

CCID OBSERVER

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT • WWW.CCIDWATER.ORG • ISSUE ONE • 2017

Work Underway on Important In-District Conservation Projects

■ SOUTH DIVISION REGULATING RESERVOIRS

Ground has been broken on one of two new regulating reservoirs in the South Division, the next in a series of In-District Conservation projects being identified and developed as part of the District's 10-year modernization and conservation plan. CCID General Manager Chris White expects the two reservoirs to be complete and operational by the end of 2018.

CCID has leveraged \$1 million in Bay-Delta Initiative grant funds through the Bureau of Reclamation to construct the regulating reservoirs to help bring water savings, delivery flexibility, and modernization to the District's South Division.

Work on the East Ditch part of the project is well underway and construction on the Poso reservoir will start this year.

"These regulating reservoirs will allow us to more efficiently recapture and use water that we previously had to let spill," White said. "The East Ditch reservoir alone will recover 6,500 acre-feet in flood releases per year over the next 20 years."

Another benefit is the ability to provide water service to growers on a more timely basis to accommodate the shorter sets of today's pressurized irrigation systems.

■ LOS BANOS CREEK DIVERSION PROJECT

Construction is underway to develop the Los Banos Creek Diversion, which will eventually lead to a cooperative project designed to operate the Los Banos Creek Detention Dam (LBCDD) in a more intentional way to garner water storage and groundwater recharge benefits. The Bureau of Reclamation has traditionally operated LBCDD for flood control only and in many years has made no releases down Los Banos Creek.

The LBCDD Los Banos Creek Water Resource Plan is a partnership between CCID and other members of the

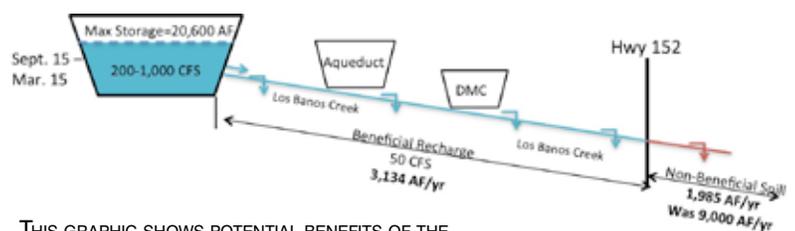
Exchange Contractors, San Luis Water District, Grassland Water District and the City of Los Banos.

Once completed the project's pipeline connections and control structures would yield an annual average of 6,848 acre-feet of flood releases into the Delta-Mendota Canal and recharge benefits for use on riparian lands.

The Bureau has provided funds to help finance some of the \$3.0 million construction costs.



CHANGES FACILITATED BY THE PROJECT IN THE WAY LOS BANOS DAM IS OPERATED WILL PROVIDE BENEFITS IN WATER SUPPLY AND GROUNDWATER RECHARGE



THIS GRAPHIC SHOWS POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE LOS BANOS CREEK DIVERSION PROJECT.

2

LESSONS FROM A TOUGH WATER YEAR



3

WESTSIDE COALITION DEADLINES

Lessons from a Tough Water Year: Cooperation and Diligence

As another challenging water year came to a close it became clear there is no longer a “business as usual” for members of the Exchange Contractors and changing times will require changes in how water agencies do business.

A dramatic series of events, chronicled last summer in an article titled “The Backstory of a Water Scare You Never Knew About” in the Bakersfield Californian, illustrates how shifting environmental targets have rendered actual water supply allocations irrelevant as the San Luis Reservoir was so overcommitted that several water districts came to the brink of having to curtail deliveries to their consumers despite full federal allocations.

“We made it through the year without having to curtail deliveries to our consumers. The Exchange Contractors will continue to work with other agencies to make the system work under the new environment federal water users are facing,” said CCID General Manager Chris White.

Cooperation with other federal water users has been essential, White said, and CCID will approach this next year, regardless of hydrology and federal allocations, with that cooperative approach in mind.

Construction on Track for First Phase of Red Top Subsidence Project

After five years of planning and negotiations, the Exchange Contractors are finalizing plans to deliver water across the San Joaquin River to address subsidence within the Red Top area of Madera and Merced Counties.

The first element of the Red Top Subsidence Project is a 300-foot-long pipeline to connect the Poso Canal across the San Joaquin River to deliver water to landowners in the heart of the subsidence area. The project is designed to allow landowners in the most critical subsidence region to use flood, recaptured restoration and transfer water from the facility in lieu of deep well pumping in the area.

The second element will direct flood flows on the east side to recharge basins as part of a shallow groundwater bank.

The solution, several years in the making, continues to be a sizable cooperative operation between landowners, state and federal agencies, county agencies in Madera and Merced counties, and local water agencies. Despite delays related to changes in land ownership and endangered species surveys, White said

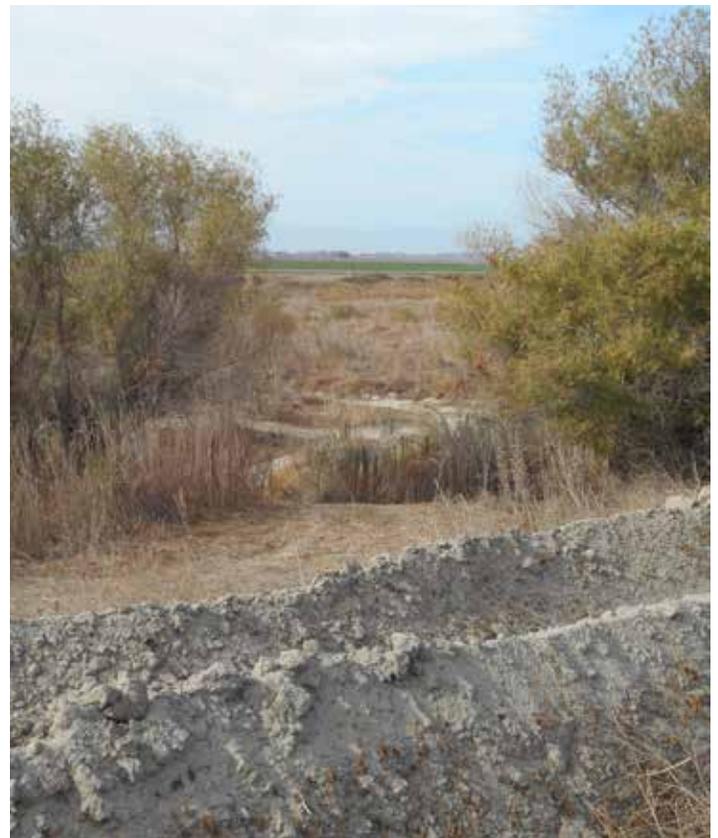


THIS MAP SHOWS THE RED TOP SUBSIDENCE PROJECT AREA IN MADERA AND MERCED COUNTIES.

construction on facilities across the River could begin by the end of the year.

CCID General Manager Chris White said partners in the project’s design and development have worked for five years to give stakeholders in the region a voice in addressing the subsidence issue.

“Finally after several years and a change of hands in land ownership, we have found the location to move ahead with the easements for the pipeline and now we are finalizing agreements for wheeling water through the CCID system,” White said.



A 3-MILE PIPELINE WILL BE DEVELOPED IN THIS PHOTOGRAPHED AREA TO CONNECT THE POSO CANAL ACROSS THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER AND BRING SUPPLEMENTAL WATER TO LANDOWNERS IN THE MOST CRITICAL RED TOP SUBSIDENCE AREA.

Mendota Dam Maintenance Completed

CCID appreciates landowners' cooperation following the Thanksgiving holiday to work their irrigation schedules around routine maintenance and inspection on the Mendota Dam. Maintenance was completed in mid-January.

The District had requested the Bureau terminate deliveries to the Mendota Pool after Thanksgiving so the Pool could

be dewatered for routine inspection of the Dam following the end of the 2016 irrigation season. Growers on the canal system worked their post-harvest irrigation schedules around this much-needed maintenance schedule, which was timed to avoid irrigation plans as much as possible.

CCID Provides Ongoing Support for Westside Coalition Members

CCID's Watershed Coalition Coordinator Darlene O'Brien continues to help landowners meet compliance requirements of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, providing guidance and assistance as growers face upcoming deadlines for members of the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition.

As critical March and April deadlines approached, the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition coordinated a number of required annual grower meetings in December and January to help landowners understand requirements and meet compliance.

Among the important documents imminently due are: 2016 Farm Evaluation Plans for high vulnerability (HV) areas for surface water and/or groundwater due March 1, 2017; 2016 Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Reports for large farms in high vulnerability areas for groundwater due March 1, 2017; and certified 2017 Nitrogen Management Plan worksheets for high and low vulnerability areas due April 1, 2017.

O'Brien is available to help members of the Westside Coalition avoid compliance issues for farm management plans, sediment and erosion management plans, and nitrogen management plans. Much of CCID land falls within the high vulnerability designation areas of the Coalition.

A copy of the Westside Coalition General Order on hard copy or CD is required to be kept on farm. The order is available online at www.westsidesjr.org.

In addition the following documents must be on file for 2017:

- Notice of confirmation of enrollment in the Westside Coalition must be sent to the Coalition via the CCID Main Office and also kept on farm.
- Farm Evaluation Plans that were due Dec. 2014 and March 2016 and 2017 in high vulnerability areas for surface water and/or groundwater should also be sent to the Coalition and kept on farm.
- Nitrogen Management Plans that were due April 2015 and 2016 for large farms in high vulnerability areas for groundwater, and Nitrogen Management Plan that is due April 2017 for all high and low vulnerability areas must be kept on farm.
- Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Reports due March 2016 and 2017 for large farms in high vulnerability areas for groundwater must be sent to the Coalition and kept on farm.
- Sediment and Erosion Control Plans for high vulnerability parcels for sedimentation and erosion that were due May 2015 for large farms and Nov. 2015 for small farms must be kept on farm.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board last summer issued a number of complaints and fines against East San Joaquin Coalition members who failed to submit farm evaluations under the order. Penalties ranging in amounts from \$8,000 to \$70,000 have been issued for failure to join a coalition and also for failure to send in required forms. The Regional Board has notified the Westside Coalition that notices of violation will be sent to members within the Westside Coalition who fail to join or submit required documentation.

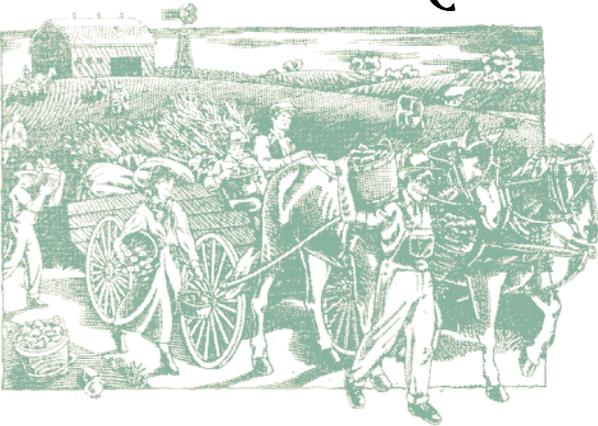
"CCID continues to be a resource for its landowners as they face the sometimes burdensome requirements of the Irrigated Lands Program," O'Brien said. For additional assistance, contact O'Brien at the District office or at dobrien@ccidwater.org.



Prsrt Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fresno, CA
Permit #1242

Post Office Box 1231
Los Banos, CA 93635
209 / 826-1421

A look back...



50 Years Ago

Because of dry weather conditions and irrigation demands that exceeded the available water supply under the Exchange Contract, the District entered into a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for temporary supplemental water service. Under the temporary agreement, CCID was allowed to purchase up to 10,000 acre-feet of water at \$3.50 per acre-foot.

25 Years Ago

The Board of Directors authorized work to commence on the initial group of four projects that had been identified as components of the District's long-term canal modernization program: concrete lining of the Laguna Canal connection channel; the Helm Ditch pipeline connection

to the Main Canal; a new pipeline from the DMC to Gustine Reservoir; and a low-lift pump facility at the Holland Drain, to discharge recaptured water into the Colony Main Canal.

10 Years Ago

Acknowledging that project costs had increased greatly since the inception of the two on-farm conservation programs, the Board of Directors approved an increase in the maximum low-interest loan from \$500.00 per acre benefited, to \$1,000.00 per acre benefited. In addition, the maximum for 50% incentive grants for ditches and pipelines was raised from \$250 to \$400 per acre benefited. Similarly, the cap for 25% incentive grants for micro-sprinklers, drip systems and tail water return systems was increased from \$125 to \$400 per acre benefited.