

the Grower

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Irrigation season begins, has much potential

The good news is in. This year is shaping up to be a water year that we have not seen at the District since 2006. The storms that occurred at the end of February and beginning of March helped significantly. California's Department of Water Resources is predicting 2,000,000 acre feet of runoff during the April to July period. Under average conditions, this predicted runoff into the Tuolumne River from the Sierra snow pack is roughly 164 percent of normal.

The 2011 irrigation season was originally set to begin on March 10, but due to unsettled weather patterns, the District did not start the season until March 17. The season is tentatively scheduled to end on October 20. The 2011 allotment is 48-inches per acre. The water charge for the 2011 irrigation season is \$26 per acre.

Although conditions are promising, March and April account for nearly 25 percent of the average annual precipitation. Dry spring weather can have an influence on projected runoff.

For hourly water data, visit www.tid.com/water/hydrological-data.

Offseason canal maintenance

One of the most significant offseason canal construction projects conducted by the District was the spraying of gunite along many needed areas of the canal system, namely areas of Lower Lateral 3 and Lateral 1.

This spraying will help strengthen the structural integrity of District canals, therefore ensuring the reliability of TID's water delivery.



Gunite spraying along Lateral 1 this past winter.

Be advised: rodent bait spread near canal banks

The District is advising dog and other pet owners who live along or near canal banks to be cautious of your pet's whereabouts.

TID staff and area farmers frequently spread rodent bait along and near canal banks to control rodents, such as squirrels. TID's bait looks like small light green-colored pellets, and can be poisonous to animals in large amounts.

TID must have a rodent control program because without it the structural integrity and reliability of the canal system would be in constant jeopardy.

Whether along canals or near TID facilities and equipment, safety is always a primary concern of the District. For more safety tips, visit www.tid.com/education-safety/water-safety.

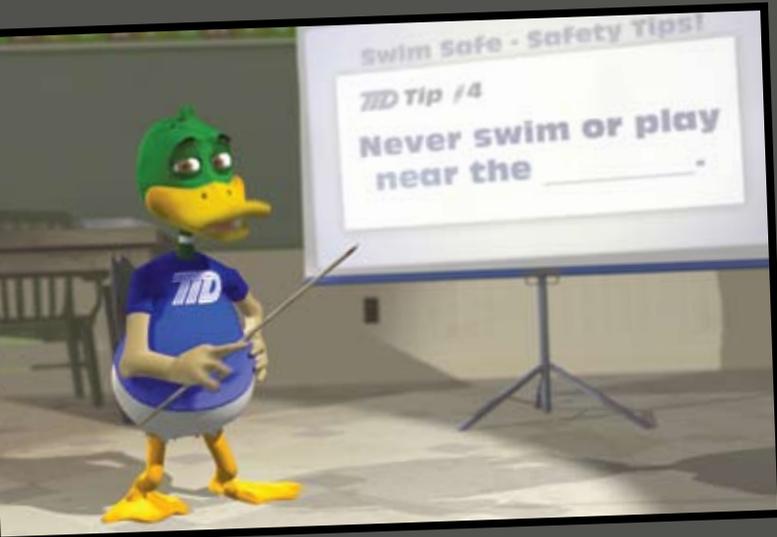
*June 20
First installment
of water payment
charge due*

*October 18
Final day
to order water*

*October 20
Final day of
irrigation season*

*November
Water Use
Statements mailed*

If you are interested in receiving The Grower newsletter via email, rather than a printed copy, please contact us via email at info@tid.org or by calling 209-883-8448.



A scene from "Dexter Duck's Swim Safe Safety Tips," which helps teach children that canals are not safe places to swim or play. The video is just one aspect of TID's Education Program, which focuses on water and electrical safety.

NHA Award adds to list of TID's water stewardship

Turlock Irrigation District recently garnered national recognition when it earned an Outstanding Stewards of America's Waters Award from the National Hydropower Association for its work in creating, "Dexter Duck's Swim Safe Safety Tips", an animated water safety video.

The OSAW awards annually recognize organizations in the hydropower industry for projects exhibiting exemplary stewardship.

"Dexter Duck's Swim Safe Safety Tips" was created by the District to emphasize water safety to children. To view the video, visit www.tid.com/education-safety/water-safety.

Portions of the video will be shown in 30-second spots

in local theatres over the summer.

The Dexter video is just one aspect of the District's Education Program. Other programs include:

Customized presentations about water, electricity and safety.

Project WET: Promoting stewardship of water resources.

Salmonids in the Classroom: enabling students to hatch and release trout or salmon.

Energy Wise Program: Tailored to 6th-grade math and science standards.

The 32-foot long TID Education Trailer displaying information about TID at events.

TID looks to join coalition to improve water quality

TID will soon be joining the East San Joaquin Water Quality (ESJWQ) Coalition, the group formed to assist local growers with complying with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), formerly called the "Ag Waiver".

At the urging of water quality regulators, TID along with the Modesto, Oakdale, and Merced irrigation districts have approached the ESJWQ Coalition about becoming members of the group. The four irrigation districts have been participating as individuals under the ILRP since the program began in 2003; an option which will no longer be available in the near future.

The new "long-term" ILRP in development by the Regional Board is expected to be phased in over the coming year. Under the new program, the Ag community is required to either join a coalition or apply for individual waste discharge permits. Like individual growers, the irrigation districts

need coverage under one or the other program due to their application of pesticides and other activities that have the potential to impact water quality.

The entrance of TID and other irrigation districts into the ESJWQ Coalition will not change any of the individual grower's responsibilities, costs or requirements under the regulatory program. However, the irrigation districts bring with them technical knowledge, expertise and access to information and data that may be useful to the coalition members as they move forward together to comply with the state regulations. Growers are still required to have "coverage" for the activities on their lands that might impact water quality. The easiest way to do that is to maintain Coalition membership, or join if you have not already done so.

For more information about the Coalition, please visit www.esjcoalition.org.

Bay Area Senator introduces fee bill

Another run is being made in Sacramento to put a surcharge on water use to finance yet-to-be determine water projects in California, some of which may provide little or no direct benefits to those who pay the fee.

Senate Bill 34 by Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) would affect urban as well as agricultural water users. The exact impact is unknown but in an earlier version of the bill, Ag water users would have been assessed up to \$20 per acre while each acre-foot of urban water would carry a \$110 fee. Similar approaches to establishing what some refer to as a 'public goods charge' have been kicked around in Sacramento in recent years. People can track the progress of the bill at www.leginfo.ca.gov.



Canal security doubled to protect assets

Turlock Irrigation District now has a 24-hour per day, seven-day per week security presence monitoring its canals and facilities.

The District entered into contract with Rank Investigations and Protection in March to patrol the canals, in the hopes that the increased hours of patrol will curb vandalism, theft and other crimes that had been on the rise.

Vandalism and theft of TID property in or near the canals is more than a nuisance to the District, it is a concern of many customers and residents living in close proximity to the canals.

Rank Investigations and Protection security agents are armed and have the ability to cite violators. They travel in white vehicles with the word 'Patrol' marked on the side door panels, next to the Rank Investigations logo.

Rank agents have also been trained by District staff to handle electrical emergencies such as downed wires.

In the event of an emergency or crime in progress, you should always dial 911. However, in the event of a non-emergency, you can report criminal activity occurring on or around TID facilities by calling TID's 24-hour Service Hotline at 883-8301 or Rank Investigations Dispatch at 526-2025.



Relicensing Process

1. Districts filed PAD and NOI in Feb. 2011.
2. FERC conducts scoping meetings.
3. Interested parties discuss issues and develop study requests.
4. Applicant files proposed study plan and conducts approved studies.
5. Studies are conducted and Study Report issued for review and comment.
6. Applicant files draft and final license applications.
7. FERC issues new license with new terms and conditions in 2016.

A pair of public meetings will be hosted by FERC May 11 in relation to the relicensing of Don Pedro.

Relicensing public meetings set for May 11

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will host a pair of public scoping meetings on May 11 in relation to the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts' relicensing efforts for the Don Pedro Project.

The morning meeting is planned to begin at 9 a.m. and will take place at the California State University, Stanislaus University Student Union Event Center in Turlock, located at 801 W. Monte Vista Ave.

The evening meeting is set to start at 7 p.m. and will take place at Modesto's DoubleTree Hotel, Ballroom 3, located at 1150 Ninth St.

The purpose of these meetings, which are sponsored and facilitated by FERC, is to identify relevant issues of public interest involving the Don Pedro Project in relation to the National Environmental Policy Act.

The scoping meetings, just as any other formal FERC scoping meetings, are designed for members of the public to make statements about the project to FERC staff in an open forum. One of the primary purposes of a formal scoping

meeting is so the members of the public have an opportunity to speak their concerns.

Also at the scoping meeting, it is expected that FERC staff will describe the environmental review process, as well as provide relevant information and answer procedural questions.

As co-relicensing applicants, MID and TID will have staff members present. It is expected that District representatives will briefly describe the Don Pedro Project and will be available before and after the formal part of the meeting for questions and answers.

Comments on the proposed project may be submitted in written form or communicated verbally during the course of the meeting.

Information gathered at these scoping meetings may also help the Districts develop environmental protection measures to present in its environmental resource reports filed with FERC in its Final License Application.

For more information, visit the relicensing site at www.donpedro-relicensing.com.



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Water Statistics

Don Pedro Reservoir as of May 3

Elevation this week:	792.2 feet
Elevation last year:	806.8 feet
Average inflow:	5,572 cfs
Average outflow:	6,725 cfs
Average to TID canal:	1,042 cfs