



TID TIDINGS

Newsletter of the Tulare Irrigation District

SWALL BASIN GROUND-BREAKING

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.

In This Issue:

Swall Basin	Cover
It's a Wet Year—Again!	2
Snow Graph	2
Visit by Dr. Meral	2
Board Strategic Planning	3
Employee News	3
Did You Know?	3

On March 31st, officials of the City of Tulare and TID gathered at the jointly -owned Swall Groundwater Basin located along Avenue 256, across from the Crop Production Services yard. This was to commemorate the first water turned in to Cell No. 1 of the project, the first completed phase of this monumental undertaking. The officials included Craig Vejvoda and Mark Watte of the City Council, Lee Brehm and Wayne Hinman of the City Public Utilities Board, and TID Board Members Rick Borges and Mike Thomas. Our local County Supervisor, Pete Vander Poel, attended as well.



Swall Basin Groundbreaking Ceremony—March, 2011

Pictured from left to right are: Craig Vejvoda, Mike Thomas, Wayne Hinman and Rick Borges

The Swall Basin project, first of its kind for the Tulare region, stems from a partnership between TID and the City. Ownership of the property and project rests largely with the City, while TID provides water and operates the facility. It will be used to enhance groundwater recharge in the local aquifers in an area that benefits both partners as well as providing TID with another basin to aid in managing the highs and lows of flows in the Main Canal, one of the main arteries feeding the lower half of the District. Hats off to the TID crew who have toiled long hours on the basin's construction. Excavation to exacting grade levels and moving many thousands of cubic yards of dirt to create the basin is no small feat and is usually tackled by specialized construction contractors.



TID Crew constructing Swall Basin—March 2011

Speaking at the March 31st ground-breaking and offering accolades on the project's success were Councilman Vejvoda, Board Member Borges, Supervisor Vander Poel, and TID staff members Paul Hendrix and Aaron Fukuda. Their collective theme was the City/TID partnership's progressive direction in water management for the region.

Board Member Thomas introduced Tom Swall and his son Lee, two of the descendants of the original Swall family, who owned and farmed the site beginning in 1873 with 80 acres of homesteaded land, growing to 800 acres by 1884. Mr. William Swall, Tom's great grandfather, was one of the early founders of the Tulare Irrigation District. He was a member of its Board during the era of mounting bond debt and history-making payoff in 1903.



William Swall

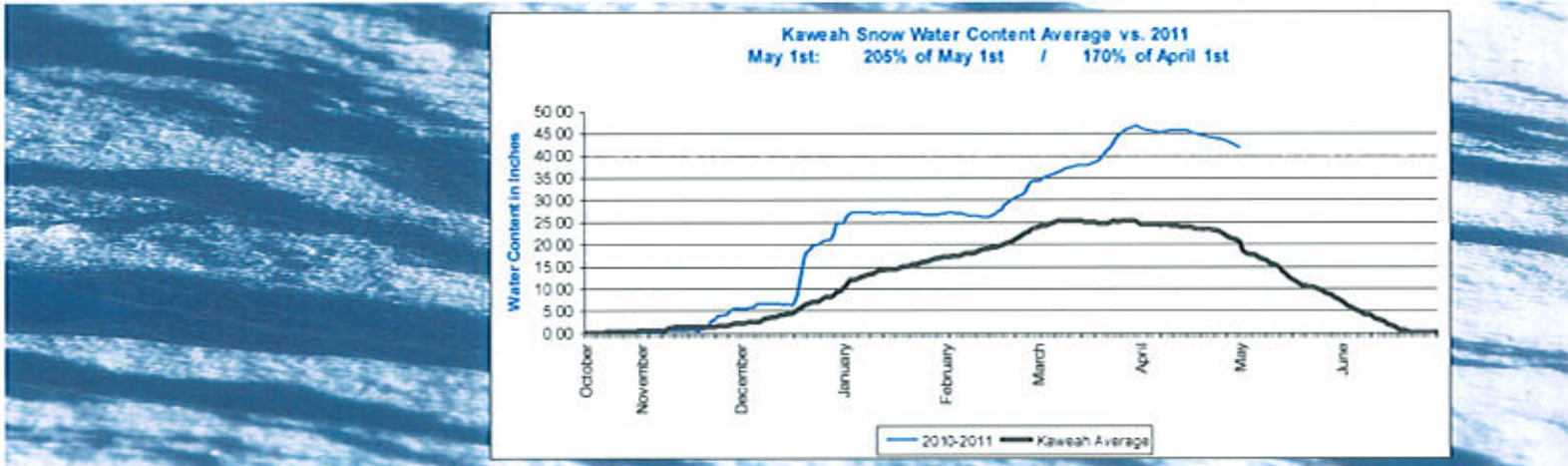
IT'S A WET YEAR—AGAIN!

Looking back a couple of years, 2009 brought near-average water supplies with considerable spring water from Friant for groundwater recharge, 2010 came in at almost 125% of average, and folks started out late last fall with the feeling that we're due for a really dry year in 2011. That doom-and-gloom thought got put to bed rather fast with over 500% of normal rainfall last December. Add to that several more cold and wet storms in March and April, and we are now looking at a year projected to yield nearly 175% of average supply (see graph below). In short, another good year for ditch water – good enough to probably rank as the best since 1998. Through April we've brought in about 108,000 acre-feet of water for both irrigation demands and for groundwater recharge. Through the rest of the irrigation run, which commenced on December 9th and will go non-stop through most of October if not longer, TID will likely have diverted upwards of 320,000 acre-feet.



Main Intake Canal as it enters Tulare Irrigation District

Much of the spring season's supply is being fed by our Kaweah sources as Terminus has been in a forced release as mandated by the Corps of Engineers for flood control purposes. Through March we imported about 22,000 acre-feet of Friant water and plan to resume such imported water deliveries once flows from Terminus Dam can be backed off. Per the San Joaquin Settlement, surplus Friant water is now available from USBR at \$10 per acre-foot, a price that's hard to turn down. Under an exchange agreement with Kern-Tulare WD, we will be bringing in an additional 30,000 acre-feet of Friant supplies later this summer to extend the summer run out longer in time.



TOUR BY HIGH-RANKING STATE OFFICIAL



Dr. Meral listening to Friant viewpoints at TID's office

Dr. Jerry Meral, appointed to the post of Deputy Director of the state's Resources Agency, paid a visit to TID on April 7th as part of a tour of San Joaquin Valley agricultural water systems. The Resources Agency has broad authorities and oversees the state departments of Fish and Game, Water Resources, and Parks and Recreation, to name a few. He spoke to a Friant contractor group, including District board members and representatives of Kaweah Delta WCD and the City of Tulare about his past role as Deputy Director of DWR under the previous Brown administration and that it supported then, as it does now, a peripheral canal around the Delta. He felt that Governor Brown put a lot of effort into articulating a water position while campaigning and that water is a key issue for his current administration. He did acknowledge, however, that he must work with a number of interest groups with many points of view.

Dr. Meral was presented with some Friant viewpoints on the efforts towards additional groundwater storage and banking, regional planning, and expanded surface storage both locally and within the Friant area. Mark Larsen, manager of KDWCD, emphasized how the enlargement of Lake Kaweah has provided significant benefits in the form of retention of otherwise flood flows leaving the basin. Councilman Vejvoda noted the City's realization that their historic practice of just drilling one more well to provide growing City water needs was not going to pass muster and was not in the long-term interest of the City, thus the partnership that has evolved with TID on groundwater recharge projects. It was impressed upon Dr. Meral how much progress the region has made in projects and programs to store and recharge water to the underground but, as water is taken away due to environmental regulations and court rulings, such projects and programs cannot function as intended nor fulfill their mission.

BOARD STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 2010 TID received a \$300,000 USBR grant to conduct what's known as a System Optimization Review (SOR) study and report. The SOR report involves a thorough and rather detailed assessment of District facilities, O&M and administrative functions, water rights and supplies, regional partnerships, and current policies. The idea is to produce a document to allow the Board to engage in strategic planning for the future. We hired Provost & Pritchard, a local consulting engineering firm with experience in working with numerous irrigation and water districts, to prepare the report. This is now well underway and the final report is approaching over 100 pages in length.



TID is well aware of the rapidly changing world with respect to regulations, groundwater usage, and financial challenges which will no doubt drive how we do business down the road. Presented with the information organized into one document as the SOR report, the Board is committed to engaging in several strategic planning sessions to articulate and provide the General Manager and management staff the directives and policies to position the District in a way to best serve its long-standing customers – the family farms and agricultural businesses in the Tulare area. Look for future issues of TID Tidings for more information concerning this look into the future by the District Board.

DID YOU KNOW?

"Much concern and attention (and money) is being devoted to what we loosely call "global warming" or "climate change." In the western U.S., agriculture, and the water systems serving it, are being barraged constantly on the tough times ahead to cope with this phenomenon. Striking a different tune in defense of the farms we serve and how we manage our water...

A Stanford University study finds that modern farming has reduced CO₂ emissions by 13 billion tons. Evidently large-scale agriculture has shrunk the need to deforest vast tracks of land which would otherwise rob the earth of large carbon repositories. To quote, "Our results dispel the notion that modern intensive agriculture is inherently worse for the environment than a more 'old-fashioned' way of doing things."

And, two professors from National Central University in Taiwan published a study in Science Magazine that found that the impoundment of fresh water in man-made reservoirs since 1900 has slowed global sea level (GSL) rise by about 30 mm, or about one foot. Such a finding has major implications on the natural v. human causes on GSL rise during the industrial age, adding to the debate over the role of reservoirs. Some say that the initial filling of large reservoirs results in greenhouse gas emissions stemming from tree and plants rotting at reservoir bottoms and eventually bubbling to the surface. Their point is more gasses, more global warming, more GSL rise. So, are reservoirs good or bad? Here in the San Joaquin Valley, we know their value - for both flood control and drought insurance the answer is clear.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

Joining the TID team in the administrative department this summer will be Kayleigh Hendrix. Kayleigh is entering her sophomore year at San Francisco State University where she is pursuing a degree in broadcast journalism with possibly a minor in public relations.

Kayleigh keeps busy with track activities six days a week, but has some time left over for concerts, museums and sight-seeing in the city.

Kayleigh's growing up years were spent in Bakersfield and Tulare. While in Tulare, she attended Garden, Cherry and Tulare Western schools.

Welcome, Kayleigh!

EMPLOYEE NEWS



L to r: Jake, Josh, Kayleigh and Maria

REPEAT PERFORMANCE

Jake Duffin and Josh Scheenstra are returning to help out in the water department this summer. Jake is on summer break from Westmont College in Santa Barbara and Josh is on summer break from Calvin College in Michigan. Both Jake and Josh are pursuing a degree in engineering.

Maria Fernandez is returning to help out in the administrative department. Maria is on summer break from UC Merced and is pursuing a degree in sociology.

Welcome back Jake, Josh and Maria!



TID's ENGINEER, AARON FUKUDA, HONORED BY THE CVPWA

On January 28, 2011 Aaron Fukuda, TID's Engineer for the last five years, was honored by the Central Valley Project Water Association with the prestigious F. Gordon Johnston Award. The award, to recognize those individuals who have implemented significant advances in district operations and maintenance, was presented to Mr. Fukuda at the 2011 Mid-Pacific Region Water Conference in Reno, Nevada.

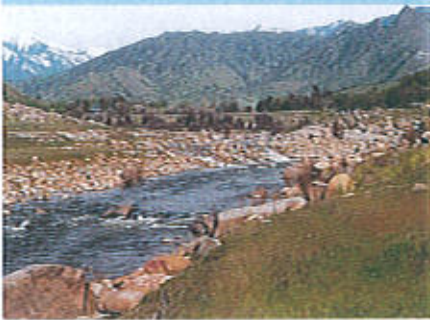
Congratulations Aaron!

Tulare Irrigation District
6826 Avenue 240
Tulare, California 93274

LOOK INSIDE...

Swall Basin Ground-Breaking
It's a Wet Year - Again!
Snow Water Chart
Tour by High-Ranking State Official
Board Strategic Planning
Employee News
Did You Know?

Visit Us At...
www.tulareid.org



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

June	14th—TID Board meeting 20th—2nd installment due (5% penalty)
July	4th—Independence Day—TID front office closed
August	5th, 12th and 19th—Delinquent Publication Notice 9th—Board Fixed Time and Date of Board of Equalization Meeting 30th—Record Certificate of Sale—Tax Sales