

CCID OBSERVER

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT • WWW.CCIDWATER.ORG • ISSUE ONE • 2015



The Balancing Act of Water Year 2015

■ COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT HELPS SUPPORT STRATEGIES TO STRETCH WATER SUPPLIES WITHIN THE DISTRICT.

CCID landowners and other San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors survived this year's extreme challenges through a complex series of internal and external collaborations and negotiations.

A successful water exchange program facilitated through the District office allowed growers with District water in excess of their own needs—either because they fallowed land, implemented on-farm conservation projects, or were able to rely on their own groundwater resources—to be delivered to other members who were in short supply.

“There was a very collaborative spirit among our landowners to help each other through this very difficult summer,” said CCID General Manager Chris White. “And the District has been working to make sure communications are as thorough and timely as possible so everyone knew what we knew when we knew it and could make decisions accordingly.”

In addition, CCID staff conducted negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation, fisheries agencies, Friant Water Users Authority and other federal water contractors and entities throughout the year to not only ensure critical year water under the Exchange Contract, but also help farmers within Friant receive some critically needed water.

White recalled that the State entered 2015 with the promise of better water conditions when December storms increased natural river flows in northern California and Lake Shasta began to receive significant inflows. In early January, the prospect for at least a full critical year water supply for 2015 seemed likely. He further recalled that then the rainfall stopped and we saw dry conditions in northern California but we experienced record dry conditions in the San Joaquin River watershed.

As the year progressed, and conditions became drier, the District's water supply decreased and therefore the allocation

to consumers as well. Compounding the difficult situation was the extreme water supply uncertainty injected in late May when the USBR, DWR, the Fishery agencies, and the State Board discovered an error in the Sacramento River temperature plan and threatened to cut off all water supplies south of the Delta.

However, what rose out of this situation was a statewide collaborative operations plan which allowed the USBR to deliver the Exchange Contractor's summer water supply, which in turn allowed the Exchange Contractors to help provide some direly needed water to Friant districts on the east side of the Valley.

To say that 2015 has been a challenging year would be an understatement. “Our consumers faced and met the challenges confronting them this summer through cooperation and conservation and the basic will to thrive in a terrible situation. I am very proud of our growers,” White said.

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CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT



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WATER RESOURCE PLAN
WATER AWARENESS SCHOLARSHIP

DePauw Farms Realizes Benefits from Amaral Ditch Improvement Project

CCID grower Ron DePauw has taken advantage of NRCS grant funds available for irrigation system improvements in the Amaral Service Area of CCID for ditch improvements that will net an estimated 14.5 acre-feet in water savings per year and improve delivery of water to some of the 1,000



CROWS LANDING GROWER RON DEPAUW HAS USED CCID'S WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE LAST DECADE FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND MOST RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN A COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON THE AMARAL DITCH.

acres of almonds he farms in CCID. The NRCS funds leverage additional matching funds through CCID's Water Conservation Program.

DePauw since 1993 has been converting the ground he has farmed with his brother since 1976 from row crops to permanent crops and over the years has used the CCID Water Conservation Program many times to help finance installation of on-farm irrigation improvement projects, including micro-irrigation systems.

CCID's Water Conservation Program provides 25-percent cost-share grants up to \$400 per acre benefitted for on-farm water efficiency improvements, such as low-volume irrigation and tail-water return systems.

CCID in recent years has also secured matching grant funds from NRCS in Stanislaus County to leverage those dollars toward projects that improve irrigation efficiency and reduce tail-water runoff in the Orestimba Creek area surrounding DePauw Farms.

"We knew we needed to cut back our water usage a bit to help address drainage issues in the area and the matching funds help us tremendously to get ahead of the issue," DePauw said.

Most recently, DePauw installed 1,620 linear feet of 27-inch pipeline to replace a once open ditch. NRCS provided a grant of \$59,500 and CCID provided a grant of \$45,900. DePauw paid the balance of the \$118,755 project.

The pipeline not only saves water by eliminating losses to leaching and evaporation, it also reduces maintenance required to clear vegetation from the open ditch. A catchment basin installed as part of the project allows runoff water to be captured and reused for irrigation.

"We don't have to worry about silt building up and other residues running into the river anymore, and it cleans the ranch up so we can farm more of the ground we once lost to the ditch," said DePauw, whose property lies along the center of the Amaral Ditch. "I'm hoping my neighbors see the potential for the same benefits and get in on the project so we can get the pipeline installed all along the ditch."



A NEWLY INSTALLED MICRO-SPRINKLER SYSTEM ON ALMONDS AT DEPAUW FARMS NOT ONLY SAVES WATER, BUT ALSO TIME, MONEY AND LABOR.

DePauw Farms this year also utilized matching funds from CCID's Water Conservation Program to install micro-sprinklers on an 87-acre block of newly planted almonds.

He says the Program over the years has facilitated his conversion to permanent crops by making irrigation efficiency affordable.

In addition to water savings, DePauw says the irrigation system improvements save on labor and fertilizer costs.

"We don't have any additional irrigators working for us than we had when we were farming 400 acres," he said. "And applying fertilizers through the micro-irrigation system reduces our fertilizer use and keeps more of the fertilizer we do apply where the trees can use them."



BURIED PIPELINE WILL HELP DEPAUW GAIN ABOUT THREE ACRES WORTH OF FARMING GROUND THAT WAS ONCE LOST TO THE OPEN DITCH.

Improvements Under Water Resources Plan Continue



THE DISTRICT THIS YEAR COMPLETED WORK ON THE AMARAL SYSTEM SPILL ELIMINATION PROJECT THAT IMPROVED AN OPEN SECTION OF THE AMARAL DITCH.

the joint pilot project with Del Puerto Water District found the Orestimba Creek site has good potential for ponds to recharge groundwater basins in the area. CCID received a matching \$600,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation's Water Smart

CCID continues to work on elements of its 10-year Water Resources Plan including work on a pilot groundwater-banking project in Orestimba Creek that would meet a plan objective of providing CCID and the Exchange Contractors with some local groundwater storage. A feasibility study on

Water District found the Orestimba Creek site has good potential for ponds to recharge groundwater basins in the area. CCID received a matching \$600,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation's Water Smart

program to expand into the next phase of pilot project on a 20-acre site.

The CCID Board of Directors also approved a bid to install diversion structures on Los Banos Creek for a cooperative project that would allow flood releases from Los Banos Creek detention dam to be diverted and stored in the Delta-Mendota Canal for use in riparian areas.

The District in April also completed work on an Amaral System spill elimination project that improved an open section of the Amaral Ditch in the northern part of the District near Crows Landing. Funded cooperatively by CCID and the Bureau of Reclamation through Bay Delta Initiative Grant funds, the purpose of the project was to slow and trap tail-water flows and prevent their discharge into the San Joaquin River. Project construction this year included cleaning and improving the open ditch and installing upgraded flashboard risers to hold the drainage flows.

Donation Supports CCID Scholarship Program

CCID's Water Awareness Scholarship Program got a giant boost this year when Redfern Ranches in Dos Palos donated \$73,000 to the annual scholarship fund. The donation came from proceeds of a fallowed water transfer field that was harvested after spring rains produced a dryland wheat crop on the property.

The single donation nearly matches all money collected in the 22-year history of the scholarship fund and will go a long way toward securing the long-term stability of the program.

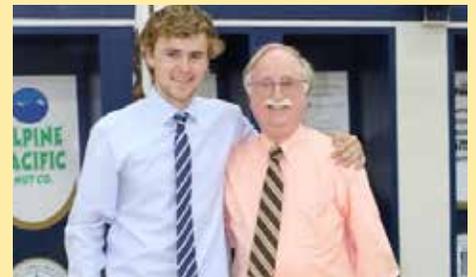
The CCID Water Awareness Scholarship Program started with a single \$500 award in 1993 and has since awarded nearly \$80,000 to seniors who either attend high school in one of five school districts within the CCID or Exchange Contractors service area, or whose parents or grandparents farm or own land within CCID.

This past May more than a dozen high school seniors were recognized with scholarships totaling \$8,300, through the generosity of CCID landowners, consumers and affiliated groups or individuals who annually make donations to the fund.

This year's scholarship winners were: Alec Barcellos, Breann Cascia, Karissa Copp, Kailyn Neves, and Jessica Sequeira of Los Banos High School; Michaela Fontana, Talina Sousa, and Blayne Weaver of Dos Palos High School; Simranjit Kaur and Adriana

Moitozo of Gustine High School; Trevor Beach of Orestimba High School; Andrew Jensen, of Central Catholic High; and Marc A. Olds, of Buhach Colony High School.

More than 20 elementary schools within the CCID service area also participated in CCID's annual Water Awareness Month coloring contest to draw attention to the importance of water and water safety during Water Awareness Month in May.



WATER AWARENESS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANDREW JENSEN OF CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL WITH CCID'S GREGG RICE.

Thousands of kindergarten through 3rd grade students from Mendota to Crows

Landing participated in CCID's water awareness coloring contest, coloring 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 2015 Water Awareness Scholarship Program

Individual Members of CCID Board of Directors
A-Bar Ag Enterprises, Los Banos
Amaral, Kenneth A. & Debera K., Crows Landing
Amaral, T. & Sons, Inc., Crows Landing
Andrews, John & Linda, Dos Palos
BLV Enterprises Inc., Pacific Grove
Bob Brandi Honey and Farming, Los Banos
Coburn Ranch, Dos Palos

Craven Farming Co., Crows Landing
Del Mar, Westley
Gilardi Farms, Los Banos
Gonsalves Farms, Crows Landing
Hill, Randy, Fresno
Hudson, Jonathan & Judy, Los Banos
IDC South Inc., Patterson
IDC Inc., Patterson

J. Wilmar Jensen Inc., Modesto
Jeff Mancebo Farms, Dos Palos
Mello Jr., Atone L. & Elizabeth, Gustine
Moonshine Dairy, Crows Landing
Nickel Family LLC, Bakersfield
O'Banion for Supervisor Committee, Dos Palos
Proto, Diane V, Alameda
Redfern Ranches Inc., Dos Palos

Relvas, John G. & Donna M., Gustine
Rice, Gregg & Juli, Los Banos
Rocha, Edward J. & Dellayne M., Newman
Teixeira & Sons, Los Banos
Trinta Bros. Inc., Patterson
White, Christopher and Joann, Los Banos
Wooten, Betty, Dos Palos
Young, Richard and Adelaide, Los Banos



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A look back...



50 Years Ago – Fall 1965

The District acquired 17.83 acres of land adjacent to the left bank of the Outside Canal, southwest of Gustine, for the purpose of constructing a regulating reservoir with a capacity of approximately 100 acre-feet. The plans for the regulating reservoir came about as a response to a major canal break in August that was attributed in large part to fluctuating canal elevations.

25 Years Ago – Fall 1990

The Board of Directors commissioned local engineering firm Stoddard & Associates to perform a comprehensive year-long study of the District's canal system, specifically to quantify water losses and analyze existing canal facilities and operations. The study results provided the foundation for the District's ongoing canal modernization program.

10 Years Ago – Fall 2005

For the first time since the inception of the low-interest water conservation loan program in 1990, the entire balance of the designated loan fund was being used. With a number of other projects that had received preliminary approval due to be completed before the end of the year, the Board of Directors transferred an additional \$300,000 into the loan fund, bringing its total to \$1.6 million.