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2006 WATER YEAR STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL

As the 2005 water year winds down, it is hard to not begin the annual exercise of trying to predict what the next water year will be.

This much we can tell you: it is too early to tell.

The fall and winter months have been very dry on the valley floor, but better in the mountains. For example, the recorder at Huntington Lake, in the San Joaquin River watershed, is showing a precipitation total equal to 92 percent

of normal. But, with each passing day without additional rain or snow fall, that percentage is dropping like a lead balloon.

History isn't much help either. Conditions so far this new water year are much like they were in 1994 and again in 2003. 1994 was a dry year; 2003 was wet.

Keep your fingers crossed for the snowmakers to come our way!

RON CARTER COMPLETES 25 YEARS WITH DEID

The old saying is "good men (or women) are hard to come by". One could add that when you do find a good one, it can be even harder to get them to stick around. Despite these adages, DEID did find a good man and he did stick around.

Ron Carter was recently honored at a luncheon that celebrated his 25th year with the District.

Ron began his career with DEID on December 8, 1980

as a ditchtender. Over the years, Ron also served as the Maintenance Foreman for the District and has done just about every water operations and maintenance job there is to do. He is currently a leadman on the District crew.

The Board of Directors recognized Ron's longstanding career and accomplishments at the luncheon by awarding him with a gift and expression of appreciation.



Ron Carter (left) accepts congratulations from General Manager Dale Brogan on his 25 years with DEID.

MCC REPLACEMENT PROJECT PROGRESSES



Larry Hunt from Concepts in Controls, Inc. reviews a recently replaced MCC at the District's D-12 pumping plant.

As reported in the fall addition of the *Pipeline*, the District has embarked on an ambitious project to reconstruct the motor control centers (MCC) at 15 of the District's pumping plants. About one-third of the DEID delivery system relies on District pumps for water deliveries.

The initial efforts for the 2005-06 winter time period will be focused on those plants along County Line Avenue. Three major plants are involved with this pumping lateral, the largest in the District. As of the writing of this edition of the *Pipeline*, reconstruction at one of the plants has been completed and a second plant is underway. All three plants will be finished and in operation before the start of the new water year.

The 3-year, \$1,360,000 project will replace pumping plant components that were originally installed in the 1950's. Other enhancements are

being made to increase delivery reliability and provide direct communication of important operational information to the office, such as the rate of energy consumption on a real time basis. The District is also anticipating the ability to have water flow information transmitted back to the office once the Friant Water Authority updates its canal meters.

Other work in association with the MCC replacement project is also being conducted by technicians from the Square-D Corporation. Reconstruction of the MCCs includes replacing the main breakers at each pumping plant at the connection point with Southern California Edison Company. The technicians, who were dispatched from North Carolina, have nearly finished their work at all plants throughout the District.



A technician from the Dept. of Water Resources performs maintenance on one of the White River gauging stations.

WHITE RIVER DATA AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

White River gauging stations are now serviced and ready to go for the 2005-06 winter. Normal maintenance was completed as well as vandalism repairs at one of the sites.

A third gauging station on White River, owned and operated by the U.S. Geological Survey, also appears to be operational.

Rainfall data, stage readings and other information are provided by the stations. The highest station is the COJO site, with the lowest located at Road 208. The 208 station is at the eastern edge of the District boundary.

Information from all three stations is available on the web. Simply go to www.deid.org and look for the link on our home page.

SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS CONTINUE

Parties in the 17-year battle over the future of the water supply for the east side of the San Joaquin Valley are making progress in reaching a settlement.

Negotiators for the Friant defendants and those for the environmental plaintiffs have been joined by representatives from the federal government, who are also defendants in the case. Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District is one of the Friant defendants. The environmental plaintiffs are lead by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

NRDC has sought to redirect San Joaquin River water that has been the water supply for many Valley communities, farms and businesses for the past 60 years. NRDC sued to have this base resource diverted back to the river for the benefit of establishing a

salmon fishery.

Settlement talks began in earnest in November at the urging of Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman George Radanovich. Both have pledged to carry legislation to enact any settlement that the litigants agree upon. The settlement negotiations are being conducted under an agreement of confidentiality.

The February trial date for this litigation has been postponed by U.S. District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton in order to give the talks sufficient time to conclude.

The DEID Board of Directors were recently briefed about the draft terms of the settlement by attorneys involved in the discussions. The Board voiced its support of the direction that the settlement talks are going, as have all of the other Friant defendants.

“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.”

Congressman George Radanovich, commenting on the NRDC-Friant settlement discussions that he and Senator Feinstein initiated.

DISTRICT DATABASE GOING PUBLIC

Reported in a previous edition of the *Pipeline* was the recent development of a digital map of the District. That was accomplished with the help of Provost and Pritchard Engineering earlier this year. Now the project is moving to the next step by making the information available to our growers and water users.

District growers will soon be able to access information regarding

locations of district facilities (pipelines, turnouts, boundaries, etc.) from a computer located at the front counter in the office. Assessor parcel information will also be available.

Growers will also be able to view their own water use information at any time. This information will be protected and available only to the individual water user for his/her own account.



Jason Thomas from Provost and Pritchard Engineering and DEID Operations Tech Erik Anaya review new features on the District's digital database.

DEID PIPELINE

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

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The Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District staff joins with the Board of Directors to say thank you for allowing us to serve you in 2005. We wish you and yours a most joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

A reminder of our office hours during the holidays

- The office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2.
- From Tuesday, December 27th through Friday, December 30th the office will be open between 8 am and 10 am only for water orders .
- We will resume normal office hours on Tuesday, January 3, 2006.

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