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Water Supply Outlook Still Uncertain

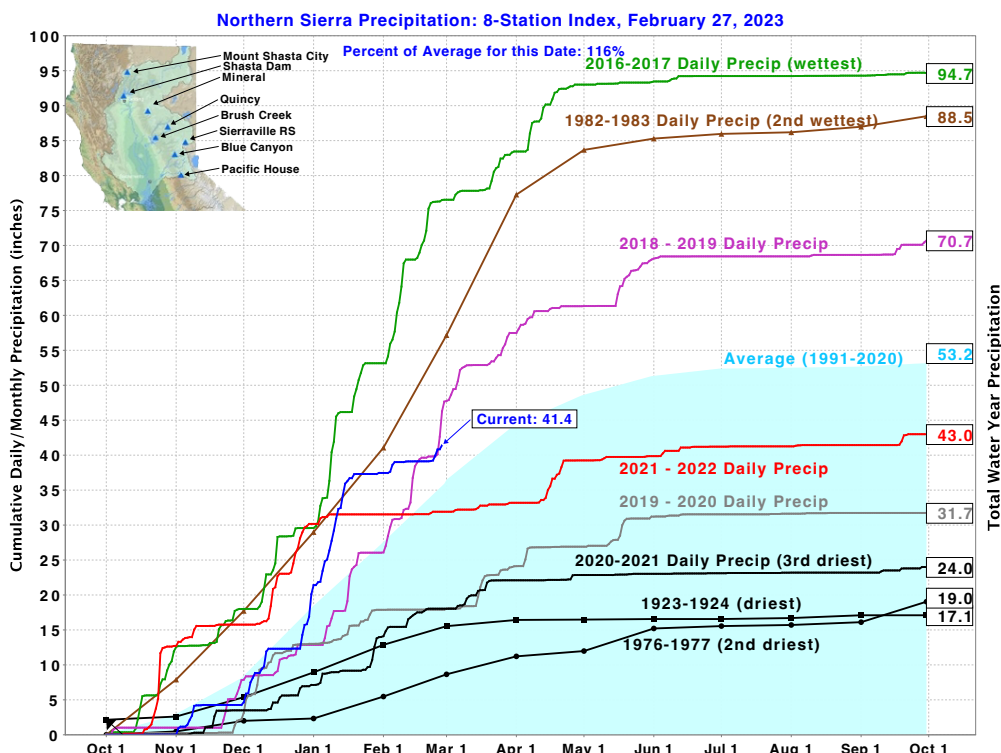


The 2023 water year is proving as hard to predict as the weather. The recent storms give us hope, but they come on the heels of an otherwise dry February.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) recently notified the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors that 2023 is a Non-Critical Year, which allows for 100% of their contract supply. However, recent precipitation has been well below average and the total contract supply may be adjusted if conditions warrant an update.

USBR said it will continue to review the forecasted inflow to Shasta Lake and notify the Settlement Contractors of any significant changes.

"[W]e are all too aware of the precarious nature of recent weather patterns and must proceed prudently as we move through the water year—especially with below average storage in the state's largest reservoir, Shasta . . . As the water year progresses, changes in hydrology, actions that impact operations, and opportunities to deliver additional water will influence future allocations." – USBR



USBR has requested that the Settlement Contractors be prepared should conditions change, and the 2023 Water Year is ultimately declared to be a Critical Year, which results in a 75% contract supply.

GCID will continue to provide updates regarding the forecasted conditions and anticipated water supplies for this year as more information becomes available.

Shasta Reservoir Storage

- 2.7 million acre-feet (as of 2/24/23)
- Historical average for the date: 3.2 million acre-feet

Pre-season Landowner Meetings

WILL ADDRESS QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, NEW POLICIES

Water operator area landowner meetings are scheduled for the week of March 6 to provide water users with information on 2023 water planning efforts, infrastructure improvements and strategic plan updates.

Nine meetings will be held throughout the week, broken down by water operator areas. The goal is to inform and educate water users about new procedures and offer opportunities for dialogue about any issues of concern.



Please join us for your water operator area meeting to learn more.

WATER OPERATOR AREA MEETINGS

| Monday - March 6, 2023 | Tuesday - March 7, 2023 | Wednesday - March 8, 2023 | Thursday - March 9, 2023 |
|--|---|--|--|
| Jacinto Hall 7254 County Road 39, Bayliss | Willows City Council Chambers 201 N. Lassen St., Willows | Maxwell Legion Hall 230 Oak Street, Maxwell | Granzella's Inn 391 6th Street, Williams |
| Area 20 & Area 21 - 10:30 a.m. Area 22 - 1 p.m. | Area 23 - 9 a.m. Area 24 - 10:30 a.m. | Area 25 - 9 a.m. Area 26 - 10:30 a.m. | Area 27 - 9 a.m. Area 28 - 10:30 a.m. Area 29 - 1 p.m. |

New Technology Improves Water Reporting



All water operators will carry tablets to digitally record water delivery measurements this year, increasing accuracy and making water usage information readily available to landowners and water users.

There will be no paper and pencil notations transferred manually to spreadsheets in 2023. Newly implemented software allows personnel to record measurements directly on the tablet in the field. The information will be stored in a database, allowing for the creation of reports that can be sent to landowners regularly. Water usage data will also be provided to landowners upon request.

The system will help the District, landowners, and water users better track how much water has been delivered to their fields. Previously, it took a week or more to deliver that information.

Water operators and maintenance workers will be trained on the software and the use of devices required for taking the measurements. The new system will be field tested in March and ready for launch when the contract period starts April 1.

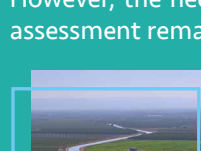
In addition to supporting GCID's strategic initiatives, digital data gathering gives the District better control of the entire delivery system, particularly in a Critical Year, and helps ensure water is delivered as efficiently as possible.

Rates and Assessment Vote Coming in 2024

The District is preparing for a Proposition 218 process next year where it will ask landowners to consider approving a changed water rate and assessment structure.

The District proposed a revised assessment to landowners in 2021-22, but landowners voted against the proposed assessment by a margin of 59% to 41%.

However, the need to restructure the water rates and assessment remains.



The assessment of \$1.62 per deeded acre has not changed in more than 40 years, and the revenue it generates is far short of the District's annual settlement contract expenses.

Changes are needed to ensure the long-term financial stability of the District. The District intends to work with landowners and growers in developing a water rate and assessment structure that spreads costs equitably and adequately supports District operations.

Maintenance Activities

The winter maintenance shutdown period is over, but crews continue to repair, replace and improve structures throughout the GCID delivery system. Maintenance and Water Operations staff will continue to inspect the system, install meter turnouts and clean laterals until the system is charged.

Here are some of the projects happening this month:

- Lateral Check Construction** - Two double-opening checks are being constructed in the Delevan and Williams areas.
- Main Canal/Lateral Inspection** - Crews are inspecting and repairing failing gates on the Main Canal and laterals.
- Remote Tracker Headgate Improvements** - Crews are installing platforms at lateral headgates to ensure staff accessibility and safety while conducting measurements.
- Flood Repairs** - Various locations throughout the District were impacted by January storms, with most damage east of Williams. Flood damage will be repaired in March and April.



Abel Check Modernization is Complete

The new structure on the Main Canal is up and running!

Abel Check was inspected and cleared on February 21, marking completion of another modernization and efficiency upgrade project for GCID. The original structure was built in the 1930s.

On the same day, GCID Water Operations staff began filling this reach of the Main Canal, about 48 miles downstream from the GCID Main Pump Station, in anticipation of frost protection water demand.

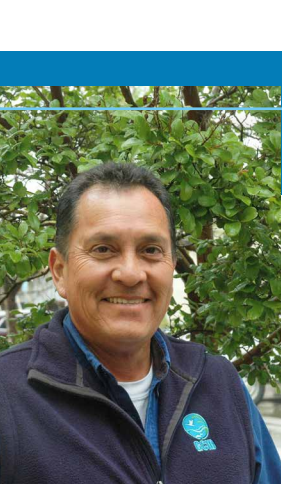
The electrical and SCADA work final year by RNR Construction is expected to wrap up by mid-March.

The three-month, \$3 million project included:

- Construction of a cast-in-place concrete water control structure, canal embankment excavation, backfill and compaction
- Installation of water control gates
- Construction of reinforced concrete canal lining and installation of rip rap canal lining
- Replacement of canal crossing siphon
- Replacement of irrigation lateral and farm turnout deliveries
- Installation of HDPE pipe and precast concrete turnout outlet structures
- Installation of SCADA improvements



Staff Changes and Additions



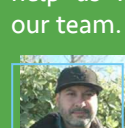
Longtime GCID employee and Water Operator Al Vargas has been named as the District's Maintenance Supervisor in Williams.

Al joined the District in 1991 and since then has performed numerous jobs in the Maintenance and Water Operations departments, including Acting Supervisor.

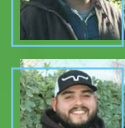
Al lives in Maxwell with his wife Donna. They have two adult children, Laramie and Andrew.

Say Hello TO GCID'S NEW EMPLOYEES

This year brings many new faces to GCID. Please help us welcome these important additions to our team.



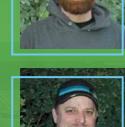
Francisco Gonzalez - Water Operations Worker



Luis Garcia - Water Operations Worker



Kevin Schuller - Water Accounting and SCADA Technician



Kyle Cannon - Water Operations Worker



Carl Burrows - Water Operations Worker



Axle Bualinthong - Water Operations Worker

Ways to update your contact information:

- 📞 Call the office: (530) 934-8881
- ✉ Email: contact@GCID.net
- 👤 Use the kiosk/tablet at the office front counter



GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Protecting agriculture and wildlife in the Sacramento Valley for more than a century