

# DELANO- EARLIMART IRRIGATION DISTRICT

THE MISSION OF THE DELANO-EARLIMART IRRIGATION DISTRICT IS TO PROTECT, ENHANCE, AND MANAGE THE DISTRICT'S WATER AND ENERGY RESOURCES AND RELATED ASSETS TO BENEFIT ITS GROWERS, THE COMMUNITY, AND THE REGION IT SERVES THROUGH OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE, COMMITMENT TO QUALITY, AND LEADERSHIP IN THE WATER RESOURCES INDUSTRY.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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

Dale Brogan  
*General Manager*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DEID Goes Solar	1
Growers Offered \$500 Rebates	2
Gearing Up for Winter work	2
120 Day Forecast Released	3
Preventative Meter Maintenance	3
WQ Coalition Update	4
SJR Settlement Progress	4



October 2008

Issue 130

## District Goes Solar With Dual-Axis Trackers

Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District has gone solar with the installation of two dual-axis trackers capable of supplying 22 kilowatts of energy to the District's office. The solar energy project was designed as the result of a collaborative effort between ET Solar Group, a company based in Nanjing, China, and Mecca Solar from Spain. ET Solar oversaw the installation of the DEID system.

### First in North America

The DEID project is the first dual-axis trackers that ET Solar has installed in the United States. The system consists of two trackers that maximize the solar energy available from the sun by adjusting to both the direction and angle of the sun. Each tracker is controlled by a computer program that automatically adjusts the solar panels based on the calculated location of the sun, hour-by-hour, for every day of the year. The project is expected to supply 95 percent of the annual energy needs of



the District's headquarters.

An interconnection agreement with Southern California Edison Company (SCE) allows the District to remain connected to the grid, providing for the District to deliver any excess power generated to SCE. Excess power delivered in this manner is credited to the District for its later use.

### Proven System

While the ET Solar dual-axis trackers may be new to the United States, the technology is not. Over 60 megawatts of solar power have been installed throughout Europe over the past 5 years utilizing similar technology. Annual power production from the units is as much as 40 percent higher than standard, fixed-array installations

Linhui Sui, CEO of ET Solar USA, commented: "We are very delighted to launch our first tracker project with the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District, which represents a huge, potential

*Continued on Page 2: see SOLAR*

## \$500 REBATE OFFERED TO GROWERS



*An installed float system operating a DEID turnout. The District is offering \$500 rebates to the first 100 growers requesting a float system.*

District growers that have yet to request a float system have been offered a \$500 rebate that can be used to offset the cost of installing the required grower-operated valve. The offer was made in a September letter to growers without floats and is limited to the first 100 requests received.

The District Board of Directors made the decision to offer the rebate as a way to encourage those growers who may want a float system but, for whatever reason, have yet to make their request. The incentive program is also designed to create enough demand for floats that will allow the District to maximize the use of nearly \$300,000 in grant funds received from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation specifically for

float installations.

Installation of the float system itself is fully funded by the District. The only cost to the grower is for the installation of a grower-operated valve on the grower's side of the turnout.

Growers with float systems have the convenience of operating their turnout with maximum flexibility, turning water on and off to meet exact irrigation demands, and can take advantage of time-of-use energy rates. Growers with floats have also reported significant labor savings as well.

Rebates are still available, but are not expected to last long. Contact the District office for more information and to reserve your \$500 rebate..

## WINTER MAINTENANCE WORK PLANNED

Maintenance work around the District will hit high gear during the winter months. Pipeline repairs, installing float systems, and preventive maintenance at pumping plants will be completed.

Replacement of a surge stand, 50 feet

in height, on Avenue 40 will also be accomplished. Originally constructed in the mid-1950's, an internal baffle plate failed creating a water flow blockage. Additional factors led to the decision to replace the entire structure.



*Construction of the two 30' x'40' solar panels were completed in August and September..*

*SOLAR: continued from page 1*

market for future solar power projects in California. We believe that this first installation of dual-axis trackers will be the beginning of meeting the needs of those who are pursuing economic, renewable energy solutions to avoid ever rising electricity bills.“

Dale Brogan, DEID General Manager,

said: “This is an exciting, cutting edge project and we are very proud to be the first to utilize the ET Solar dual-axis tracker system in the nation. This solar project represents our first step in the production of solar energy, and we are excited about the prospects of expanding the use of this technology to meet our broader energy needs.”

## 120 DAY PRECIPITATION FORECAST - DRY

The Global Climate Center has issued its forecast for California covering the September through December time period. The news is not good.

GCC Forecaster Tom Dunklee calls this his preliminary forecast specifically covering the Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins. All of the surface water supply for DEID comes from the San Joaquin river basin.

In his forecast, Dunklee notes that very dry conditions have prevailed over the general northern and central California region over the past 90 days with most areas receiving less than 5 percent of their normal precipitation amounts. He notes that this trend is likely to persist through the fall and winter months.

Dunklee writes "Significant questions linger into the outlook for weather conditions over much of Northern and Central California for mid to late winter. The strongest signal I see at

this time will be an amplified ridge over the Northwestern Pacific into Western and Central Alaska, leaving a deep trough over the East Central Pacific and a subsequent downstream ridge over the West Coast of the US of medium amplitude. This would point toward warmer and drier than average conditions for much of the January and February time frame. Occasional wet weather systems will penetrate into Northern California with a rapid decrease in precipitation to the south. Confidence in the extended period outlook is lower than average at this time, with very unusual sea surface temperatures in place, and no strong signals to point out at this time. All in all it appears a much drier than average year, the third in a row is in store for water producing regions of Northern and Central California."

Here's hoping that he is wrong.



*Weather Station at the DEID office stands ready for the 2008-09 water year to develop.*

## METER MAINTENANCE A PRIORITY

Insuring that growers can trust the meters used to measure farm water deliveries is a high priority to DEID.

DEID contracts with Advanced Flow Measurement (AFM) in Porterville to test every meter in the District on a three year rotation.

The goals of the meter maintenance program are to (1) insure a high degree of accuracy throughout district; (2) identify turnouts that require something other than a standard meter to gain accurate measurement, typically a low-flow meter; (3) identify sites that

require meter servicing or repair, and; (4) develop data about district meter performance.

All District meters were replaced between 1999 and 2003. AFM began the current meter maintenance program in 2007. 211 meters were tested that year and another 93 meters have been tested in 2008 to date. The balance of the meters will be tested by the end of 2009.

Any grower with questions regarding meters should direct them to the office for immediate investigation.



*Dave Vidro from Advanced Flow Measurements calibrates a District meter in the field. DEID contracts with AFM to conduct all field testing of District meters.*

**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**

**On the web:  
[www.deid.org](http://www.deid.org)  
Email: [deid@deid.org](mailto:deid@deid.org)**

***SPECIAL INSERT  
INCLUDED***

*Enclosed is an update on  
the San Joaquin River  
litigation settlement and  
its implementing  
legislation.*

*We invite you to discuss  
with us any questions or  
concerns that you may  
have about the  
settlement.*



**SJR SETTLEMENT LEGISLATION UPDATE**

The DEID Board of Directors has continually monitored the status of the San Joaquin River litigation settlement and associated federal legislation that would implement the settlement. The path to its successful passage, fully supported by the DEID Board, has been long and laborious, and the bill remains pending in Congress.

While the settlement is a subject discussed at every DEID Board meeting, it has been some time since

the settlement and its associated legislation has been reviewed with our growers. As a special insert to this edition of the *DEID Pipeline*, an update prepared by the Friant Water Users Authority has been included that will bring our readers up to date.

Questions or comments regarding the settlement are welcomed and may be addressed to the District General Manager or Board member.

**WATER QUALITY COALITION RENEWALS HIGH**

Renewal letters to landowners participating in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition through Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District were recently sent out, with a resounding majority electing to continue their participation in the Coalition.

Over 99 percent of the total 29,700 acres that participated in the 2007-08

program chose to continue participation in 2008-09.

Participation in the Water Quality Coalition is voluntary, and those in the Coalition fully fund the District's cost associated with the Coalition.

Those wanting further information may visit the Coalition's web site at <http://ssjwqc.org/>