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## STRONG FINISH TO 2006 WATER YEAR

We all know about past “Miracle Marches”, but this spring-time finish is shaping up as one for the books.

The 2005 water year was also marked by a late season push in precipitation. By the end of December, the District was looking at a sub-par water year. That quickly turned around with an abundance of rain and snow fall in January and February, yielding an above average 2005 water year.

As for 2006, the year also started off with below normal precipitation total in the fall, only to receive a deluge of rain and snow in February and March. But unlike, 2005, the rain is continuing in strong fashion into April.

As of the April 1 snow course readings conducted by the State Department of Water Resources, the San Joaquin River basin, where DEID receives all of its surface water supply, is at 134 percent of the April 1 average. That bodes well for an excellent water year, with no supply limitation for District water users.

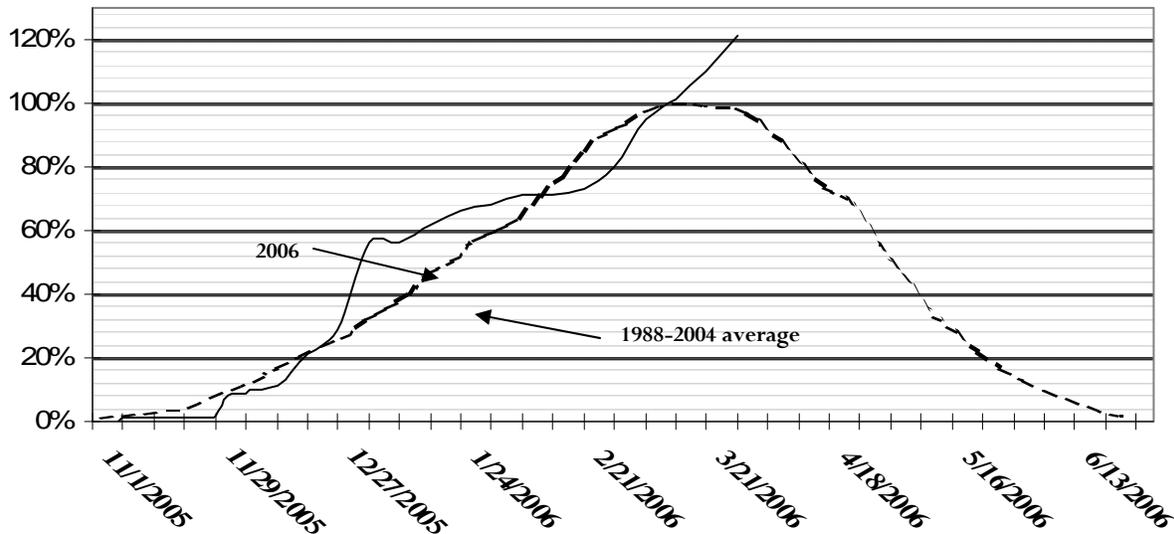
The plentiful water year also means that growers with property that normally cannot receive District water due to Reclamation law restrictions will also be able to take water from the District. Excess land water is made possible by a water exchange with a neighboring district.

With the good also comes the potential for some bad. The current April rains are warm, leading to the possibility of some local flooding. The District is assisting Tulare County officials with watching White River, which is prone to flooding in year types such as this one. It is likely that White River will flow through the District some time this month. Hopefully, flows will be manageable, meaning that the water can be maintained in the existing river channel without damage to adjacent property or surrounding communities.

Those interested in monitoring White River conditions may do so by using the quick link found on the District’s web site. Go to [www.deid.org](http://www.deid.org) to view real-time information from the three gauging stations on White River.



### SAN JOAQUIN BASIN Water Content in Percent of April 1st Average



The graph above shows how the current 2005-06 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 solid line is the current 2005-06 year. Historically, the snow pack peaks on April 1st.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Elev.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Snow Depth</u>	<u>Water Content</u>	<u>Density</u>	<u>April 1 Average</u>	
Mono Pass	11,450	30-MAR	124.2	40.4	33%	30.8	131%
Piute Pass	11,300	29-MAR	136.2	49.1	36%	37.9	130%
Pioneer Basin	10,400	30-MAR	142.9	49.4	35%	34.0	145%
Heart Lake	10,100	30-MAR	106.6	34.8	33%	27.9	125%
Volcanic Knob	10,050	30-MAR	132.5	46.8	35%	30.7	152%
Rose Marie	10,000	30-MAR	123.8	42.2	34%	29.7	142%
Colby Meadow	9,700	30-MAR	99.6	33.4	34%	23.2	144%
Agnew Pass	9,450	27-MAR	111.0	42.6	38%	31.8	134%
Dutch Lake	9,100	30-MAR	113.9	39.6	35%	28.1	141%
Cora Lakes	8,400	27-MAR	122.9	46.3	38%	36.3	128%
Chilkoot Lake	7,450	30-MAR	117.6	47.4	40%	36.8	129%
Tamarack Creek	7,250	27-MAR	82.1	31.7	39%	23.8	133%
Chilkoot Meadow	7,150	30-MAR	118.1	40.2	34%	36.6	110%
Huntington Lake	7,000	27-MAR	71.4	25.1	35%	18.6	135%
Jackass Meadow	6,950	27-MAR	83.4	33.6	40%	24.0	140%
Poison Meadow	6,800	31-MAR	82.5	30.9	37%	24.8	125%
Chiquito Creek	6,800	27-MAR	78.6	28.1	36%	21.7	129%

**Basin Average Percent of April 1: 134%**

#### ***Want more details?***

Listed below is the latest snow course readings from the State Department of Water Resources for the San Joaquin River basin. A review of this information can provide an understanding of the depth of the snow at various elevations with the basin, and can give the reader an appreciation of the relative flood threat. Typical weather reports give a snowline elevation. Below that elevation, rain rather than snow is expected. Rain can melt any accumulated snow, increasing the chance of floods flows.

## CVPIA GETS A REVIEW AFTER 14 YEARS

At long last, the Central Valley Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA) is getting a much deserved review.

Congressmen Radanovich, Nunes, Costa, and Cardoza met in Fresno on March 24 as the House Water and Power Subcommittee on CVPIA reform. A panel of individuals spoke about the shortcomings of the law, with a couple from the environmental community speaking to its virtues.

DEID General Manager Dale Brogan was one of nine individuals invited by

the Subcommittee to testify.

General Manager Brogan highlighted the nonsensical limitations on transfers and exchanges of the law and the heavy financial burden that the law has placed on the backs of water users. Brogan cited a cost of over \$21 million paid by DEID water users alone in CVPIA-mandated fees, including over \$2,330,000 in 2005. Also stressed by Brogan was the lack of results or accountability for the money that has been collected and spent.



*DEID General Manager Dale Brogan testified before the House Water and Power Subcommittee hearing in Fresno.*

## NRDC LAWSUIT-SETTLEMENT IN 30 DAYS?

Reports of an imminent settlement in the 18-year old lawsuit with the Natural Resources Defense Council are widespread. All indications are that it is true.

The DEID Board of Directors met with its attorney at the March Board meeting for a briefing on the settlement discussions. And while the discussions remain confidential, it can be verified that terms of the settlement are in the last phases of negotiations.

Potential affects on the District are being evaluated. The settlement that is being proposed will cost the District a significant amount of water. Key to being able to cope with the loss will be the ability to provide additional water banking opportunities within the District or in

partnership with other water districts to create water banks in other areas.

NRDC originally filed suit in 1988, seeking to redirect San Joaquin River water that has been the water supply for the valley's eastside for the past 60 years back into the river to establish a salmon fishery.

A round of settlement talks began in 2000, but broke down four years later. Following another series of court hearings, settlement discussion began again in November of 2005 at the urging of Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman George Radanovich.

The parties to the lawsuit are scheduled to be back in court on April 11. Settlement could be announced at that time.



***District growers will be briefed on the terms and potential impacts of any settlement when and if a deal is made. Watch for a future announcement and invitation to attend a meeting to review the settlement.***

**DEID PIPELINE**

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

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and a section just for  
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## ARTHUR FLORES JOINS DEID STAFF

Long-time Delano resident Arthur Flores has joined the staff of the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District.

Art is our newest member, hired as an Operations and Maintenance Employee. Art's duties will include

making water deliveries and general maintenance activities. He is expected to take over responsibilities for Avenue 24 mainline water deliveries.



Art comes to the District after working for many years with Whitten Pumps. Most recently, Art has been employed with S.A. Camp. He brings a wealth of practical knowledge and experience to his position.

We welcome Art to our staff and wish him a long and productive career.

### **A Reminder....our office hours have changed.**

The District's normal office hours are Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The office is open through lunch for your convenience.

The office is also now open for water orders on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. through 9:00 a.m.

Sunday off orders will begin in May.

Water orders may be placed at any time by telephone, fax, or on the DEID web site.

