

CATCH-UP NEWS

by Steve Knell, General Manager

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 23.8 million people who live south of the Tehachapi Mountains and in southern California. Average daily food consumption of a human being is 3-5 pounds per day. That means by tomorrow morning 95 million pounds of food will need to be in the supermarkets and restaurants of So. Cal., ready for the day's consumption. It will take nearly 2,380 semi-tractor/trailer rigs to make that happen. Strung out on the highway, end to end, that would be a convoy 36 miles long. That's just one day of food consumption for just 3 meals.

What's the take away? It takes a lot of resources to feed people, including the water to produce that food. Before our metropolitan friends throw rocks at Ag, they should make sure their house isn't made of glass.

STATE'S WATER GRAB

The State's intent to take our region's water is still on. There was a very impressive Water Rally held on the State's Capitol Steps on August 20th followed by two days of hearings by the State Water Board. Unfortunately, it all fell on deaf ears.

Come November 7th, a day after Election Day (imagine that), the State Water Board will vote to adopt their one size fits all, more water equals more fish, Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. Despite all the reasonable proposals put out by the Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus folks at the table, they chose otherwise. Their way is science-less, sound-less and senseless. It appears we're off to litigation, unfortunately

"IRRIGATE, DON'T IRRITATE"

Numerous times each irrigation season OID gets dragged into a chronic flooding feud between landowners and their neighbors. Kudos to our DSO's for attempting to do some Doctor Phil intervention, but in reality some people just can't get along.

When OID delivers water to a farm gate, the recipient is "civilly" responsible for its proper and reasonable use. We have often seen landowners take their neighbors to court over damages caused by negligence and orneriness. These costs can be expensive, so be mindful of your responsibilities to manage your water while irrigating.

DRAINAGE ISSUES

There are two kinds of drainage waters we need to talk about. One is drainage water that occurs during the irrigation season from

irrigation runoff. The other is drainage water from rainfall. Unless you live at the top of the mountain you will have drainage water flowing across your property. All drainage waters follow the slope of the land, generally coming onto your property at the high point and leaving at the low point.

You are more than welcome to change the flow path of those waters within the boundaries of your property BUT you cannot change the point at which this water enters your property or where it has historically left your property. You cannot block the flow of drainage water entering your property!! Doing so could cause you some liability and damage issues you didn't expect.

Learn by the mistakes of others who have gone before you to court on this subject. Doing the wrong thing is not cheap.

ONE FISH, TWO FISH, RED FISH, MORE FISH

In December 2016 Congressman Jeff Denham assisted with marshalling through the passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The Bill's passage contained a decade's worth of work OID/SSJID and others have been attempting to secure for our region.

The Bill directed federal agencies to allow OID/SSJID to advance a 5-year predator suppression study on the Stanislaus River. That program was successfully launched this winter (2018) and is moving forward.

The Bill required the Bureau of Reclamation, the owners of New Melones Dam, to work with OID/SSJID to develop storage opportunities in the Dam. That too has been successful. In June of this year a report was submitted to Congress by the Bureau to begin a second round of discussions.

Lastly the Bill improved the movement of more water to water districts in our county, such as Del Puerto, Patterson and West Stanislaus by improving import/export rules in the delta.

SHOUT-OUT OF THANKS #1

I appreciated riding to the Water Rally on August 20th with Oakdale City Council Members Bairos, and McCarty and City Manager Whitemyer. The City is very supportive of protecting our/your water and I appreciated them taking time out of their busy days to show support against the State's Water Grab.

SHOUT-OUT OF THANKS #2 LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL!

On September 21st at 2:00 a.m. Drill Tech-Drilling and Shoring successfully completed the excavation of 5,984 feet of OID's newest tunnel on the South Main Canal. It took exactly 366 days of double shift work, boring through both some of the hardest and softest rock one could anticipate.

It's a great accomplishment and a milestone project for the long term security and reliability of OID water deliveries on the south side of the river. Still a lot of work to get done before water starts next year in March 2019, but the heavy lifting is done.

Many thanks to Jason Jones, OID's Project Manager, to Condor Earth Technologies serving as the geo-tech Consultants out of Sonora, to Drill Tech Drilling & Shoring, tunnel excavation contractor, and to Bumgardner Biological Consulting for a job well done!



Inside of Tunnel



Upstream Portal of Tunnel



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