

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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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2009 Water Year Hopes	1
Water Applications are Out	2
DEID Website Improved	2
CIMIS website enhancements	2
Frustration in the Delta-Editorial	3
Holiday Greetings-DEID Schedule	4



DEID PIPELINE

December 2008

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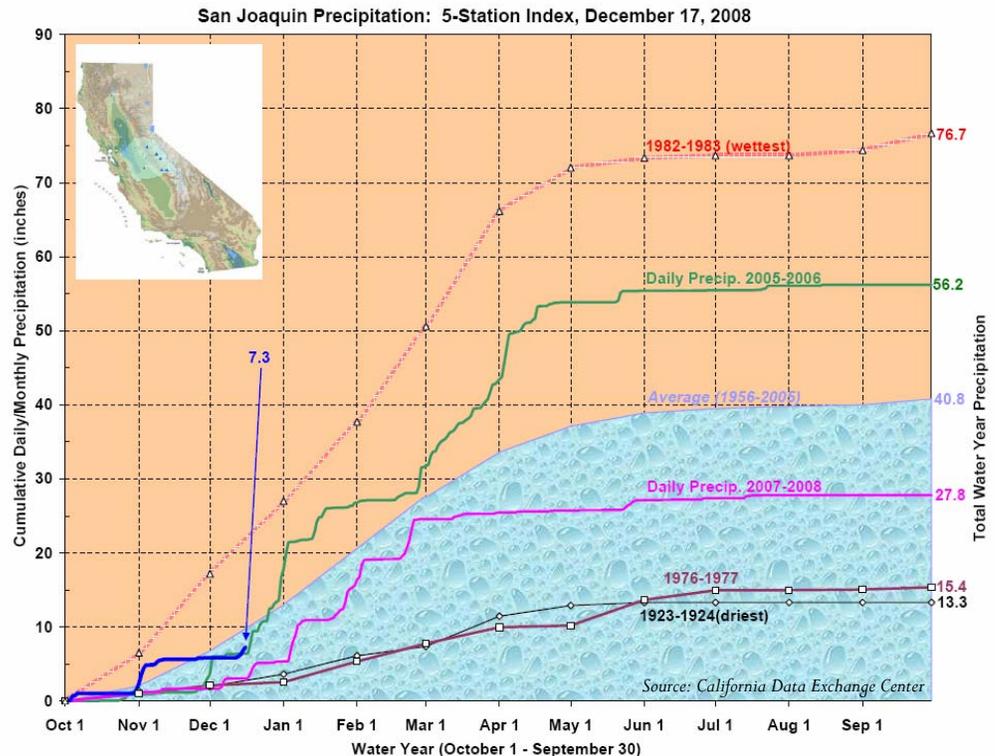
December Storms Provide Hope For 2009

Storms hitting the Southern Sierras since the first of November, including the San Joaquin River watershed, have been good, bringing promise and hope for the 2009 water year.

The 2008-09 precipitation season got off to a very slow start, with little measurable rainfall occurring in October. That changed in November when storms pushed rainfall totals beyond the "average" for that time of the year. But by the end of the month,

the to-date total was below the seasonal average and has remained there since. As of December 17th, the precipitation total stands at 68 percent of the seasonal average.

Current forecasts call for more rain and snow during the last half of the month of December, which is a good sign. The December through April period typically accounts for 74 percent of the total precipitation and snow fall that we receive in the year.



2009 WATER APPLICATIONS SENT



It is once again time to sign up for District water for a new water year.

The 2009 water year begins on March 1, 2009. Before water can be delivered to growers, a completed and approved water application must be on file. Growers having more than 240 acres west wide in federal water districts must also update their Bureau of Reclamation forms in order to be compliant with federal Reclamation law. DEID receives all of its water from the federal Central Valley Project, which requires full compliance with Reclamation law.

Over the holidays growers will be receiving information packets that include a 2009 water application, the 2009 water policy for the District and,

where applicable, Reclamation law forms. Growers with changes to landholdings since the filing of 2008 forms will need to complete new forms, as will landowners new to the District.

The deadline for returning your 2009 water year forms is February 9th. Growers are reminded that no water deliveries can be made to lands in the District after March 1, 2009 until all required paperwork has been received and approved.

In addition to the mailing, growers can find the 2009 water policy (both Ag and M&I) as well as the 2009 water application on the District's website: www.deid.org.



www.deid.org



DISTRICT WEBSITE RECONSTRUCTED

Work on the District's website was recently completed, adding a number of user-friendly features and updates.

Most of the changes involved the arrangement of the individual pages within the website and updating the content of each.

One of the more important modifications was the "For Growers" webpage, where growers now have an easier, more clear method of signing in. After

signing into this secured area of the website, growers have access to information about their account, water use, and can place water orders as well. There had been some confusion with the previous design that was reported by users of the site.

Growers can continue to find important notices and announcements on the site as well as a wealth of information about the District.

and speaking of websites...

The State Department of Water Resources has announced recent improvements in its CIMIS website for users of its water management information. You can access CIMIS information through a direct link from DEID's website.

DEID sponsors a CIMIS station, located at the District headquarters.

FRUSTRATION LEADS TO LAWSUITS

***Guest editorial by Mike Wade,
Executive Director, California Farm
Water Coalition***

The frustration over a State agency ignoring scientific evidence and instead issuing an order that could shut off more than a million acre-feet of water to 25 million Californians has prompted three lawsuits.

On Nov. 14, the California Fish & Game Commission ordered a further reduction in the amount of Delta water flowing through State and federal pumps to protect the longfin smelt, on top of existing court-ordered protections for delta smelt and in the midst of one of the worst droughts in California history. This action was taken despite scientific evidence that clearly points out the pumps are not a threat to the minnow-like fish. In fact, studies by the California Department of Fish & Game clearly show that longfin smelt do not live anywhere near the pumps.

DFG's studies determined that the number of longfin smelt caught in the pumps during December 1997 was only an estimated 0.6 percent of the longfin smelt's total population. In other years that number was zero...as in none, nada, zippo! In 2002 the numbers were only 0.0017 percent from March through June.

How can these numbers be brushed aside by decision-makers, especially when their own agency is doing the research? Additional research referenced in the past by DFG officials points to invasive species, toxics,

predation, ocean conditions and a changing food web as the more likely culprits that are threatening longfin smelt.

The three lawsuits, by the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority and Westlands Water District, Kern County Water Agency and the State Water Contractors, aim to overturn the Commission's order. This capricious action by the commission was best described in press releases announcing the lawsuits---

- The Department of Fish and Game's plan represents an abuse of power and a failure of good science and common sense."--- Jean P. Sagouspe, farmer and president of Westlands Water District.
- "...the new regulations expand the protections at an unreasonable cost to the public."---Kern County Water Agency.
- "Given the miniscule benefit to the fish, there appears to be something wrong with this picture."---Laura King Moon, assistant general manager of the State Water Contractors.

I would add that the decision made by the Fish & Game Commission is another example of a State agency that is running amok without any regard for the people of California, who will pay if this order is allowed to stand.



*Mike Wade, Executive
Director, California Farm
Water Coalition*



**California
Farm Water
Coalition**

DEID PIPELINE

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

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The Bay Delta is critical to California's economy, supplying drinking water for over two-thirds of Californians and irrigation water for over 7 million acres of the most highly productive agricultural land in the world.
See page 3 for an editorial on recent developments in the delta.



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 2008. 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 Year holidays.

The District office will be closed on Thursday, December 25th and remain closed until Monday, January 5th.

District personnel will be on-call throughout the holiday season to respond to any emergency at any time. You can reach us, night or day, at (661) 725-2526.

