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## GEARING UP FOR THE 2004 WATER YEAR

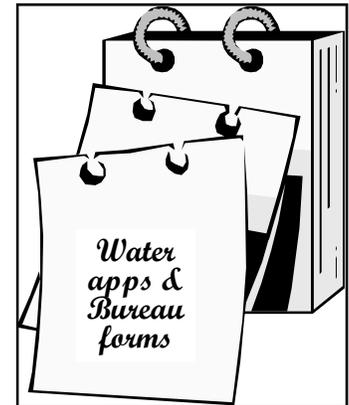
By now growers in the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District have received an early Christmas present—all of the paper work necessary for the 2004 water year. The 2004 water year begins on March 1.

Included in the mailing was a new Water Application, Bureau of Reclamation forms, and other applications. The packet also contains detailed instructions on which forms need to be filled out, depending on individual situations.

Our water users are accustomed to receiving

their water application packet in January. This year, the District has made an effort to get the 2004 packets to all water users before Christmas to ease the time crunch many have in meeting the filing deadline. All forms must be returned to the District office by February 6, 2004.

Municipal and Industrial water users are reminded that they too are required to complete a 2004 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 2004 water year.

If you do not yet have a packet and are expecting to take water from the District in 2004, or you have questions about the packet that you have already received, please contact the District.

## TOO SOON TO TELL FOR 2004 WATER SUPPLY

Try as we might, it is just too early in the water year to know much about what 2004 will bring for a water supply.

We do know that we are off to a dryer than normal start. As of December 17th, the San Joaquin

River watershed was recording 47 to 62 percent of the seasonal average precipitation.

A glimmer of good news has recently been issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Agency

reported that its scientists had observed telltale signs of an “El Nino” condition. Albeit this is a weak formation, the El Nino effect can bring greater than normal precipitation and snowfall to California.



The benefits of developed water supplies in California that support rural communities are the target of a new public outreach pro-

*“All businesses in these communities, whether auto dealerships or clothing stores, welcome the patronage of those who work on local farms.”*

Mike Wade,  
Executive Director,  
California Farm  
Water Coalition



## DISTRICT SUPPORTS PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District has joined with other Friant Districts to promote a broad public education project that will promote farm water use, particularly that used by those in the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project. The Campaign is being coordinated through the California Farm Water Coalition.

The role that agriculture plays in providing jobs and fueling local communities is being featured on local radio ads that began in November and are playing throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

A larger campaign directed at the metropolitan areas of Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco will be launched in 2004.

“It is important that Californians recognize the role that agriculture plays in their lives,” said Coalition Executive Director Mike Wade.

“Not only are farmers feeding our state and the world but they are also providing a livelihood for thousands of workers.

Wade has been meeting with DEID representatives and others from the Friant area in developing the campaign. The campaign calls for

advertising messages placed on the sides of metropolitan buses and at bus stops in Los Angeles and San Diego. Radio advertising is also scheduled for San Francisco. Theater advertising is also being planned statewide that present the farm water message on the screen while patrons are waiting for their movie to begin.

The 2004 effort, which is the first phase of a multi-year campaign, has a budget of nearly half-a-million dollars. Funding support is a combination of Coalition funds, additional contributions from Friant districts, and private donations.

## COALITION LEADER POINTS OUT PLANNING NEEDS

In a recent editorial that appeared in the *California Farmer* magazine, California Farm Water Coalition Executive Director Mike Wade told of the problems that ag interests have recently had in the State-sponsored process that is developing a

framework dealing with future State water needs.

Wade points out that a major hurdle has been an attitude that agriculture exists as a water bank for others in time of need. That has resulted in the exclusion of any new surface water facilities being

considered beyond those included in the State-Federal “CalFed” Program.

Wade says that ag interests have continued to stress that all water options need to be explored, and the time to do so is now.

## BACK TO COURT IN NRDC LITIGATION

Following the disintegration of settlement discussions earlier in the year, litigants in the NRDC vs. Rodgers lawsuit returned to federal Court on December 15th.

Lawyers for the Natural Resources Defense Council, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and Friant water districts appeared before federal Judge Lawrence Karlton to present and argue various motions.

Most notable was a “summary Judgment” petition by NRDC that requests the Court to find in favor of NRDC without having a complete hearing.

The original case was brought by NRDC and other environmental groups in 1988 as a legal challenge to the government’s renewal of long-term water service contracts with Friant districts, including DEID. The complaint

was later amended to include an allegation that Friant districts are required to release water below Friant Dam to restore an anadromous fishery all the way to the Sacramento delta. Friant water interests maintain that to do so is neither reasonable, prudent, nor feasible.

Judge Karlton has set a schedule for further arguments on the Summary Judgment motion for early 2004.



*“This study has the strong support from the agricultural community, water districts, and local governments that surround the San Joaquin River.”*

*Valley congressional delegation letter to President Bush*



## VALLEY DELEGATION SUPPORTS NEW STORAGE

A bipartisan group of valley congressmen have joined forces to urge federal funding to study the feasibility of additional storage on the upper San Joaquin River basin. The delegation is promoting a \$6 million line item in President Bush’s 2005 fiscal year budget.

Congressmen Devin Nunes, William Thomas, George Radanovich, Cal Dooley, and Dennis Cardoza jointly authored the

letter to the President requesting the funds. In the letter, they cite that “... the San Joaquin Valley continues to face a water crisis in which our water supplies have become inadequate to meet expanding needs.” They further noted that “New storage capability on the San Joaquin River would go a long way to meet the needs of farmers and urban centers of the San Joaquin valley and would take the necessary steps

to restoring downstream habitats.”

This latest request is part of a process to look at new storage in central California. The 2003 fiscal year included authorization for the feasibility study on the Upper San Joaquin River. In response to that, the 2004 fiscal year included \$1.5 million to begin the study. The \$6 million request for 2005 would allow the study to be finished by June of 2006.

## DEID PIPELINE

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

14181 Avenue 24  
Delano, CA 93215

Phone: 661-725-2526  
Fax: 661-725-2556  
Email: [deid@deid.us](mailto:deid@deid.us)

Included in this issue of the DEID Pipeline is the latest edition of the "Irrigation Tech-line". This water conservation insert is periodically provided for the use of our growers and water users in their continuing efforts toward efficient water management.

Please contact us if you would like more information on loans, grants, cost-sharing,

November-December 2003

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*The Board of Directors and employees of the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for allowing us to serve you in 2003. We wish you and yours a most joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.*

*We look forward to serving you in 2004.*

### A reminder of our office hours during the holidays

- The District office will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Thursday, January 1.
- From Friday, December 26th through Wednesday, December 31st the office will be open between 8 am and 10 am only for water orders .
- We will resume normal office hours on Friday, January 2, 2004.

You may leave a water order or report an emergency at any time by calling (661) 725-2526.