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DEID

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2002 Water Supply Holds Steady- No Prorate Required

Snow pack conditions seem to indicate additional water for the 2002 season, but the cautious allocation approach being taken by the Bureau of Reclamation is necessary.

The final snow course readings for the San Joaquin River watershed are in, but the supply is still too close to call. This is the latest word from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

For the second month in a row, the Bureau has made no change to its calculation of the 2002 Friant water supply. The declaration remains at 100 percent for Class 1 water and zero for Class 2.

It's A Dry Year

Hopes that 2002 would be better than the below-normal 2001 water year have been clearly dashed (see related graph on page 2). The current declaration is statistically defined as a "dry" year, and is slightly worse than last year.

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.

Five Percent Class 2?

Many that watch the San Joaquin River watershed believe that there will ultimately be a small increment of Class 2 water declared by the Bureau, but not more than five percent. The Bureau could make that announcement as soon as June 27, when Friant districts are scheduled to meet in Visalia. If that comes to pass, the additional supply would be welcome news to Friant districts, including DEID.

District Continues To Go With No Grower Prorate

The District Board of Directors continues to support the calculated risk of going with no prorate during the 2002 peak irrigation season. The District has adopted a water supply strategy for 2002 that will provide sufficient water supplies to meet anticipated grower demands during the summer months.

Supplies could be tight in the fall and winter months, but there are factors that will mitigate part or all of any adverse impact.

First an increase in the Class 2 declaration would be a big help. Second, the Friant-Kern Canal will be shut down for maintenance from mid-November through January (see related story on page 2), which will obviously eliminate demand during that time. Finally, if additional water is needed, the District can borrow water from next year's supply, either from a fellow Friant district or against its own



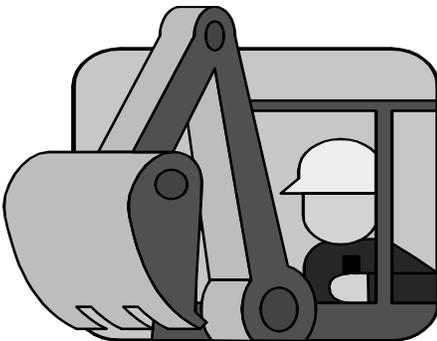
(Continued on page 4: NO PRORATE)

Friant-Kern Canal Dewatering Scheduled

Winter shut-down of Friant-Kern Canal will also cause District water deliveries to be curtailed.

Operators of the Friant-Kern Canal have announced that planned maintenance activities will require the dewatering of the full length of the Canal this winter.

The Friant Water Users Authority will begin dewatering operations as soon as end of October at the head of the Canal, with the full 152 mile length fully dewatered by the end of November.



Planned maintenance activities include debris and silt removal, gate maintenance, and replacement of concrete embankment liners in selected areas.

All of the work will be accomplished with Friant Water Users Authority work forces.

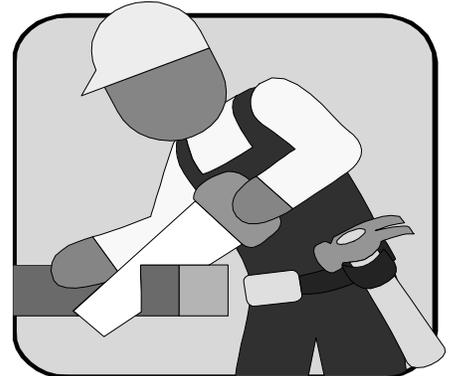
District Deliveries Also Interrupted

With the Canal being drained, water deliveries from the District will also cease. DEID growers should plan on no longer taking water from the District by mid-November. Water deliveries should resume by February 1, 2003.

At the same time that the Canal is dewatered, DEID will complete the handful of remaining turnouts that have yet to be renovated.

Canal Schedule Is Routine

The Canal is typically dewatered by the Authority for maintenance every three to



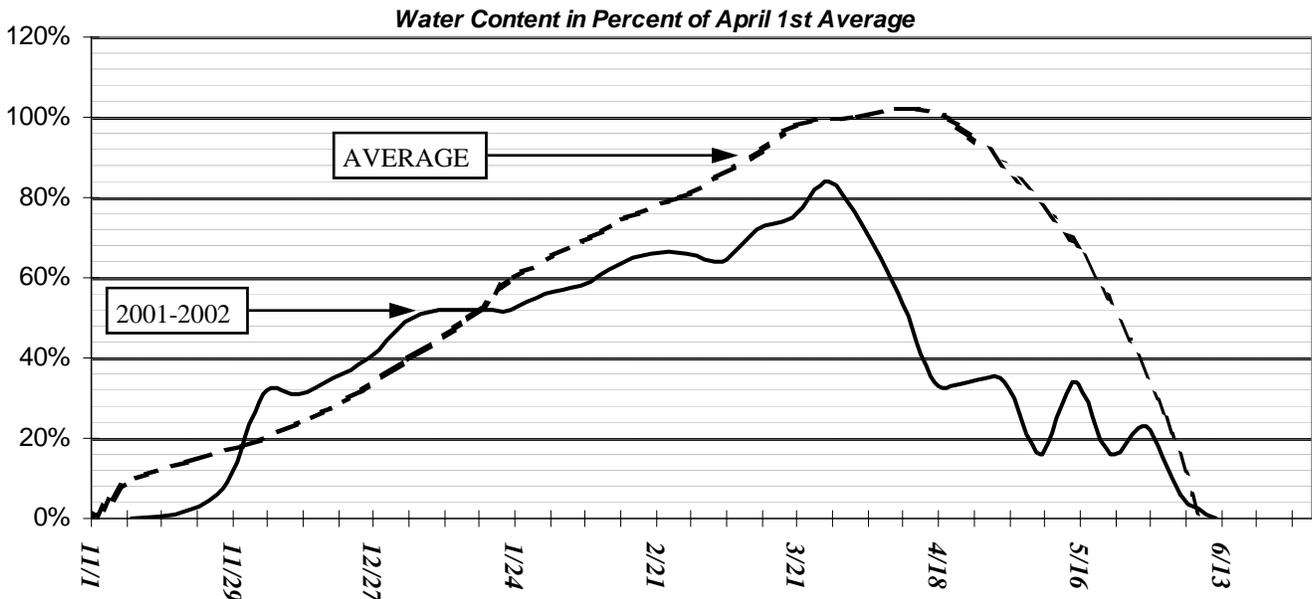
five years.

The last dewatering occurred in 1999.



San Joaquin River Basin Water Content

This graph illustrates the below-average nature of the current 2002 water year when compared to the long-term average. The dashed line is indicative of the long-term average for water content of the snow pack within the San Joaquin River watershed. The solid line is the current 2001-02 year. Historically, the snow pack peaks on April 1st.



San Joaquin River Draws Interest

From county supervisors to bay area environmentalists, the San Joaquin River is drawing its share of interest as river restoration discussions continue.

As discussions between the Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA) and a coalition of environmental and fishery interests continue, other stakeholders with direct interests along the San Joaquin River are making sure that they are heard.

1989 Litigation Started It All

Litigation was originally filed in 1989 against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the Friant Water Users Authority, and Friant districts, including Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District. The lawsuit was brought by a group of environmental organizations, headed by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Originally, the lawsuit targeted water service contracts that were up for renewal in the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project. Later the case was amended by the NRDC to include fishery concerns below Friant Dam.

Settlement Negotiations Replace Court Actions

The original parts of the case dealing with contract renewal were decided years ago in favor of the plaintiffs. However, the fishery aspect of the litigation was put aside in a court-ordered stay of the lawsuit. The stay was agreed to by both sides for the purpose of giving time to see if a negotiated settlement could be achieved. That process, which began in 1999, continues today with various studies and pilot projects having been conducted over the past 4 years.

Specifically targeted in the negotiations is the restoration of a fishery below Friant Dam, all the way to the confluence of the

San Joaquin and Merced rivers. A guiding tenet of the negotiations has been that any restoration plan would be accomplished without a loss of water or an increase in costs for existing Friant water users.

Stakeholder Group Formed

As of late, a number of stakeholders along the river have made their presence known. The latest is a notable group called the "San Joaquin River Task Force". Its membership includes representatives from the Boards of Supervisors from Merced, Madera, and Fresno counties, and the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor Water Authority. Also part of the Task Force is another stakeholder group primarily composed of landowner and water users along the lower reaches of the San Joaquin River known as the Resources Management Coalition. Additionally, the Task Force asked Friant Water Users Authority and the NRDC to join, which FWUA enthusiastically accepted. Without explanation, NRDC has yet to accept the offer.



The Task Force is expected to play a key role in giving river stakeholders an opportunity to be heard in the San Joaquin River restoration efforts that are underway.

New Storage In Friant's Future?

A number of forums are talking about the need for additional surface water storage on the San Joaquin River (SJR). And while it is just talk now, many within the Friant water community are seeking out ways that talk can become action.

Here are the latest places new storage has been recently discussed:

CALFED- This joint state/federal program that targets improving the bay-delta estuary and water needs in California have included an SJR storage component of 700,000 acre-feet in its preliminary list of options.

SJR Task Force- This new group of river stakeholders (see adjacent article) has discussed resurrecting an old dam site upstream of the existing Friant Dam. The site, known as Temperance Flat, was originally mapped by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1930. It would hold 1 million acre-feet.

FWUA-NRDC negotiations- As noted in the adjacent article, the FWUA and NRDC are engaged in settlement negotiations regarding pending litigation over fishery issues on the SJR. A part of this

(Continued on page 4: NEW STORAGE)



DEID PIPELINE

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

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Irrigation Tech-Line

Included in this edition of the *DEID Pipeline* is our periodic water conservation series insert. We hope that you find it useful in your continuing efforts toward efficient water

Cal-Poly Offers Summer Irrigation Evaluation Program– In conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and DEID, the Cal-Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center is once again offering irrigation system evaluations to DEID growers.

The evaluations specifically review the distribution uniformity of applied water. Participating farmers will receive a quick system check up along with suggested improvements for their consideration.

The evaluations are free of charge and are provided on a first come, first served basis. Call the DEID office to make an appointment.



(NO PRORATE: Continued from page 1)

2003 water supply.

The worse-case scenario is the possibility of a fall-winter prorate that would be from that time forward until the end of February. In other words, water used prior to a prorate would not count.

If a prorate is necessary, it would be invoked no earlier than October.

Time will Tell

The cautiousness being exhibited by the Bureau is commendable given the borderline conditions of this particular water year. Worse than receiving a bump in the water supply later in the irrigation season would be making it available too early and then having to take it back if water supply conditions deteriorated. That can result in some districts running out their total supply, which means that their overuse would be non-recoverable.



(NEW STORAGE: Continued from page 3)

mutual effort to develop a river restoration program has been a proposal to complete an appraisal-level investigation on two new water storage projects. One would be to raise Friant Dam, the second to raise the spillway gates at Mammoth Pool reservoir.

Madera Irrigation District-

MID has also investigated the potential of an off-stream reservoir at Fine Gold Creek. The site is on a small tributary to the SJR above Millerton Lake.

