

CCID OBSERVER

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT • WWW.CCIDWATER.ORG • ISSUE TWO • 2013

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

Subsidence Solutions on the Table

■ CCID AND SLCC WORK WITH ADJACENT LANDOWNERS, AGENCIES AND OTHER PARTIES TO RESEARCH AND IMPLEMENT SHORT- AND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS.

CCID last reported six months ago on the issue of subsidence in the western part of Madera and Merced County near the San Joaquin and Fresno Rivers and since that time has partnered with San Luis Canal Company to develop promising short- and long-term solutions to the problem.

Both CCID and SLCC face threats to their conveyance systems if subsidence in the area goes unchecked. The San Joaquin River and East Side bypass are both threatened by the drop in soil level, which if left unaddressed will impact conveyance capacity of the Poso and Arroyo Canals, along with significant public safety flooding threats to high value farmland and dairies, schools, State Route 152, the City of Dos Palos, and additional impacts to the San Joaquin River Restoration Plan and irrigation supplies for other service providers.

CCID and SLCC have joined with the Madera County Water Advisory Commission and

the Merced County Public Works Department, along with other interested parties, to research and offer up solutions to the subsidence problem.

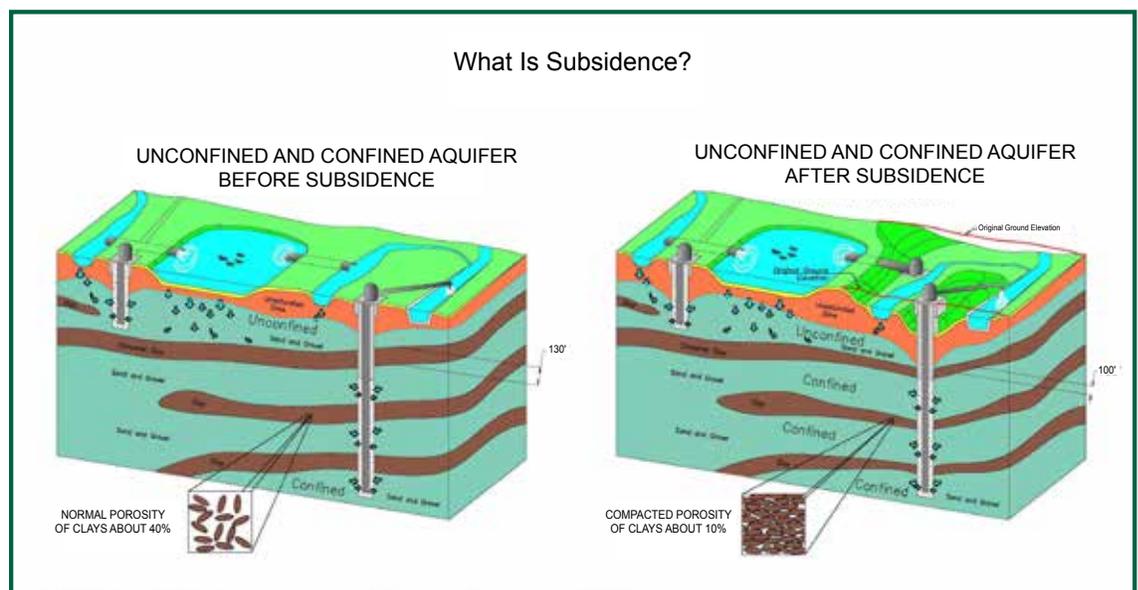
Subsidence is caused by over-pumping of deep wells that leads to shrinking of Corcoran clay layers 250 to 300 feet below the surface and a resulting drop in ground levels above.

When more water is removed from the deeper aquifer below the Corcoran clay

than is being replenished, up to 30 percent shrinkage of the pore space within these deep clays translates into a reduction in ground levels above. According to recent studies, the Eastside Bypass sank 5 feet in four years between 2008 and 2012.

“To understand how bad it can get we just need to look at historical subsidence on the Westside,” said CCID General Manager Chris White. “The USGS historically studied and tracked subsidence in the Valley

Continued on next page



THIS DRAWING ILLUSTRATES HOW SHRINKAGE OF CLAYS RESULTING FROM DEPLETED DEEP AQUIFERS TRANSLATES INTO REDUCTIONS IN GROUND LEVELS ABOVE, OR SUBSIDENCE.

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IRRIGATED LANDS WORKSHOP JULY 30



4-5
WATER AWARENESS MONTH

Workshop July 30 to Discuss Changes to Westside Irrigated Lands Program

The Regional Board and Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition will hold a public workshop July 30 at 9 a.m. at the Los Banos Fairgrounds to discuss potential new changes beginning this coming year for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Central California Irrigation District since 2004 has covered all monitoring and reporting costs associated with membership in the Coalition, which in fiscal year 2012-13 was \$426,682. The Westside Coalition includes more than 136,750 acres within CCID. However once changes to the program are fully implemented in five years, costs to run the program are expected to more than double.

CCID landowners in late June passed a Proposition 218 election to implement assessment to landowners within the Westside Watershed Coalition to cover the increase in anticipated costs for participation in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

New Waste Discharge Requirements for the Westside Coalition are expected to model those adopted for the Eastern SJR coalition in December 2012. Among the anticipated changes are new monitoring and reporting requirements on nitrates in groundwater. Rules for the Westside Coalition, along with other water quality coalitions and individual growers, are expected to be approved by the Regional Board by the end of 2013.

Key components of the new orders include the regulation of discharges to groundwater as well as the continuation of current surface water programs. Groundwater requirements are likely to include nitrogen management plans and farm evaluations for each farm and potentially sediment management plans where sediment movement is an issue. Growers may also

Subsidence Solutions on the Table

Continued from previous page

and at a point not very far from the current Red Top area, an area several miles southwest of Mendota subsided 28 feet over a period from the 1920s to the 1970s.”

White said one immediate solution now on the table is to convert the Red Top area into a shallow groundwater bank to support overlying farming, allowing the deep wells that are causing subsidence to be abandoned. Irrigation water to the 25,000 acres of farmland in the area would be supplied through a combination of shallow groundwater aquifers, flood flows and supplemental annual supplies.

So far, White said area landowners, and state and federal agencies have expressed commitment to cooperate on the plan.

“The Bureau of Reclamation and the State Department of Water Resources have been very cooperative and helpful in implementing solutions and we are very hopeful we will complete the short-term plan to reduce deep well pumping this year and implement longer term solutions by the end of the year,” White said.

In addition to short-term importation of supplemental water to reduce or eliminate reliance on deep well pumping, White said long-term efforts will look at organizing landowners into a district, perfecting water bank strategies and recharge facilities and securing longer term supplemental supplies.



THE FLOOD CONTROL SYSTEM CONTROLLED BY THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER BIFURCATION STRUCTURE UPSTREAM OF THE MENDOTA POOL IS BEING IMPACTED BY CURRENT SUBSIDENCE PROBLEMS.

be required to implement practices to minimize discharges of nitrates and salts to groundwater.

The public workshop will discuss these and other significant changes to the program

and all CCID members are strongly encouraged to attend. For more information please contact Joe McGahan at (559) 582-9237.

Silo Ditch Improvement Project Culminates More Than a Decade of Planning To Improve Community Ditch

An idea developed in 2001 to improve conveyance and efficiency on the Silo Ditch has come to fruition thanks to the coordinated efforts of landowners and CCID Conservation Program funds leveraged with grant funds from the NRCS and the Bureau of Reclamation’s Bay Delta Initiative.

“This is a great example of how neighbors can come together in a mutually beneficial project with CCID’s Conservation Program and additional funding to leverage greater dollars for on-farm conservation,” said CCID Conservation Coordinator Tracey Rosin.

The project impacts 2.5 miles along four reaches of Silo Ditch south of Mint Road and west of the District Boundary. Improvements in Reach 1 include 6,100 linear feet of a 2-foot bottom by 48-inch-deep concrete lining. Reach 2 includes 2,300 linear feet of 24-inch PVC pipeline; Reach 3 contains 2,950 linear feet of 2-foot bottom by 30-inch-deep concrete lining; and Reach 4 is 2,000 linear feet of 1-foot bottom by 24-inch-deep concrete lining. The improvements are estimated to save more than 280 acre-feet of water per year through improved efficiency.

Rosin said the Silo Ditch Improvement Project has been an ongoing concept since 2001 to improve more than 2 miles of earthen ditch into a concrete lined ditch and pipeline. A section of the ditch was also straightened to allow landowners to square their fields. Once additional funding was secured through CCID’s Conservation Program and NRCS grants from the Bay Delta Initiative to improve on-farm conservation, construction on the Silo Ditch started in December and was completed in April. Total project cost was approximately \$820,000.

“With the improved facility and associated turnout structures, water deliveries will be accomplished in a much more timely and efficient manner,” Rosin said.

THESE BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS SHOW A STRETCH OF SILO DITCH PRIOR TO IMPROVEMENTS, AND AS A CONCRETE LINING IS BEING INSTALLED (RIGHT) ON THE COMMUNITY DITCH.



WATER AWARENESS MONTH

CCID Supports Local Water Awareness Month Activities

■ DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY CELEBRATE TWO DECADES OF SUPPORTING YOUTH IN CCID SERVICE AREA.

CCID awarded six area high school seniors \$5,800 in scholarships and involved thousands of primary grade students in the annual coloring contest as part of this year's Water Awareness Month celebration in May. The District marks its 20th year helping raise awareness of the importance of water and CCID to the local community through the support of area youth.

This year's scholarship winners were: Jared Price, Christina Marie Soares and Alyssa Luna of Los Banos High School; Tyler Johnson of Dos Palos High School; Marcus Rocha of Gustine High School; and Melissa Smithey of Orestimba High School.

The CCID Water Awareness Scholarship Program started with a single \$500 award in 1993. That number has grown over the last two decades thanks to support from dozens of CCID landowners, consumers and affiliated groups or individuals who annually make donations to the fund. This year's scholarships bring the

total amount awarded over the last 20 years to nearly \$66,000.

To qualify for the scholarship, seniors must either attend high school in one of five school districts within the CCID or Exchange Contractors service area, or attend any school as long as the student's parents or grandparents farm or own land within CCID.

Winning entries were selected by a committee appointed by the CCID Board based on their academic excellence, extra-curricular activities and community service, and a 300-word essay describing CCID and the importance of water to the local area. Applicants must have a 3.0 grade point average and plan on attending any accredited college or university, community college, trade or vocational school.



What CCID's 2013 Water Awareness Scholarship Winners Have to Say...

"Water is essential. Its energy illuminates our homes, provides the medium for chemical reactions within our bodies and quenches the farmland here in the San Joaquin Valley that feeds the entire world." - **Jared Price**, *Los Banos High School*, \$1,200

"CCID works to improve water conservation and on-farm efficiency every year by funding grant programs to help promote the need to preserve water." - **Christina Marie Soares**, *Los Banos High School*, \$1,200

"CCID is a leader in the irrigation world and as long as we have them here in the Central Valley there is bound to be water for farms to sustain their agricultural needs." - **Alyssa Luna**, *Los Banos High School*, \$850

"CCID's knowledge and drive to make our state one of the safest and most efficient will continue to put California on top as one of the number one agricultural producing states for years to come." - **Marcus Rocha**, *Gustine High School*, \$850

"Fortunately for Dos Palos and farmers in (communities including) Newman, Gustine, Los Banos and Firebaugh, the Central California Irrigation District has always made sure that these farmers have the water needed for irrigation and all their crop needs." - **Tyler Johnson**, *Dos Palos High School*, \$850

"CCID deals not only with maintaining the current irrigation canal system, but also with improving it through the utilization of modern technologies." - **Melissa Smithey**, *Orestimba High School*, \$850

WATER AWARENESS MONTH

Coloring Contest Emphasizes Water Safety

CCID's annual Water Awareness Month coloring contest drew enthusiastic participation from 20 elementary schools within the CCID service area with more than 5,500 students participating.

The annual contest is open to kindergarten through 3rd grade

students from Mendota to Crows Landing. CCID provided students pages from CCID's "Muskrat Wally & Friends" canal safety coloring book, which emphasizes water transportation and safety around canals and other waterways. Winning entries, selected by CCID staff, decorated the lobby of the District office throughout Water Awareness Month in May.

CCID recognizes the following groups and individuals for their support of the 2013 Water Awareness Scholarship Program

Individual Members of CCID Board of Directors

A-Bar Ag Enterprises, Los Banos
Amaral Kenneth A. & Debera K., Crows Landing
Anita Giannone Farms, Los Banos
Britz Inc., Fresno
Craven Farming Co., Crows Landing
Darrell Fonseca, Dos Palos
Dompe, Herbert D. and Susan, Crows Landing
Empresas Del Bosque Inc., Los Banos
Germino Farms, Los Banos
Gilardi Farms, Los Banos
Griffin, Nikki, Los Banos
Homestead Farms (Martin and Alicia Miller), Gustine
Hostetler, Ed W. & M.B., Fresno
Jackson Land and Cattle LP, Livermore
John Machado Dairy, Los Banos
Jose A. Nunes Dairy, Los Banos
McElvany Inc., Los Banos
Menezes, Dorothy, Los Banos
Minasian, Paul Ryan, Oroville
Moonshine Dairy, Crows Landing
Nickel Family LLC, Bakersfield
Norman Crow Farming, Crows Landing
O'Banion for Supervisor Committee, Dos Palos
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, Bakersfield
R&L Investment Group LLC, Fresno
Redfern Ranches, Dos Palos
Relvas, John G. & Donna M., Gustine
Rice, Gregg & Juli, Los Banos
Rocha, Edward J. & Dellayne M., Newman
Schmidt, Kenneth D. & Assoc., Fresno
Silva Farms Inc., Joe A., Gustine
Silva Revocable Trust, Gustine
Sorg, Bernice E., Dos Palos
Summers Engineering Inc., Hanford
Teixeira & Sons, Dos Palos
Trinta Bros. Inc., Patterson
Vaz Family Ranches, Newman
Vincent Farming Inc., Jim, Dos Palos
White, Christopher and Joann, Los Banos
Wieser, Ann E., Pacific Grove
Young, Richard and Adelaide, Los Banos



DYLAN SOARES, A 2012 WINNER OF THE CCID SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS SPENDING HIS SUMMER WORKING AT CCID TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WATER AND CONSERVATION IN HIS HOMETOWN OF LOS BANOS.



WINNING ENTRIES ADORN THE WALLS OF THE CCID LOBBY DURING WATER AWARENESS MONTH.



ANTHONY REYES, A KINDERGARTENER AT DOS PALOS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAS A PROUD RUNNER-UP IN THE ANNUAL CCID-SPONSORED WATER-SAFETY COLORING CONTEST.



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A look back...



50 Years Ago – Summer 1963

The Water Department reported increasing difficulty making deliveries from the Outside Canal past a subsidence area south of Dos Palos, where the ground was dropping at a rate of 3 to 6 inches per year. Various options were considered, and it was decided that a weir would be built in the Outside Canal just downstream of the bypass that was to be constructed that winter from the Delta-Mendota Canal to the Outside Canal, near Highway 152.

25 Years Ago – Summer 1988

Joe McGahan, an engineer with Summers Engineering, presented a feasibility report to the Board of Directors for the modernization and reconstruction of Mendota Dam. The proposal called for the dam to be relocated to a narrower spot on the San Joaquin River, some 400 feet downstream, at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million.

10 Years Ago – Summer 2003

Many CCID landowners and consumers joined a bus trip organized by the Exchange Contractors to attend a Regional Board hearing in Sacramento concerning regulation of discharges to the San Joaquin River. Despite the strong showing, the Regional Board voted to eliminate the ag waiver and approved an enforcement program that essentially requires all owners and operators of irrigated lands to join in a watershed coalition.