



TID TIDINGS

Newsletter of the Tulare Irrigation District

LATE SEASON IRRIGATION RUN

Board of Directors

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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.

Here it is in mid-August in a dry year, and there's water in TID's canals again! A late-season Class 2 supply allocation from USBR has put smiles on the faces of the Friant districts' managers and many a farmer no doubt as well. The news was particularly pleasing for TID, which had ended its summer run by the first week of July when its then-current Friant allocation and Kaweah water ran out - just as this summer's relentless heat wave began.

When the surplus Friant water ran out in June, TID determined to keep the run going until its allocated supplies ran out. There was talk that the Friant system could well contain some extra water but USBR - like most prudent water system managers - was reluctant to over commit in June based on a guess of future river flows into Millerton Lake. Sure enough, within weeks of TID's early finish, USBR increased the Class 1 allocation from 90 to 100%. That gave us another 3,000 AF. A welcome increase, but not nearly what's needed to fire up the canal system for any meaningful irrigation run. Then, in early August USBR let go of more water by way of a 5% Class 2 allocation. They had contemplated less, but Friant districts stressed upon them the dire conditions

with farmers and their reliance on well production. This Class 2 approval meant another 7,050 AF to TID. Now with these two Friant water allotments combined, coupled with some Kaweah water purchases from other units, we mustered up nearly 13,000 AF - enough for a healthy August run.

We began diverting water into our upper system on August 13th, and water orders were being taken the next day. The 13,000 AF of supply lasted about 13 days given the August farmer demands.

All in all, USBR managed Millerton Lake exceedingly well this season. Major spills were avoided in May and June with the availability and delivery of surplus Class 2 water, and then June and July runoff was slightly higher than what was forecasted by state and federal agencies.

The So. Calif. Edison upstream power operations also were favorable, sending flows into Millerton that helped bolster the increased allocations. While this late run may not have been ideal and our users probably would have wished for it sooner prior to our first shut off, we'll take it whenever we can get it!

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GOODBYE TO DAVE ZACK

Dave Zack, former engineer-manager of TID, passed away on July 1st at the age of 84. Employed with the District from 1949 through 1986, and a consultant since retirement, Dave will likely remain as the District's most steadfast employee and a well-respected member of the region's water community. He was manager from May 7, 1968 until his retirement and served in many other capacities prior to that.

(Continued on Page 3)



GRANTS FOR TID ABOUND



Grant funding has been flowing to those water districts in the state who can identify worthy projects and who can get through the red tape of numerous application processes. TID has been in the running now for several years, having secured grant money from both federal and state sources. We have seen the inability of state and federal agencies to plan and put in place large-scale water projects for various reasons including their tremendous cost and environmental challenges. A fundamental shift in approach has been occurring as these agencies look to local water suppliers to identify projects and programs to further regional water supplies. Along with this shift has emerged a significant number of grant programs to provide the incentives locally to undertake such projects. Seeing this trend, TID has carved out the necessary staff time to become familiar with the grant programs available and identify the right strategies to be successful in this arena.

Since 2004, we've received over \$6.7 million in grant funding for projects ranging from hydropower optimization to on-farm water efficiency improvements. Only about 15% of this money has been spent thus far. While several projects have been successfully completed, many more are on the drawing boards. TID's grant pursuits have greatly accelerated over the last year or so, and in August we hit pay dirt! Of the total funds awarded, \$5.5 million was provided to the District for four grants, all approved within the same week. These include:

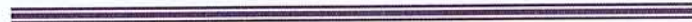
- \$300,000 from USBR for development of the Plum Basin re-charge project in concert with the City of Tulare
- \$300,000 from USBR to conduct a System Optimization Review of the District to identify infrastructure and water management programs to provide sustainable water supplies and service to our farmers in the future
- \$925,000 from USBR to implement landowner well rehab projects
- \$4,000,000 from NRCS to implement on-farm water conservation and efficiency projects

The \$4 million NRCS grant is to put matching funds into the hands of farmers for on-farm improvements that were formerly administered under the county-wide EQIP program. Funding will be doled out over the next four years, starting with \$500,000 this year. On-farm projects will include irrigation water management practices, the installation of micro sprinklers, sprinklers, subsurface irrigation systems, tailwater recovery systems, and other water conservation or quality projects. TID will develop criteria to sort through project submittals by its water users to determine those eligible for funding. As additional assistance, the Board intends to approve a low-interest loan program for qualifying farmers to assist in financing their matching cost shares.

While not affording any direct benefit to the District's own delivery system, we view these types of on-farm programs as integral to the future success of the area's agricultural businesses, the core of TID's



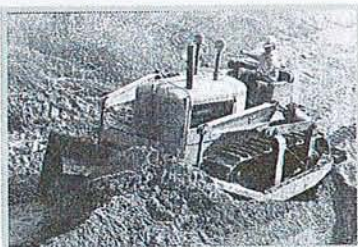
For more information about this new grant program and how it may benefit your farm water system and operations, please contact Aaron Fukuda, District Engineer, at (559) 686-3425.



very existence. Moreover, as the state legislature deals once again with the water issue in this current session, we anticipate another round of bills that, one way or another, will move all of us - farmers and their local water suppliers - towards new and expansive programs to better manage our limited water supplies. Grant programs such as that offered by the NRCS through TID will really help us prepare for this potential raft of new governmental criteria and demonstrate our efforts to comply with them.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Lee Horswill is temporarily working for the District in the water/engineering departments while pursuing a teaching credential. Lee has worked during many a past summer season when water is moving and things are busy. Welcome back Lee!



In January 1953, Ollen operates TID's Allis-Chalmers HD-10 Bulldozer with a Garwood blade.

RETIRED TID EMPLOYEE OLLEN COLEMAN PASSES

Ollen Coleman began his career with the District in 1938, ending with his retirement in 1973. Mr. Coleman was a heavy equipment operator.

TID WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE MATT LIMAS

The District welcomes its new ditch tender/ditch maintenance worker, Matt Limas. Mr. Limas was raised in Tulare and was previously employed by Quad Knopf Engineering.

In Matt's off time he is a busy Dad to three girls, ages 9, 3 and 1. Welcome, Matt!



DISTRICT'S NEW FACILITY TAKING SHAPE!



In case you haven't driven by lately, the view above shows the great strides we've made in the erection of our new facilities at the corner of Ave 240 and Rd 68. It's been a long hot summer of construction at the site, with many on our staff assisting in all kinds of ways. Our Engineer has been working side by side with the contractors, handling a lot of details as the construction unfolds. Ditto for our Engineering Technician, whose construction and surveying skills have helped move things along. Many of our maintenance crew have been busy too, with one reprieve in August when they quickly laid down shovels and hammers and took hold of weir hooks to regulate water in a brief, but welcome, second summer irrigation run. While many sub-contractors are on board for the specialty trade jobs such as electrical wiring, plumbing, framing etc., our crews have been tasked with a myriad of jobs including erection of the entire 4,000 sq ft herbicide storage and loading facility, site grading, landscaping and irrigation systems, concrete paving and a host of other as-needed tasks. While we may later have to deal with deferred maintenance on the canal and ditch system, use of TID crews at the construction site will go a long way in keeping the budget for this major project at a minimum.

(Continued from Page 1, Dave Zack)

Dave, born in Tulare, was dedicated to the advancement of TID and oversaw many a major improvement in its scope and operations. Such included the securing of the contract for CVP Friant Unit water, construction of Terminus Dam on the Kaweah River, and formation of the Kaweah River Power Authority.

Dave always had a cheery disposition, exemplified a strong work ethic, and no job was too small or too hard for him. Even in his later consulting years, he would climb down canal banks, research records at the County Assessor office, or calculate flows in TID canals for planning purposes, to name just a few of his varied tasks. Dave Zack was TID's "walking encyclopedia" and his knowledge and experience have been invaluable assets to District staff and Board. Dave, now no longer with us, will always be a part of Tulare Irrigation District. Goodbye, Dave Zack.



Dave Zack (seated on left) signing Tulare Irrigation District's first Central Valley Project contract in 1950

TID INDUCTED INTO THE CAHC

The California Agricultural Heritage Club (CAHC) began in the 1940's and was originally founded as The 100 Year Club. The club's purpose is to recognize families, businesses and special agricultural interests that have maintained a financial responsibility in agriculture for at least a century. The CAHC's co-sponsors include the California Exposition & State Fair, the California Farm Bureau, the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Farmer Magazine. All interested parties are encouraged to apply. All applicants are required to submit a completed application and documentation providing proof of ownership over the last 100 years.

The Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved the formation of the Tulare Irrigation District at its September 2, 1889, meeting. The District's first board meeting was held shortly thereafter on September 21st.

The District applied to become a member of the CAHC and was notified of its acceptance in July 2009. The District was presented with a membership plaque and a commendation from the State of California's Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi at the CAHC induction ceremony held on September 2, 2009.



PICTURED (left to right) ARE LT. GOV. JOHN GARAMENDI, TID EMPLOYEES GENE AND MARCIA BESSINGER AND JAMES VAN MAREN, CHAIR, CAHC COMMITTEE.

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LOOK INSIDE...
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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

September	8th—Board of Equalization Meets
October	20th—Last day to pay water bills before transferred to taxes
November	1st—2009-2010 tax assessments mailed
December	20th—First installment tax assessments due