

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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*Special Insert-Irrigation Tech-Line*



**DISTRICT EXECUTES NEW WATER CONTRACT**

Completing a monumental process that began with the settlement of an 18-year old environmental lawsuit over the San Joaquin River, the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District Board of Directors executed a new water contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on November 17th.

Noting the significance of the District obtaining this new contract, District Board President Harold Nelson said “This occasion is second only to the signing of the District’s original water service contract in 1951”.

**Capital Debt Payment Required**

Since March of 2009 when the San Joaquin River Settlement Act was passed by Congress and signed by the President, Friant districts began negotiating the terms of a new water contract, known as a “9(d) repayment contract”. The terminology comes from subsection (d) of section 9 of a Congressional Act dated August 4, 1939.

The 1939 Act provides for a much different kind of contract than what has been available to Friant districts. Key to obtaining a 9(d) contract is the repayment of the capital spent by the federal government to build the Central Valley Project. The Settlement legislation required the Bureau to offer a 9(d) contract if any Friant district made its capital repayment in advance (districts were

already paying off the debt in annual payments through water rates paid to the Bureau, with total repayment required by 2030).

DEID is one of the first Friant districts to make its advance capital repayment and receive a 9(d) contract. Other Friant districts are making plans to do the same by the legislatively mandated deadline of December 31, 2010.

**9d Benefits Are Many**

The benefits accruing to the District and its growers are many from the new 9(d) contract, including:

- permanent contract not subject to renewal;
- a specific right to a stated share of the Friant water supply;
- relief from the Reclamation Law restrictions that prevent delivery of District water to excess lands, and;
- the end to landowners/water users filing annual Bureau forms.

**New Benefit Assessment Was Key**

The District was able to make its advance capital repayment thanks to the approval of a new benefit assessment passed by District landowners this summer. This was followed by a very successful bond sale that was concluded during the first week of November. The

*(SEE NEW CONTRACT: Continued on page 4)*

## CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES CONTINUE ON

The Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District continues to forge ahead with new construction centered on its goal of enhancing existing water supplies through groundwater banking.

The DEID Board of Directors has authorized a number of projects related to banking, both within the District and in conjunction with other districts that serve as banking partners (see related story, page 3).



*Groundwater monitoring well being installed near the Turnipseed Basin project. A total of five dedicated wells were installed this fall.*

### In-district Construction

The District has put a priority on in-district groundwater banking and is aggressively pursuing projects that are expanding the capacity of the current 80-acre Turnipseed Basin. We have reported on those projects extensively in past editions of the *DEID Pipeline* and offer this latest status report:

- Recovery Wells - Four new deep wells have been constructed for recovery of water that has been and will be recharged by the District. These four new wells compliment the existing recovery well that was installed in 2009. Each well is approximately 1,200 feet deep and can pump 2,000 gpm.
- Recovery Well Pipeline - District crews are installing 7,100 feet of new pipeline that will deliver recovered water from the new wells to the District's existing distribution system. The new line is also bidirectional, allowing it to be used to deliver surplus water in wet years to the project for recharge. Construction will be complete by the end of December.



*District staff installing new pipeline that will tie in new recovery well water to the DEID distribution system.*

- Levee Improvements – Improvements to the existing levees at the Turnipseed Basin have been completed. Selected levees were increased in height and width and were sloped for more efficient maintenance.
- Groundwater Monitoring Wells - Construction of five new dedicated groundwater monitoring wells around the Turnipseed Basin project site were completed this fall. The new monitoring wells will provide valuable information to the District and surrounding landowners on groundwater levels and quality, all to insure that the District's groundwater banking and recovery operations are not detrimental to adjacent landowners.

A total of \$1.55 million in state and federal funding was obtained for these projects.

### New Construction Planned for 2011

As reported in the last edition of the *DEID Pipeline*, the District has secured an additional \$320,200 in federal funding that will be used to construct new recharge facilities on the adjacent 80-acres that was recently purchased by the District. This new purchase effectively doubles the capacity of the existing project. Part of this funding will also provide for a delivery structure to take water from White River into the new 80-acre project.

Design of the new facilities will begin after the first of the year with construction targeted for completion by the end of next August.

## AN UNCLEAR 2011 WATER YEAR FORECAST

The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center issued an El Niño update November 4<sup>th</sup> that suggests conditions reflect the continuation of La Niña during October, and this La Niña condition is expected to last through the spring of 2011. The discussion further states: “A large majority of models also predict La Niña to become a strong episode by the November-January season before gradually weakening. A few of the models, including the NCEP Climate Forecast System (CFS), suggest that La Niña could persist into the Northern Hemisphere summer 2011. However, no particular outcome is favored beyond the Northern Hemisphere spring due to large model disagreement and lower model skill during the period.”

The NWS report continues, “Likely La Niña impacts during November 2010-January 2011 include suppressed convection over the central tropical Pacific

Ocean, and enhanced convection over Indonesia. Expected impacts in the United States include an enhanced chance of above-average precipitation in the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rockies (along with a concomitant increase in snowfall), and Ohio Valley, while below-average precipitation is most likely across the south-central and southeastern states. An increased chance of below-average temperatures is predicted for coastal and near-coastal regions of the northern West Coast, and a higher possibility of above-average temperatures is expected for much of the southern and central U.S.”

This report is in line with many other long range reports that recognize the potential influence of La Niña in 2011, but lack specifics as to likely impacts to the central valley.

*(The majority of this report was provided by The Water Agency, Inc.)*



*A full Friant Dam for 2011 or not? Time will tell.*

## 2010 WATER DELIVERIES UNPRECEDENTED

Water deliveries in 2010 were record-setters, thanks to District groundwater banking projects both in and outside of the District.

The District will finish the current water year at the end of February. Based on total deliveries made to-date, along with projected water deliveries for February (no deliveries are being made in December and January due to the Friant-Kern Canal being dewatered for maintenance), DEID will have used 180,900 acre-feet of water, the equivalent of 98 percent of the District’s to-

tal CVP contract water supply of 183,300 acre-feet.

Here is the breakdown for 2010 water deliveries:

- to DEID growers: 115,658 acre-feet;
- in-district groundwater recharge: 6,597 acre-feet;
- delivered to other banking partner districts: 52,550 acre-feet;
- sold to a neighboring district: 6,095 acre-feet.



**DEID PIPELINE**

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

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**Can you help us make a  
needy family's Christ-  
mas a bit merrier?**

District employees have adopted a needy family in our community for this Christmas season. DEID staff is putting together a gift basket filled with fixings for Christmas dinner and a few gifts of necessities (clothes, blankets, etc.) for this working family consisting of Mom, Dad, and two girls (ages 2 and 5). Mom is also expecting triplets!

We are asking our readers to consider joining us by donating non-perishable food items that can be used to fill up this family's pantry. You can drop off your donation anytime at the District office between now and December 20th.



**DELANO-  
EARLIMART**  
IRRIGATION DISTRICT

*Season's Greetings!*

*The Board of Directors and employees of the Delano-Earlímart Irrigation District would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for allowing us to serve you in 2010. 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 Friday, December 24th and reopen on Monday, January 3th.*

*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*

*(NEW CONTRACT: Continued from page 1)*

District paid just over \$23 million to the Bureau for its share of the CVP capital obligation, which reflected a discount of over \$4 million from the original obligation amount. In addition, the District will receive another \$6.1 million in additional water payment discounts in future years.

Truly a team effort, the District Board extends its appreciation to all who made this historic event possible.