

DISTRICT UPDATE

Infrastructure Improvements: District Commences Lateral Modernization Program, Completes Lateral 21-4 Project

GCID has embarked on a Lateral Modernization Program as part of its commitment to continuously upgrading the District's aging infrastructure. Lateral 21-4, located in Area 22, is responsible for delivering water to approximately 969 acres. It is the first to be fully modernized.

A well-functioning lateral is vital to water service, and aging laterals are prone to damage and possible failure. Modernizing laterals improves delivery, water levels, and delivery measurement throughout the entire irrigation network.

"GCID is dedicated to efficient and uninterrupted irrigation deliveries for our landowners and water users," Interim General Manager Greg Krzys said. "Updating our infrastructure, including laterals that serve a critical role in the water conveyance system, is a testament to that."



The Willows maintenance and water crews worked on the Lateral 21-4 Modernization Project for two months, replacing one check and retrofitting several more for smoother, more efficient operations. The crew replaced and retrofitted tail boxes on all field deliveries to improve future water measurement. The improved laterals feature Irrigation and Training Research Center (ITRC) Flap Gates, Long-Crested Weirs, and Metergate turnouts with Remote Tracker Brackets. The project was completed in November.

Moving forward, the District will select additional laterals that are good candidates for modernization. Lateral 48-1 is the next on the list, with construction set to start on January 8.



GCID thanks its staff for working diligently on the Lateral 21-4 Modernization Project, including (L-R): Steve Osa, Jim Smith, Axel Boualinthong, Justin Chavez, Shasta Banchio, Dylan Fusaro, Greg Abbott, Matt Taylor, Bob Packard, Byron Sites, Eric Hanson, Jared Thuemler, Derek Studebaker, Floyd Parker, Dyllen Broussard, Loren Chapman, Carl Burrows, Anthony Fernandez, Mike Stilwell (*not pictured*), Mike Wooldridge (*not pictured*) and Isaac Lopez (*not pictured*). The District also congratulates Assistant Engineer Shasta Banchio on completing her first major engineering project.

Water Department Activities

- **#10 Pump Repairs:** The Pump Station Crew removed the #10 pump for repairs and scheduled maintenance. The District rented a crane and operator due to the large size of the pump. This helped the crew remove the apparatus and load the pump onto a truck to be hauled to a company that specializes in pump maintenance.
- **#2 Pump Maintenance:** Along with maintaining the Pump Station, GCID crews are pulling out the #2 pump at “Cheese Factory” north of Maxwell for scheduled maintenance. This pump will be out for approximately a month and a half. The remaining pump will move enough water to handle the Winter Water load demand.
- **Winter Water Update:** Winter Water deliveries are in full swing; currently, GCID has applications for 65,275 acres to be flooded for rice decomposition and duck water. Water Operators are moving water into fields as quickly as possible, with most orders being delivered the next day. Additionally, the Sacramento, Delevan and Colusa refuges are taking 240 cubic feet per second (CFS) of water daily. This is expected to continue until the GCID Main Canal turnoff in early January.
- **Water Users Work Group:** The Water Department recently reached out to water users through a Water Users Work Group and received positive feedback on the 2023 irrigation season and plans for 2024. This winter, the Water Department will be holding area meetings to discuss any changes that may be required for the upcoming season.



Key Maintenance Project Updates



- ✓ **Ranch Weir** — The Ranch Weir replacement project is nearing completion. The crews have constructed and backfilled the weir structure, placed rock slope protection, and have completed construction of the field delivery.
- ✓ **32-2a Replacement** — The 32-2a drain flume, check, and turnout are being replaced.
- ✓ **Lateral Modernization Program** — Lateral 48-1 is scheduled for modernization.
- ✓ **Main Canal** — A drain siphon under the Main Canal at MP-43.85 is being replaced.

GCID Welcomes Two New Water Supervisors



Ross Seiler has been promoted to the position of Water Supervisor after serving the District as an Interim Supervisor. A lifelong Willows resident, Ross previously worked as a Water Operator for 17 years and covered every water area within GCID. He has also worked in the

Maintenance Department on construction projects during the winter shutdowns, building and repairing many of our most important structures.

Ross and his wife Emma have a one-year-old son, Kaleb, and enjoy hunting and fishing. Ross has guided bear and mountain lion hunts both in and out of state.



Matt Taylor has been promoted to Water Supervisor. He has 28 years of service with the District and delivered water in four areas over 24 years as a Water Operator. He worked an additional four years in the Maintenance Department.

Matt's carpentry skills have been a tremendous asset to GCID. He has built offices and worked on siphons, including Baker Creek, Willows Creek and Willits. Matt has served as a construction lead in the wintertime for the last 10 years.

Matt and his wife of 28 years, Lisa, have three children — Kanon, 24, Grayson, 22, and Journey, 17. In his free time, he enjoys golfing, hunting, fishing and four-wheeling in his Jeep.



Upcoming Water Rates Public Hearing:

Thursday, February 15, 2024

Landowners and water users should have recently received notice of a public hearing in the mail. The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 9 a.m. The public hearing has been set to consider increases to the maximum water rates that may be charged by up to 5% during the 2024 irrigation season and by up to an additional 5% during the 2025 irrigation season.

The water rates that landowners and water users pay are the primary revenue source for the District. In a normal year, the water rates account for about 65% of the District's total revenue and are critical to its operations.

The District has not enacted a water rate increase since 2021. The proposed water rate increases are needed to:



Reduce the shortfall between the cost of providing irrigation services and the total revenue the District receives to support its operations.



Avoid rate increases of much greater magnitude in future years.

The document mailed to you includes more details, including additional budget information about the proposed water rate increases, the substantive and procedural requirements the District must meet in enacting water rate increases, and how to protest the proposed water rate increase.

Please review the information that was mailed to you. If you did not receive the information in the mail, or if you have any questions, call District Finance Director Louis Jarvis at the Main Office (530-934-8881) or email him (ljjarvis@gcid.net) for more information or clarification.

Thank You for Your Service

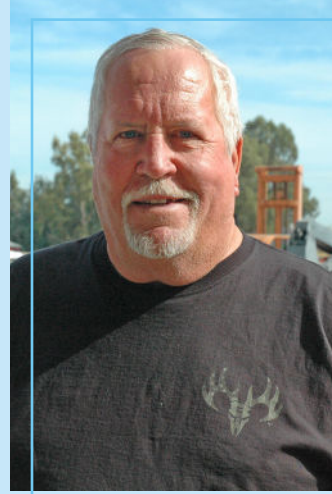
GCID honors two retirees, Mike Wooldridge and Steven Mendes, for their combined 50 years of commitment to the District.

GCID presented Mike Wooldridge and Steven Mendes with their retirement resolutions at the December 7 Board meeting. Each employee dedicated 25 years of service to the District.

Mike has contributed a broad range of skills to the Maintenance Department during his tenure, working as a Welder, Maintenance Worker, Shop Supervisor, and Mechanic and Equipment Shop Worker.

Steven displayed his talents as a Water Operations Worker and Maintenance Department employee during the winter months. Steven's efforts were especially vital during the major canal break in October 2013.

GCID is appreciative of their thorough knowledge of the District and its conveyance system and is grateful for their diligence, dependability and loyal service. Both employees will complete their last day on December 31.






Mike Wooldridge



Steven Mendes

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