

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.

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# DEID PIPELINE

July 2008

Issue 129

## 2008 DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY PRORATE ENDS

After enduring a prorated water supply for the first three months of the 2008 water year, growers within the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District are now enjoying a prorate-free water supply. That is good news for all in DEID.

Following the announcement on June 1st that the previously announced prorate of 2.2 acre-feet per acre was being lifted, the most common response was “how did you do that?”. The answer lies in a combination of a bit of good luck and the efforts of many growers in the District.

### Good Luck

Following a very dry March, April and May the 2008 water supply forecast became a very difficult thing to predict. Very dry years and very wet years are comparatively easy to predict when compared to years that are slightly below normal, like 2008, where very small amounts of water can make a big difference in total supply available for use. Fortunately, a little bit more water was found and made available to Friant districts, including DEID.

### Grower Efforts

The other factor in the elimination of the earlier prorate were growers in

DEID that reacted very strongly to the March 1st prorate announcement by turning to their groundwater wells. Typical in water -short years, growers will strongly move to groundwater early in the irrigation season, thereby saving their limited surface water supplies for later in the year, as insurance in case a well is lost or the well yield is compromised. That early action from March through May by DEID growers was “just enough” when combined with the additional water supply to allow termination of the prorate.

### Conserving and Float Valves

DEID growers are encouraged to continue conserving the District's water supply so that the total available remains “just enough”. One way to do that is to have the District install a pressure compensating float system on your turnout. Entirely free to DEID growers, the float valve system allows maximum conservation of District water supplies by matching grower demands with District water deliveries. Water can be obtained when it is needed and turned off when done, regardless of the day or time. For more information, see the Page 2.

## FALL AND WINTER PUSH FOR FLOAT SYSTEMS



*Miguel Bravo works on turn-out modifications necessary for a float system. All fabrication is done in-house.*

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*The \$4,100 installation cost of a float system is paid for by the District in conjunction with a \$300,000 grant received from the Bureau of Reclamation.*

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Looking to maximize the use of nearly \$300,000 in grant funds from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the District has targeted up to 100 new floats to be installed by the end of 2008.

Float systems allow full grower flexibility when turning water on and off, subject to the current practice of District notification 24 hours in advance. Beyond that, it is a simple matter of the grower opening and closing a new operation valve installed on the grower's side of the turnout.

The \$4,100 installation cost of a float system is paid for by the District in conjunction with the grant received from the Bureau. The only cost to the grower is to install a new operating valve, if one is not currently in place, on the grower's side of the 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. 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. Floats also provide for the elimination of unnecessary labor expenses, transforming the District's water delivery system to one based on the grower's schedule, not the Districts.

The savings doesn't end at the grower's operation. DEID also saves time and money based on fewer trips to make water delivery changes and related manpower costs. This savings in labor expenses are significant, particularly when District employees are dispatched to service turnouts after hours and on weekends where overtime is paid. Quantification of the savings realized by the District is currently underway, with the goal of passing this savings on to those with float systems, potentially through a reduction in their water rate.

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



## GROUNDWATER BANKING PROJECT UPDATE

The District's Groundwater Banking pilot project has advanced to include the construction of an extraction well at the Turnipseed Groundwater Recharge Basins.

The well is designed to be 1,200 feet deep with a turbine pump and connection into one of the District's laterals at the site. Well development

and testing will continue this summer.

Past and future water recharged at the basins will be recovered in subsequent years as a supplement to the District's annual water supply. The pilot project is part of the District's strategy to cope with future water shortages from both natural and regulatory droughts.

## DELTA CRISIS ALSO A FRIANT CONCERN

Much has been written and said about the current crisis in the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta, where both northern and southern California cities and west side agriculture receive the bulk of their respective water supplies. State and federal water delivery systems that begin in the delta depend on the continued ability to move contracted water supplies out of the delta through massive water pumps. Recent restrictions on those pumps have led to the current crisis.

### Perfect Storm

The current water year seems to be square in the middle of the “perfect storm” of natural and man-made factors that has resulted in severe cutbacks in water deliveries out of the delta. The challenges began with an anemic water supply, leading the state to classify 2008 as a “critically dry year”. That was followed by a series of legal challenges and rulings that further restricted the total water available for exports from the delta in favor of various endangered species such as the delta smelt, split tail, Chinook salmon, and steelhead. The delta has been in the sights of various environmental groups for years. 2008 has been the year that they have hit the jackpot, all at the expense of communities that depend on the delta as their water lifeline.

### The Connection...

But those of us on the east side of the valley are not immune to the devastating effects of adverse water supply rulings that have impacted delta exporters. The Friant Division of the

Central Valley Project, where DEID receives 100 percent of its water supply, is dependant on delta exports as well. This is due to our contractual relationship with a group of water users known as the “Exchange Contractors”.

When the Bureau of Reclamation built the Friant Project, it did so by negotiating a deal with four agencies that held the underlying historic water rights on the San Joaquin River. The Bureau agreed to replace, or “exchange” those water rights for a water supply exported out of the delta to be delivered to the original water rights holders. In turn, the San Joaquin River water was dedicated to over 1 million acres of productive farm land and communities along the east side of the San Joaquin valley, the Friant Division.

### ...And The Catch

But here is the catch: if the Exchange Contractor’s water supply out of the delta is ever compromised, they have the right to call on their original San Joaquin River water, at the expense of the Friant Division districts and communities. And, while the Exchange Contractors enjoy the highest priority among delta exporters, it would not take much more in delta pumping restrictions to force a call by the Exchange Contractors on Friant water. And when that happens, Friant is left “high and dry”, literally.

So, when looking at the problems in the delta, we would do well to recall the “connection”, and the “catch”.



*Water exports from the delta currently rely on a maze of interconnected waterways and channels.*

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*So, when looking at the problems in the delta, we would do well to recall the “connection”, and the “catch”.*

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**DEID PIPELINE**

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

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For the convenience of our water users, Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District now has a "night drop" at the office front door for payments that you may want to make after hours. Using this mail slot is a secure method of making payments to the District. All payments are posted on the day they are received.

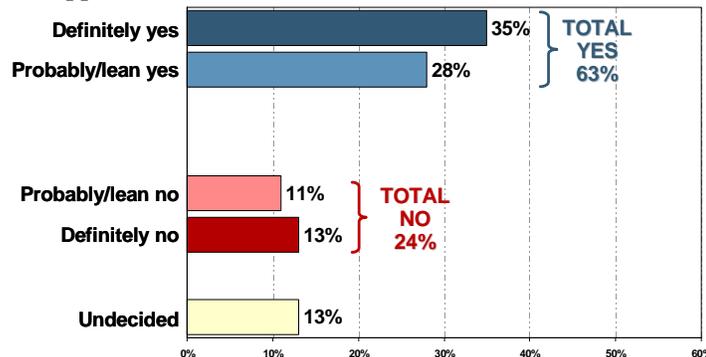


### IS CALIFORNIA READY TO FIX ITS WATER PROBLEMS?

A recent poll of likely California voters indicates that we may indeed finally be ready to pass a water bond that would correct much of what is lacking in the State's infrastructure.

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates recently completed a statewide voter survey to assess voter support for a potential bond measure to improve water quality and water supply in the state. The results show that voters are well-aware of the state's water quality and water supply needs and the need to act now. In fact, 80% of voters agree that California is facing a water supply crisis that needs "immediate" attention. And **more than three in five (63%) indicate that they would vote for a water bond of nine to twelve billion dollars on the November ballot when read a sample ballot label.** The strong initial support for the measure was obtained *after* voters were made aware of the numerous measures already placed on the state ballot that will have a fiscal impact. And it remained strong – well over 60% – even after voters were offered pro and con arguments about the measure.

**Support for a Water Bond Measure of \$9 to \$12 Billion**



As shown by this graph, the time may be now for a meaningful water bond to be passed by the electorate. If California is going to recreate certainty for all of its users, new infrastructure must be built.