



Spring 2016

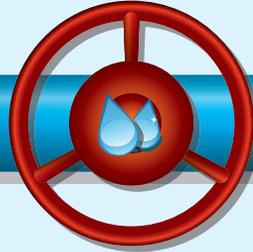
Mission statement

To protect and develop Oakdale Irrigation District water resources for the maximum benefit of the OID community by providing excellent irrigation and domestic water service.

OID

PIPELINE

Excellence in affordable, reliable and innovative water management



New Water Rates for 2016

Fixed Charge
\$27.⁸¹
per acre
(\$55.⁶² min.)

Tier 1
First 3 acre-ft.

\$3.²⁴
per acre-ft.

Tier 2
4th & 5th acre-ft.

\$6.⁴⁴
per acre-ft.

Tier 3
6th & 7th acre-ft.

\$8.⁵⁵
per acre-ft.

Tier 4
8th acre-ft.

\$10.⁷¹
per acre-ft.

Tier 5
Above 8 acre-ft.

\$21.³⁷
per acre-ft.

“Change” is the operative word for OID customers in 2016. There is a new tiered volumetric water rate structure this year, a new billing process and the ability to pay water charges online.

For the first time in OID’s history, landowners will be billed based on how much water they apply. This change is required by state law and is intended to promote conservation by farmers. It is the same process already in place for more than 200 water agencies in California.

The five-tiered volumetric charge is based upon the amount of acre-feet of water delivered to each acre as recorded by the distribution system operators for each irrigation event. In locations where there is not an accumulating water meter, usage is calculated by multiplying the flow rate by the duration of the irrigation event.

Flow rate is measured and recorded during irrigation events based on published industry standards and guidelines according to the average

measured water levels and gate opening at the delivery point. In places where measurement is not yet adequate or available, water use will be billed according to the crop water demand for the duration of the billing cycle assuming a 70% irrigation application efficiency.

New Billing System Improves Convenience

OID introduced a new billing system in 2015. “Mock” volumetric bills were provided during last year’s irrigation season so that landowners could review their water use. With this knowledge, landowners were able to make decisions on facility or land improvements, to become more efficient, and to reduce their usage and consequently their water charges. This year, volumetric billing statements will be sent the first weeks of June and August, and the final bill at the end of the irrigation season.

To improve customer service and provide real-time data to irrigators, OID has created an online portal called **MyWater**. Customers must go to www.oakdaleirrigation.com, click on [Manage ‘MyWater’ Account](#) and follow the simple instructions.

“You can actually see and track your water usage throughout the season,”
— General Manager Steve Knell

Water use will be posted every time there is a water delivery. For the first time, irrigators also have the option of using a credit card or ACH to pay their bills online.



Three Easy Steps

1. Visit oakdaleirrigation.com
2. Go to [Manage ‘MyWater’ Account](#)
3. Activate customer account

Information needed can be found on your billing statement.

On-Farm Water Conservation Program Starts

OID's first-ever On-Farm Water Conservation Program received great interest from farmers this year. In exchange for voluntarily taking their land out of production for one year, enrollees will be paid 95% of the value of the crop water they would have used — 20% in cash and 75% in credits to make long-term water efficiency

improvements on their property. The money to fund the program will come from the sale of water freed up through the idling of participant lands.

In all, owners of 96 parcels representing 3,632 acres expressed interest and 22 have returned executed agreements to participate in the program.

The expectation is that a few million dollars will be injected into the regional economy as pipe and pump suppliers, land levelers and seed providers are put to work on projects by participating farmers. A net positive for economic stimulus to our local businesses.

Deal with Federal and State Water Contractors Will Help Pay for Tunnel East of Knights Ferry

OID and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District — its partner on the Stanislaus River — reached an agreement this spring with state and federal water contractors to provide 75,000 acre-feet of water. The deal is a win for farmers, fish and the environment, and will help fund critical improvements in their canal systems.

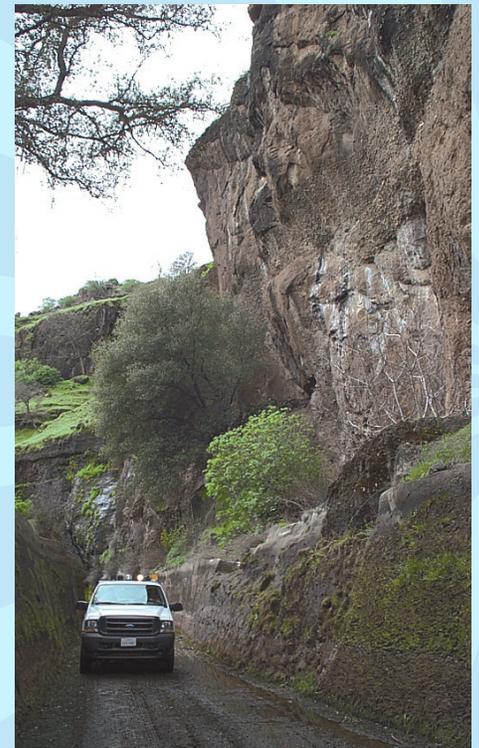
The water began flowing down the river beginning in mid-April. It was timed to help young salmon and steelhead on their migration toward the ocean. Once the water reached the Delta, it was reclaimed by the state and federal authorities. They pumped it south to provide water to 3.6 million acres of farmland hit hard after four years of drought.

OID's portion of the water release is worth \$13.75 million. Some of that money will be used to pay for the On-Farm Water Conservation Program to assist local growers in making efficiency

improvements. OID General Manager Steve Knell expects as much as \$8 million will be set aside to partially pay for a major upgrade at Two-Mile Bar east of Knights Ferry.

That project — estimated to cost \$20 million or more — would replace a 100-year-old canal with a mile-long tunnel. The canal sits below a steep, sometimes unstable hill. A rockslide into the canal could choke off any water going to the South Main Canal, which services all land south of the Stanislaus River. Because of its age, the canal also is slowly "creeping" toward the river, Knell said.

"It's a significant threat," he said. "We have \$8 million saved already. If we put another \$6 million or \$8 million into the fund this year, and the same next year, we're there as far as paying for the tunnel. We anticipate using water sale revenues over the next three years to fully fund this project."



A mile-long tunnel would replace this 100-year-old canal east of Knights Ferry.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Plans

Prompted by the drought, the state now requires that regional rules be enacted to sustainably manage groundwater resources. The goal is to ensure that farmers, cities, water agencies and others are recharging underground aquifers and/or reducing pumping to avoid overdraft.

OID has been a member of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Authority (www.strgba.org/news/) since 1994. The district is collaborating with the group to form one groundwater sustainability agency for the Modesto Sub-basin. OID is also working with the Eastern San Joaquin County

Groundwater Basin Authority (www.gbawater.org/About-Us/SGMA) to form a similar sustainability plan for the Eastern San Joaquin Sub-basin.

Ag Water Management Plan Provides Road Map for Future

In March, OID's Board of Directors adopted the 2015 Ag Water Management Plan. The document is required by the state. It highlights how the district has used water for agricultural purposes in the past 10 years and identifies all the improvement and compliance programs that OID must continue to implement. The complete plan is available for review at www.oakdaleirrigation.com.

Ten years ago, as part of OID's Water Resources Plan (WRP), the district identified more than \$170 million in needed projects, many of them related to critical infrastructure, technology upgrades to improve water delivery efficiency and, most recently, to allow OID to begin volumetric billing. Following the WRP guidelines, the district has used \$32 million in bond money, \$20 million in annexation fees paid by new customers, and money generated by water sales and transfers to pay for the improvements.

OID also has decided to use the AWMP to evaluate progress in meeting the goals set forth in the WRP and reassess the priority and schedule of improvements based on current conditions, including revised regulatory requirements, water supply and budget.

Improvements Identified to be Necessary in Next 25 Years

(Estimated Costs)

Main Canals/Tunnels	\$45 million	North Side Regulating Reservoir	\$6 million
Pipeline Replacement	\$45 million	Reclamation Projects	\$6 million
Canal & Lateral Rehabilitation	\$34 million	Irrigation Service Turnout Replacement	\$5 million
New/Replacement Wells	\$14 million	Flow Control & Measurement Structure	\$4 million
Outflow Management	\$11 million	Miscellaneous	\$2 million

State Crackdown Targets Growers Who Haven't Joined Irrigated Lands Program

The Irrigation Lands Regulatory Program started in 2003 to prevent impairment of surface water as a result of agricultural runoff. In 2012, the program was amended to also protect groundwater quality. It made mandatory that all commercial irrigated land have regulatory coverage, except those parcels already covered by the dairy program. Options for coverage include obtaining an individual permit or joining a coalition that represents farmers across a specific geographic region.

The program requires random water samples be taken by the individual or coalition from representative drains, streams and wells to identify and prevent water quality impacts from agricultural discharges such as runoff or deep percolation.

This year, the state has ramped up enforcement. Already, more than three dozen growers in and around the OID service area have received citations that could include fines and penalties as high as \$1,000 per day for each day of violation. "The state is not playing games anymore," said OID General Manager Steve Knell.

OID customers south of the Stanislaus River have the option of joining the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition.

(209) 846-6112
www.esjcoalition.org

Customers north of the Stanislaus River have the option of joining the San Joaquin Delta Water Quality Coalition.

(209) 851-4204
info@sjdeltawatershed.org

Herbicide Applied to Eliminate Algae and Weeds in Canals

Magnacide-H is an aquatic herbicide OID has used successfully for 30 years in its canals to kill moss and algae. The applications typically occur from late April until the end of September. Magnacide-H is relatively safe on crops,

but can affect rice in the early stages and is poisonous to fish. The Distribution System Operators will advise those irrigation customers whose water may contain some level of Magnacide-H. Be sure to let your DSO know if you have

concerns about irrigating with treated water or have rice or fish ponds that may be affected. Scheduled treatments will not necessarily be a reason to postpone your irrigation.



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Gail Altieri – District 1
Herman Doornenbal – District 2
Steve Webb – District 3
Linda Santos – District 4
Gary Osmundson – District 5

In The Pipeline

Key Changes Implemented in 2016

OID customers need to be aware of the many important changes in how water is measured and billed this year.

Interest Sparked in Conservation Program

Nearly 100 landowners have expressed interest in the first-ever On-Farm Water Conservation Program, which allows growers to pay for critical water-efficiency upgrades to their land.

State Cracking Down on Non-Compliance

The state has drastically ramped up enforcement and fines against growers who have not obtained regulatory coverage to comply with the Irrigated Lands Program, which has been mandatory since 2003 for all commercial irrigated lands.

OID Involved in Groundwater Management Plans

OID is actively working with others in the region to create state-mandated plans to sustainably management critical groundwater resources.

How To Reach Us

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THE OID PIPELINE