

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

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2009 Water Supply-From Pitiful to Promising

Projections of a 2009 water year bordering on disastrous in early February have now turned to very promising at the end of March.

Exchange Contractor Priority

The February prediction was based on meager snowpack throughout the state, resulting in the announcement that Friant water from the San Joaquin River would be required for delivery to the historic water rights holders on the lower part of the river.

Known as the Exchange Contractors, growers in four districts along the San Joaquin River normally get their water from the delta via the Delta-Mendota Canal. By contract, if the Exchange Contractors cannot get their contract amount from the delta, they have the right to take water from the San Joaquin River, water normally destined to supply water to farmers in the Friant area, including DEID. Since 1939, a call on the San Joaquin River had never happened.

Storms Provide Relief

Thanks to storms that hit the state in February and early March, the Bureau of Reclamation now predicts that no Friant water will be necessary to meet Exchange Contractor demands. That has resulted in a significant increase in available water for Friant districts, from a paltry 25 percent Class 1 water



Former DEID General Manager Sam Fortier Dies
Sam Fortier, DEID General Manager from 1950 until his retirement in 1988 has passed away. See page 2 for more information about the District's first employee..

supply to the present declaration of 85 percent Class 1. There is even some speculation that additional water will be announced by the Bureau in mid-April.

Current Prorate

The current water supply prorate within DEID is now at 2.1 acre-feet per acre for eligible lands. DEID growers will be notified immediately of any future improvements in the 2009 water supply. For

the latest water supply news, visit our web site at www.deid.org. Increases in the prorate will be posted on our web site immediately, followed by notification via U.S. mail.

DEID PIONEER SAM FORTIER PASSES AWAY



*Sam Fortier, DEID
Engineer-Manager from
1950 to 1988.
Photo taken in 1988.*

The first employee of the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District, Sam Fortier, passed away on March 3, 2009. He was 87 years old.

Sam began his career with the District on June 15, 1950 as the Engineer-Manager, a position that he held for 38 years. He retired in June of 1988.

Sam graduated from high school in Redwood City and then attended the University of California at Berkeley majoring in civil engineering. After being interrupted to serve during World War II, Sam graduated in 1947. Following his graduation, he spent three years working for a concrete pipe company in Yuba City before coming to DEID.

The Early Years

Sam and the District initially operated out of an office at the DiGiorgio Sierra Vista Ranch. By 1955 the District had purchased property on Avenue 24, with Sam designing the District's office and shop facility, both of which are still in use.

Sam recalled during a 2002 interview one of the first things he did once he came on board with the District. At that time, the Friant-Kern Canal was still under construction and had been completed down to White River. With Sam's urging, the District was able to convince the Bureau to allow the District to put in an earthen plug inside the canal, thereby allowing water to be diverted into White River. Growers then pumped water out of the river. That was in July, 1950 and marked the first delivery of CVP water to DEID.

As Sam described the process of obtaining approval for the earthen plug: "That took a little bit of persuasion to get the Bureau to go for that. The earthen dam was above White River and they were working on the siphon (under White River) at that time. If that thing had broken, it would have washed that (siphon) out. They finally agreed to it but they had somebody come out and inspect that dirt dam across the canal about every day to make sure it was holding."

From that early beginning Sam oversaw the construction of the complete DEID distribution system. The system was constructed in three units between June of 1953 and March of 1956. The system includes over 170 miles of rubber-gasket, reinforced pipelines, 18 pumping plants, and over 100 pumps.

Following Family Footsteps

Both Sam's father and grandfather were engineers that were involved in irrigation engineering. In that same 2002 interview, Sam remarked that he had been raised and schooled to become an irrigation engineer. He went on to say "I was following in their footsteps."

Sam is survived by his wife Betty, son Andrew and daughters Diane Trieselmann and Robyn Dykhuizen, their respective spouses, six grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

All of us at DEID extend our condolences to the family. Sam's legacy will remain monumental in the history of the District.

*"That took a little
bit of persuasion
to get the Bureau
to go for that"*

*Sam Fortier, describing
his efforts to convince
the Bureau of
Reclamation to allow the
District to install an
earthen plug in the
partially completed
Friant-Kern Canal in
1950.*

RIVER SETTLEMENT BECOMES LAW

On March 30, 2009 the President signed the Public Lands Omnibus Bill that contained the San Joaquin River settlement legislation. This action gives final approval for the settlement negotiated in 2006 with a coalition of environmental and fishing organizations (NRDC et al), the federal government, the Friant Water Users Authority (FWUA) and its 20 irrigation and water district members.

The President's action was preceded by Senate approval of the bill on January 15 by a margin of 74-21. The House took up the bill on March 25th, approving the measure on a vote of 285-140.

The litigation that led to the settlement began in 1988 when a coalition of environmental and commercial fishing organizations sued the United States, initially seeking to invalidate Friant Division renewal contracts on the grounds of environmental compliance. The lawsuit was amended numerous times, ultimately focusing on restoration of San Joaquin River flows for the benefit of the historic salmon fishery downstream from Friant Dam. By 2005, the federal Court judge hearing the case had agreed with the environmental plaintiffs that the Government was liable for returning salmon back to the river.

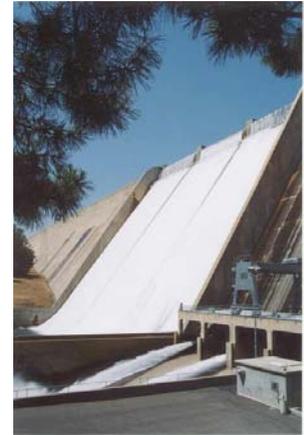
As approved, the legislation is to authorize and help fund river restoration activities and programs while adding protections for stakeholders and creating more safeguards for water supply certainty for Friant users.

“Settlement provides far more water supply, cost and contract certainty for Friant water contractors than could ever have been achieved had the case been decided and the river managed by the court, which is why Friant has strongly supported the bill,” said Ronald D. Jacobsma, FWUA Consulting General Manager.

The State of California also backs the settlement, pledging \$200 million in funds from recently passed bond initiatives.

Representatives’ Jim Costa, Dennis Cardoza and George Radanovich provided needed support of the Settlement and the San Joaquin River legislation. Representative Radanovich was the original author of the House version of the settlement legislation in 2006. After the Democrats became the majority party, Representative Jim Costa, became the lead sponsor of the San Joaquin River bill and worked in a bipartisan manner to strengthen the bill by including provisions that provide funds for projects that will help Friant minimize water losses resulting from the Settlement’s river restoration activities.

DEID Board President Harold Nelson reacted to the final approval of the settlement by saying “Now the hard work begins. I want to assure all DEID growers that the District Board and staff will work tirelessly to keep our water flowing with the goal being to develop programs and projects that will mitigate most, if not all of the water supply impacts that are a part of the settlement. That is our pledge.”



Friant Dam, the subject of the just-finalized San Joaquin River litigation

“Now the hard work begins”

Harold Nelson, DEID Board President, commenting on the passage of the San Joaquin River settlement legislation.

DEID PIPELINE

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

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The 2009 Water Supply is at 85% Class 1, resulting in a water supply prorate of 2.1 acre-feet per acre. The next water supply update is scheduled to occur on April 17th. Updates to the District's prorate are posted immediately to the District's web site, followed by notification through the U.S. mail.



**DISTRICT REVISES WEBSITE
MORE INFORMATION AND NEW FEATURES ADDED**

In our efforts to make doing business with the District easier than ever we have added a number of features to our web site for use by our growers.

Previously, growers were able to order water online at any time of the day or night , check water use and available water allocation, and provide feedback to District personnel. Those features are still available plus more. Now growers will also be able to view their billing history, print out past and present water statements, print a record of water order history, turnout meter readings, and run times for each water order. Growers can also see the total acre-feet used for each run time.

Access to all features are done in a secured environment with growers setting their own password. Access is limited to only those accounts under the control of the grower. Multiple accounts can also be viewed under one user name rather than having one user name per account.

Enclosed is a step-by-step guide on how to access all of these features. Its' user-friendly format will have you accessing your information in no time.

Call Water Operations Tech Erik Anaya for further information and help in setting up your account.