



TID TIDINGS

Newsletter of the Tulare Irrigation District

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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

Employee News

LONG-TIME O&M SUPERINTENDENT TO RETIRE

After 39 years of steady employment with TID, Gene Bessinger will be retiring at the end of July. Gene has held the O&M Superintendent post here since January 1984 and, prior to that, he worked in the maintenance, water and ditch-tending departments. He hadn't been with TID very long when the District's prior Superintendent, Bill Luton, decided to leave and Gene was told, ready or not, that he had to step up to the plate. The responsibilities of keeping up 300 miles of canals and ditches, numerous delivery turnouts to over 200 farmers, plus a rather complex channel intake system spanning some 15 miles from Woodlake, through Visalia and on into the District's service area seemed daunting, but he quickly rose to the task.



Gene at the end of the work day back in 1976

Under Gene's watch, the District made great strides in its weed control practices, advances in equipment repair and maintenance, and capabilities in performing heavy construction work, all with a field staff smaller than had been used in the past. Through his coordination, TID's crews took on key outside jobs in Tulare County for entities such as the Kaweah Delta WCD and the Friant Water Users Authority when help was needed, particularly during flood periods.

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What's Gene going to do now? Where will we be able to find you in August, Gene? "Poolside," he replies. When not there, Gene enjoys woodworking as a hobby and plans to get serious with crafting small one-man sail boats, swimming, spending more time with his two grandsons Mason and Garrett, and going on long walks with his side-kick Weimaraner "Hoppy."


Gene Bessinger has been an integral part of TID for a long time. He's been our go-to person for all manner of issues and challenges in the most important service provided by the District – that is, getting water to the farmers. We wish him well in his retirement years and look forward to his stopping by for a cup of coffee and a TID history lesson. From

all of TID – its staff, Board of Directors and farmers – see you soon and good luck in those "golden years."

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

On the heels of two really good surface supply years, this one's a letdown. A "better late than never" but still meager snow pack leaves the south valley with runoff at about 50% of average, and TID with a summer water supply of around 45,000 AF. Our ditch run will last only about a month, starting in late June and extending on into July. Groundwater well pumping will fill the role this year as the backbone supply for all District farmers, and the extensive replenishment efforts of the District during the last two wet years, restoring over 300,000 AF by direct recharge and percolation to the underlying aquifer reservoir, will prove its worthiness.

Part of the District's Friant supplies this year are also committed to other districts on the east side, making good on exchange programs that provide TID water in wetter years in trade for the return of lesser quantities in lean years such as this. Water is being returned to districts that rely almost exclusively on Friant water, having little or no groundwater or other surface



Lake Kaweah on June 6, 2012—176,838 af of Storage
(Photo Courtesy of Allen Wilson, KDWCD)

water to draw from. This is also the first year that the San Joaquin River Restoration program, now in the preparatory stages of development, has had a noticeable impact on water supplies, costing the Friant districts collectively some 150,000 AF of reduced supply allocations.

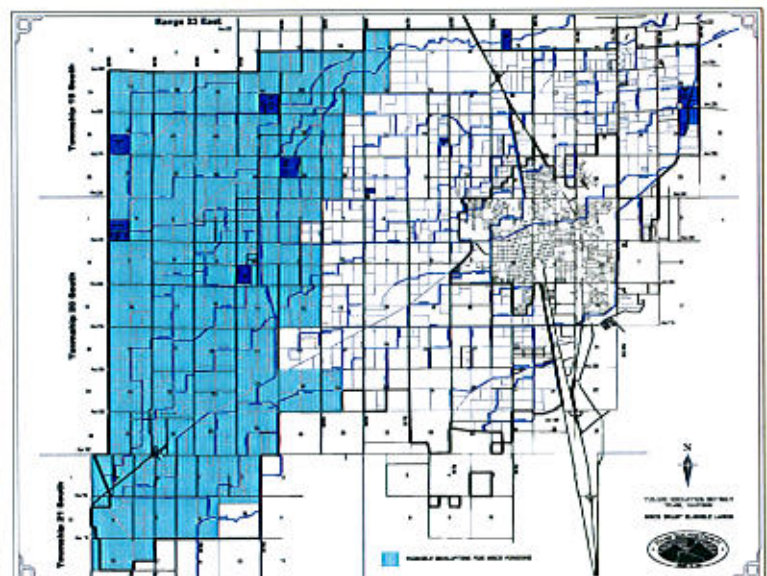
Meteorologists saw this winter as being of the classic La Niña type, with the common pattern of more rain and snow in the north part of the state, and sure enough this is how it played out. The northern Sierras received nearly average snowfall and reservoirs that feed into the Sacramento Valley river are at comfortable levels now. However, south-state water demands fed by these reservoirs are left unmet as the Delta— through which water from these reservoirs must be sent to the CVP and SWP delivery projects— continues to be a bottleneck due to environmental and regulatory flow constraints.

This all has been a far cry from 2011, when the District ran nearly all year and diverted 340,000 AF both for farm deliveries and groundwater recharge. With or without future impacts of global warming and associated climate change, the extremely large variance in storm patterns in the Central Valley of California from year to year will continue to remain one of the most significant challenges in managing and providing adequate water supplies for the region.

NEW GRANT AWARDS FOR TULARE

TID has received yet two more grants from the federal government recently, providing nearly \$1.2 million in grant monies to be matched by local funds for both District projects and for on-farm/grower projects. These new grants bring TID's total to almost \$4 million in federal and state grant funds over the last eight years for a variety of improvement projects.

One new grant is being funded by the USBR's Water Conservation and Efficiency grant program, and is one in only five such irrigation district awards under the program. It's to help fund a canal structure and telemetry control project serving the northwesterly portion of the District. The project will aid in the movement and control of flows in the North Branch Canal and the Packwood and Evans systems it serves. Better-regulated canal water levels should improve service to growers, and reductions to unwanted spills to regulating basins are anticipated results of implementing this project. The project is estimated to cost \$934,000, a good portion of which will be District in-house labor for its construction. One-half, or \$467,000, is to come in from the USBR grant.



Schematic of Project and Grower Area of Benefit

Working collaboratively with USBR, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) infused additional funds into the overall grant program, theirs earmarked for on-farm efficiency projects within the districts receiving the USBR grants. Under this second grant-funding source, the District will be provided up to \$700,000 from NRCS for projects on farm lands served by the Packwood and Evans canal systems. Eligible projects include things such as advanced irrigation systems, pipeline projects, irrigation monitoring and pump/pressure system improvements. If your irrigated property lies within the blue area shown on Page 2, call the District ASAP to determine if you have any kind of efficiency project that may qualify for the grant monies.

Grant awards such as these and previous ones do not come easily. Competition for limited government funds amongst competing public agencies makes it tough to come out on top. Applications for grants are lengthy and can be expensive to prepare, with the risk of money spent for no return if not



On June 1, 2012, TID farmers attended a meeting held at the TID office

awarded any money. The District has been consistently getting grant awards and doing so very efficiently using its own Engineering Dept. under the leadership of Aaron Fukuda. Many of our grant applications have been prepared by Aaron with the assistance of support staff, and this is a testament to the District's ability to serve its farmers in a cost-effective manner.



Reclamation Recruiting Young Farmers, Ranchers for Summer Internships Internships Available in Colorado, Idaho, Nevada

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(Employees News, continued from Page 1)

TID EMPLOYEE GEORGE JONES RETIRES

On Friday, May 4, 2012, Mr. George F. Jones retired from the Tulare Irrigation District. He was honored by his fellow employees and the District Board of Directors at a gathering held in May. Following in part is a resolution honoring Mr. Jones:

"George F. Jones began employment with the District in 1986. He worked in various capacities with the District, including his long-standing tenure as a Heavy Equipment Operator. Mr. Jones has rendered loyal and steadfast service to the District, all the while demonstrating a good-natured and exemplary attitude and, in so doing, earning admiration and respect from his fellow employees. The Board hereby expresses their sincere thanks and appreciation for his faithful service for the 25 1/2 years that he has carried out his varied duties and tasks and for his diligent and continuous efforts for and on behalf of the District and its landowners."



Congratulations from Board Member Mike Thomas



Well Done, George, and Happy Retirement!

Tulare Irrigation District
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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

June	12th—TID Board of Directors Meeting 18th—Water Run Begins 20th—2nd Installment Delinquent
July	4th—Independence Day—Front Office Closed 10th—TID Board of Directors Meeting 20th—Estimated Date of Water Run End
August	14th—TID Board of Directors Meeting 14th—Board Fixed Time and Date of Board of Equalization Meeting 6th, 13th, and 20th—Delinquent Publication Notice 30th—Record Certificate of Sale—Tax Sales
September	11th—TID Board of Directors Meeting 11th—Date Specified in the Notice for the Board to Act as a Board of Equalization to Hear and Determine Objections to the Valuation 21st—Board of Equalization Session Closed