

CCID OBSERVER

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA IRRIGATION DISTRICT • WWW.CCIDWATER.ORG • ISSUE TWO • 2014

WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

CCID Works to Deliver Limited Water Supply

■ IMPROVED HYDROLOGY HELPS SECURE CRITICAL-YEAR SEVEN-MONTH SUPPLY.

More favorable hydrology in February and March has led to an increased allocation for members of the SJR Exchange Contractors Water Authority from dire earlier projections. The Bureau of Reclamation announced in May that it would allocate water to support Exchange Contractors Critical Year water demands for the seven-month period from April to October. It also said it would continue to forecast to determine how much additional water could be provided to the Exchange Contractors for November and December.

The Exchange Contractors will receive 529,000 acre-feet and refuges have also been allocated 65 percent of their allocation. For the first time in CVP history, the Bureau is making a call

on Friant water down the San Joaquin River to meet their contractually obligated water demands.

“Our increased allocation since February has been the result of more favorable hydrology in February and March that was slightly above average. As a result there was more favorable reservoir storage because they were able to pump more water than they initially thought they were going to earlier in the year.”

Improved storage translated into a full critical-year allocation during the seven-month period ending Oct. 31. A Bureau allocation is still uncertain for November for growers who need

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Releases from Friant

CCID entered this unprecedented drought year working diligently with agencies, including DWR, the Bureau of Reclamation, and fisheries agencies to get more water delivered through the Delta to meet the demand obligations of the Exchange Contractors and eliminate or minimize a possible call on San Joaquin River water.

Notwithstanding those efforts, the Bureau for the first time in CVP history has made a call on Friant water through the SJR to meet its obligations to the Exchange Contractors for critical year delivery. While there was some limited success to the efforts and negotiations, CCID General Manager Chris White said agencies have cited environmental regulations under the Endangered Species Act to limit releases from Shasta and pumping in the Delta.

“Still, we continue to work on several exchanges in the San Luis Reservoir and Friant Dam expressly for the purpose of



CCID HAS PUT TOGETHER A HANDFUL OF SMALL EXCHANGES TO HELP REDUCE IMPACT ON FRIANT DISTRICTS.

freeing up some water for the Friant Districts,” White said. “We continue to work on those to help reduce the call on Friant water as long as there is no detriment to the Exchange Contractors in doing so.”

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CONSERVATION SPOTLIGHT



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WATER AWARENESS MONTH

Partnership For Success On Drip Irrigated Tomatoes

■ MAIORINO FARMS AND NICKEL FAMILY LLC CAPITALIZE ON FARMING AND FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS TO FARM MORE EFFICIENTLY AND SAVE WATER.

Fourth-generation CCID grower Brian Maiorino believes in the power of partnership. Maiorino Farms since 2009 has entered into growing partnerships with Nickel Family LLC four times on canning tomatoes under drip irrigation and says the partnership has worked well for the two long-time CCID farming families.



BRIAN MAIORINO SAYS DRIP IRRIGATION IS THE ONLY WAY TO GROW PROCESSING TOMATOES TODAY, AND CO-FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH CCID AND NRCS ARE MAKING CONVERSION TO DRIP A “NO BRAINER” IN THE AREA AROUND FIREBAUGH WHERE HE FARMS.

Maiorino says the two partners share responsibility for farming operations in alignment with their assets and equipment. Maiorino does the irrigating and fall prep work; Nickel handles the planting and field equipment operations.

A funding partnership between CCID’s Water Conservation Program and the NRCS Bay-Delta Initiative covered the majority of the hard costs to install the drip irrigation system. CCID’s Water Conservation Program provides a 25-percent cost-share grant up to \$400 per acre benefited for on-farm irrigation system improvements, such as drip irrigation. The Bay-Delta Initiative Grant through the NRCS EQIP program offers additional co-funding to targeted on-farm water conservation installations for CCID consumers in Poso Slough drainage area east of Dos Palos and north of Firebaugh.

Maiorino first started growing tomatoes in 1998 in the Firebaugh area, where his family has been farming for four generations. He stopped after a couple years but resumed in 2009 on a furrow-irrigated field in partnership with Nickel’s San Juan Ranch in Dos Palos. That field eventually was converted to drip and Maiorino now farms 100 percent of his processing tomatoes, both alone and in partnership with Nickel LLC on drip.

Maiorino this year installed two new drip irrigation systems for processing tomatoes, one in partnership with San Juan Ranch and a second for Maiorino Farms. The partnership on 157 acres in Firebaugh converted a corn/alfalfa field grown in rotation on furrow and flood irrigation to drip irrigated

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Water Supply Update

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water after that time, but it is possible for growers to roll water from that seven-month period into November and CCID will deliver it.

The CCID Board of Directors approved pricing for Tier 1 water delivered from the Bureau at \$17 per acre-foot, while Tier 2 water developed from District wells has been priced at \$40. A monthly schedule for deliveries to individual landowners was also developed to provide flexibility in the system for growers to use their water supply.

“Growers have the flexibility to pool their water between January and August and use it whenever they need to and can also move that water forward to use in the fall instead,” said CCID General Manager Chris White.

CCID has purchased and allocated supplemental pools to help growers cope with reduced supplies this season. It has purchased Pool 1 water from private landowners for \$85 an acre-foot and will distribute it to consumers who wanted to purchase the water for \$95 per acre-foot. The price differential covers the cost to administer the program and account for losses in the system. More expensive Pool 2 water was also purchased in limited amounts based on consumer demand from landowners who opted to follow their land. Decisions on Pool 2 water have been made and the pools are closed.

“We had more requests in both pools than we were able to fulfill, but with a slight increase in summertime water supply from the Bureau we will hopefully get consumers where they need to be,” White said.

WATER AWARENESS MONTH

Coloring Contest Emphasizes Water Safety

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

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.

Congratulations to the following winners of the annual CCID coloring contest:

Kindergarten

First Place: Anna Villa, Henry Miller Elem. School, Los Banos

Second Place: Angelique Reyes, Lorena Falasco Elem. School, Los Banos

Third Place: Shelby Lynd, Gustine Elem. School, Gustine

1st Grade

First Place: Giselle Garcia, Hurd Barrington Elem. School, Newman

Second Place: Xenia Solano, Westside Elem. School, Five Points

Third Place: Christopher Rodriguez, Washington Elem. School, Mendota

2nd Grade

First Place: Alexandra Palaciso, Miano Elem. School, Los Banos

Second Place: Anahy Reynoso-Garcia, Gustine Elem. School, Gustine

Third Place: Virginia Nava, Hazel Bailey Elem. School, Firebaugh

3rd Grade

First Place: Jason Chavez, Romero Elem. School, Gustine

Second Place: Brisa Ayala, McCabe Elem. School, Mendota

Third Place: Blanca Zuniga, McCabe Elem. School, Mendota



SKYLER URIBE, A SECOND GRADER FROM VON RENNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN NEWMAN, SHOWS HER PRIZE FOR THIS YEAR'S COLORING CONTEST DURING WATER AWARENESS MONTH.

CCID recognizes the following groups and individuals for their support of the 2014 Water Awareness Scholarship Program

Individual Members of CCID Board of Directors
A-Bar Ag Enterprises, Los Banos
Baylor Family, San Jose
BLV Enterprises Inc., Pacific Grove
Bob Brandi Honey and Farming, Los Banos
Castanea LLC, Dos Palos
Coderniz, Albert, Dos Palos
Craven Farming Co., Crows Landing
Del Mar, Westley
Dompe, Herbert D. and Susan, Crows Landing
Fagundes Dairy, Merced
Four Parr Investments LLC, Los Banos
Arthur Garibay & Rosa Carmen Clausen, Hollister
Gilardi Farms, Los Banos
Gonsalves Farms, Crows Landing
Homestead Farms (Martin and Alice Miller), Gustine
Hostetler, Ed W. & M.B., Fresno
IDC South Inc., Patterson
IDC Inc., Patterson
J. Wilmar Jensen Inc., Modesto
Joe Lagrutta Trucking Inc., Los Banos
Linneman, James & Carol, Merced
Mancebo, Jeff, Dos Palos
Moonshine Dairy, Crows Landing
Mosko, J.A. & F.C., Boulder Creek
Nickel Family LLC, Bakersfield
O'Banion for Supervisor Committee, Dos Palos
Proto, Diane V., Alameda
Redfern Ranches, Dos Palos
Relvas, John & Donna, Gustine
Rice, Gregg & Juli, Los Banos
Rocha, Edward J. & Dellayne M., Newman
Santos, David, Los Banos
Schmidt, Ken D. & Assoc., Fresno
Silva Farms Inc., Joe A., Gustine
Silva Revocable Trust, Gustine
Summers Engineering Inc., Hanford
Teixeira & Sons, Dos Palos
Trinta Bros. Inc., Patterson
Von Allman, Vaughn & Marion, Firebaugh
White, Christopher and Joann, Los Banos
Young, Richard and Adelaide, Los Banos



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A look back...



50 Years Ago – Summer 1964

One employee died and four were injured when a concussion-type grenade exploded in the Los Banos Shop on August 7.

25 Years Ago – Summer 1989

After reviewing a list of five suggested names for the District's newly planned quarterly newsletter, the Board of Directors decided to call the publication "The CCID Observer."

10 Years Ago – Summer 2004

The District rejected all sealed bids submitted in June for the construction of seven reinforced concrete control structures for the Upper Main Canal Modernization Project, as the bids were well over twice the Engineer's Estimate. The project was subsequently divided into separate components, and re-bid in August, with acceptable bids submitted by Clark Bros. of Dos Palos for canal bypass earthwork, and from Emmett's Excavation, Inc., of Clovis, for the concrete work.