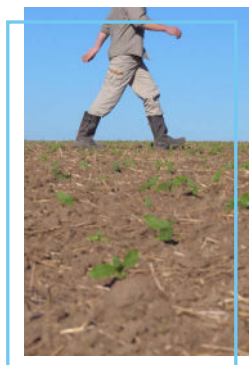


DISTRICT UPDATE

WATER SUPPLY RELIABILITY

CHALLENGES TO WATER DELIVERIES PERSIST



The 2022-2023 Water Year continues to challenge the District, landowners and water users as California prepares for a fourth consecutive year of drought.

In addition to low storage levels in Shasta Reservoir, GCID is facing numerous state management actions that threaten to further reduce an already diminished water supply. Despite these outside factors that are out of our control, the District continues to execute winter maintenance work and capital improvement projects that make our delivery system as modern as possible.

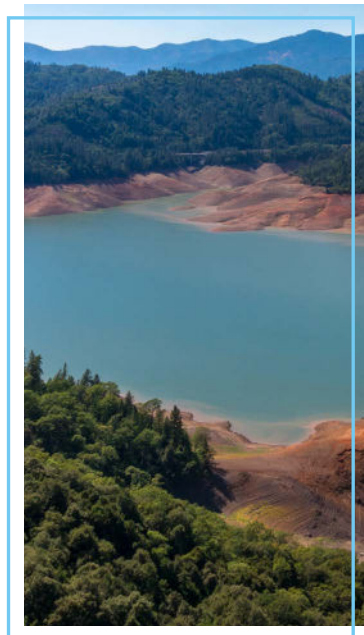
Here is an update on major issues impacting water supply:

TERM 91

The State Water Resources Control Board's Term 91 curtailment is in effect, preventing the District from delivering water for rice decomposition, habitat, or other purposes. Term 91 is triggered when natural flows are not sufficient to meet water quality and flow requirements in the Delta. When there is sufficient rainfall and natural inflows, Term 91 will be lifted and GCID water users will be able to place orders for water delivery until the District's winter maintenance shutdown period, which begins on January 7, 2023.

INTERIM OPERATIONS PLAN LITIGATION

GCID joined other Sacramento River Settlement Contractors last month in filing an objection to the proposed extension of the Interim Operations Plan (IOP) for Shasta Reservoir operations into 2023. The IOP is needed until the federal agencies complete new Biological Opinions for the operations of the Central Valley Project.



The filing with the U.S. District Court in Fresno asks the judge to instead restore the coordinated operation of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) consistent with the Biological Opinions issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2019.

Endangered winter-run Chinook salmon and other protected species did not fare any better under last year's IOP, which set targets for in-stream temperatures and Shasta carryover, than they had during operations under the Biological Opinions. Additionally, those protections came at a cost to GCID and other Sacramento River diverters due to the extremely low releases from Shasta Reservoir.

According to the SRSC filing, better outcomes are likely under a plan that provides greater operational flexibility on the CVP and SWP and addresses other influences on salmon survival, such as thiamine deficiencies and spawning locations. The IOP also fails to consider the impact on endangered species like the giant garter snake from the drastic reductions in irrigated rice fields this year, as well as the agricultural job losses resulting from diminished deliveries, the filing notes. A final decision is expected early next year.

OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

LA TIMES ARTICLE DETAILS SAC VALLEY DROUGHT DEVASTATION

GCID Board President Don Bransford and General Manager Thad Bettner were quoted in a Nov. 23 article in the Los Angeles Times exploring the impacts of the ongoing drought on the Sacramento Valley and the severe decline in irrigated acreage.

"It's a disaster. This has never happened. Never. And I've been farming since 1980."

■ Don Bransford

The article is available through our website at gcid.net/news.

REALITY OF ONGOING DROUGHT REVEALED IN NEW VIDEO

A 30-minute documentary produced by Colusa County explores how the lack of water and emergency funding has impacted local farms and associated businesses. The video features interviews with growers, aerial sprayers, farm laborers, water providers and agricultural economists and is narrated by Colusa County Supervisors Daurice Kalfsbeek-Smith and Denise J. Carter.

"We're trying to trim wherever we can this year just to make ends meet."

■ Rick Richter, Richter Aviation, Maxwell

View the video at gcid.net/news.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

GRAVEL BAR PROJECT IMPROVES SALMON PROTECTIONS, HYDRAULIC CONDITIONS ON SACRAMENTO RIVER

About 210,000 cubic yards of gravel – around 13,000 dump trucks’ worth – was moved out of the mid channel of the Sacramento River near the District’s Hamilton City Pump Station to boost protections for juvenile salmon and slow erosion of the riverbanks.

The gravel bar is downstream of the Gradient Facility built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2000. The Gradient Facility is designed to stabilize the river channel and surface water elevations to ensure safe operation of the District’s fish screen and allow safe fish migration up and down the Sacramento River. But construction issues caused riverbank erosion, which necessitated the gravel bar project and, eventually, repairs to the Gradient Facility.

Before the permitted work began on the gravel bar in September, surveys were conducted to ensure no nesting migratory birds, giant garter snakes or other threatened species were in the area. The work was coordinated with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



WHAT IS A GRADIENT FACILITY?

The underwater structure, made of rock riprap, creates a modified channel section that is designed to mimic the general characteristics of natural riffles along the Upper Sacramento River.

Removal of the gravel bar, which concluded in October, protects threatened species from predators in the river and restores optimal function of the fish screen. The project supports GCID’s commitment to protecting the Sacramento River and its habitat.

Check out a video of the gravel bar project at:
<https://bit.ly/3UAhRgt>



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

WORK BEGINS TO REPLACE MAIN CANAL CHECK STRUCTURE

Construction began last month to replace the failing Abel Check structure on the Main Canal, one of several critical infrastructure projects that ensure water supply reliability for a large portion of GCID’s service area.

At a GCID Board meeting on October 20, 2022, Directors approved a \$2.4 million contract with RNR Construction, Inc. to install a new, cast-in-place concrete water control structure, canal lining and water control gates. An irrigation lateral and farm turnout deliveries will also be replaced. The project is similar to work done on Tuttle Check, a 1933 structure that was replaced last year.

Abel Check, located one mile southwest of Danley and Fairview roads in Colusa County, was built in the 1930s. The structure has been modified and improved over the years, as have the motorized control gates, which have far exceeded their useful service lives.

The new check will provide numerous benefits for water users and the District by enhancing operational reliability and management of weeds and sediment. The new gates will improve water level control and flow delivery for better irrigation service along the Main Canal upstream and downstream of the check structure.

The improvements also help GCID advance efforts to modernize its system. Abel Check is the second to last Main Canal check structure that is actively used and was constructed prior to the 1980s.

The new structure is expected to be up and running by mid-February, before the end of the winter maintenance shutdown period.

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