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\$1.3 MILLION CONSTRUCTION PROJECT BEGINS

With the 2005 irrigation season winding down, District staff is turning its attention to winter maintenance activities and construction projects. Some of those activities will be routine, others anything but.

Plenty to do

Some of the more routine activities to be addressed during the fall and winter months include cleaning up weed growth around the pumping plants, conducting well measurements, and attending to a few pipeline leaks that popped up during the 2005 irrigation season. Those activities and others require annual attention and are typically done when the water demands from our growers have diminished during the late fall and winter months.



New Construction

Also scheduled is the start of a 3-year construction project with a price tag of \$1,300,000. The project entails reconstruction of motor control centers

(MCC) at fifteen pumping plants in the District. There are a total of eighteen District plants that pressurize about one-third of the District's service area.

The motor control center is the heart of each pumping plant. Contained within each MCC cabinet are the breakers, relays, and other control components that provide for the proper operation of each pump and of the entire plant.

The District Board of Directors authorized replacement of the MCCs after experiencing a power surge that knocked out one of the District's stations last winter. Finding the needed replacement parts was done with great difficulty. The experience exposed just how vulnerable the District was should a major problem occur with a pumping plant during the peak of the irrigation season.

The District's pumping plants were constructed in the mid-1950's. Most of the MCC components remain the original equipment. After 50-plus years of service, replacement parts are

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ERIK ANAYA JOINS DISTRICT STAFF



DEID is pleased to announce that Erik Anaya has joined the District staff. Erik is our new Water Operations Technician position.

Erik is a life-long Delano-Earlimart resident and a Delano High graduate. For the last three years, Erik worked at a local pump company as a dispatcher and customer service representative.

Erik's duties at DEID will primarily be in water operations, taking water

orders, dispatching, and maintaining water use records and other computer-based data. Erik will also assist in billing operations, safety oversight, and other administrative duties.

Erick lives in Earlimart with his wife and three sons.

Erik replaces David Ross-Smith, who recently left the District for another position in Bakersfield.

2005 WATER YEAR A GOOD ONE



A wet winter and spring provided the necessary snow pack that made the 2005 water year a great one. That turned out to be fortuitous, as the summer turned hot. Growers responded to the July and August

heat wave by accessing DEID water at a record pace. Water use during those two months totaled 49,700 acre-feet. The 10-year average for that same time period is 46,600 acre-feet.

WATER ORDERS ON THE WEB



District growers are reminded that daily water orders can now be placed over the Internet through the District's new website.

The water ordering feature can be accessed through the *Growers Only* section of the web site. Growers must pre-register with the District and receive their own unique password in order to gain access to the *Growers Only* section.

The *Growers Only* section also contains the latest District operation and maintenance notices, current water rates and lift zone charges, and also has a bulletin board for the exclusive use for our growers to post messages. There is also a place for the District to post notices that are for DEID water users only.

Go to www.deid.org to see all of the features that our web site has to offer!

LITIGATION AND LEGISLATION UPDATE

NRDC Lawsuit

The trial date for this litigation remains February 14, 2006 before U.S. District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton. The judge will hear arguments in the “remedy” phase of this 17-year lawsuit brought by the as Natural Resources Defense Council against the Bureau of Reclamation. The crux of the litigation is the potential redirection of water that has been used by east side valley farms and communities for the past 60 years to the San Joaquin River for the benefit of fish. The stakes are very high, with the future of the central San Joaquin Valley and the regions’ Friant water supplies hanging in the balance.

Attorneys on both sides are preparing for trial, developing expert testimony and interviewing witnesses that will testify at the trial.

Radanovich/Feinstein Process

Not wanting to wait for a court decision by Judge Karlton, two lawmakers have taken a courageous stand to get both sides together in an attempt to settle the NRDC litigation.

Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman George Radanovich boldly acted to bring representatives from the NRDC and Friant back to the settlement table to see if the sides could agree on a compromise to the pending NRDC lawsuit (discussed above). The talks are being conducted quietly and under an agreement of confidentiality.

In a recent interview, Congressman Radanovich said “We think if we can get both sides to agree, that is better than more years (of fighting) and lawyers. This has got to be a consensus deal.”

SB 350 Defeated

Earlier this summer a bill authored by State Senator Mike Machado (D-Linden) was defeated through the combined efforts of our Central Valley assembly members and senators as well as the coordinated actions of the Friant Water Authority and the Valley Water Alliance.

Machado’s bill, SB350, attempted to make into state law a decision to re-establish a fishery on the San Joaquin River through the NRDC lawsuit that has yet to be heard in court.

Machado’s motivation is thought to be improving water quality for growers that farm in and around the delta.

CVPIA Reform

Congressman Devin Nunes has introduced legislation that would correct many of the shortcomings of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992.

In announcing the bill, Congressman Nunes said, “Even the staunchest supporters of CVPIA recognize that it has failed on a number of counts. This bill corrects those problems and makes sure our precious water resources are managed efficiently and the program is accountable to achieve its goals.”



“Yet, after more than a decade and expenditure of more than \$750 million, the result is diminished water reliability for users and no identifiable benefit for the environment.”

Congressman Devin Nunes, commenting on the need to reform the Central Valley Project

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

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difficult, and in some cases, impossible to find. It was that realization that led the Board to authorize the motor control center replacement project.

Funds earmarked for MCC project

Funding of the new construction project is not anticipated to require any new funds from District growers. This is due to the revenues now being received on a regular basis from the Friant Power Authority, of which DEID is a member. In the early 1980's the District joined with a group of other Friant water districts to create the Authority, which in turn constructed three hydro generation power plants at Friant dam. After being plagued by a series of below-normal water years that severely limited revenue from the plants, success was finally achieved in 2002. That year marked the first time that the project returned significant income to the participating districts.

Revenue from the hydro project will continue to be cyclic, dependant on each water year. However, the finances that the District will realize in 2005 will be sufficient to start the MCC replacement project. In addition, the District is looking for outside grants and funding that may reduce the overall cost of the project to the District.

The MCC replacement project will begin on November 1, with construction running through February. The County Line lateral will be reconstructed at that time. The balance of the plants will be completed during the following two winters.