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WATER ORDERS SEE SEASONAL DECLINE

Grower demand for water has slowed, as expected for this time of year. However, the amount used by District growers in September was higher than the amount typically used for the month.

Growers in the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District used a little over 12, 100 acre-feet of water in September. Historically growers use about 10,000 acre-feet in the month.

The September use

during 2003 is the highest for any year since 1986 when District water users used 13,500 acre-feet.

As we approach winter, water use will continue to decline. Anticipated October deliveries are 6,500 acre-feet, and November demand is expected to slow to 3,500 acre-feet.

District water supplies will be sufficient to meet grower demand through



Maintenance Operations Supervisor Roland Gross scans a District meter. Water deliveries will continue through the balance of the water year with no shortages an-

the balance of the 2003 water year, which ends on February 28, 2004. The 2004 water year runs from March 2004 through February 2005.

WINTER OPERATIONAL CHANGES ANNOUNCED

As the winter slowdown in water demands approaches, the District wants to remind its water users of operational changes for this time of year.

Water orders can still be made any time through the telephone ordering

system, but there will be no staff in the office on Saturdays to take your orders personally. Orders for Saturday need to be in the office by Friday morning at the latest.

Field personnel will continue making water changes Monday through

Saturday, but no changes will be made on Sundays during the winter months.

With the end of daylight savings time on the last week end in October, field personnel will also change their normal work hours to begin their day at 7:00 am.



The original District logo, unchanged since the District first began water deliveries, shown here on the sign outside of the of-

NEW DISTRICT LOGO SELECTED

The Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District is proud to introduce its new logo.

The logo, shown here and on the front page of our newsletter, was designed by a local multi-media company in Tulare. *Lesley and Associates* provided a number of designs for review, with the final logo selected by the Board of Directors and District employees.



The logo will be prominently used in future correspondence and promotions of the District. New side-door

decals are also being prepared for use on all district vehicles and equipment.

"Agriculture is an easy target to get the water that's needed for cities and for fish because farmers are unwilling or unable to fight for their water allotments."

Tony Quinn, co-editor of the non-partisan California Target Book (see related article on Page 4)

STATE WATER OFFICIALS SNUB AG REPS

State Department of Water Resources (DWR) officials have largely ignored the call from farm water representatives to include the need for more water storage into an updated water plan for California.

The process for updating the California Water Plan (Plan) includes a large public Advisory Committee that includes a variety of viewpoints on California water. One component of that Committee is the Ag Caucus, made up of representatives from farm water and agricultural organizations. Their charge has

been to insure that farm water is adequately addressed in the update.

But frustrations have mounted at the seeming refusal of DWR management to address agricultural concerns.

Instead of addressing the Ag Caucus concerns, the "tone" of the Plan in its early drafts is a "soft path" approach to the water needs of the State. Statements in the updated drafts indicate the future water needs of the State will be met by existing supplies. Agriculture is repeatedly singled out as a source for new water. Through conser-

vation, State officials and others believe 1-1 ½ million acre-feet of water could be produced that would then be shifted to other uses.

The update process for the Plan does not include an analysis of future State water needs and how to meet those needs. The Ag Caucus is concerned that the "tone" of the water plan is to sidestep the need to develop new surface storage facilities in favor of water conservation, which is a formula for disaster for California.

A news release from the California Farm Water Coalition was the basis of this article

DEID WATER TIED IN TO STATE-FED DEAL?

As was reported in the last issue of the *DEID Pipeline*, the state Water Project operators recently met with their counterparts that operate the federal Central Valley Project and worked out a classic “win-win” situation. Their plan, called the “Napa Proposal” (for the location where the discussions were held) would integrate much of the operations of their respective facilities, yielding greater water delivery flexibility and efficiency for both projects. Water users relying on Sacramento delta exports would see an increase in water supplies, regardless of being a state or federal

water recipient.

Noteworthy is the original discussions between the state and federal project operators excluded representatives from environmental groups.

Now that the enviros have had a chance to see the Napa Proposal in detail, they have a few “suggestions”.

One of their more onerous suggestions comes from a group led by the Natural Resources Defense Council. They have proposed that any new operational plan for the delta needs to include water releases from Friant Dam in sufficient quantities to reach the delta. Any such

releases would come out of the water supplies of Friant water districts, including DEID. The District receives all of its water from the Friant Division of the federal Central Valley Project.

The original Napa Proposal respected the existing water rights of Friant interests and the fact that there is no current physical connection to the delta from the upper stem of the San Joaquin River. No Friant water was included by the state and federal negotiators.

NRDC and Friant are currently involved in litigation that began in 1988 over river releases from Friant Dam.

“If we as a society are going to solve California’s water problems for future generations, decision makers are going to have to start ignoring paid environmental hacks that represent only a small fraction of the people and start listening to the vast majority of legitimate stakeholders.”

Kole Upton, Chairman
Friant Water Users Authority

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT PUSHES CALFED BILL

Ken Calvert (R-*Riverside*) and Grace Napolitano (D-*Santa Fe Springs*) have successfully guided Calvert’s CalFed reauthorization bill out of its first committee hearing.

HR2828 would create a

western water supply grants program and allow the CalFed Bay-Delta program to continue.

Next stop for the bill is the full House Resources Committee, chaired by

Richard Pombo (R-*Stockton*). Pombo has indicated that he is willing to move the bill.

Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate by both California Senators.



DEID PIPELINE

*PROVIDING
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ON ISSUES OF
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Included in this issue of the DEID Pipeline is the latest edition of the "Irrigation Techline". This water conservation insert is periodically provided for the use of our growers and water users in their continuing efforts to

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AGRICULTURE AN EASY TARGET

"New dams are expensive and politicians lack the will to take on the environmentalists who uniformly oppose them—as witness the generation-long battle over the never completed Auburn Dam. Agriculture is an easy target to get the water that's needed for cities and for fish because farmers are unwilling or unable to fight for their water allotments."

This is the statement written by Tony Quinn,

co-editor of the California Target Book, a non-partisan analysis of state legislative and congressional elections, in the September issue of California's Capital Region in Comstock's Business magazine.

"This is an example of the rhetoric that we deal with on an almost daily basis," stated Mike Wade, executive director of the California Farm Water Coalition. "This thinking that agriculture

is the source of tomorrow's water supply is becoming more and more established in the regulatory minds in our state. We have to redouble our efforts to counter this line of thinking."

The Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District is a member of the California Farm Water Coalition and supports its objective of educating the public on the vital importance of water for California agriculture.