

CCID OBSERVER

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT • WWW.CCIDWATER.ORG • ISSUE TWO • 2012

CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT

CCID Receives Funds to Construct Regulating Reservoirs in South Division

■ BUREAU GRANT HELPS FUND NEXT PHASE IN MODERNIZATION AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS PLANNED FOR DISTRICT.

CCID has received a major grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to help fund the construction of two regulating reservoirs that will help bring water savings and delivery flexibility to the District's South Division.

The regulating reservoirs are the first in a series of In-District Conservation projects being identified and developed as the District updates its 10-year modernization and conservation plan. That plan, which has been in development for the past 18 months with input from the Irrigation Research and Training Center at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, has identified and ranked nearly a dozen projects for the South Division. A similar list will be compiled for the North Division when the study is finalized this summer.

The regulating reservoirs on the Poso Canal and East Ditch/Parson systems were a top priority identified for South Division In-District conservation measures. The regulating reservoirs allow water in excess of demand at a particular point in time to be rerouted into the reservoirs rather than spilled out of the end of the system. That water can then be held for later use when demand exceeds the water supply at the system head.

As importantly, said CCID General Manager Chris White, the reservoirs will provide variability in delivering water to customers on 30,000 acres in the South Division that will help pave the way for the future installation of more on-farm micro-irrigation systems.

"This flexibility will facilitate the use of shorter and more frequent irrigation sets that are critical for scheduling irrigations with modern micro-irrigation systems," White said. "We have a lot of drip systems in the area and are able to deal with it short-term, but in order to allow growers to continue converting significant acreage to modern micro-irrigation systems we need tools like these reservoirs to accommodate that."

The District applied for and received a \$1 million grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to help finance the \$3.7 million in total construction cost for the two regulating reservoirs.

In addition, CCID Conservation Coordinator Tracey Rosin said the District has received an additional \$1 million in funding through a partnering program with NRCS to finance on-farm conservation measures, such as the installation of micro-irrigation systems, in the area. These funds will be available to growers and landowners in the

South Division in addition to cost-share grants and loans through CCID's Water Conservation Program.

Rosin said CCID has worked with NRCS on a streamlined application process for the 30,000-acre service area to meet their June 8th deadline. The NRCS funding will be used in conjunction with CCID Water Conservation Program grant and loan funds. NRCS will begin ranking applications submitted by the deadline and funding awards should be made by the end of July. Please contact Tracey Rosin at (209) 841-1421 for more information.



TWO NEW REGULATING RESERVOIRS, SIMILAR TO THE DISTRICT'S RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED COLONY RESERVOIR PICTURED HERE, WILL BE CONSTRUCTED IN CCID'S SOUTH DIVISION.

2

WATER AWARENESS MONTH



3

BUREAU OFFICIAL VISITS CCID

May Water Awareness Month Spotlights Area Youth

■ DISTRICT SUPPORTS LOCAL STUDENTS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS AND COLORING CONTEST

CCID awarded more than \$6,000 in scholarships to promising local high school seniors and engaged more than 7,500 area elementary students in the annual coloring contest as part of this year's Water Awareness Month celebration in May.

This year's eight scholarship winners were: Dylan Soares, Morgan E. Hurley and Toni Silva of Los Banos High School; Tyler Avila and Rachel Maiorino of Dos Palos High School; Luis F. Gonzalez-Haro of Gustine High School; Cameron Rocha of Orestimba High School; and Randy Edwards of Hilmar High School.

The CCID Water Awareness Scholarship Program started with a single \$500 award in 1993. That number has grown thanks to support from dozens of CCID landowners, consumers and affiliated groups or individuals who annually make donations to the fund. This year's \$6,050 in scholarships brings the total amount awarded over the last 19 years to more than \$60,000.

To qualify for the scholarship, seniors must either attend high school in one of the 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.



DYLAN SOARES, OF LOS BANOS HIGH SCHOOL, WAS THE FIRST PLACE WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S CCID WATER AWARENESS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECEIVING A \$1,250 SCHOLARSHIP TO SUPPORT HIS POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION GOALS.

CCID Water Awareness Scholarship Winners 2011

Dylan Soares

Los Banos High School, \$1,250
Fall Plans: Agricultural Engineering at Cal Poly, SLO.

Toni Silva

Los Banos High School, \$900
Fall Study Plans: Dairy Science, Cal Poly SLO.

Luis Gonzalez-Haro

Gustine High School, \$900
Fall Study Plans: Management, UC Merced

Randy Edwards

Hilmar High School, \$900
Fall Study Plans: Dairy Science/Ag Business, Cal Poly, SLO

Tyler Avila

Dos Palos High School, \$525
Fall Study Plans: Criminal Justice, Merced Junior College

Rachel Maiorino

Dos Palos High School, \$525
Fall Study Plans: Ag and Env. Plant Sciences, Cal Poly, SLO

Cameron Rocha

Orestimba High School, \$525
Fall Study Plans: Ag Business, Modesto Junior College

Morgan Hurley

Los Banos High School, \$525
Fall Study Plans: Engineering, Colorado State University

CCID recognizes the following groups and individuals for their support of the 2012 Water Awareness Scholarship Program

Individual Members of CCID Board of Directors
A-Bar Ag Enterprises, Los Banos
Amaral, Edward, Los Banos
Amaral, Kenneth A. & Debera K., Crows Landing
Bob Brandi Honey and Farming, Los Banos
Craven Farming Co., Crows Landing
Norman Crow Farming, Crows Landing
Del Mar Farms, Westley
Des Jardins, R.E. & D.E. Ranch, Dos Palos
Dompe, Herbert D. and Susan, Crows Landing
Gonsalves Farms, Crows Landing
Griffin, Nikki, Los Banos

Hostetler, Edward & Merry, Fresno
Jensen, J. Wilmar Inc., Modesto
Lopes, Joe E. and Rosalene M., Gustine
Jeff Mancebo Farms, Dos Palos
Mello Jr., Antone and Elizabeth, Gustine
Menezes, Dorothy, Los Banos
Minasian, Paul Ryan, Oroville
Moonshine Dairy, Newman
Nickel Family LLC, Bakersfield
O'Banion for Supervisor Committee, Dos Palos
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, Bakersfield
Redfern Ranches, Dos Palos

Relvas, John G. & Donna M., Gustine
Rice, Gregg & Juli, Los Banos
Schmidt, Kenneth D. & Assoc., Fresno
Silva, Joe A., Gustine
Joe A. Silva Farms Inc., Gustine
Sorg, Bernice E., Dos Palos
Summers Engineering, Inc., Hanford
T&D Enterprises, Los Banos
Thomason Tractor Co., Firebaugh
White, Christopher and Joann, Los Banos
Wieser, Ann E., Pacific Grove

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 7,500 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.



FATIMAH HERNANDEZ, A FIRST-GRADER IN MR. SALAS' CLASS AT WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN MENDOTA, WAS A PROUD FIRST-PLACE WINNER IN THE ANNUAL CCID-SPONSORED WATER AWARENESS COLORING CONTEST.

This year's coloring contest winners are...

Kindergarten

First Place: Martin Moran, Von Renner Elem., Newman
Second Place: Julian Flores, Los Banos Elem., Los Banos
Third Place: Fallon Hays, Charleston Elem., Los Banos

1st Grade

First Place: Fatimah Hernandez, Washington Elem., Mendota
Second Place: Sandra Ruiz, Hurd Barrington Elem., Newman
Third Place: Dailyn Mendoza, Romero Elem., Gustine

2nd Grade

First Place: Melanee Baldera, Hazel Bailey Elem., Firebaugh
Second Place: Rosa Reyna, Henry Miller Elem., Los Banos
Third Place: Cierra Wullenwaber, Los Banos Elem., Los Banos

3rd Grade

First Place: Jesus Molina, Marks Elem., Dos Palos
Second Place: Maria Guadalupe Tovar, Gustine Elem., Gustine
Third Place: Alejandro Torres, Miano Elem., Los Banos

Bureau Regional Director Tours CCID

Don Glaser, the Mid-Pacific Regional Director of the Bureau of Reclamation, in mid-May visited the Central California Irrigation District to look at conservation projects both at the District and farm level within CCID.

CCID General Manager Chris White, along with other staff and landowners in the Exchange Contractors, hosted Glaser on an all-day tour that highlighted many of the accomplishments and future plans related to conservation within the District.

White said Glaser visited the Ingomar regulating reservoir, Main Canal automation projects, work on the Outside Canal done to correct force subsidence issues, along with various on-farm irrigation and conservation systems.

"Don was very impressed with the work that has been done to date, particularly improvements such as the canal automation system," White said.

The tour also highlighted the conversion to drip irrigation that has taken place within the Columbia Canal Company in the Exchange Contractors over the last three to five years.

"Within the last three to five years Columbia has gone from 85 percent row crops on furrow irrigation to 85 percent permanent crops on drip," White said.



BUREAU REGIONAL MANAGER DON GLASER TALKS WITH CCID'S JOHN RELVAS DURING A RECENT TOUR OF THE DISTRICT.

"That's a massive conversion in a short amount of time and is but one exciting example related to modernization and conservation in our area. So it was nice to get that opportunity with the head of the Bureau in our region."

White said Glaser also toured Los Banos Creek Detention Dam and discussed considerations for partnering with other Exchange Contractors, the San Luis Water District, Grassland Water District and the City of Los Banos to utilize the existing storage facility for additional water supply benefits within those partnerships.

"Don was enthusiastic about supporting the project, which is important given that the Bureau owns the facility," White said.

Details about proposals for Los Banos Creek Detention Dam will be highlighted in upcoming issues of the *CCID Observer*.



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A look back...



50 Years Ago – Spring 1962

The CCID Board of Directors entered into agreements that led to two facilities that would prove to be very important for the District. First was an easement for the City of Los Banos to construct and maintain a bridge over the Main Canal at West I Street, which eventually provided access to the District's Main Office building when it was constructed six years later. The second was for the construction of what would become the Wolfsen Bypass, for the diversion of 200 c.f.s. of water from the Bureau of Reclamation's Delta-Mendota Canal to the Outside Canal near Highway 152, greatly improving water service to Grassland Water District and the northern portion of CCID.

25 Years Ago – Spring 1987

Culminating several years of negotiations, the District and Bureau of Reclamation entered into a Cooperative Agreement for CCID to operate and maintain the lower 46 miles of the Delta-

Mendota Canal, from Santa Nella to Mendota. CCID performed these functions for the Bureau until the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority took over in 1992.

10 Years Ago – Spring 2002

The Exchange Contractors filed a motion to declare the Federal Government in contempt of court because of the lack of progress by the Bureau of Reclamation in providing drainage service to the San Luis Unit, despite a 2000 Federal Court order to do so.