

DELANO-
EARLIMART
IRRIGATION
DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Harold Nelson
President
- Peter Hronis
Vice-President
- Nick Canata
- Anton Caratan
- Kelley Hampton

Dale Brogan
General Manager

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LOOKING FORWARD TO 2008, MAYBE

We are in the final days of the 2007 water year, one that most would just as soon forget. It started out dry and remained that way, with DEID having to implement a water supply prorate for the first time in over a decade.

March 1, 2008 will start a new water year. And with the critically important winter months upon us, our 2008 water supply is in the making, or at least it should be. Sadly, progress is behind where we would all like to be.

The 2008 water year is starting out in dismal fashion. Huntington Lake precipitation total for the 2008 water year stands at 1.75 inches, which is 18 percent of normal. At this same time last year, Huntington rainfall totaled 5.4 inches, and it still turned out to be a dry year. Casting an even larger dark shadow is the fact that in 1977, when there was a meager 1.0 acre-foot per

acre prorate, Huntington precipitation was 1.8 inches at this same time.

Other not to encouraging statistics: San Joaquin River inflow stands at 34,300 acre-feet (21 percent of normal). Last year at this time, inflow totaled 176,000 acre-feet. Millerton storage is at 170,500 acre-feet (69 percent of normal). In 2007, Millerton Lake storage was 248,000 acre-feet. And reservoir storage above Millerton Lake owned by Southern California Edison Company is currently at 185,000 acre-feet (74 percent of normal). This time last year, Edison storage was 284,000 acre-feet.

We can still remain hopeful. The December through April period typically accounts for 74 percent of the total precipitation and snow fall that we receive in the year, so we have time to get better!

WATER APPLICATIONS IN THE MAIL

It is that time of year once again for DEID landowners and water users to start preparing for the 2008 water year. That means completing and returning 2008 Water Applications and, for those that must, Reclamation law forms as

well. Look for your 2008 water year packet in your mailbox in the next few days. It has all that you will need to be ready for the 2008 water year, which begins on March 1. Water Applications are due by February 8, 2008.

WATER DELIVERIES INTERRUPTED

The Friant-Kern Canal was dewatered in mid-November for routine maintenance. DEID will remain out of water until the canal is put back into service, which is anticipated to occur by February 1, 2008.

DEID employees are now focused on maintenance needs as well. Our employees will be removing accumulated silt from at least one regulating reservoir, catching up on pipeline leaks, and installing float systems that have been requested.



District construction and maintenance projects are the focus of DEID employees during the winter months.

GROUNDWATER PILOT PROJECT TAKES SHAPE

The District continues to investigate the potential of a groundwater banking project that would benefit the growers in DEID.

The project includes an investigation into the feasibility of actively recharging surplus water available to the District in wet years with recovery through wells for use in dry years. The initial investigation is centered around the District's existing 80-acre recharge basin located at Road 176 and Avenue 32.

A basic requirement of the project is the assurance that local groundwater wells will not be adversely affected by the project. To realize this assurance, the District's project consultants have

recommended monitoring a number of existing wells as well as establishing a series of new monitoring stations within the project area for changes in water depth and quality.

The District recently submitted an application to the California Department of Water Resources for a grant to fund the new monitoring wells. If successful, up to \$250,000 in State funds would be available to the District through a local groundwater assistance fund that was created by Assembly Bill 303.

The pilot project will assist the District in determining the advisability of developing a large scale banking project within the District.



Tony Buelna from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation presents an oversized check representing the Bureau's recent award of a \$300,000 grant to DEID. Accepting the check on behalf of the District is Board President Harold Nelson.

GRANT FUNDS FLOAT SYSTEMS

As was reported in an earlier edition of the *DEID Pipeline*, the District was successful in its application for a grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The nearly \$300,000 grant will be used to accelerate the installation of float systems on grower turnouts. Float systems allow growers to make water changes on their own at any time of the day or night, saving water, energy, and labor expenses.

Float systems are installed at no cost to the grower. Please call the DEID office for information and to sign up for your float system.

BOARD REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR SJR SETTLEMENT

The DEID Board of Directors recently renewed its support for the San Joaquin River settlement that ended 18 years of litigation with fourteen environmental groups.

Known as the NRDC litigation after the lead plaintiff, the Natural Resources Defense Council, settlement between the Friant water and irrigation district, NRDC, and the federal government was reached in September of 2006. Since that time, efforts have centered on passing federal legislation that is required to implement the terms of the settlement.

Recent actions by critics of the settlement have caused some distractions to the process, but has also resulted in some potential good. Calling for more teeth in that portion of the settlement that deals with options available to Friant districts to recover water that will diverted for river restoration purposes has been a positive development that the DEID

Board fully supports.

Following a meeting that occurred on December 7th between the DEID Board and Congressman Jim Costa as well as other Friant district directors and landowners, the Board members sent a letter to Congressman Costa that stated in part “The reality of our situation is that our options are very limited, and we firmly believe our best option is to continue to pursue enactment of our negotiated settlement agreement.” The letter went on to state “Clearly, recovery of some, and hopefully all, of our water supply that will be dedicated to river restoration is at the heart of the water management goal. We urge your continued participation and support of the ongoing negotiations between the settling parties to bring direction and substance to the water management goal”.

The letter was signed by all five DEID Directors.



Congressman Jim Costa, primary author of HR4074, which would implement the San Joaquin River settlement.

“We applaud your work to bring further definition to the water management goal contained within the settlement.”

Letter sent to Congressman Jim Costa by the DEID Board of Directors following a December 7, 2007 Special Board meeting with the Congressman.

YOUR COMMENTS/QUESTIONS WELCOMED

You may have recently heard radio ads that were either in support of or critical of the San Joaquin River settlement (see article above). You may have some questions about the settlement. DEID growers are encouraged to contact us with any comments or questions that you may have concerning the settlement.

With the largest Class 1 contract in

the Friant Division, DEID will be uniquely impacted by river restoration. Your Board of Directors has studied this issue in great detail and firmly believes that the current negotiated settlement is the best, realistic option available to us. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any questions that you may have. Please contact Dale Brogan, DEID General Manager at (661) 725-2526.

DEID PIPELINE

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

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**Are you ready to
order your
water and view
individual
water use
information on-
line in 2008?**

*If not, now is the
time! Contact the
District office to set
up your access to
these services
through our
website:*

www.deid.org



Season's Greetings!

The Board of Directors and employees of the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for allowing us to serve you in 2007. We wish you and yours a most joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year.



Holiday Schedule

Here is a reminder of our office hours during the Christmas and New Years holidays.

The District office will be closed from Monday, December 24th through Tuesday, January 1. We will resume normal office hours on Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

Of course, District personnel are available to respond to any emergency at any time. You can reach us, night or day, at (661) 725-2526.