

DELANO-
EARLIMART
IRRIGATION
DISTRICT

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INCREASE IN WATER SUPPLY SMALL BUT WELCOMED

The 2007 water year started out dry and stayed that way. But at least there has been a little bit of good news recently— a five percent increase in the Class 1 supply.

The increase amounted to an additional 0.1 acre-feet per acre in the existing water supply prorated. The water supply allocation to DEID growers now stands at 1.4 acre-feet per acre.

DEID water users were notified by mail last week of the increase. For some, the welcomed news could not come quick enough. Many growers were on the edge of using their allocated water supply from the

District. Others were completely out of water.

At 65 percent Class 1, DEID has an available supply of almost 71,000 acre-feet. DEID needs approximately 125,000 acre-feet in order to meet the annual demands of District water users. An average water year provides at least that amount of water to DEID.

Recent water years have been very good ones for the District. The last year that was similar to 2007 was 1994, when the water supply declaration was 80 percent Class 1. That resulted in a prorated District growers of 1.8 acre-feet per acre.

WATER USE INFO AND WATER ORDERS NOW ON THE WEB

DEID water users can now order water and view up-to-date water use information by turnout through our newly enhanced website. Growers can set up their own password-protected access to their account information as well as placing water orders.

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a

week, these new features are designed to make conducting business with the District as convenient as possible, and on your schedule.

See the special insert in this issue of the *DEID Pipeline* for step-by-step instruction on how to take advantage of these new features.

DEID RECEIVES \$300,000 GRANT



Installed float system on a DEID turnout.

The Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District has been notified that it will receive a \$300,000 grant from the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation as part of the Bureau's *Water 2025 Challenge Grant* program.

The grant, one of only 44 awarded to districts from 11 western states, will be used by DEID to accelerate the installation of **pressure-compensating float systems** on turnouts throughout the District. The float systems provide a constant flow of water with little variance and reacts automatically to flow-altering conditions on either side of the turnout. **Most importantly, the float system gives growers the ability to turn water on or off 24 hours a day without having to wait for District personnel to make the change.**

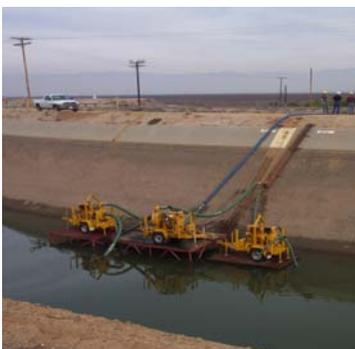
While grower convenience is greatly enhanced, significant water and energy savings can also be a benefit from installations of float systems.

Float systems are available at no

cost to DEID water users. The only direct cost to the grower is the installation of an operating valve downstream of the turnout on the grower's line. This new operating valve is required for the grower to have control of the turnout and thus being able to make water changes at his/her own convenience.

The grant has two years to be used, and the funds from the grant, along with those from the District, are expected to provide for the installation of approximately 160 float systems. Currently, there are just over 190 floats already in use throughout the District. District personnel will begin float system installations in earnest this winter, coinciding with the shut down of the Friant-Kern Canal (see story below).

Growers interested in having a float system installed this winter are encouraged to contact the District office immediately. **Float systems will be installed on a first-come, first-served basis.**



Friant-Kern Canal dewatering operations during the winter of 2002.

FRIANT-KERN CANAL WINTER SHUT-DOWN

The Friant-Kern Canal is being shut down this coming winter for routine maintenance needs. Typically the canal is fully drained every 3 to 5 years for maintenance needs.

With the canal being dewatered, the District will not have water for delivery during the winter months. Water deliveries to growers are expected to be interrupted from November 15, 2007 through January 31, 2008. The exact dates of the dewatering may vary slightly.

Growers will need to make alternate plans for any water needs during this time period.

GROUNDWATER BANKING PROJECT PROPOSED

The DEID Board of Directors recently authorized an investigation into the potential of developing an in-district groundwater banking project. The first step in the investigation will be the pursuit of a pilot project utilizing the District's existing Turnipseed recharge basin, located at Avenue 32 and Road 176.

Groundwater banking may be a new concept to DEID, but is practiced extensively elsewhere, particularly in Kern County.

DEID has owned and operated the Turnipseed recharge basin since 1992. In years of surplus water supplies, water has been introduced into the basin, as well as White River, for the purpose of recharging the aquifer underlying the District. Adding a banking component to the existing operations will involve extracting water previously recharged to supplement other DEID water supplies.

(See GROUNDWATER BANKING on page 4)

“Water banking is not a new concept, just new to DEID. It may offer us the best chance to supplement the amount of water that the District can make available to our growers at the least available cost.”

DEID Board Vice-president Pete Hronis and member of the newly created Groundwater Advisory Committee

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER LEGISLATION STALLS

The easiest part of settling a lawsuit with environmental groups over the restoration of the San Joaquin River just may have been the 18-year process that it took to get it done. That is an observation that one might make when comparing it with the process of getting Congress to agree.

The historic agreement between water districts in the Friant Division of the federal Central Valley Project and 14 environmental groups lead by the Natural Resources Defense Council was inked in the fall of 2006. Because federal authorization is required for the Secretary of the Interior to carry out some of the terms of the settlement, legislation was quickly introduced. The legislation is also needed to fund the federal share of the estimated costs of required river improvements.

The 2006 legislation stalled and was reintroduced in 2007. In the meantime, control of the Congress passed to new leadership, which implemented “PAYGO” rules for new bills. PAYGO is a complicated standard that requires any new spending to be offset with reciprocal cuts in federal spending and/or new revenue sources. The SJR settlement bill has a PAYGO offset of approximately \$250 million. Several attempts to find the necessary offsets have not reached the \$250 million target.

Proponents of the settlement are continuing to seek a resolution to the PAYGO issue. Nevertheless, other river restoration-related activities have begun, including environmental reviews of the proposed settlement and restoration plans.



DEID PIPELINE

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

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Water Orders and Water Use Information - 24 hours a day!
See our special insert inside.***

PARTICIPATION HIGH IN WQ COALITION

The vast majority of District landowners that elected to join the Southern San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition in 2006 have decided to renew their membership in 2007, despite a large increase in the costs associated with the Coalition. Less than 1 percent of the total acreage did not renew.

Over 1.3 million acres in the southern portion of the valley are covered by the Coalition. Of that amount, 30,586 acres signed up through DEID.

The Coalition was formed to assist landowners with the State Water Resources Control Board's new rules concerning water quality discharges from irrigated lands under the "Ag Waivers" program.

(GROUNDWATER BANKING: continued from page 3)

The pilot project will include the development of an active groundwater monitoring and reporting program, development of standards to insure no adverse impacts to local water users within the area of the Turnipseed basin, and an investigation of the applicability of a large scale banking project within the District.

Also a key element of the pilot project is the establishment of a Groundwater Advisory Committee. The GAC is comprised of 14 landowners that will assist the Board of Directors in oversight of the pilot project. The first meeting of the GAC was held in early August, with the next tentatively scheduled for late September or early October. Meetings of the GAC are open to the public.