

North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Weekly Update
Friday December 22, 2023



Impressive clouds over the District didn't produce as much precipitation as hoped.

Water Advisory Commission: The Water Advisory Commission met on Monday with presentations from the Army Corps of Engineers on flood release protocols for Farmington and Hogan. County Public Works also gave a presentation on Flood response for last winters record storms. Robert Granberg, representing the County, gave a presentation on groundwater levels in the County noting better than a ten-foot net improvement from the prior year.

District Pumping and Recharge Activities: For much of the week, EBMUD data showed 17 cfs of gain in the Mokelumne River below Camanche Dam. Friday it dropped to an actual loss. Real time data showed a mistake in the daily cumulative total so CalFed remains online. WID diversions remain at a net 7.5 accounting for the Lodi above meter diversion discussed last week. Unfortunately, fields adjacent to the Reynolds property experienced flooding through ground squirrel tunnels and the Project had to be shut down Wednesday morning. However, staff anticipates it will come back online on shortly. Arnaudo will not be able to work on the South System Phase two connection till next week due to the wet conditions on site. We are now hoping to bring Tecklenburg back on line by Tuesday of next week. The District Engineer is working with our contractors to get Lakso online but we are unable to project an operations date yet.



Blazing vines on the water at Sunset on the Costa CalFed recharge project

Better Pipe Size Perspective: I reported on the South System Phase 2 work last week. Not much progressive given the precipitation this week. However staff did capture this picture better reflecting the difference in size between the old and new pipe sizes. Arnaudo Construction set the last of the joints for the south system phase two project today.



Storm Patrol: The District isn't normally in the storm water business. However, we do have an old agreement with San Joaquin County that allows Victor Storm Water to divert into the South System Pipeline. The Board expressed concern about the drainage on Monday and staff contacted County Staff to discuss a resolution. After discussion District Staff opened the valve to the Tecklenburg basin but no storm flow had built up to that point. Staff also checked the Kettleman Lane standpipe and found trickle flows at that point. County staff concluded that there was no risk to Victor if the south system was operation before next week's storm. The District has given notice to the County that we intend to terminate the storm drain agreement as our irrigation operations increase.

Contract Staff Update: Robert Granberg will be reducing his hours with the District beginning in January as he takes on a new outside commitments. He will continue on with grant reporting and carry the North System Pump Station SOQ process through to the Board presentation in February.

North System RFQ Tours: District Staff hosted two more tours for SOQ respondents this week. We continue to be pleased with the strong interest in the contracting community.

Billing Update: Staff met this week to begin preparing a framework for calendar year water bills. Although the project as first seems straightforward, a number of complications need to be resolved including changes of ownership during the calendar year, and the need to calculate actual cost and reimbursed costs for the DREAM project. We have a few data requests out to be able to issue the bills this week.

SWEEP Direct-to-Farmer grant suspended but Block SWEEP survives. Due to the State budget deficit, the California Department of Food and Agriculture suspended the SWEEP Direct-to-Farmer grant program for on-farm efficiency improvements. The Department has let the District and partners know the \$5 million SWEEP Block Grant Pilot Program grant is currently safe. I am working with staff to send out an announcement to landowners about the grant program suspension, as applications were originally due January 26th. The District's diligence in pursuing the BLOCK grant is paying dividends for District Landowners.

Christmas/New Year Plans: I will be in out of town over the Christmas/New Years break interspersing a few vacation and work days but am available by phone and email all week. The Weekly Update will take a brief break for the holiday.

Merry Christmas to an amazing team: A huge thank you to the Board and to District Contract Staff for welcoming me to your team. I am extremely grateful to be part of an emotionally and professionally functional team. May you all have a wonderful holiday with your families and I look forward to advancing the District's work together in the coming year.



District Staff helping serve Christmas Lunch at LOEL Senior Center