



# The Diversion

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## OID Moving Forward with Water Resources Plan

As an irrigation district, it is no secret that OID has one of the highest water use rates within the state of California, given the crops and number of acres irrigated. In a state that is notoriously short on water, that is like wearing a bulls eye on your back. There are a number of reasons why this is so, but there are no good reasons why we have not moved forward to correct that stigma. In a major step forward, the Board of Directors approved the firm of CH2M Hill to development an integrated Water Resources Plan for OID. This planning effort is the most significant undertaking by the OID since the planning efforts for the Tri Dam Projects in the 1920's. This will be a 12-16 month effort and cost approximately \$1.38 million. Why is this so important?

The OID Board recognized that the development of a water resources plan was critical to the long-term security and protection of its water rights. Sitting idly by and not proactively bettering the water management and service capabilities of OID was not an option anymore. Planning for the future had to begin with a Plan and it had to begin now.

It took 20 years of planning before the first rock was blasted to build the Tri Dam Projects and no one can argue that the money and time spent was not well worth the end result. It won't take nearly that long to develop this plan but it could take upwards of 10 years to make the changes necessary to improve OID's water delivery system. With that direction, OID went out into the water arena and hired a premiere water resources firm to make things happen. This planning document will culminate in providing OID with three key elements; (1) to identify where OID is as an irrigation district; (2) to identify how good it can get if it improves and modernizes its water management and delivery systems; and (3), to identify upfront where we can best "invest" any water savings generated to the greatest benefit of our community.

Investment areas could include; expanding additional agricultural services, establishing a drought protection reserve, groundwater recharge to address the falling water table, municipal and industrial water for growth, annexation of additional farmlands, environmental water and water transfers. It is likely OID will need to invest in each of the aforementioned areas to provide a high level of protection for its water resources and to firmly secure its water rights.

This is an exciting time! CH2M Hill will begin a community education program sometime in November to broaden all of our perspectives on the development of OID's Water Resources Plan. We will advise you as information becomes available.



### OID seeks Grant Funding

In September the Board of Directors approved contracting with Bookman-Edmonston Engineering of Sacramento to prepare an application package for Proposition 50 grant funds. OID is proposing a three way cost sharing program with the Department of Water Resources, OID customers and OID. The program is for the design and construction of tail-water recovery and pump back systems for large irrigated fields utilizing surface irrigation. Bookman-Edmonston was selected because of their knowledge and success rate of securing grant funding. For more information contact Kevin King, OID Special Project Coordinator at (209) 847-0341 extension 209.

### Water Season Update and More

OID finished the water season using all but 451 acre-feet of its full Stanislaus River entitlement. Where did all that water go? Because of last year's water conservation efforts, we were able to provide an extra rotation this year. Fortunate too because the lack of spring rains (nearly 1.37 inches below normal) dried things out early. However, last year's implemented savings programs put that water to good use. Additionally, evapotranspiration (ET) was over 4.2 inches higher than normal. This caused an increased water demand of 25,300 acre-feet over normal year ET. All in all, climate changes accounted for an increased water demand of 40,000 acre feet in the 2004

water season compared to normal years. Without a solid effort on the part of OID's DSO's and some excellent cooperation from a lot of landowners, we could have easily run out of water in early September of this year, and that's a concern. We need to do more to conserve water. OID's new Water Measurement Program convincingly shows that a substantial amount of water leaves this district each and every water season. Water that can be put to other uses to benefit OID customers in other ways. OID will be implementing new measures next year to increase our ability to better manage your resource. We will keep you apprised during this winter what those measures will be.

### CIMIS

In the Spring Edition of *the Diversion*, the Oakdale Irrigation District solicited participation from pasture growers about potential locations to install a CIMIS Weather Station. As a result, Lindy Farms was selected as the ideal location for the station. Kent Frame of the Department of Water Resources agrees that this location is great and stated that the information and data to be gathered from this site will "fill in" a large gap on the North-East side of the San Joaquin Valley. Construction has begun at the site and should be completed by the end of October 2004. The data collected at the new Oakdale CIMIS station will be used extensively during the upcoming irrigation season for determining irrigation delivery schedules. The station is anticipated to be on-line and collecting data before the start of the 2005 Irrigation Season. For more information on CIMIS please visit [www.cimis.water.ca.gov](http://www.cimis.water.ca.gov). Or call Kevin King, OID Special Project Coordinator at (209) 847-0341 extension 209.



**OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

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*Committed to Excellence  
in resource management  
and all aspects of operations*

**Board Of Directors**

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- ◆ **Louis Brichetto — Division 4**  
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- ◆ **Jack Alpers — Division 5**  
(209) 863-1522



**Reminders**

**Underground Service Alert**

Please remember to contact the Underground Service Alert (USA) at (800) 227-2600 before doing any land leveling, excavation or deep ripping of fields. Your call can help prevent damage to the District's pipelines or facilities and possibly prevent any disruption in water service.

**Encroachments on OID Facilities**

Encroachment violations, such as gates and sheds, have severely limited OID from performing essential duties. In addition, these violations have caused significant safety concerns. Please remember to contact OID for approval before building or placing items on or near OID facilities.

**New Land Owners**

**Become Familiar with OID**

If you have recently purchased property within the OID service area, we encourage you to contact us and schedule a consultation. The consultation is intended to familiarize you with OID water operations, rotation scheduling, DSO (Ditchtender) responsibilities and your irrigation responsibilities. In addition, we can provide whatever knowledge we may have regarding your newly acquired irrigation system. Consultations will be available Monday through Friday from 8-4 from now until March 1, 2005 (Holidays excluded).

**Scheduling Appointments**

To schedule a consultation please call the Assistant Water Operations Manager for your area.

**North of Stanislaus River**

\* Asst. Water Operations Manager  
Mike Hanf (209) 847-0341 x 213

**South of Stanislaus River**

\* Asst. Water Operations Manager  
Tom Laidlaw (209) 847-0341 x 211

Please don't wait for the start of the 2005 irrigation season to ask questions.

**Ag Waiver Update**

**Monitoring Underway**

The Oakdale Irrigation District has collected two sets of water samples in compliance with the Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MRP) that was submitted in April 2004 to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. The first sample sets were collected in June and the second sets were collected on October 6, 2004. A copy of OID's MRP is available on our website.

**Getting Coverage**

For all of you who have not signed up with a coalition group, we strongly encourage you to do so. For information about the coalition groups please call the appropriate agency listed below depending on your geographic location.

**Stanislaus County**

\* Stanislaus County Farm Bureau  
(209) 522-7278

**San Joaquin County**

\* Resource Conservation District  
(209) 472-7127

**Finance**

**2005 Surface Irrigation Water Assessments**

Bills for the 2005 irrigation season will be sent out by November 15, payable in two installments. **The first installment is due December 20, 2004** and the second will be due June 20, 2005.

The OID offers several bill payment options.

1. By mail
2. In person
3. Payment drop box (located inside OID's office at 1205 East F Street, Oakdale)
4. Over-the-counter VISA or MasterCard charge payment

All delinquent accounts remaining as of July 31, 2005 will be sent to the county and added to the property tax rolls for collection. All payments after July 31 will need to be made to the county.

