

3rd Quarter 2008

TID TIDINGS

Newsletter of the Tulare Irrigation District

RELOCATION PLANS UNDERWAY

Board of Directors

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Michael Thomas

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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.

Plans and specifications are coming together for TID's new facilities at the northeast corner of Road 68 and Avenue 240 (Prosperity Ave.) west of town. Much like our current home on San Joaquin Ave., our new site will feature a metal O&M shop building and a separate administration building, along with ancillary facilities on the 5 1/2-acre site. We expect to break ground on construction by early 2009 on the metal O&M building with work on the administrative building to follow shortly after that. We are losing no time on the planning phase of this monumental undertaking, as we promised the City of Tulare that we'd be off our current lot by the end of next year. We understand that a developer is already working with the City on permits for apartment buildings to ultimately occupy our current 4-acre site.

evaluating a number of things we can do in this regard. One key cost-control element is to utilize our own employees on a number of the construction phases of the project. Many of our field crew are skilled on concrete and other construction trades and we intend to put them to work at our new site alongside the various sub-contractors who must necessarily be retained as well. Also, for quality control purposes, we've hired a construction manager, S.C. Anderson, to oversee the project. S.C. Anderson's involvement will be vital in coordinating the efforts of our crews in concert with outside sub-contractors on the many details of the project. Although headquartered in Bakersfield, they've done work in Tulare in the past, principally for Southern Calif. Edison at the AgTac Center on South Laspina.

TID's Board wants to ensure that we keep costs to a minimum on this relocation project and we are

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Architect's Rendering of New Administration Building

TEN ACRES FOR SALE ADJACENT TO GOOD NEIGHBORS!

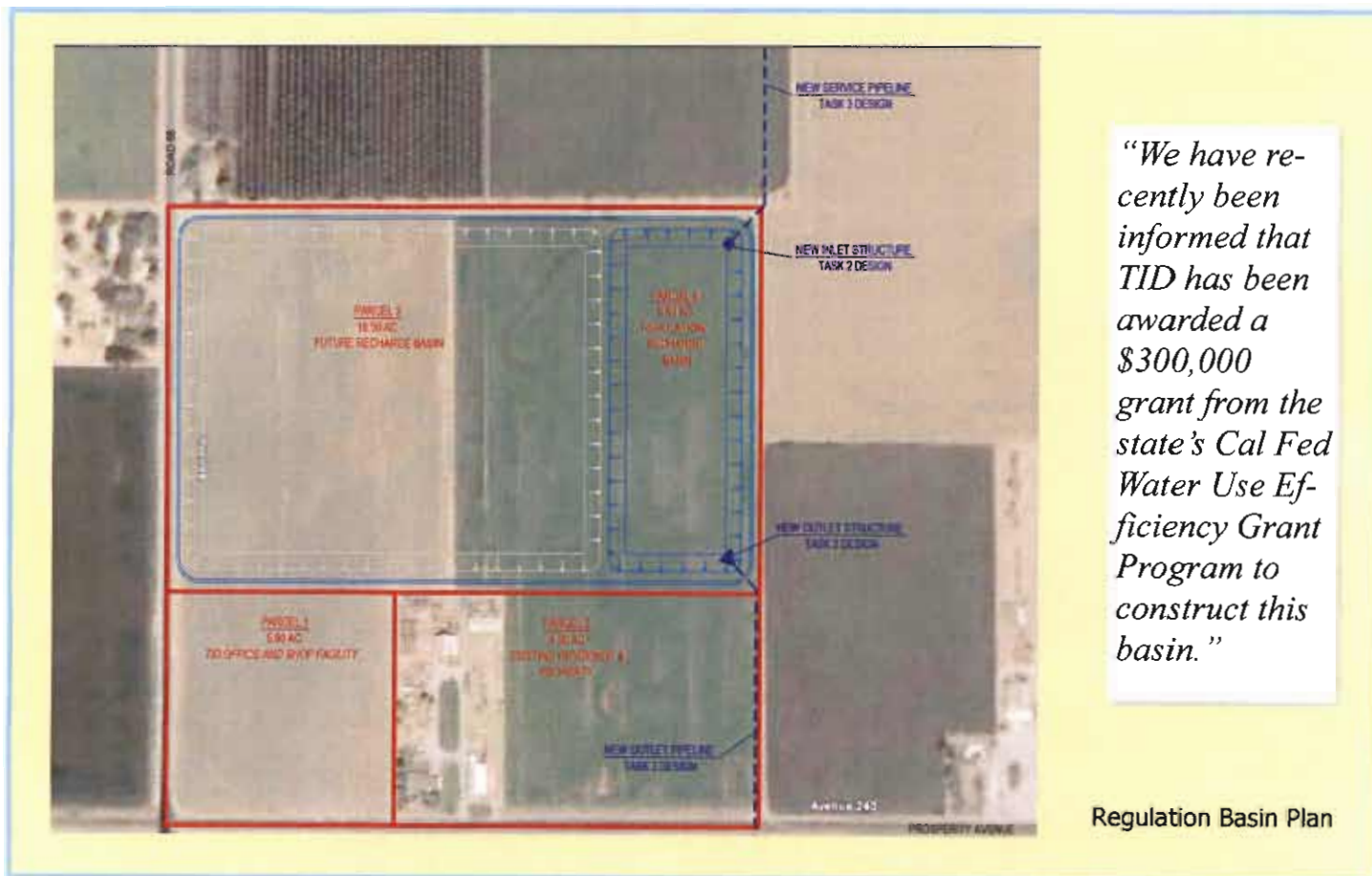
TID's purchase of the 40-acre parcel last year, principally to provide a home when we relocate out of town, provides some other opportunities as well. The southern-most 10 acres of the property along Ave. 240, including an 1,800 square foot home (nicely remodeled too!), mother-in-law quarters, dairy barn, ag land, etc. will be parceled off and sold sometime in the near future. Any proud new owner would have TID as its quiet and trustworthy neighbor to the west, with an adequately landscaped separation buffer in between. If you know of anyone who's interested in buying such a ranchette-sized piece of property, please let us know.

NEW WATER BASIN TAKING SHAPE

Of the 40 acres bought by TID for its relocation away from town, about 5 will be taken up for our facilities, 10 will be sold, and the remaining 25 is slated to be developed into a regulation basin for our canal system. The Area 10 pipeline will provide an inlet along the east side of the basin, and an outlet will be constructed to pipe under Ave. 240 and flow into the Rocky Ford Canal on the other side of the road. This new regulation basin will afford more operational flexibility for both the Rocky Ford and Cameron Creek canal systems. The basin will also provide good underground recharge for the area as well.

We've very recently been informed that TID has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the state's Cal Fed Water Use Efficiency Grant Program to construct this basin. The grant program is being administered by the USBR. This has been a highly competitive program with many water district applicants statewide, and we are very pleased and honored that we have been awarded this money. After working through an extensive application process, TID was one of only five agricultural water districts to receive such a grant from USBR.

While we had planned to build this basin sometime after we settled in to our new O&M and administrative site, it's hard to turn down a grant award, so we now must move quickly on the basin development to make good on the grant money. The overall project cost is estimated to be about \$610,000 with most of our \$310,000 share being in-house costs such as staff labor and equipment usage.



TID HISTORY PROJECT

Not often remembered for this, but it's notable that TID is one of the oldest public institutions in the county, having been formed in 1889. What a colorful history the District's has been, having played a role in the town of Tulare's near financial ruin around the turn of the 20th century to the pivotal role it played in securing much-needed water resources for the region's prosperity now enjoyed today. TID's history has been touched upon briefly in several publications documenting Tulare County and the City of Tulare's past; however, the Board has set upon a project to publish a much more detailed account of the development of the District.

Some early work in this regard was initiated by Ms. Trudy Wischemann of Lindsay several years ago. We intend to continue with

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this substantial compilation of TID's history with the penmanship of Richard Zack, son of long-time TID manager Dave Zack. While growing up in Tulare, Richard spent many a summer day riding with Dad along canal and ditch banks and was thus introduced at an early age to TID's operations. He is now a registered civil engineer and understands public utilities. More to our needs, he also possesses a college degree in English and has considerable experience in the art of written expression.

Richard is actively delving into much of the early history of the Dis-

trict and its predecessor ditch companies which have long-since disappeared. He, along with his father, have been out and about within the region, uncovering long-lost remnants of old water facilities of historical significance to TID. Richard envisions a document complete with historical narrative, along with associated pictures and maps to lend some visual sense to the manuscript. Although the development of a work product such as this undertaking by Mr. Zack is painstaking and slow, the Board feels the final result will be something well worth the effort and will add an important piece to the historical archives of Tulare County history.

MORE GRANT MONEY

Yet another USBR grant for \$50,000 has been awarded to TID for the construction of a new water flow-measuring structure in Cameron Creek. Cameron is one of TID's major waterways and is used to transport a significant portion of summer irrigation run flows as well as flood release flows from Terminus Dam. An additional measuring structure in the channel will add to the Water Department's ability to manage water flows in a manner to minimize unwanted spillage into basins or beyond TID's boundaries to the west. The total project cost is approximately \$100,000 and TID's cost share is primarily going to be our staff labor and equipment usage devoted to project construction.

This new structure is to be an element of TID's ongoing "Modernization Project," under which we have now secured \$700,000 in grant funding from several sources over the last few years. This ongoing project's primary purpose is to make TID's water diversion and delivery operations more efficient through new water control and measuring devices and through the incorporation of a remote telemetry (SCADA) system to track and in some cases control flows and water levels throughout our canal system.

This Modernization Project, being implemented in phases when funding becomes available, will no doubt provide many operational improvements with the goal of improving cost-effective service to our water users. In addition, we see the state becoming increasingly concerned about water conservation, management and accountability as practiced in the hundreds of water districts and municipalities throughout the state. Improvements and upgrades such as we are currently implementing are likely to be required by the government in one fashion or another in order to prove the right to maintain historical deliveries of water for agricultural uses in a state where scarcity is becoming the norm and as we face increased pressure from water-short urban areas, the environment and, as many fear, the impacts of climate change.

WATER SUPPLY IN 2009 — GLOOMY OUTLOOK

Here we are at the end of the second dry year in a row, following two extremely wet years. It didn't take long to get back into trouble water supply-wise. Groundwater levels are at or near historical lows and reservoir levels statewide are likewise bottoming out. Couple this with meteorological forecasts of continued dry conditions into the winter of 2009 and you have a lot of uneasy water managers throughout the state, including here at TID.

Making matters worse is the troublesome situation in the Delta where judicial rulings have been cutting off water exports to needy ag lands in the Valley and thirsty homes and businesses in So. California and the Bay area. Delta export cutbacks in 2009 may even have a ripple effect on Friant, where our use of San Joaquin River water may be throttled by USBR should this water be sent down the river to water-short users at the lower end of the river. This may be a remote possibility, but it even being raised is an uneasy sign of the times. Drought periods like this affect much of the state and, given our water plumbing and water rights arrangements, there is much interdependence among the state's various watersheds and regions.

Going into 2009, state and federal water officials report that Lake Oroville will be at levels not seen since 1977, the driest year on record. Other key Sierra reservoirs as well as San Luis Reservoir in western Fresno County will be similarly depleted. The water contract allocations next year for state and federal contractors south of the Delta may be as low as 10 to 15% of their contract

amounts. Also, the state is setting up a drought water bank, a repeat of its actions in the early 1990's under which those districts with adequate water supplies may sell into a state-managed pool for ultimate purchase by water-short districts.

Being in the Kaweah basin, TID is on balance one of the better-situated districts in the Valley. Depths to groundwater are still much less than elsewhere and the waters developed in the Kaweah watershed will be fully allocated to those entitled to receive them. While under some risk of curtailment, imported water from the San Joaquin basin will likely be available too. Still, tensions will be greatly relieved if we see an early winter with abundant snow pack accumulation in the mountains. This will mean that we'll expect to see improved runoff ultimately diverted to the area's canals and ditches, which in turn will go a long way in cutting back the incessant hum of pump motors pulling from a shrinking underground supply.

WATER FACT

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta is a key source of water for 23 million Californians and more than 7 million acres of farmland.

Tulare Irrigation District
1350 W. San Joaquin Ave.
Tulare, California 93274

LOOK INSIDE...
Relocation Plans Underway
Ten Acres for Sale
New Water Basin Taking Shape
Tulare I.D. History Project
More Grant Money
Water Supply

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

October	20th – Last day to pay water bills before transferred to taxes
November	1st – 2008-2009 Tax assessments mailed
December	20th – First installment tax assessments due

PUBLIC MEETING FACILITIES RELOCATION PROJECT



**DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting will be held in the Tulare Irrigation District Board Room

Interested in hearing about TID's upcoming move? Then come to our public meeting to learn more. Information on the future of our existing site and plans for our new site will be presented. Refreshments will be provided.



Please RSVP no later than Tuesday, September 30, 2008.

Contact Person: Aaron Fukuda, District Engineer
(559) 686-3425 or (559) 707-8928

*Tulare Irrigation District
1350 W. San Joaquin Avenue
Tulare, CA 93274*

Highlights

- Discussion of Project Components to be Undertaken on Site
- Groundwater Recharge Basin
- Regulation Basin
- Tulare Irrigation District Facility
 - Administration Office
 - Maintenance Shop
 - Wash Rack/Herbicide Building
 - Site Improvements



