 27 megawatt hydroelectric power project on the San Joaquin River at Friant Dam. The project’s three generators began producing electricity in 1986 and enjoyed the prosperity that came with an abundant water year. Unfortunately, this was followed by a seven year drought that knocked the slats out of the expected generation and revenues. The project fell on hard times.

After a series of changes in the bondholders of the project, the outstanding debt balance was successfully renegotiated to a deeply discounted level. That was followed by improved generation years that acierated the repayment of the



DEID Director Nick Canata (left) accepts the retired construction bonds from Friant Power Authority Board President Quinten Luallen. Director Canata serves as the District’s representative on the FPA Board of Directors.

By June, the project had generated enough income to fund a \$1 million reserve fund for itself that was set by the FPA Board of Directors. This allowed excess revenues to be issued to the member districts of FPA in accordance with individual ownership percentages.

DEID owns 15.25 percent of the project.

The District expects to have recouped the full amount that it committed to purchase the outstanding FPA construction bonds by the end of 2003.

