

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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Issue 109

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## 2003 Water Year-It's Up To February and March

*Will February and March come through in 2003, or will they be the final note to a disappointing water year?*

In a near repeat of last year, 2003 started with great promise but is quickly becoming a bit shaky.

### Slow start to a new year

Just as it did in 2002, we entered the new year with above-normal precipitation and snow accumulation. But since January 1st, the pessimist in some of us is beginning to rear its head.

A commonly used measurement of the kind of water year we are experiencing in the San Joaquin River watershed is to look at the amount of precipitation received at Huntington Lake. January averages 7.65 inches. By January 22, 2003 a mere 0.52 inches has fallen. That is way behind the 1.59 inches that Huntington received by that same time in 2002, which is also very short of normal.

### Bureau Gives Forecast

In January of each year, water districts from throughout the Mid-Pacific Region of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation meet to hear

officials report on current watershed conditions and to give their first crystal ball forecast of what the pending year's water supply will be. Friant water users were told to expect only 75 percent of its Class 1 water and no Class 2 if the remainder of the precipitation year remains dry. That's not good news. At 75 percent Class 1, DEID water users would have only 1.7 acre-feet per acre for the entire year. A water supply prorate would be inevitable.

### Will Things Get Better?

We hope so, but only time will tell. In the mean time, water deliveries will resume on February 1 after the two month dewatering of the Friant-Kern Canal. The District will be using the remainder of its 2002 water supply during February (the new 2003 water year doesn't start until March 1).

It is still early in the water year, early enough for things to get better very

quickly. We can only hope that good things start to happen.

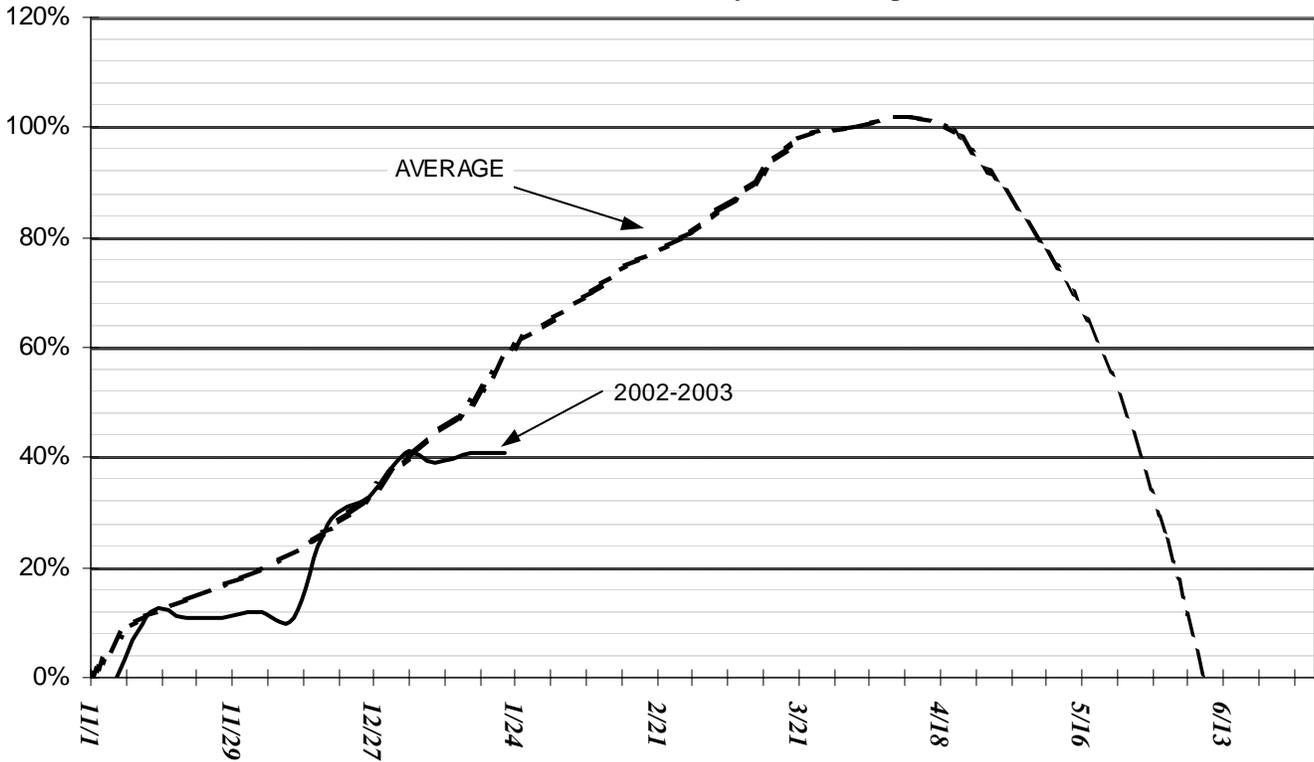
### Time to sign up for the 2003 Water Year.

Water users and landowners that anticipate receiving DEID water in 2003 need to submit a Water Application to the District office by February 14th. See article on Page 3 for more information



## SAN JOAQUIN BASIN

### Water Content in Percent of April 1st Average

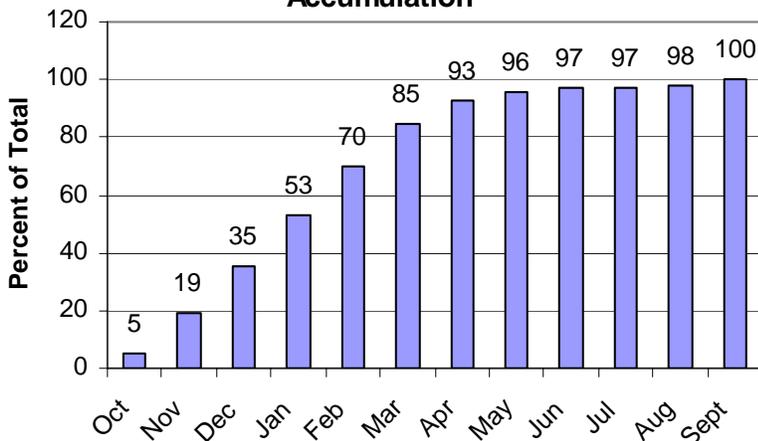


The graph above shows how the current 2002-03 water year is shaping up when compared to the long-term average. The dashed line is indicative of how the San Joaquin River water supply typically develops and accumulates over time in an average year water. The water content of the snow pack is the unit of measurement. The solid line is the current 2001-02 year. Historically, the snow pack peaks on April 1st. Forecasts of the water supply that will result in any given year are made by taking actual measurements of the water content of the snow pack at various points in the watershed and then comparing the actual weighted average to the historical long-term average.

As a general rule of thumb, a snow pack that follows the average will yield a 100 percent Class 1 and 50 percent Class 2 water supply.



### Normal Pattern of Annual Rainfall Accumulation



### How much of the rainy season is left?

The graph to the left indicates how our rainfall usually accumulates during the precipitation season, which begins in October and ends in September. The months that really count are from December through March, when we typically receive 66 percent of the total rainfall for the entire year.

While we have had drier than normal weather conditions since the beginning of the new year, a wet February and March came make up the deficit quickly.



## Deadline Near To Submit 2003 Water Applications- RRA Forms

*Growers are reminded that it is time to submit all of the necessary paperwork that goes along with a new water year.*

That includes a new Water Application and Bureau of Reclamation forms for the 2003 water year, which begins on March 1.

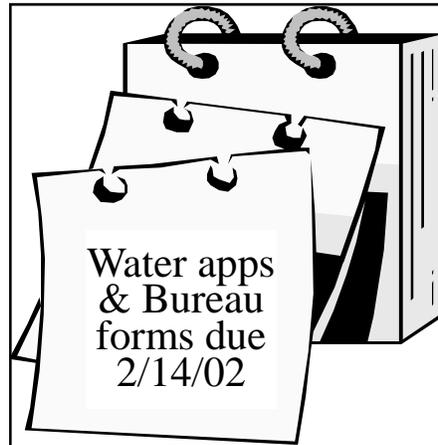
### Applications Being Mailed

Following our historic routine, District staff mailed out the 2003 water year packets to all landowners and water users in January. Included in the packet was the 2003 Water Policy, a 2003 Water Application, and directions on how to comply with Bureau informational filing requirements. If you do not yet have a packet and expect to take delivery of District water anytime between March 1, 2003 and February 28, 2004, please contact the District office immediately.

Municipal and Industrial water users are reminded that they too are required to complete a 2003 Water Application in order to receive water after March 1st. M and I users have also received a packet from the District with instructions for the 2003 water year.

### Some Will, Some Will Not File Bureau Forms

The District included in each packet detailed instructions about forms that are required by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and must be submitted prior to the District delivering water to a landholding. All landowners and water



users are asked to carefully review the information contained in the packet to insure that all required Bureau forms are completed accurately before returning to the District office.

Many growers within the District will not have to file any Bureau forms. Those with less than 240 acres owned, leased, and/or

farmed in districts receiving federal project water service are not required to file.

Those with questions are encouraged to contact Ola Buchanan, our RRA forms specialist (among her many other duties!) at the District office.

### No Forms, No water

An important reminder: without a completed 2003 Water Application and all required Bureau forms on file, no water deliveries can be made after March 1, 2003. This is true for all agricultural water users as well as our municipal and industrial water customers.

While the filing of Bureau forms and water applications are necessary, we understand that the process may be a confusing one. District staff are available to assist you, upon your request. If you need help, please do not hesitate to call the District office at (661) 725-2526.



## 2003 Water Rates Held Steady From 2002

*At its January meeting, the DEID Board of Directors took action to keep the 2003 base water rate at \$31.00 per acre-foot, unchanged from 2002.*

The cost of water delivered to non-full cost lands will remain at \$31.00 per acre-foot in 2003. Water rates for full-cost lands also remain unchanged from the 2002 water rates

Those growers in areas that require pumping will also be assessed a lift charge. Approximately one-third of the District requires pumping. The 2003 lift rates also remain unchanged from 2002.

The new 2003 Water Policy that was recently sent to all District landowners and water users contained the 2003 water rates. Those anticipating taking water service from the District in 2003 should

thoroughly review the rules and regulations contained in the Policy for other items of information that will be important to their farming operations and landholdings in the coming water year.



