



# Oakdale Irrigation District

## History Timeline and Key Events

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Key Event</b>
1853	Early miners build small diversion dam off the Stanislaus River upstream from Knight's Ferry and dig a canal along the right bank of the river to their gravel works near Knight's Ferry.
1857-9	In the late 1850's David Locke builds a flour mill at Knight's Ferry. It is destroyed by a flood in 1862.
1862	Knight's Ferry mill destroyed by flood. It is rebuilt by David J. Tulloch some years later.
1866	David J. Tulloch rebuilds the Knight's Ferry mill and has a stone dam constructed several years after the flood. It is operational by 1866.
1884	Charles H. Tulloch, David's son, assumes management of the mill and purchases miner's canal and water rights. Tulloch extends the canal and sells water for 6,000 acres near Oakdale and Valley Home.
1887	Wright Irrigation Act passed in state legislature. It gives water districts the right of eminent domain, authority to issue bonds and tax properties for construction, maintenance and operations of irrigation works.
1890	Oakdale Irrigation Company starts work on an 11-mile long canal near Knight's Ferry.
1902	Old Tulloch Dam built above Six-mile Bar with cement from Holland.
1905	Stanislaus Power and Water Company, headed by Tulloch, takes over irrigation company works.
1909	Oakdale citizens hold a mass town hall meeting demanding their own irrigation system. Lands surveyed, district boundaries established.
Sept. 13, 1909	Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors authorizes Oakdale election.
Oct. 23, 1909	People vote 849 to 27 to create the Oakdale Irrigation District.
Nov. 1, 1909	Oakdale Irrigation District formally created.
July 1910	OID joins with South San Joaquin Irrigation District and jointly purchases the "Tulloch System" for \$650,000. The first issues of bonds are sold for \$1.6 million. The two districts agree on equal water rights totaling 908.3 second feet of natural flow diversion.
1912	Construction begins on Goodwin Dam, named for SSJID president Benjamin Goodwin, at cost of \$350,000. Dam will divert water on the north and south sides of the river.
April 13, 1913	Goodwin Dam completed. OID receives 600 second feet for the south main canal and 260 second feet for the north main canal, the old Tulloch ditch. OID eventually builds 350 miles of canals and laterals to cover the district.
1916	Rodden Lake built as a reservoir.
1918	Area farmers are dependent on natural flow of the river, which after July is not sufficient to meet their needs. Studies and surveys begin to build a major reservoir to capture and store water.

- 1919           OID reports 74,246 acres in District with 20,000 acres irrigated.
- 1921           OID and SSJID agree to build the Melones Project, a dam 20 miles upstream from Knight's Ferry. Russell E. Hartley joins OID on November 21, 1921.
- 1924           Hartley urges OID directors to study additional storage at Beardsley site on Middle Fork of the Stanislaus.
- 1925           Construction of the Melones Dam begins. Water storage is the main objective. Power generation to repay the cost over 40 years.
- 1926           Melones Dam, near Jamestown in Tuolumne County, is completed in December. It serves the needs of OID's 23,159 irrigated acres.
- 1928           Ladino Clover introduced in OID lands. Ideal for grazing, plantings quickly spread.
- 1931-1938      Water shortages due to the clover's high water demand forces OID to add 25 new deep wells. Nearly 60 percent of OID's 40,000 acres of irrigated lands are now planted in clover.
- 1934           OID files for protection under Chapter XI for readjustment of its debt.
- 1938           District begins studying possible new reservoir sites.
- 1948           OID and SSJID sign joint development agreement.
- 1950           The great Oakdale flood.
- 1952           Voters of both districts approve the Tri-Dam Project.
- 1955           The Flood of 1955.
- June 15, 1955   Ground is broken to construct the Donnell, Beardsley and Tulloch Dams and powerhouses on the Stanislaus River. Cost is \$52 million to be paid for by sale of power over next 50 years.
- June 15, 1957   Thousands of people attend the dedication of the three dams which added 230,400 acre feet of storage capacity to the watershed and a combined power generation of 81,000 kilowatts.
- 1967           Cost of the Melones bonds paid off.
- 1978           Russell E. Hartley passes away after 57 years of service to OID.
- 1979           New Melones Dam is completed. Storage capacity increased to 2.4 million acre feet.
- 1984           Sand Bar Hydroelectric powerhouse completed adding 16,200 kilowatts of power.
- 2004           OID launches major Water Resources Plan to study how to repair, rebuild and modernize the old and outdated system. Plan's goal is to protect OID water rights, enhance the system and improve service.
- 2005           Tri-Dam bonds paid off. OID's Federal Energy License to generate power renewed.
- 2007-current   Major rehabilitation efforts begin. New reservoir added.
- Feb. 2009      OID launches 100th anniversary celebration.
- Sept. 26, 2009   OID Community BBQ caps 100th anniversary.**