



TID TIDINGS

Newsletter of the Tulare Irrigation District

WATER SUPPLY—A RECAP OF BOUNTY

Board of Directors

David Bixler
President

Richard Borges
Vice President

Michael Thomas

Scott Rogers

Dave Martin



J. Paul Hendrix
General Manager

The Board of Directors holds regular public meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am at the District office in Tulare.

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With the local Kaweah runoff coming in at 130% of normal and the San Joaquin – the source of our imported Friant supply at 122%, this year's water supply was bound to exceed those of the last three dry ones. Indeed it did, and because of this and a combination of other actions and circumstances TID will wind up diverting to the service area over 260,000 AF. This ranks the year 2010 as 15th highest out of the last 60 in total calendar-year diversions. We've got the fall/winter months of October through December to go so this ranking could get better yet by year's end. Water in the canals and ditches fired up on January 15th and it has flowed nearly continuously since then with only short cessations during the months of February and March.



Releases from Lake Kaweah Reaching McKay Point - Summer 2010

With this above-average water supply year, our Kaweah entitlements were abundant and provided about 113,000 AF. Adding to this were the District's actions which brought in our imported Friant supply and paved the way for even more water through local and regional partnerships. Here are the highlights of these efforts and the tally of supplemental water supplies they produced:

- ⇒ Friant Surplus Class 2 – Despite the presence of Settlement interim flows (see "SJR Settlement Activities" in this issue), Friant Dam was approaching spill conditions on two occasions during the spring and surplus Class 2 supplies were made available on a "take all you can" basis for awhile. TID brought in about 44,800 AF during this surplus period.
- ⇒ Friant Allocations – Friant districts received 100% of their Class 1 supply and 10% of their Class 2 supply (on top of surplus Class 2), adding another 44,100 AF to this year's summer run.
- ⇒ Surplus Kaweah – With the construction of the new McKay Pt regulation facilities this spring, most of the river units were unable to take delivery of their winter-run water. TID came up with a program to take much of this water as either a purchased supply or exchange, and the two combined yielded another 25,600 AF brought in for our recharge and irrigation runs.
- ⇒ Exchange with Lindsay-Strathmore II) – (During the surplus Friant conditions, TID was running full and we were able to deliver an additional 3,800 AF to LSID. This kept them from eating into their Class 1 supply and they returned 75% of the total back to us in July, contributing another 2,800 AF to our summer run.
- ⇒ Transfer to Kaweah Delta WCD – The surplus Friant situation created the opportunity to import more water into the Kaweah basin. Similar to our strategy with LSID, our own importations of Friant water during surplus conditions were at peak capacity and KDWCD was ready and able to take more such imported water for upstream recharge in channels and basins. At less than market rates within Friant for Class 2 water, TID sold 24,500 AF to KDWCD for groundwater recharge and this helped improve groundwater conditions for everybody in the basin, including the District.

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GRANT MONEY CONTINUES TO POUR IN

We've reported from time to time on grant funding made available to TID for various projects. The success trend continues and, since discussed a year ago, another \$1 million has been awarded to the District. Of this, \$300,000 has been awarded for the joint City of Tulare/TID Swall Basin water recharge/regulation project out near Creamline Basin at the east side of the District. The balance of \$700,000 has been offered to construct facilities to undertake a water exchange with the City of Visalia, a proposed partnership which is now being seriously explored by TID and the City. Both of these awards come from USBR under its "WaterSMART" grant program.



Removing Top Soil from Swall Basin's Site #1

All in all, TID has been awarded nearly \$8 million since we began in earnest to pursue grant funding back in 2004. For a district of our smaller size, this stream of grant awards is really unusual. It has been a rather steady flow of money – really a windfall – to the District for projects and programs that are intended to improve service to our water users. Some grant applications we've prepared in-house; some with the services of Provost & Pritchard engineering consultants and their expertise in grant preparation.

Here's a summary to-date of when and for what purposes we've gotten the money:

- ◊ 2003 **\$520,000** from CA Energy Commission (CEC) for Kaweah SCADA and automation project; assistance in securing **\$200,000** for KRPA from CEC for Unit No. 1 turbine motor rewind.
- ◊ 2005 **\$300,000** from USBR Challenge Grant Program for SCADA and canal structures.
- ◊ 2007 **\$50,000** from USBR Field Services Program for Tagus Basin SCADA equipment and automated control structure.
- ◊ 2008 **\$50,000** from USBR Field Services Program for Cameron Creek flow-measuring device and associated SCADA equipment; **\$300,000** from Cal Fed Water Use Efficiency Grant Program for Martin Basin water regulation facility and associated SCADA equipment.
- ◊ 2009 **\$4,000,000** from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and its Ag. Water Efficiency Program to pass on funds to growers for on-farm water efficiency projects; **\$300,000** from the USBR Challenge Grant Program for the Swall Basin Groundwater Recharge project; **\$300,000** from USBR for a System Optimization Review analysis; **\$925,000** from ARRA California Drought Relief funds for landowner well rehab projects.
- ◊ 2010 **\$300,000** from USBR's WaterSMART Program for the Swall Basin project; **\$700,000** from USBR's WaterSMART Program for the City of Visalia Pipeline project.

Looking East from the Main Canal at Swall Basin's Site #2. The basin is being flood irrigated to put moisture into the ground before dirt removal begins.



EXCHANGE WITH KERN-TULARE WATER DISTRICT

The Setting - The Friant Unit serves some 20+ water districts, each with their own water supply needs and circumstances. Some, like TID, possess local surface supplies and their farmers have ample access to groundwater. Some rely totally on the imported water supply made available from Friant. Crop water demands vary greatly too, with some districts with a majority of row crops and others with permanent crops dominating their landscape. Often these varied districts temporarily sell or trade water to meet the needs at hand, and this practice has been going on for many years. The Friant districts have demonstrated a high degree of cooperation and the USBR and Friant Water Authority have generally set up guidelines and rules that provide flexibility and don't needlessly stymie efficient water management among districts. The interest remains high within the Friant family to trade resources and competition for limited supplies has intensified due to the water losses brought on by the San Joaquin River Settlement and by the continued bane of overdrafted groundwater basins. So what was once an informal "at cost" relationship among the Friant members is moving to more costly and higher stakes negotiations with districts attempting to leverage their resources and maximize their positions.

The Program - Against this back drop, TID has negotiated a program with the Kern Tulare Water District, a Friant member situated in northern Kern County with exclusively permanent crops, limited groundwater and the need to secure dry-year water supplies. It entails the purchase by KTWD of surplus water within Friant and delivering the water to TID. In drier years and in limited quantities, TID pays a portion of this water back. KTWD also has the option of buying TID's own surplus water delivered here and TID would owe some of this water back too. Our first go around at this will be a pilot program of sorts, with the KTWD water acquisitions to occur over the next six years and end thereafter. Should the relationship prove mutually beneficial, an extended program may then be developed.

This deal with KTWD helps both districts - it provides more water for delivery into TID to offset groundwater pumping as well as provide an increment of dry-year supply to KTWD. Both districts need more such programs to fully tackle their regional and local water deficiency challenges. This one is a step in the right direction and it enables TID, through the purchase power of KTWD, to stay in the market to secure surplus Friant supplies as the price of this limited imported water supply steadily rises.



KERN-TULARE Water District

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- ⇒ Exchange with Kern-Tulare WD - TID has embarked on a new exchange program with another Friant district located in Kern County (see "Kern-Tulare Exchange Program" in this issue) and, under this program, another 17,900 AF of Friant water was purchased and brought into the District during the spring and summer run.
- ⇒ Recovered Water Account - Per the San Joaquin Settlement, Friant districts losing water to the river fishery flow requirements earn credits to receive inexpensive surplus water when available. Such was the case, for the very first time, this year and TID imported another 8,300 AF of extra Friant water at a cost of \$10/AF.
- ⇒ Recirculated Water - Again, per the Settlement, any water sent down the San Joaquin River is eligible for recapture and return back to the east side, this being coined a "recirculation" of water lost to the river back to Friant. River releases wound up being credited to Friant in San Luis Reservoir on the west side and TID worked an exchange with the Tulare Lake Basin WSD to get this water back. This first time ever exchange brought another 4,200 AF of Kaweah water into our summer irrigation run (see "SJR Settlement Activities" in this issue for more on this program).



Creamline Basin Looking North from Avenue 256

All in all, this was a beneficial water supply year with many factors contributing to its bounty. We are hoping that this coming fall's groundwater survey will demonstrate the benefits of the District's efforts and show a healthy up tick in water levels. Needless to say we'll need a few more like this to put a really big dent in the declines of late, but we've learned to take them as they come.

Tulare Irrigation District
6826 Avenue 240
Tulare, California 93274



Founded in 1889, Tulare ID was one of the first irrigation districts in California. Its purpose is to serve the water supply needs of the greater Tulare area, a rich and agriculturally diverse region within the Southern San Joaquin Valley. The water provided comes locally from the Kaweah River and is also imported from the Federal Central Valley Project.

Important Dates to Remember

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| September | 24th - Board of Equalization Sessions Closed |
| October | 28th - Last Day to Pay Water Bills before Transferred to Taxes |
| November | 1st - 2010-2011 Tax Assessments Mailed |
| December | 20th - First Installment Tax Assessments Delinquent |