

DISTRICT UPDATE



Fishery Action Plan Would Protect Endangered Species and Water Rights

GCID is waiting to review a plan for long-term operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project to ensure that it protects the District's water supply needs while also benefiting winter-run salmon and other endangered fish species.

The District and other Sacramento River Settlement Contractors are advocating for a science-based Fishery Action Plan that focuses on environmental improvements beyond the federally ordered temperature controls in Shasta Reservoir and the river, which has been a complete failure to winter run salmon while creating devastating results in the Sacramento Valley.

GCID's effort stems from a reinitiation of consultation under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. The reinitiation was requested due to anticipated modifications to the long-term water project operations that may impact endangered species or designated critical habitat not analyzed in 2019 federal biological opinions (BiOps).

Additionally, the State of California and corporate environmental groups sued the U.S. Bureau Reclamation and sought injunctive relief from operating under the current biological opinions, which led to federal court-directed operations for the 2022 water year, which also resulted in the worst egg to fry survival on record.

Reclamation is working on a Proposed Action document that will focus on Shasta operations as well as operations in the Delta. The District is looking forward to reviewing this document and working with Reclamation to ensure the Proposed Action is consistent with the District's underlying water rights and Settlement Contract terms.

While Reclamation's focus continues to be on water operations and cold water in Shasta Reservoir for the single life stage management of one species (winter-run egg incubation), the District and other Settlement Contractors want broader watershed management that meets the needs of all species while evaluating tradeoffs.

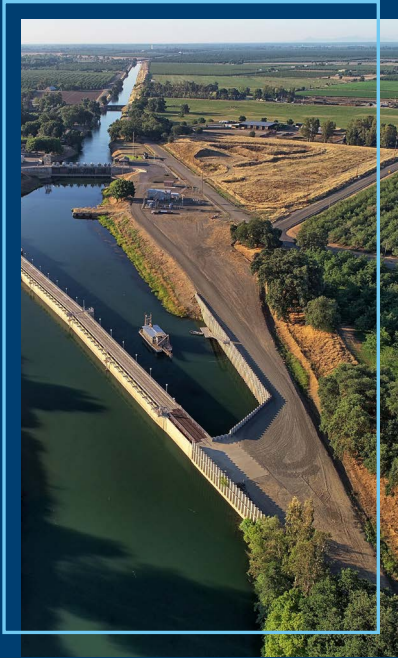
The District is concerned that the broader, more comprehensive recovery plan by the state and federal agencies will not improve winter-run and certainly will negatively affect other species, our region, landowners and economy.

We will provide more updates on the development of the new Biological Opinions in upcoming newsletters as more information becomes publicly available.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ***Fishery Action Plan Would Protect Endangered Species and Water Rights***
- ***18 Years of Litigation and Counting***
- ***Water Operations Update: 2023 Features Full Deliveries, Digital Tracking***
- ***District Seeks Federal Aid for Flood Damage Repairs***
- ***Welcome, New Employees***
- ***Upcoming Board of Directors Election***



18 Years of Litigation and Counting

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is considering the latest arguments in an 18-year-old lawsuit over Central Valley Project water supply contracts and endangered Chinook salmon and Delta smelt filed by the corporate environmental organization Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

On March 31, attorneys representing the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, which includes Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, argued in favor of the lower district court’s rulings against NRDC, which had appealed those decisions.

Most of the recent court argument focused on two issues:



First, do the terms of the Settlement Contracts give the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation sufficient discretion to modify contract performance to take actions (such as reducing water releases) to benefit spring-run and winter-run Chinook salmon?



And second, did federal agencies properly consult in 2015 on the alleged effects of renewing the Settlement Contracts and Delta Mendota Canal Contracts on Delta smelt?

THE NINTH CIRCUIT MAY ISSUE AN OPINION AS EARLY AS THIS SUMMER, BUT IT COULD TAKE A YEAR OR MORE, AFTER WHICH THE PARTIES COULD SEEK REVIEW BY THE U.S. SUPREME COURT.

WATER OPERATIONS UPDATE: 2023 Features Full Deliveries, Digital Tracking

BY JAKE HANCOCK, INTERIM ASSISTANT WATER OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT

With a full delivery year for the first time in quite a while, the Water Operations team is busier than ever this season.

On of May 2, the flow at the Hamilton City Pump Station was 2,200 cubic feet per second and diversions are being ramped up to best serve landowners and water users across the entire service area.

In addition to receiving 100% District supply, GCID has hired 14 new Water Operations Workers who have been trained on using tablets to digitally record delivery measurements. Measurements are taken by all Water Operations Workers with new velocity meters and two staff members are using the Remote Tracker on the Main Canal headgates.



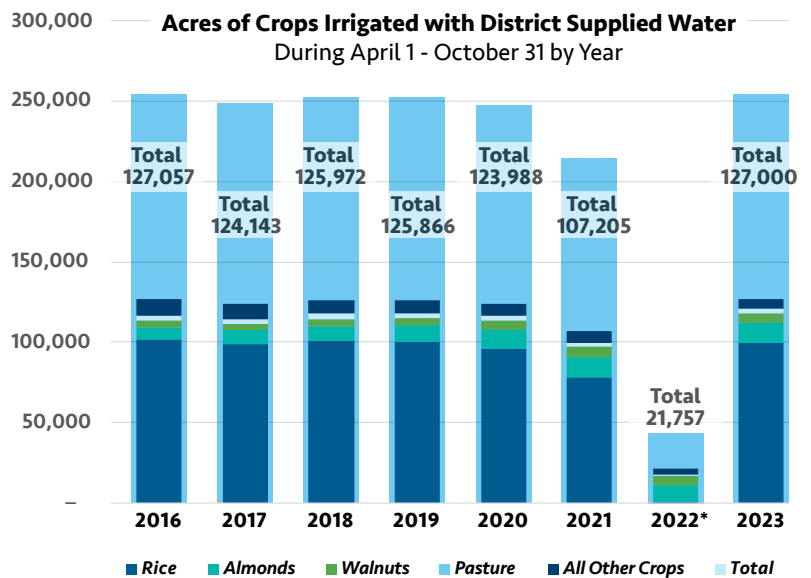
The information produced by the new system will allow the District to provide landowners with water usage data on request and ensure accurate deliveries, particularly in Critical Years.

With all these changes, the Water Operations Department and the District thank growers for their patience and cooperation during this exciting time!



Planted Acreage

The water application period wrapped up April 28 and the planted acreage this year is much closer to normal. Crops total 127,000 acres, just under the 2016 total.



*Denotes Shasta Critical Year (2020 revised to non-Shasta Critical after water application process concluded).

Maintenance Activities

District Seeks Federal Aid for Flood Damage Repairs

GCID is pursuing reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approximately \$20,000 in damage caused by flooding in the January storms



The lower portion of the District, east of Williams, experienced moderate to severe damage, and the area between Willows and Maxwell reported minor damage. District supervisors prioritized repairs based on when and where water deliveries would be needed first.

Last month, District staff met with FEMA representatives to discuss the damage and repair process. FEMA representatives conducted site inspections at all 14 locations on April 4.

All flood damage repairs will be completed by May 15 and submitted online to FEMA for cost recovery.

Welcome, New Employees



Ed Henderson
Water Operations Superintendent

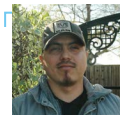
I grew up in the small town of Rio Oso in Sutter County, south of Yuba City. I attended Yuba Community College and California State University, Sacramento while working on several farms and a fertilizer company.

After college, I worked as the Operations Manager at a crop protection company, then as Watermaster/Dam Tender at South Sutter Water District in Trowbridge for 12 years, where I ran water out of Camp Far West Lake and kept two powerhouses up and running. It was at SSWD that I learned the art/science of running water, proper measurement procedures, canal maintenance and other skills that will be put to use here at GCID.

My career also included a three-year stretch as Operations Manager of a large agricultural tree nursery where I oversaw more than 75 employees.

On the personal side, I have been married to my wife Christie for 26 years and we have three children: Max, 24, Emily, 21, and Jack, 15. We enjoy hunting, fishing and traveling.

I'm looking forward to meeting all the members of this District.



Gonzalo Medina Sanchez
Williams Maintenance Worker

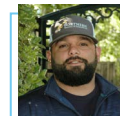


Ashton Awad
SCADA Water Accounting Worker

WATER OPERATIONS WORKERS



TJ Morris



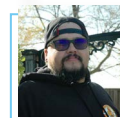
Jacob Prasad



Freddy Pio



Brandon Mahoney



Charles Zapata



Will Otterson



Jordan Hartman



Upcoming Board of Directors Election

GCID will hold an election on August 29 for three seats on the Board of Directors. The following Director positions are open for four-year terms:

DIVISION ONE

DIVISION TWO

DIVISION THREE

Candidates must be voters and landowners within the division for which the nomination petition is filed.




Declarations of candidacy may be obtained at the District office, 344 East Laurel Street, Willows. They must be returned to the District office by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 2.

If no incumbents have declared their candidacy by June 2, the deadline to file declarations will be extended to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, for other candidates. Candidates are required to pay for the publication of a Candidate's Statement as required by the Elections Code.



GCID is committed to timely and effective communications with landowners and water users. If you haven't already done so, please provide your email address and cell phone number so we can send the latest updates through electronic newsletters, robocalls and texts.

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