

WATER SEASON NEWS

The hydrology for this year will produce a paltry amount of runoff, season to-date being just at 54% of average. The good news, the winter rains and projected snow runoff will produce enough water to meet all the agricultural needs of our area.

Of the 5 types of hydrological events Mother Nature can deliver, those being; Wet, Above Normal, Below Normal, Dry and Critically Dry, this year will end-up being considered a Critically Dry year. These types of years produce substantial drawdowns in reservoir storage making the potential impact in end-of- September storage worrisome if a repeat of a sequential Dry or Critically Dry year were to occur next winter. That's the type of worrisome potential that will give our Board pause in determining if they will be allowing October water in the fall.

While the winter of 2020 is still a ways out for accuracy, the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Service is not seeing any trending at this time towards an El Niño or La Niña weather pattern. That's good news.

Fun Fact #1: When did agriculture start? Answer: It was not until after 9500 B.C. that the founder crops of agriculture appear – those being: emmer, einkorn wheat, hulled barley, peas, lentils, bitter vetch, chick peas and flax.

FINANCIAL NEWS

The unaudited financials for 2019 show Total Revenues of \$21.6 million and total expenses, inclusive of operating/non-operating expenses (\$14.6 million) and capital construction (\$10.3 million) to total \$24.9 million, making for a budget overrun of about \$3.3 million. The chief cause of this overrun was due to the lack of a cross-valley water sale that usually nets OID about \$4-5 million.

Despite the overrun, OID finished the year with \$53.7 million in designated reserves, \$1.6 million in restricted cash and \$10.1 million in operating reserves. The District is in pretty good financial health.

Fun Fact #2: Who were the first farmers? Answer: Hunter-gatherers looking for food found lands called the Fertile Crescent. There they found wild grain crops to nourish them and discovered the ability to reseed and hence reproduce these grain crops.



STATUS OF THE STATE'S WATER GRAB

Since the State Water Board's adoption of Phase I of their Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan on December 12, 2018 the needle for compromise via Voluntary Settlements has not moved an inch.

With California and the Federal Government fighting and suing each other over their authorities to manage and control their individual Delta Pumping Operations through Biological Opinions, life has turned to ugly politics.

Not to worry, after 8-10 years of litigation and nothing getting done to better fisheries or secure workable sustainable water supplies for agriculture, the courts will make the State do it all over again and do it right. I don't think we need to kick this horse anymore for a while, but we'll keep you posted.

Fun Fact #3: One-third of the U.S., about 750 million acres, is covered in trees.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANS.

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority successfully submitted their Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to the California Department of Water Resources before the required January 31, 2020 deadline. Congratulations to all the Basin Agencies members who devoted so much time to make this happen. Lest we forget, OID has 40% of its service area lands north of the Stanislaus River and in the ESJ Groundwater Basin.

In early April 2020 the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, an environmental advocacy group, better known as CalSPA, filed suit on the inadequacy of the GSP and a couple of others. Their suits are a bit premature but the handwriting is on the wall, more enviro groups will likely be filing suits regarding SGMA. I find it telling of the current state of politics in our State and why it's difficult to move anything forward.

Just to remind everyone again, the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority encompasses all OID lands north of the Stanislaus River. The Stanislaus-Tuolumne Rivers Basin Authority encompasses all lands between the Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers and east of the San Joaquin River. That GSP is not due until the end of January 2022. To keep abreast of these developments go to the following link:

<https://www.oakdaleirrigation.com/sustainable-groundwater-management-act-sgma-implementation>

Fun Fact #4: Women make up 30 percent of today's farmers.

COVID 19 VIRUS NEWS AT OID

OID wants to assure its water customers that irrigation water operations and water service to OID's Rural Water System and to the five (5) domestic water Improvement Districts under OID management, will continue during the Corona virus pandemic.

OID has temporarily closed its doors to public access in order to provide a high level of protection to its "essential" working employees. However irrigation customers will be able to pay their bill online by going to www.oakdaleirrigation.com and choosing "Pay Bill" on the right hand side of the white banner of the home page. OID is also accepting credit card payments over the phone through June 1, 2020.

To assist customers struggling financially during this time, OID will temporarily suspend water shutoffs due to non-payment and not charge late payment fees through June 1, 2020, for all customers currently in good standing. Customers who are experiencing difficulty paying their OID bill are urged to contact OID at (209) 847-0341 to discuss options.

If you are unable to use the available online services, customers are encouraged to mail their payments to Oakdale Irrigation District, 1205 East F Street, Oakdale, CA 95361.

If you need to make a payment in cash, you can bring your payment to the office and knock on the front east office door during normal business hours (Monday – Thursday 7:30am-5:00pm, and every other Friday 7:30am-5:00pm). Staff will accept payment through the mail slot and ask you to wait a few minutes if you would like a receipt.

OID will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary. Additional information can be found at www.oakdaleirrigation.com or by calling (209) 847-0341 during regular business hours.

I'd like to give a shout-out to all our classified essential employees for doing a great job under some very difficult circumstances. Please thank them as well for braving the risks and showing up to work every day to keep the water flowing. Great Job!

Fun Fact #5: Each American farmer produces food and fiber for 165 people annually, both in the U.S. and abroad.



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