



The Diversion

Now a quarterly publication

Distribution System Operator (DSO)

- Division 1 ----- 988-3532
- Division 2 ----- 988-2882
- Division 3 ----- 988-2881
- Division 4 ----- 988-2883
- Division 5 ----- 988-2884
- Division 6 ----- 988-3065
- Division 7 ----- 988-3066
- Division 8 ----- 988-3067
- Division 9 ----- 988-1802
- Division 10 ----- 988-3068

Water Operations

- Northside Assistant Water Master Mike Hanf 988-3069
- Southside Assistant Water Master Tom Laidlaw 988-3071

www.oakdaleirrigation.com



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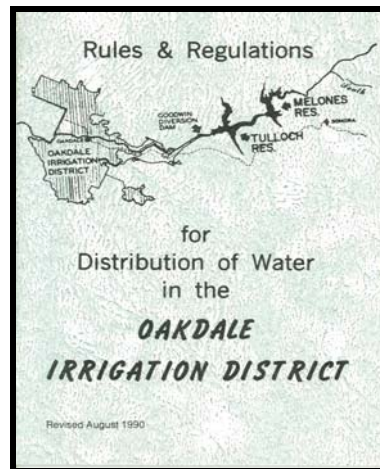
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Preparing for the 2004 Irrigation Season

As the fog lifts and the temperatures rise, the Oakdale Irrigation District is preparing for the 2004 Irrigation Season. Fixing gates, cleaning canals, and installing flow measurement devices are a few of the many activities we have done in order to serve our customers more effectively this coming water season. However, OID should not be the only ones preparing for the irrigation season. There are many tasks that should be performed by water users prior to and during the water season.

First, water users need to become familiar with the guidelines established in the Oakdale Irrigation District booklet titled "Rules and Regulations for the Distribution of Water", a.k.a., the Gray Book. The Gray Book provides information on top-

ics such as the 'Distribution of Water' and 'Control of District Facilities'. If you do not have a copy of the Gray Book, please come by the district office and pick one up. A copy is also available on the OID web page at www.oakdaleirrigation.com under Rules and Regulations.



The "Gray Book" is a great resource for Oakdale Irrigation District Water users

One of the most important things that a water user can do in preparation for the delivery of water is to clean out his/her ditches. In fact, if District staff determines that a landowner's ditch is not properly maintained, water delivery to that landowner may be curtailed until the ditch is in a suitable condition to receive water. A ditch that is properly maintained will be free of debris, have minimum vegetative growth and have sufficient capacity to handle the turned out flow.

District staff is available to answer any questions a landowner/water user may have in regard to preparing for the upcoming water year. If we all do our part in establishing a safe and efficient delivery system, undoubtedly we will have a successful and pleasurable 2004 Irrigation Season. **Let's make this Year the Best Year Ever.**

Distribution System Operators Receive Professional Training

For a second consecutive year the Distribution System Operators (DSO's) attended a professional training short course offered to various irrigation & water districts. The short course is a week long program instructed by the Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. The course is intended to provide irrigation district employees theoretical and practical knowledge about canal operation and flow measurement. The DSO's returned from the training enthusiastic about the possibility of implementing the techniques and procedures they learned through the program.

2004 Water Season to Begin March 18

Water deliveries will begin on March 18. Water Operations staff began notifying water users during the week of March 8, 2004. Please remember to check your valves to make sure they are closed, including drain valves.

If your valves leak and need repairing, you will need to take care of the problem in coordination with the Water Operations Department. Please note that if water charges on a property are delinquent, water will not be delivered to that property until the account is current.

As always you are encouraged to conserve all water possible.

Local Agencies & Resource Contacts

- Farm Bureau of San Joaquin County
(209) 931-4931
- Farm Bureau of Stanislaus County
(209) 522-7278
- Ag Commissioner, San Joaquin County
(209) 468-3300
- Ag Commissioner, Stanislaus County
(209) 525-4730
- UC Cooperative Ext., San Joaquin County
(209) 468-2085
- UC Cooperative Ext., Stanislaus County
(209) 525-6800
- Mosquito Abatement - San Joaquin County
(209) 982-4675
- Mosquito Abatement - Stanislaus County
(209) 522-4098
- Flooded Roads, San Joaquin County
(209) 468-3074
- Flooded Roads, Stanislaus County
(209) 525-4130
- City of Oakdale, Public Works
(209) 847-2231

OID SEEKS LOCATION FOR PLACEMENT OF A WEATHER STATION

The Oakdale Irrigation District (OID), in cooperation with the Department of Water Resources (DWR), is seeking a location to install a CIMIS weather station. CIMIS is an acronym for California Irrigation Management Information System. The purpose of the weather station is to collect and make available high quality, accurate and reliable irrigation management data to farmers and ranchers in the Oakdale area. In order to provide the best information the placement of the weather station is critical.

Furthermore, DWR has specific requirements for the placement of a weather station. DWR defines the ideal site as follows: "The ideal site for a CIMIS weather

station would be located in a 20-acre or larger pasture that is well maintained. The actual weather station would be located in the center of the pasture, inside a 10-yard by 10-yard fenced enclosure. Inside the enclosure, the grass would also be well maintained and mowed frequently to maintain a height between three to six inches." Additionally, close proximity to a telephone line is highly desirable. OID would like to hear from anyone who owns a pasture similar to the one described in being involved with the placement of the weather station.

OID is prepared to purchase the weather station and fencing materials for the station enclosure.

OID and DWR will provide the maintenance for the weather station and the grass grown in the enclosed area. The landowner would be responsible for maintenance of his/her pasture. Although the information will be available to all growers in the area, this is a tremendous opportunity for a farmer/rancher to obtain valuable weather and crop information for his/her specific pasture.

Ideally, the weather station would be "on-line" by mid-Summer 2004. In order for this to happen, OID needs to locate the site by the end of March 2004. The selection of the site will be determined by OID staff based on scoring criteria. In addition to meeting the minimum pasture requirements, landowner cooperation and pasture accessibility will be a large portion of the scoring criteria. If you are interested in more information or would like to recommend your pasture for the consideration of a CIMIS weather station, please contact the Oakdale Irrigation District.

Kevin L. King

Special Projects Coordinator

(209) 847-0341 x 209

kking@oakdaleirrigation.com

For more information on Oakdale Irrigation District, visit www.oakdaleirrigation.com

For more information on CIMIS, visit www.cimis.water.ca.gov

AQUATIC PEST MANAGEMENT

Aquatic weed management is a critical part of OID's commitment to providing the District's water users the best quality water possible. With impending state regulations affecting our pre-emergent weed control program and strict new regulations in applying and monitoring aquatic pesticides the challenges of providing water are ever increasing.

In response to these challenges, and to control costs, OID is developing practices to best manage the maintenance of its water distribution system, including terrestrial and aquatic weeds. The goal is to utilize an integrated approach to aquatic and pest management. The District intends to increase the mechanical control of weeds on canal, lateral and drain bank roadways, and to create better access for the efficient application of her-

bicides, including aquatic herbicides. Where possible, the District will manage the water levels in canals, laterals, and drains permitting the use of non-aquatic herbicides on aquatic weeds to reduce chemical costs and eliminate the need for monitoring and reporting.

The District uses Magnacide H (Acrolein) as its "water run" herbicide. Highly toxic to submerged aquatic weeds, but not toxic to crops. Once an application is made, the treated water travels through the system in a wave and is usually irrigated out in 24 to 36 hours. It is imperative that if your DSO has indicated to you that there is Magnacide in the system any scheduling changes and shortening of run times be communicated with the DSO so that he/she can adjust and manage the treated water.

OID is confronted with a complicated aquatic weed management problem requiring planning and the use of weed management practices that best suit the range of conditions found throughout the District. As always, understanding and support by the water users is a crucial part of our success.

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New Staff at OID

Change in Cellular Phone Service Provider

The Water Operations Department has spent the time researching and trying out a new service provider for their cellular phone service. OID is changing its cellular phone service provider from AT&T Wireless to Nextel.

All DSO (Distribution System Coordinators, formerly referred to as Ditchtender) cell numbers will remain the same. You may experience a few seconds of "dead air" time when calling your DSO. This will occur when our phone provider is searching for the user. Voice mail will still be active, but the greeting will change.

Thanks for your patience while adjusting to these small changes.

Kevin King Special Projects Coordinator

Kevin is a graduate of California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo and came to Oakdale Irrigation District from Patterson Irrigation District in Patterson, California.

Kevin will perform a variety of technical and administrative tasks. His tasks will include the management and/or implementation of special projects that are deemed critical to the District's Water Operations, Support Services and Finance Departments. Kevin will assist the General Manager as directed with all aspects of District policies, procedures, programs and operations. He will also provide technical support in areas of water resources planning, water conservation, water quality, system automation, finance, construction, maintenance, fleet management, etc.

Kevin may be reached at
209-847-0341 x 209

Kking@oakdaleirrigation.com

Gary Jernigan, P.E. Support Services Manager

Gary is a graduate of the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma and came to Oakdale Irrigation District from Fluor Engineers & Constructors International, Inc. in Alisa Viejo, California.

Gary's department is comprised of the Field Operations Unit which includes construction, maintenance and water utilities services and the Facilities Operations unit which includes the automotive/fleet, shops, warehouse and management of OID's rights-of-way. The Support Services Manager also coordinates with other operating departments on various projects and staff assignments. This is a leadership position within the management structure of the OID.

Gary may be reached at
209-847-0341 x 219

Gjernigan@oakdaleirrigation.com

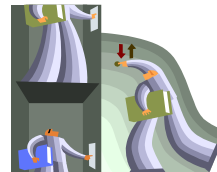
John Davids Assistant Engineer

John is a graduate of California State University, San Luis Obispo, California and came to Oakdale Irrigation District from CH2MHILL in Redding, California.

John will plan, direct, supervise and coordinate the activities of the Engineering Department. He will serve as technical specialist in the fields of water management, measurement, supply, automation, water quality, drainage, and storm water management for the district. John will also represent the District in a professional capacity at outside meetings and conferences.

John may be reached at
209-847-0341 x 237

Jdavids@oakdaleirrigation.com



Oakdale Irrigation District

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATOR (DSO) 2004 INFORMATION

| | <u>DIVISION 1</u> | <u>DIVISION 2</u> | <u>DIVISION 3</u> | <u>DIVISION 4</u> | <u>DIVISION 5</u> |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Truck 150 | Truck 140 | Truck 144 | Truck 151 | Truck 145 |
| Telephone | 988-3532 | 988-2882 | 988-2881 | 988-2883 | 988-2884 |
| Day DSO | Leon Van Diepen | Glen Collins | Matt Wearin | Johnny Carrizales | Michael Evans |
| Night DSO | Mike Machado | Mike Machado | Mike Machado | Edward Perez | Edward Perez |
| Day Relief | Randy Walker | Jeff Dove | Jeff Dove | Erik Petersen | Erik Petersen |
| Night Relief | Steve Dove | Steve Dove | Steve Dove | Steve Dove | Steve Dove |
| | <u>DIVISION 6</u> | <u>DIVISION 7</u> | <u>DIVISION 8</u> | <u>DIVISION 9</u> | <u>DIVISION 10</u> |
| | Truck 146 | Truck 141 | Truck 152 | Truck 153 | Truck 147 |
| Telephone | 988-3065 | 988-3066 | 988-3067 | 988-1802 | 988-3068 |
| Day DSO | Vince Vella | Chris Haverson | Marc Oberkamper | Matt Vella | Don Prichard |
| Night DSO | Ron Robinson | Ron Robinson | Lori Hawkins | Lori Hawkins | Lori Hawkins |
| Day Relief | Randy Walker | Mike Ayers | Mike Ayers | Bob Becker | Bob Becker |
| Night Relief | Jim Long | Jim Long | Jim Long | Jim Long | Jim Long |

Gary Green 988-3750
Day Rover

Bill Johnson 988-3750
Night Rover

After hours Emergency
988-3750

Assistant Watermasters

Tom Laidlaw
Truck #148
988-3071

Mike Hanf
Truck #149
988-3069

OAKDALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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Fax : 209-847-3468
www.oakdaleirrigation.com**



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

Mailing Address Line 1

Mailing Address Line 2

Mailing Address Line 3

Mailing Address Line 4



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.

Irrigation Tips

Tailwater Return Systems

Sometimes to provide adequate water to the low end of the field, surface irrigation methods require that a certain amount of water run off as tailwater. Tailwater return systems catch this runoff and pump the water back to the top of the field. On-farm water savings have been estimated at 10-15%

When to Change Sets

Determining the proper time to change sets or shut off water can significantly reduce the amount of run off water that leaves your field. In general with surface irrigation, water can be shut off prior to advancing to the end of the field. Waiting until the water reaches the end of the field to shut off is too late. Depending on the infiltration rate of your field you may try shutting off the water when it reaches the 2/3 or 3/4 point of your set.

Ag Waiver Update

April 1 Deadline

The Oakdale Irrigation District is currently preparing a Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan in order to stay in compliance with the requirements of the Conditional Ag Waiver. One of the requirements of the Waiver is that "Dischargers" submit by April 1, 2004 a Monitoring and Reporting Plan. In the plan the "Dischargers" must state when, where and how they are going to test for water quality. In addition, the plan must also include a list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) utilized for the application of the specific fertilizers and pesticides that the "Discharger" uses. The District has contracted with an experienced consulting firm to assist in the development of this plan. After the plan is submitted to, and approved by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, monitoring will begin. Monitoring activities must commence prior to July 1, 2004.

Getting Coverage

For all of you who have not signed up with a coalition group or filed individually, we strongly encourage you to do so. For more 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

Additionally, coalition sign up forms are being provided at the OID front desk.

If you have any questions about OID's activities in respect to the Ag Waiver, contact Kevin King, Special Projects Coordinator, at (209) 847-0341, extension 209.

