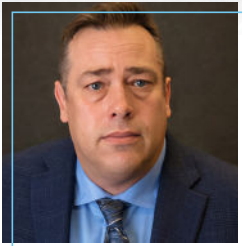


THE IRRIGATOR

Spring 2024



Jeff Sutton Joins GCID as **NEW GENERAL MANAGER**

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Board of Directors hereby introduces Jeff Sutton as the District's new General Manager, effective May 1. Sutton, an attorney, brings over 25 years of experience in California water to the job. He offers a local perspective as a fifth-generation Colusa County native raised on a family farm established in 1870.

As General Manager, Sutton will take over the management of the largest agricultural irrigation district in the Sacramento Valley, overseeing the operations and maintenance of a water conveyance system that serves 140,000 acres of irrigated farmland and over 20,000 acres of federal wildlife refuge lands. GCID's network also utilizes more than 2,000 miles of canals, laterals and drains. He will direct the District in its mission to deliver a reliable, affordable supply of irrigation water to more than 1,200 water users.

Sutton offers a local perspective as a fifth-generation Colusa County native raised on a family farm established in 1870.

Sutton brings to this role a deep understanding of irrigated agriculture in the region. He was raised on the family ranch in Maxwell, and the District has played an important role in the Sutton family history. In 1887, his great-great-grandfather, George Mock Sutton, was instrumental in establishing the organization (the Central Irrigation District) that became GCID. Senator Louis G. Sutton, his great-grandfather, was elected to represent the region in the state legislature for over two decades, including serving as Chairman of the Senate Water and Agriculture Committee. His father, John Sutton, served on the GCID Board of Directors for 22 years. Sutton's interest in California water was initiated with his participation in the first class of the GCID Water Leadership Group in 1995.

Sutton comes to GCID from the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) where he served as General Manager for over 17 years. At TCCA, Sutton was responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of the Sacramento Canals Unit of the Central Valley Project (CVP), a 130-mile-long dual canal water irrigation system spanning four counties, serving 17 CVP water districts and 150,000 acres of farmland located on the west side of the Sacramento Valley. Sutton has also been intimately involved in the development of the Sites Reservoir Project, serving as a Director on the Sites Reservoir JPA Board for the last decade, and as Vice-Chairman for the past five years.

Prior to TCCA, Sutton worked to protect water and property rights as the Executive Director of the Family Water Alliance; he also worked as an attorney in private practice with a focus on water law and business and real estate litigation. Sutton has a Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego - School of Law, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley.



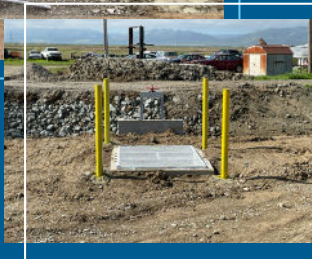
As President of the GCID Board of Directors, I invite all of the District landowners to join me in welcoming Jeff as the new General Manager. I have known and worked with Jeff in various capacities over the past two decades and can personally attest to his passion and commitment to the protection of North State water rights and the preservation of agriculture. I look forward to working with Jeff and his leadership in guiding GCID's efforts to manage, maintain and modernize the District to reliably, effectively and affordably serve its landowners, now and into the future.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS: District Continues Lateral Modernization Program with Lateral 48-1 Project



Lateral 48-1 is the latest to be upgraded as part of GCID's Lateral Modernization Program. The effort is part of the District's commitment to continuously update aging infrastructure and ensure stable water service. Up-to-date laterals provide reliable delivery, water levels and delivery measurement throughout GCID's irrigation network.

GCID selected Lateral 48-1 to allow for better elevation control and for Water Operators to measure water delivered at the field level. Maintenance Workers and Water Operators completed two full check replacements, adding an Irrigation and Training Research Center (ITRC) Flap Gate that opens with additional water flow. This prevents overtopping, eliminating the need for a Water Operator to remove boards from the check. The team also retrofitted one check to install another ITRC gate, increasing the efficiency of water delivery.



The District installed five field delivery turnouts to replace failing or near-end-of-life deliveries. The replacements were equipped with remote tracker brackets for easier and more accurate measurement by the Water Operators. Three field deliveries remained in good shape – they received tail boxes with remote tracker brackets too.

As the District moves forward with future improvement projects, it will prioritize elevation control and accurate measurement. Each modernization project brings GCID closer to field-level measurement throughout the irrigation system.

Photos above: Rebar mat, form boards for added floor-to-structure retrofit. Field delivery stilling well connection to pipeline – metal poles installed for safety.



Photos above: Pouring concrete floor and curtainwall on new check structures. Completed new check structure.



Pouring concrete floor and curtainwall on new check structures.

Key Winter Maintenance Updates

GCID is grateful to its staff for their diligent work during the maintenance shutdown period and beyond. This work would not be possible without them!



Lateral Modernization Program — Lateral 21-4 was upgraded with one full check replacement, six check retrofits, 12 field delivery turnouts installed, six tail boxes added for measurement purposes and spill replacement. Lateral 48-1 has also been upgraded with two full check replacements, one check retrofit, five field delivery turnouts installed and three tail boxes added for measurement purposes.

Ranch Weir — The weir failed in 2022 and required replacement. GCID has completed removal, relocation and construction of this project.

Old Tuttle Check — The check was removed by a contractor. It was replaced during the 2020-2021 maintenance season.

General Maintenance — GCID crews replaced 28 field deliveries and added 40 tail boxes for measurement during the maintenance shutdown. Several drains and laterals underwent cleaning to remove sediment.



New Employees Join the District

GCID welcomes new employees to our hard-working team!



Manny Chavez
Water Operations
Worker



Jaime Garcia
Water Operations
Worker



Kevin Immoos
Water Operations
Worker



Troy McDonald
Water Operations
Worker



Jeremy Bill
Water Operations
Worker



Brian Kaps
Maintenance
Worker






Post Office Box 150
Willows, California 95988



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



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

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