

DELANO-  
EARLIMART  
IRRIGATION  
DISTRICT

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## PRORATED WATER SUPPLY REMAINS, FOR NOW

We started the 2008 water year on March 1, happy to see the 2007 water year go, with its water supply prorate, the first in over a decade. We were equally happy to usher in a new water year with renewed hope for an improvement in available water for 2008.

Well, here we are 45 days into the 2008 water year, and we definitely have the improvement that we wished for, but we still have that pesky prorate around.

### A Very Dry March

The 2008 water year started out on the dismal side, which we reported in the December edition of the *DEID Pipeline*. At that time, we reported that the precipitation total in the San Joaquin River watershed for the 2008 water year stood at just 18 percent of normal. Fortunately, the intervening months since then were very good for the watershed, with the notable exception of March and the first part of April. March precipitation at



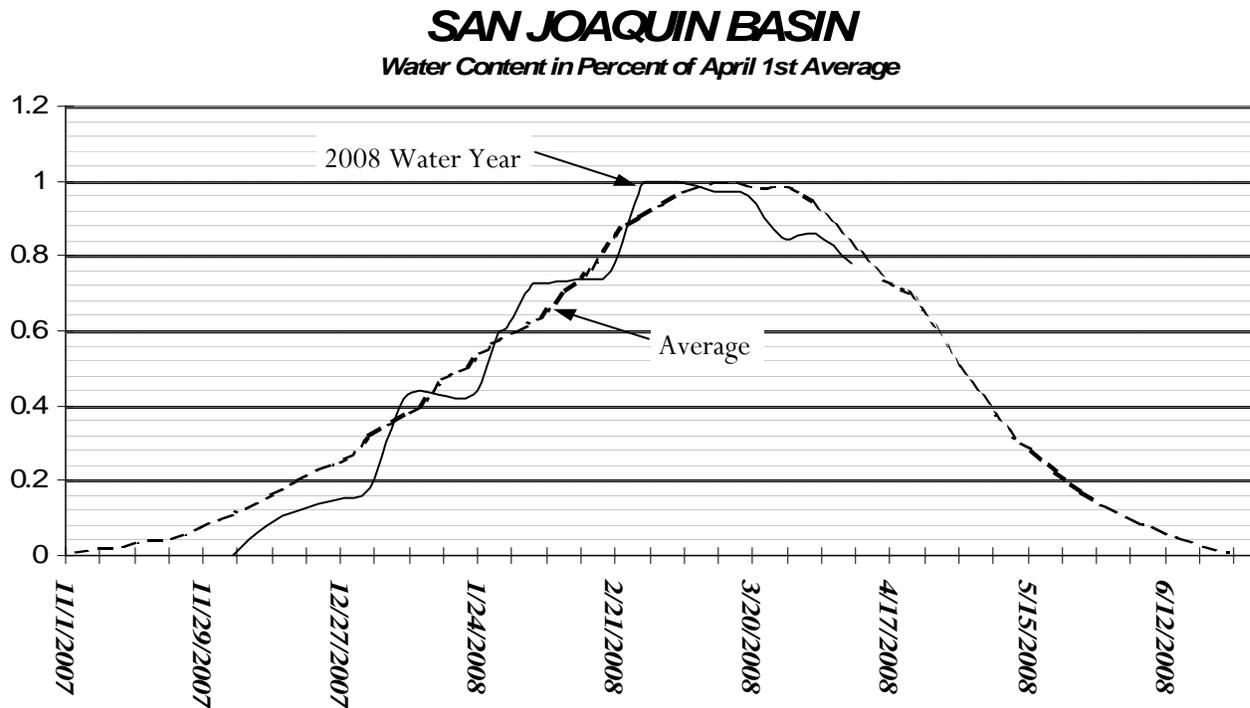
Huntington Lake was the third driest in the past 100 years. Thus, the promise of January and February rain and snow fall was greatly tempered by the disappointing months of March and April. And, with 91 percent of the precipitation season now completed, little hope for improvement is there, at least on a watershed basis.

### Maybe No Prorate?

However, there may be better news ahead for growers in DEID. Even though the overall water supply for the Friant Division of the CVP is a bit dim, DEID is very close to having sufficient water supplies to meet the full needs of our growers. We are keeping a watchful eye on the early season demand as well as opportunities to pick up additional water supplies from other sources, either of which could result in an easing of the current prorate. For now, our current water supply prorate remains at 2.2 acre-feet per acre. If and when water supply conditions change, the District will advise all growers by

*(See Water Year: Continued on page 2)*

## MORE ON THE 2008 WATER YEAR OUTLOOK...



**Water Supply Graph-** The graph above shows how the current 2008 water year shapes 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 in the form of the snow pack over time in an average year water. The solid line is the current 2008 water year watershed conditions. Historically, the snow pack peaks on April 1st.

As indicated on the graph, the watershed did reach the April 1st average total, but did so in late February. With our dry March and April weather, the water content of the snow pack has continued to erode, evaporating off and/or being soaked into the dry ground rather than being available as runoff for the San Joaquin River.

*Water Year (Continued from page 1)*

mail. For those of you with internet access, any changes in the water supply prorate will be posted on our web site, [www.deid.org](http://www.deid.org), immediately.

### Excess Lands Without a Water Supply

Unfortunately, the Bureau has refused to approve the renewal of a program that had been very successful in bringing non-CVP water into the District that could be applied to excess lands (lands that are not eligible to receive District water). While we continue to seek opportunities, it is unlikely that a water supply for excess land will be obtained for the 2008 water year.

## FLOAT SYSTEMS PROVIDE GROWER FLEXIBILITY

Would you like to have the ability to turn District water on or off 24 hours a day at your convenience? How about making flow changes in the middle of the day (or night) without having to wait for a ditchtender to do it? Both are possible today, with the installation of a float system on your turnout.

Float systems provide a constant flow of water with little variance and reacts automatically to flow-altering conditions on either side of the turnout. Not only does the grower have the convenience of operating their turnout with maximum flexibility which can mean less labor costs, but

there can be significant water and energy savings as well.

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.

Installation of a float system can be made without interruption to a grower's irrigation schedule. Call the District office for more information.



*The operation of a float system can be easily seen at the demonstration turnout that has been installed at the DEID office. Call for an appointment to see how the system works.*

## LATEST DISTRICT EQUIPMENT UPGRADE COMPLETED

The flurry of maintenance activity that occurred this past winter included the completion of a \$1.3 million, 3-year Motor Control Center (MCC) replacement project at the District's pumping plants.

Each MCC that was replaced was the

original equipment that was installed when the DEID system was built in the 1950s.

Reliability and availability of repair parts became an issue, necessitating the update to insure uninterrupted deliveries to our growers.



*Contractor Larry Hunt from Concept In Controls reviews one of the new motor control centers that were installed as part of a 3-year modernization project.*

## SJR SETTLEMENT AWAITS SENATE ACTION

Legislation that would implement the settlement negotiated between a group of environmental organizations, the Bureau of Reclamation, and Friant districts (including DEID) has been reintroduced in Congress and has begun to move.

Action by a House committee occurred last fall, with a Senate Committee "mark-up" session

scheduled for late April or early May. This critical step brings the settlement legislation, which was supported without opposition at a March meeting of the Friant Water Users Authority, closer to becoming a reality.

The DEID Board of Directors strongly supports the settlement and has determined that the negotiated settlement is the best available alternative.

**DEID PIPELINE**

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

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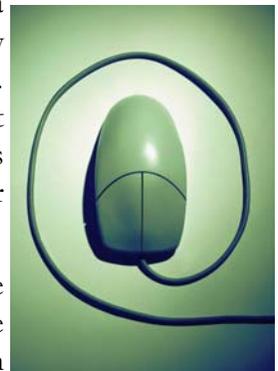
**On the web:  
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Email: [deid@deid.org](mailto:deid@deid.org)**



**WATER ORDERS AND WATER USE  
INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB**

The convenience of making water orders to DEID is now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Email water orders can be made at any time and from any place that you have access to the internet. Once an order is placed, growers receive a confirmation by email that the order has been received and approved.

DEID growers can also access water use by turnout via the District's web site. Security features allows only authorized individuals to access account information. This can be a valuable tool for growers wanting the most up-to-date water use information in water-short years where supplies are prorated, such as the current water year is.



Growers wanting to make use of either or both of these features may do so by visiting the District's web site [www.deid.org](http://www.deid.org). Go to the "For Growers" tab and then select "Your Account". Detailed instructions can also be obtained from the office. Either way, feel free to call DEID Operations Technician Erik Anaya for help in getting started. It is quick and easy. Give it a try!!

*Did you know.....*

*The first landowner meeting that led to the formation of the Delano-Earlilmart Irrigation District was held on January 12, 1935?*

*That the District was formed by an election of landowners on October 18, 1938?*

*That DEID signed its first water contract with the Bureau of Reclamation on August 11, 1951?*