

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:

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2009- Water Year Like No Other

Water year predictions are always chancy. Given how the 2009 water year has played out, no one could have come close to predicting the various turns and twists that we have seen.

Critical to Adequate – All in One Year

We began the 2009 water year with a dire set of circumstances: little rainfall, small snowpack, and the threat of having to run water down the San Joaquin River in order to meet the water needs of the Exchange Contractors due to severe restrictions on delta water supplies (the Exchange Contractors normally get their water from the delta via the Delta-Mendota Canal). All that resulted in an initial water supply of 25 percent Class 1. DEID growers were told that they could expect a water supply prorate of 0.7 acre-feet per acre for the 2009 water year.

Then a turn for the better occurred in February and early March with major storms hitting the state and adding to

the meager water supplies available at that time. That allowed the declaration to increase to 85 percent Class 1 and a water supply prorate of 2.1 acre-feet per acre by the end of March. Conditions continued to improve so that the prorate was removed on April 23rd.

Rollercoaster Ride Not Over

While DEID growers have seen no change in the water supply available to them since the date that the prorate was removed, the water supply rollercoaster hasn't stopped. In a paradoxical situation, this dry year, the third in a row of below normal precipitation and snow pack, saw a full Millerton Lake continuously at its peak storage capacity with minor spills occurring to the river. No water was lost at these times, as they were incorporated into the minimum daily releases made to the river by the Bureau of Reclamation. That was the situation for most of the month of June.



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WATER BANKING PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

A project to advance an in-district water banking program took a major step forward this summer with the commissioning of a recovery well on the District's existing groundwater recharge site



District forces make the connection from the new Turnipseed Basin recovery well to the District's distribution system.

Recharge Moves to Banking

Located at Avenue 32 and Road 176, the 80-acre recharge basin has been in use since 1993 at times when surplus water was available to the District. Since 1993, water recharged by the District amounts to over 29,000 acre-feet, including 1,400 acre-feet recharged earlier this year.

Prior to the installation of the District's first recovery well, recharging was the only option at the site. As directed by the District Board of Directors and in consultation with a Groundwater Advisory Committee consisting of additional DEID

landowners, the District has opted to take the next step in managing the area's groundwater supply.

The District is conducting a pilot project, which includes the recovery well, to determine the actual feasibility of managing a large-scale banking operation within DEID. Included in the evaluation is extensive groundwater level monitoring and the gathering of water quality data.

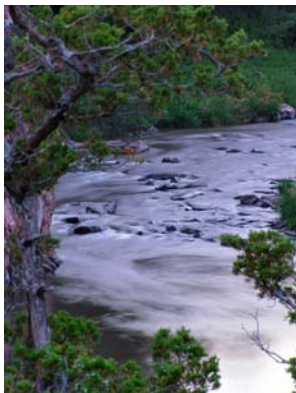
Recovery Well Goes Online

Pumping from the new well commenced on July 1st and will be limited to 1,000 acre-feet while important data is gathered on the project.

Future plans for the banking efforts include installing additional recovery capacity, and expansion of the site to allow greater recharge opportunities.

2009 WATER SUPPLY: Continued from page 1

Additionally, Class 2 water was made available during most of May and sporadically during the first two weeks in June to manage the water that was coming into the reservoir in order to avoid further spills down the river. Those operations resulted in a temporary decrease in the remaining Class 1 supply to 77 percent, which has since



recovered to a 90 percent Class 1 declaration.

Water Supplies Remain Sufficient

Despite the below normal water supply, DEID growers will have adequate water for the remainder of the 2009 water year. And with the talk of an "El Nino" brewing in the Pacific Ocean, maybe 2010 will be a different story.

2009 Precipitation Data -inches			
	2009	Average	% of Avg.
Huntington Lake	36.84	42.73	86%
Bass Lake	29.02	40.62	71%
Friant Dam	11.25	14.33	79%

CALIFORNIA'S DELTA DEFINED

Much has been said about the Sacramento-San Francisco Delta region over the past decades and more recently due to the severe restrictions on exports of water out of the delta. Those restrictions have had a dramatic effect on the ag producers, farm workers and the communities that they support. In light of this, we thought that a primer on the delta may be helpful for readers of the *DEID Pipeline*.

Facts and Figures

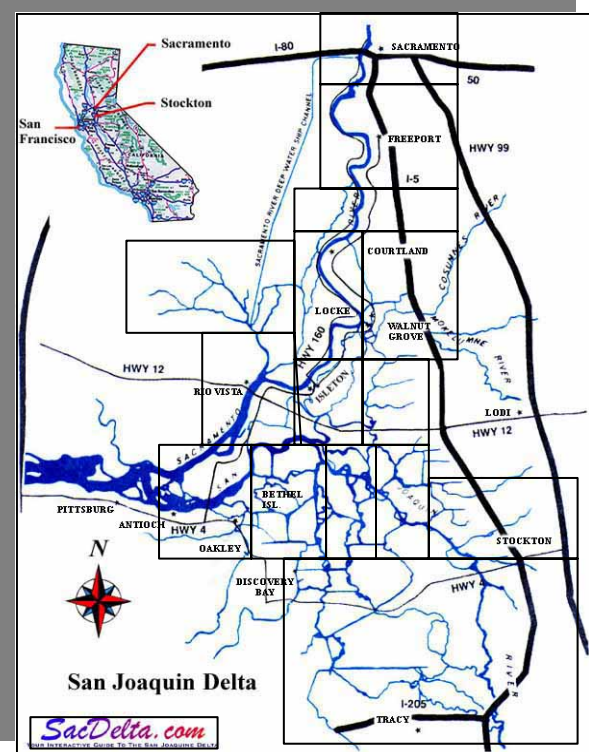
The delta is a region located approximately 50 miles east of San Francisco where the Sacramento River (from the north) and the San Joaquin River (from the south) meet.

The delta is comprised of 700 miles of waterways and 1,100 miles of levees that protect 520,000 acres of farmland. It is also home to aqueducts that transport water to parts of the San Francisco Bay area and two of California's biggest water projects, the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project. Both projects have pumping facilities that pump fresh water from the delta into major aqueducts for delivery to central and southern California communities, industrial water users, and farmland.

Delta Islands

Within the delta is a myriad of natural

and man-made channels and sloughs that create a system of isolated lowland islands and wetlands. The islands are not really islands at all, but are called such because they are surrounded by water on all sides. Most are farmed, having rich organic peat soils. About two-thirds of the islands are also below sea level, the result of accelerated oxidation of the peat soils due to farming.



The delta is also home to recreational boating, recreational and commercial fishing, and deepwater transportation of cargo. It also provides habitat for numerous fish and wildlife, with nearly one-half of the state's migrating waterfowl and shorebirds passing through the delta annually.

Our thanks to the Family Water Alliance "Fish Forum" newsletter, which contributed much to this article

TWO GATES PROJECT PROPOSED FOR DELTA

The two gates project consists of two temporary removable gates that would be strategically placed within the delta and closed to keep delta smelt away

from the State and Federal water project pumps located in the south end of the delta. The project has

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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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70 PERCENT OF TURNOUTS NOW HAVE FLOATS

District growers with pressure compensating float systems now far out number those without floats. At the end of June, 305 turnouts out of 432 operating turnouts had float systems installed. Another 54 turnouts have applied for float systems that will be installed following the 2009 irrigation season.

Installation of the water, energy, and labor-saving float systems was accelerated by two grants that were received by DEID; a \$300,000 matching grant provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and a smaller \$32,000 grant from Southern California Edison Company.

For more information on floats, contact the District office or visit our website.



TWO GATES: Continued from page 3

caught the attention of many due to its ability to make a quick impact on easing delta pumping restrictions while protecting the smelt population and other aquatic species. Cost of the project is estimated at \$29 million and can be built in compliance with existing biological opinions covering the target area.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the State Department of Water Resources are co-leads on the project. Necessary environmental documents are currently being prepared with a planned installation date of December of 2009.