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Special Water Conservation Insert Included!

2005 WATER YEAR STARTS STRONG

The 2005 water year is off with a bang. Plentiful rain and snow fall have irrigation districts looking for the first above normal water supply in 6 years.

The San Joaquin River watershed, where all of the water supply for the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District originates, is showing snow pack that is already 191 percent of the normal accumulation for February 1. And with part of February and all March still to go, (typically big snow months), things could get even better.

Normal Rainfall

The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation updated it's water supply forecast on February 15th, noting that with normal rainfall for the balance of the water year, Friant districts would receive all of their Class 1 contracted

allotment and 60 percent of their Class 2 contract quantity. For DEID, that would be enough water to provide full irrigation demands to all eligible acreage, and also provide enough water that could be exchanged for a water supply for excess lands.



Excess lands cannot receive District contract water due to federal Reclamation law restrictions without such an exchange.

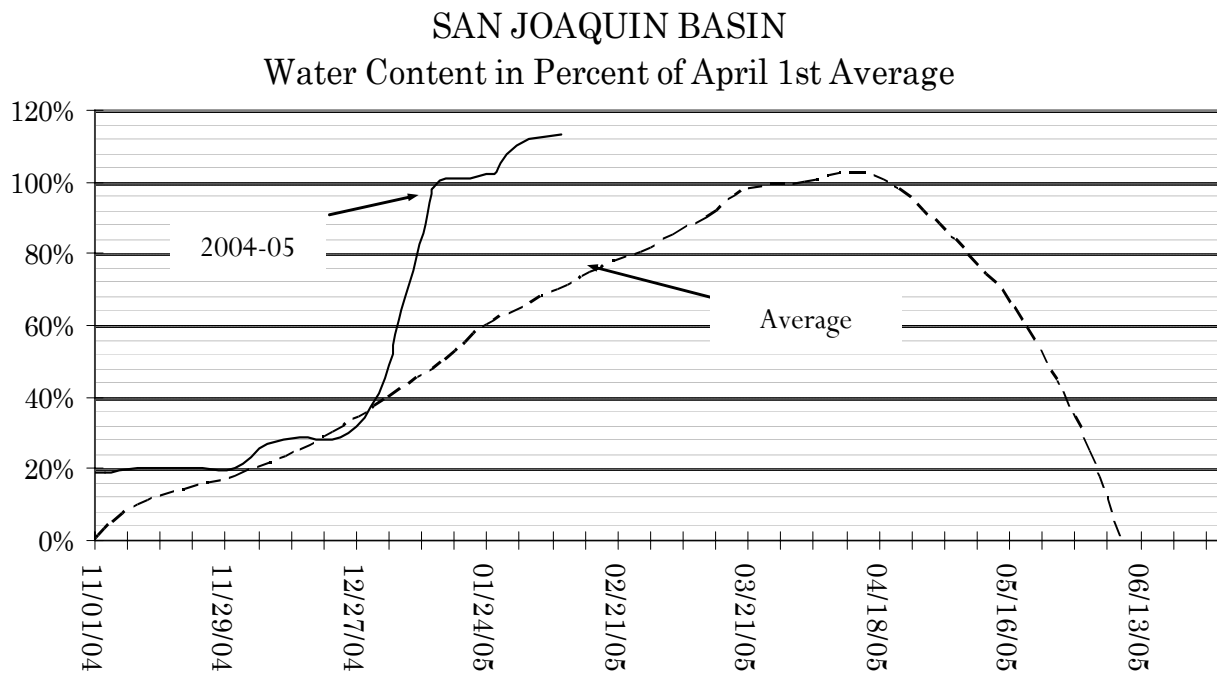
The Bureau also said that even with below average precipitation for the

balance of the water year there would probably be at least 35 percent Class 2 water available. That would still be sufficient water to meet the irrigation demands from both eligible and excess lands.

Forms Now Due

Those planning on taking water from the District should have their 2005 water applications and any required Reclamation law forms on file at the District office by now. All forms must be in and approved prior to receiving water after March 1. There may be significant time required to review and approve the required forms, and there can be no water deliveries during the processing period. Water users are encouraged to file their forms as soon as possible.

SO HOW MUCH SNOW DO WE REALLY HAVE?



The graph above shows how the current 2004-05 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 2004-05 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.

JUDGE KARLTON THROWS ANOTHER CURVE IN NRDC LAWSUIT

Keeping with his unpredictable nature, federal Court Judge Lawrence Karlton threw another curve into the NRDC litigation at a hearing on January 20th. At that hearing, the judge established a new schedule and process to hear the remaining issues in this 16-year old lawsuit brought by an environmental coalition led by the Natural Resources Defense Council. Judge Karlton also announced that he would deal with all remaining liability issues before doing anything on potential remedies that he would cast upon

the Friant project. Judge Karlton also noted that he sees his court as nothing more than a "...weigh station on the way...to the Supreme Court..." and signaled that he clearly wants to get this case out of his courtroom.

The next court date was set for March 11, at which time the judge will hear arguments about potential violations of the federal Endangered Species Act.

OLA BUCHANAN'S DISTRICT CAREER ENDS

After 10 years as an Administrative Assistant with the District, Ola Buchanan has retired. Her last day was February 11th.

Ola began her career with DEID on November 21, 1994. That followed a 30-year career in the banking industry.

A long-time McFarland resident, Ms. Buchanan handled a number of tasks at the District. Primary in her assignments was assisting District landowners in complying with Reclamation law, which

included completing annual reporting forms for every landowner with greater than 240 acres. Her administrative duties were many as she assisted various members of the staff and Board of Directors.

Ola was feted at an open house at the District office on the afternoon of her last day. Many that she had worked with and had helped over the years stopped by to wish her well.

Ola was further honored later that evening at a dinner that included the DEID staff and Board

of Directors. Among the presentations made to Ola was a Board resolution which read in part "...the Board and staff join in wishing Ola well in the years to come with much happiness, good health, and an abundance of play time with grandchildren."



DEID Board President Harold Nelson thanks Ola Buchanan for her dedicated service to the District landowners, the staff, and the Board of Directors at a retirement dinner held in her honor.

NORA PEREZ JOINS DISTRICT STAFF

Nora Perez has been added to the District staff as the new Administrative Assistant, replacing Ola Buchanan, who retired on February 11th.

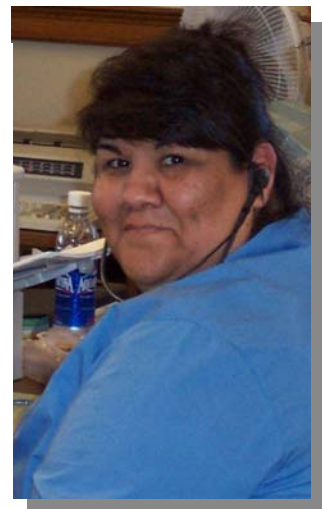
Nora is a life-long area resident. A McFarland High graduate, her previous experience includes working at

Paramount Citrus, Wackenhut, and McFarland Parks and Recreation Department.

Nora had an opportunity to train with her predecessor for a few weeks prior to Ola's retirement. She will pick up many of the duties previously covered by Ola, including processing

of Reclamation law forms. She comes to the District with experience in a number of secretarial and administrative areas.

Nora resides in Delano with her husband and daughters.



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**

Under Construction

The District's new web site is currently being designed and built. The site will include weather information, water conservation and management information and links, and a section just for DEID growers.

*Look for our new web site at
www.deid.org
in the next 30 days!*

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PROGRESS MADE ON NEW PUMPING PLANT

Construction of a new pumping plant for the District is continuing with completion scheduled for the end of February.

The foundation for the new plant was formed and poured by a construction crew from the Tulare Irrigation District. All other construction has been accomplished by the District's own staff.

The new plant consists of a single 20 hp pump that will boost deliveries on a single sub-lateral between Avenue 56 and the Friant-

Kern Canal. The unique location of the sub-lateral, butting up to the side of the Canal made its construction possible.

The sub-lateral has historically been unable to meet the demand for water during the irrigation season. The new pumping plant will alleviate this problem and will operate in con-

junction with the District's existing sub-lateral pumps located on the west side of Avenue 56.

Funding for the plant is being provided by the growers that will benefit from the new plant.

