

IRRIGATOR

GCID Launches Major Canal Modernization Project

Lurline Project Will Modernize Infrastructure and Improve Water Service

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) has announced the start of a major infrastructure project to replace the aging Lurline Check and Siphon structure on its Main Canal, a facility that has been in service for more than 80 years.

The Lurline Check and Siphon Replacement Project will result in the installation of a new control structure on the Main Canal and replace the siphon to convey water under Lurline Creek. The \$6 million project is designed to modernize and repair this 80-plus year old infrastructure, thereby improving operational efficiency and assuring reliable water deliveries to GCID farms into the future.

“The existing structure has served its purpose for decades, but it is showing its age and is currently in a state of disrepair. This replacement project is critical to preserve water service to our water users in that area of the District,” said General Manager Jeff Sutton. “The new modernized structure will allow GCID to maintain consistent water levels, increase capacity, eliminate loss and leakage into Lurline Creek, and provide fully remote operational control of the structure. It’s an investment in reliability and long-term sustainability for the landowners and water users.”

The new facility will combine overshot level-control gates with undershot pass-through capability and will be designed to handle flows of up to 680 cubic feet per second. Advanced sensors and motorized gates will enable remote operation of both the check and Lateral 49-2.

Project Timeline and Water Service Interruption

The construction schedule runs from September 8, 2025, through April 10, 2026. In-channel work is set to begin October 15, with the new structure expected to be operational by March 31, 2026.

GCID will be unable to deliver water in the affected shut down area between October 1, 2025, and March 16, 2026.

GCID acknowledges that this interruption comes during the critical post-harvest season. “We know this shutdown is a hardship, especially for water users who rely on water for rice straw decomposition,” said General Manager Sutton. “GCID regrets the inconvenience, but it is necessary to assure water service reliability into the future. That’s why we have been communicating with the affected growers for over a year, working to identify options to mitigate the impacts where possible, and to provide early notice to landowners to allow them to prepare for this water service interruption. We have also been working to provide alternative options to rice straw decomposition for the affected lands.”

Expanded Rice Straw Burning Opportunity

To address this challenge, GCID has coordinated with the Colusa County Ag Department and Air Pollution Control District to expand daily allocations of burn acreage specifically for landowners impacted by the project. This expanded program is intended to help offset the loss of decomposition water deliveries.

Farmers may apply through normal burn approval protocols and can contact the Air Pollution Control District at (530) 458-0590 or GCID Water Operations Superintendent Ed Henderson at (530) 804-3498 for additional information.

A Long-Term Investment

The project represents GCID’s ongoing commitment to modernizing its 65-mile Main Canal and more than 430 miles of laterals that support over 1,200 family farms and 140,000 acres of irrigated land.

“Replacing the Lurline Check and Siphon is not just about fixing an old structure,” said GCID Board President Logan Dennis. “It’s about securing reliable water delivery for decades to come.”

105th Anniversary Celebration

Proud of the Past, Looking to the Future



More than a century ago, the landowners on the west side of the Sacramento River in Glenn and Colusa Counties voted overwhelming to organize the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) to secure a reliable water supply for the farms and communities of the region. On September 5, 2025, the District marked its 105th Anniversary with a celebration at the Main Pump Station in Hamilton City. Guests enjoyed a self-guided walking tour featuring historic displays from the 1880s through the 2020s, conversations with GCID staff who served as docents for the day, a spectacular lunch, presentations honoring the historic milestone from state and federal elected representatives, and commentary by GCID Directors and integral partners from throughout the region celebrating the proud history of the District and optimism looking to the future.

GCID is the largest irrigation district in Northern California. GCID diverts from the Sacramento River to deliver irrigation water through its 65-mile long Main Canal and over 430 miles of laterals. Today, this system serves more



than 1,200 family farms and approximately 140,000 acres of irrigated agricultural land in Colusa and Glenn counties. GCID also conveys Central Valley Project water to over 20,000 acres of federal wildlife refuges including the Sacramento, Delevan, and Colusa National Wildlife Refuges, providing essential habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other species along the Pacific Flyway.

The celebration opened with remarks from General Manager Jeff Sutton, who traced the District's roots back to pioneer Will S. Green, often called the "Father of Irrigation" in California. In 1883, Green posted a handwritten notice on an oak tree near Hamilton City, claiming water from the Sacramento River. His vision laid the foundation for transforming the fertile plains of Colusa and Glenn counties into one of the world's most productive agricultural regions.

Despite early challenges, local landowners persevered. On February 21, 1920, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District was officially organized, carrying forward Green's dream of a reliable irrigation system to sustain farms and communities in the Sacramento Valley.

GCID steadily expanded and modernized its facilities. The construction of the Main Pump Station, laterals, siphons, and recapture systems allowed the District to adapt to changing crops, markets, and environmental conditions. Even during the economic hardships of the Great Depression and the challenges of drought years, GCID upheld its commitment to deliver water efficiently and reliably, becoming the backbone of the farming economy in Colusa and Glenn counties.



As agriculture evolved, so did GCID's role in balancing water supply with environmental stewardship. Cooperative projects with state and federal agencies helped improve fish passage along the Sacramento River, restore spawning gravel for salmon, and enhance wetlands for migratory birds. These efforts, combined with the District's investments in modernized infrastructure and water-use efficiency, have made GCID a model for how agriculture and habitat can coexist and thrive in the Sacramento Valley.

While the anniversary reflected proudly on GCID's past, the day was also forward-looking.

Guest speakers included Adam Nickels, USBR Great Valley Basin Regional Director; Andrew Hitchings, Somach Simmons & Dunn; David Guy, Northern California Water Association; Brendan Leigh, USFWS Refuge Complex; Teri Dubose representing Congressman LaMalfa; Juleah Cordi representing Assemblyman Gallagher; Breyden Coma representing Senator Dahle. Their reflections underscored GCID's impact not only on the Sacramento Valley, but on California water as a whole. From its 100,000 acres of ricelands that sustain both local economies and millions of migratory birds, to its leadership in salmon recovery through fish screens,



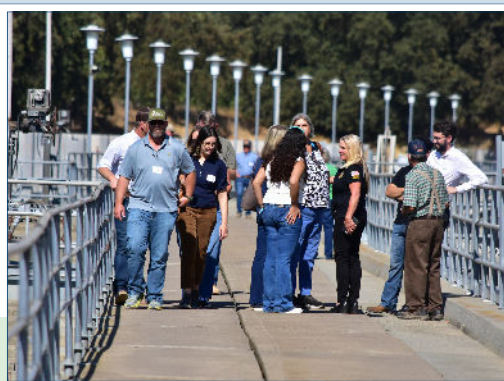
spawning-gravel projects, aquatic habitat restoration, and floodplain reactivation, GCID exemplifies how farming and ecological stewardship can coexist and thrive together.

GCID extends its gratitude to all of its regional, state, and federal partners, local officials, neighboring districts, community guests, landowners, and District

staff (past and present) who joined in honoring this milestone. Special thanks are also extended to congressional and legislative offices for their recognitions and ongoing support.

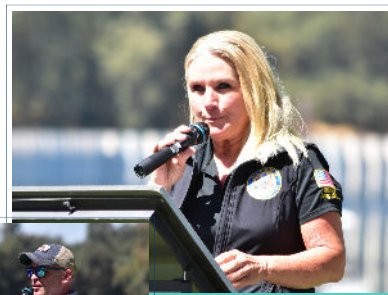


In celebrating the formation of GCID and its impressive and storied history, it is important to emphasize and honor the critical role of those who joined together, persevering despite a myriad of challenges, to make Will S. Green's vision a reality, and whose lands comprise GCID - the District landowners. To undertake such a daunting endeavor required amazing courage, ingenuity, commitment and pioneering fortitude. This event was truly a celebration of the landowners' commitment to the District, a critical partnership that remains imperative as we march into the future prepared to meet the challenges to come.



The District acknowledges the hard work and dedication of its employees. From planning and fabrication to setup, safety, and hospitality, every department played a vital role. Staff members served as docents, prepared displays, guided traffic and parking, coordinated utilities, and ensured a seamless visitor experience, making the 105th Anniversary Celebration a true reflection of GCID's legacy and its future.

Sutton emphasized that GCID's strength lies in its people: *"I am confident because of the talented and devoted GCID staff that is dedicated to operating, maintaining, and modernizing our water delivery system to reliably serve the irrigation needs of the farms that make up the District for today, tomorrow, and generations to come."*



GCID Welcomes New Assistant General Manager

On July 7, 2025, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) welcomed Brad Mattson as its new Assistant General Manager.

Raised in a rice farming family, with deep roots in agriculture and a passion for water management, Mattson has built a career committed to serving farming communities and stewarding vital water resources.

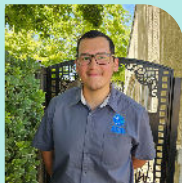
Mattson advanced to leadership roles in the water industry, serving in the role of General Manager for both the Sutter Mutual Water Company/Reclamation District 1500 in Robbins, California, and the Aberdeen Springfield Canal Company (Idaho). Before joining GCID, he was a Field Representative with The Morning Star Packing Company in Williams, California.

Mattson holds a B.S. in Agricultural Business and a minor in Water Science, from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

"On behalf of the GCID Board, I wish to welcome Brad as our new Assistant General Manager. He has spent a career working in water and agriculture in the Sacramento Valley. I feel very fortunate to add an individual of Brad's talent and experience to the GCID Leadership team," said Logan Dennis, GCID Board President



Welcome to GCID



Cristian Silva
Water Operations Worker



Nicole Enck
Accounting Specialist

Anthony Ortiz
Maintenance Worker

Congratulations to Byron Sites!

The District proudly honors Byron Sites on his retirement after 28½ years of service. From his early work on the Baker Creek Siphon to his skilled leadership on concrete and weir projects, his craftsmanship strengthened GCID's infrastructure. We wish him happiness in retirement and thank him for his remarkable career."



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