

DISTRICT UPDATE



Thad Bettner: NEW HORIZONS

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) General Manager Thaddeus L. Bettner announced his plans to resign from his position, effective September 22, 2023. The District is extremely appreciative of Bettner’s leadership, dedication, and outstanding service to the District and the Sacramento Valley, and extends to him best wishes going forward.

Bettner has worked for the District since 2006 as its General Manager. He is a registered civil engineer and recognized expert on issues of water and the environment. He has guided the District through critical water policy changes while improving the District’s infrastructure and building and investing in partnerships. Bettner has used his 33 years of experience across California in the water resources field to bring innovative solutions to historically challenging problems.

“When Thad joined GCID, I was immediately impressed with his knowledge, humility, honesty, work ethic and loyalty to the District. Thad became a resource not only for GCID but other entities in the Sacramento Valley,” said Director Don Bransford, who served

as the President of GCID from 1992-2022. “Many of those agencies have looked to Thad to help in efforts to protect water rights and enhance water supplies, grow partnerships, protect agriculture and working landscapes, and improve the environment.”

“Thad has been a pleasure to work with and our District has been fortunate to have him as Manager. He has helped get us through some of the most challenging times we have faced as a District and landowners,” added GCID Board member Pete Knight.

David Guy, President of Northern California Water Association, stated, “Thad has been an incredible asset to GCID and the entire Sacramento Valley. It’s hard to put into words the positive effect he has had on the Sacramento Valley, and how he has helped make the region a better place by advancing our collective thinking and solutions to California’s water management challenges. I sincerely hope that he will remain engaged in our issues and active in our region going forward in his new ventures.”

“It’s bittersweet for me to announce that I will be resigning from my position as General Manager. I have been honored to work with such a loyal and dedicated team of staff at GCID, and I am incredibly proud of our accomplishments over the past 17 years. I’m looking forward to visiting family and friends before embarking on the next phase of my life,” emphasized Bettner.

The Board of Directors will appoint an Interim General Manager to serve after Bettner’s resignation, and will soon begin a process to select his replacement. Bettner will continue working for the District during the next several months to support the management transition.

Key Water Department Updates

The Water Department has diligently tackled necessary repairs, training and upkeep. Find important updates below.

- **Willard Check Gates Repairs:** GCID staff are working to repair these gates, meeting with representatives from multiple water control companies for bids on replacement motors and gears.
- **Water Measurement:** Please note that water measurement is ongoing.
- **Field Draining Advance Notice:** GCID continues to remind growers to give at least seven days’ notice before draining any fields. Please avoid pulling all boards at once; drain fields slowly.
- **Upcoming Operations:** Plans for the next water season are underway and Water Users Work Group meetings are being scheduled.
- **Water Operator Education:** Water Operators continue to meet for ongoing training and consult with Supervisors to ensure they provide top-tier service to landowners.
- **Current Water Conditions:** The main canal is currently running at 1,950 cubic feet per second (CFS). Lake Shasta storage is 3.71 million acre-feet (MAF).
- **Notch Boards:** Rice growers’ use of notch boards in their tail boxes has been excellent this year. The District appreciates landowner partnership in this task.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP: Sacramento River Settlement Contractors and Fishing Groups Propose Urgent Hatchery Expansion

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) and local salmon fishing organizations have formed the Bridge Group to develop immediate solutions focused on increasing the populations of fall run and winter run salmon.

The Bridge Group — comprised of the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (of whom GCID is a member), Northern California Guides and Sportsmen's Association, Pacific Coast Federation Fishermen's Associations and the Northern California Water Association — is named for its desire to cross divides and deliver constructive resolutions to historic problems and disagreements.

The Group has called on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to urgently support their proposal of maximizing current hatchery capacity to 19 to 20 million eyed eggs with current infrastructure and adding 6 million eyed eggs with expanded egg tray stacks.

"The local chinook salmon population is endangered, and our battle to ensure their recovery is hard-fought," James Stone, Executive Director of Norcal Guides, said. "Implementing these efforts is a pressing matter in securing their resilience. Time is of the essence."



The Bridge Group met with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on May 24 and June 13, discussing changes in hatchery practices that could benefit fall run salmon production this autumn, when adults come into the upper Sacramento River to spawn. **With government backing, the Bridge Group will take specific and effective action to mitigate harm to regional salmon, including the following:**

Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery

Move and rear 1.5 to 2 million fall run eyed eggs to the inside building up to the juvenile stage

- Rear eggs and juveniles in Sacramento River water to decrease straying.
- With the Shasta Reservoir near flood stage this fall, increased winter releases will occur. Juveniles will be released into the Sacramento River during higher flows.
- Expand parental-based tagging (PBT) capability above and below Shasta/Keswick Dams.

Coleman National Fish Hatchery

Raise an additional 5.7 million fall run eyed eggs

- Additional stacks of egg trays will need to be acquired to implement this.
- Expand usage of existing raceways.
- Plan for future capacity increases to 26 million fall Chinook salmon.

Release schedule

- With Shasta near flood stage this fall, increased winter releases will occur. Juveniles will be released into the Sacramento River during higher flows.
- Release fry/smolt into rice fields as surrogate floodplain habitat.
- Release remaining fry in river-side channels or tributaries.
- Release Coded Wire Tag (CWT) 12 million smolts from Coleman National Fish Hatchery.
- Truck CWT 2 million smolts to the ocean from Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery.

Evaluate parental-based tagging capability

- PBT not only allows for monitoring of adult returns and genetics but also for earlier release schedules concurrent with flow events and improved river conditions.



These essential measures will incur significant costs, but the Bridge Group is prepared to share the burden. Despite concerns about staff limitations, physical hatchery space, permitting or other agency approvals, the Bridge Group knows it can be done — this is precisely how the hatchery historically operated in the 1990s.

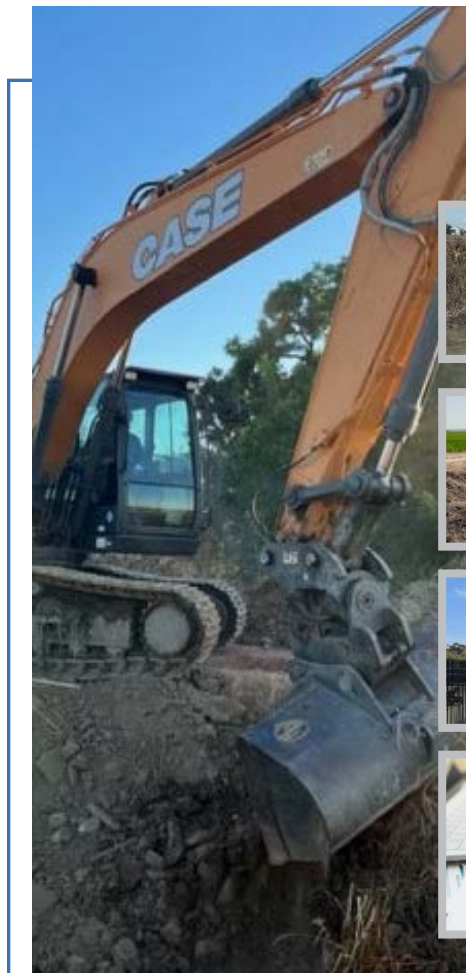
Winter Water Available for Rice Decomposition and Habitat Uses

Landowners and water users in the District can take advantage of a reduced water rate of \$5 per acre-foot for rice straw decomposition and winter habitat purposes.

The Board of Directors approved the winter water rate at its August 21, 2023, meeting, citing the need for an equitable rate that encourages a healthy farm environment.

Landowners and water users can apply for winter water at the District office, where GCID's office staff is available to assist with all water application needs. Application and payment must be submitted before deliveries can begin, and deliveries may not be possible in areas impacted by scheduled or ongoing maintenance projects.

PLEASE NOTE: The canal will be shut down, and all deliveries terminated, for winter maintenance on January 7, 2024.



Key Maintenance Project Updates

Get up to date on District maintenance, improvements and other crucial information below.



Aquatics Removal — GCID is monitoring and eliminating aquatics in laterals and drains District-wide. This includes assisting Delevan and Colusa refuges with aquatics removal.



Scheduled Upkeep — The District is repairing damages to the conveyance system due to erosion, holes and other impairments. It also continues to spray and mow where needed. Landowners may request private work which the District will fulfill as schedules permit.



New Equipment — GCID recently purchased a used 2015 Manitex 40-ton crane to expedite critical infrastructure improvements.



Administrative Updates — GCID is developing its Infrastructure Improvement Budget and Equipment Replacement Budget for the 2023 to 2024 fiscal year. The Engineering team is completing lateral modernization plans to improve water operations on laterals 21-4 and 48-1.

Post Office Box 150
Willows, California 95988






Staff Updates and Additions

Longtime GCID employee and Water Operations Worker Ross Seiler has been promoted to Interim Water Supervisor.



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

Say Hello *TO GCID'S NEW EMPLOYEES*

Please help us welcome these important additions to our team.



Justin Chaves
Water Operations Worker



Aaron Stewart
SCADA Technician



Derek Studebaker
Water Operations Worker



Jared Thuemler
Water Operations Worker



Audrey Ward
Water Operations Worker