

Directors

WM. PUCHEU
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Tranquillity Irrigation District

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Manager

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June 15, 2004

TO: All Tranquillity I. D. Growers and Operators

FROM: Sarge Green

SUBJECT: Water Orders, Enforcement of Rules for Turning Water On and Off

At the regular Board meeting held on June 8, 2004, the Board of Directors re-affirmed their desire to make sure the irrigation water distribution system is working as effectively and equitably as possible. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

A specific issue was brought to the forefront as the result the recent levee failure in the Delta and the need to temporarily reduce Mendota Pool deliveries. The issue was the failure on the part of some operators to turn on the fields on the day they have ordered, or conversely, to not have the day set when they will turn off. The issue has come to light recently because the District computer program summarizes the amount of water needed in the system on a daily basis which is then ordered from the Delta pumps by the Watermaster. The review of the information found that we were over-ordering our water because some operators were not turning on when they said they would or duplicating their orders. The Delta pump operators then have to cut back on Pool deliveries, which then shorts us when the next round of upcoming orders come into play, thereby causing the Watermaster to have to hold new orders off. As a result of these problems, the Board affirmed that ordering and shutoff penalty provisions in the District Rules should be enforced. One specific impact is that those who order and do not take the water on the specific fields they order will be charged a 10% penalty on each and every field this happens. The problem can be avoided by changing the order to another field but such changes must be made no less than 24 hours in advance. Similarly, we need shut off dates so we know how much water to continue to order/and or transfer to the new orders. If someone does not shut off within a reasonable time of when they stated, they will impact new orders also, therefore the rules will come into play for surcharges of 10% on these circumstances also.

Before any of these penalties are levied, the District will give the operator three notices. The first notice will be to identify the problem, which fields and when, etc. The second notice will be the final warning on where and when the problem occurred and that the next circumstance will be the third letter implementing the surcharge. The third letter will levy the surcharge and report the amount we will be adding to the water bill.

*Burn down your cities and they will spring up again as if by magic;
but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country.*

Letter to Growers

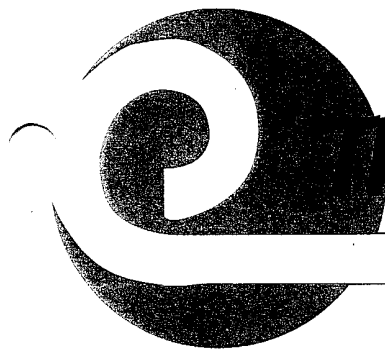
June 2004

Page 2

As always, the recipient of any of the notices we are describing above can appeal them, first to the manager and secondly to the Board.

A brief version of the Rules governing this issue is enclosed for your review.

Should you have any questions on this matter, please contact the office at your convenience.



The Westside Resource

Serving Western Fresno County

Vol. 4, Issue 4

4th Quarter 2004

Westside Resource Conservation District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Linda Anderson
Coalinga
- Eugene Brughelli, Jr.
Riverdale
- Jorgen Clausen
Cantua Creek
- Phil Erro
Fresno
- Craig Finster
Coalinga
- Sam Johnson
Coalinga
- John Diener, President
Five Points
- Bob Viets, Vice President
Coalinga

STAFF

- WRCD
P.O. Box 38
Tranquillity, CA 93668
Sargeant J. "Sarge" Green
Manager
(559) 698-7225
Cell (559) 647-9198

Stewards of the Arroyo Pasajero Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Program

- Linda Ballentine
(925) 855-7185
Fax (925) 855-7195

Panoche-Silver Creek Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Program

Vacant

IFDM Drainage Coordinator

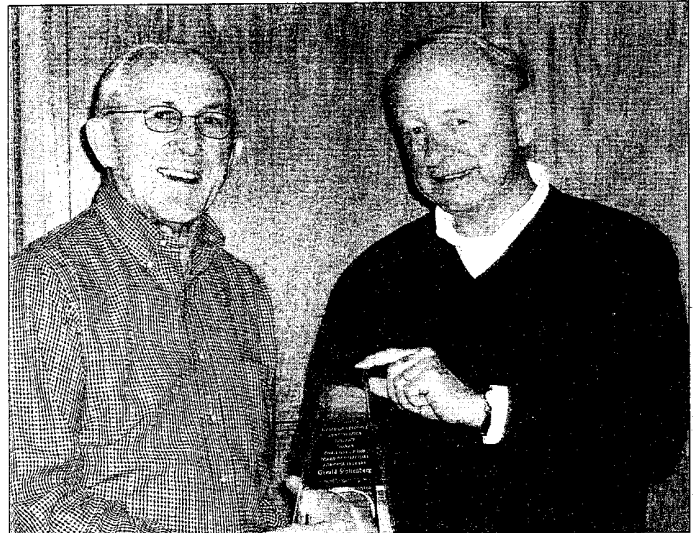
- Morris "Red" Martin
(559) 227-2489
Fax (559) 227-0215

WRCD elects new officers

Five Points area diversified farmer John Diener was elected president of the Westside Resource Conservation District. Coalinga area almond producer Bob Viets was elected vice president.

Diener will take over leadership duties from Gerald Stoltenberg, who retired from the WRCD Board of Directors after serving more than 10 years on the Board and as president. Stoltenberg was a landowner in the

Please see Officers page 6



WRCD Vice President Bob Viets, at right, presents Gerald R. Stoltenberg, retiring president of the WRCD Board of Directors, with a plaque highlighting Stoltenberg's many years of leadership at the December meeting.

AIR QUALITY NEWS

Deadline for CMP compliance is approaching quickly

Friday, Dec. 31 is the last day that farmers can submit their required plans to reduce dust emissions from their farms.

The rules, Air District Rule 3190 (Conservation Management Practices Fee) and Rule 4550 (Conservation Management Practices), apply to farmers with:

- 100 contiguous farmed acres;
- 500 or more cows (dairy);
- 190 or more cows (feedlot);
- 55,000 or more turkeys (turkey ranch);
- 125,000 or more chickens (chicken ranch); or

- 82,000 or more laying hens (chicken egg ranch).

These farmers and ranchers are required to prepare and implement Conservation Management Practice (CMP) plans for their agriculture operations to the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District. The deadline to implement the plans was July 31, but the CMP written forms are not due until Dec. 31.

Examples of CMP practices include activities that reduce or eliminate Particulate Matter (PM) 10, such as the need to move or disturb the soil;

Please see CMP page 7

Upcoming meetings

January 5
Arroyo Pasajero Watershed CRMP

January 18
WRCD Board of Directors

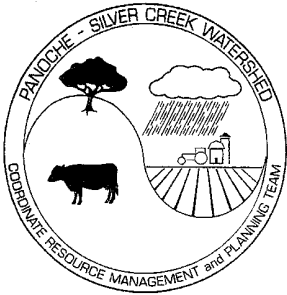
February 2
Arroyo Pasajero Watershed CRMP

February 15
WRCD Board of Directors

March 2
Arroyo Pasajero Watershed CRMP

March 15
WRCD Board of Directors

Meeting time and location details are included inside.



WATERSHED News

Vol. VII, Issue 4

Fourth Quarter 2004

Panoche/Silver Creek Watershed

Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP)

Ranchers, farmers and local citizens

Broadview Water District

Bureau of Land Management

Cal-Trans

California Department of Water Resources

California Department of Fish and Game

City of Mendota

Cooperative Extension Services

Environmental Protection Agency

Firebaugh Canal Water District

Fresno County Department of Public Works

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Private Clubs and Organizations

San Benito County

San Benito Resource Conservation District

Silver Creek Drainage District

United States Geological Survey

Westlands Water District

Westside Resource Conservation District

CRMP Coordinator

Vacant

Contact: WRCD Manager

Sarge Green,
(559) 698-7225

Salt/Martinez Creek Watershed Assessment to begin

Landowners in the Salt and Martinez Creek Watershed area will be surveyed to help identify critical issues related to water quality and flooding and to detect possible solutions.

The survey is part of the Salt/Martinez Creek Watershed Assessment, which is being conducted under contract with the Westside Resource Conservation District.

Funding for the assessment is provided through a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board.

The survey will ask landowners about the major changes they have seen in the watershed, such as precipitation, drought conditions, land use, vegetation types and coverage, historical changes in the land, amount of flooding, erosion, sediment deposits,

irrigation drainage and water quality.

Landowners also will be asked to identify any actions they have already implemented to help minimize impacts to the watershed, and to identify possible solutions.

Direct questions on the surveys to WRCD Manager Sarge Green at (559) 698-7225.



Lettuce harvest

The majority of the head lettuce available in the Fall is produced in western Fresno County. For a six-week period in the Spring and Fall, more than 90 percent of nation's supply of head lettuce comes from the west side of Fresno County. Harvest was underway in November in the Five Points and Huron areas.

Last Fall, Fresno County produced 9,560 acres of head lettuce, with a total of 26,230 acres of head and leaf lettuce produced for both the Spring and Fall crops in 2003.

Conservation Connection

Water Conservation Financial Assistance

The Bureau of Reclamation Water Conservation grant proposals for Fiscal Year 2005 Water Conservation Field Service Program (WCFSP) are anticipated to be advertised on www.grants.gov. We expect the release of the competitive grants late in January or early in February 2005. It is suggested that interested parties register now with Grants.gov in order to get automatic email notification and to quickly apply for grant funds.

This year marks 8 years of successful implementation of the WCFSP. The WCFSP was established to encourage efficient water management, to develop partnerships with State and local conservation program efforts, and to promote water management on a regional, Statewide, and watershed basis.

The WCFSP is administered at the local level through the Mid-Pacific (MP) Region's five Area Offices. Since its inception, the MP Region has provided over 400 WCFSP grants for water conservation efforts.

The key components of the WCFSP are: Implementation of conservation measures; demonstration of innovative

technologies; water management planning; and conservation education.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about this program, or have questions regarding deadlines and program requirements, please contact your local water conservation specialist.

It's Time to Revise the Standard Criteria

Reclamation is about to begin revising the 2002 Water Conservation and Efficiency Criteria (Criteria) for the development of Water Management Plans (Plans). These Criteria were developed by Reclamation in accordance with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992 (CVPIA) and the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982.

The CVPIA requires Reclamation to review the Criteria periodically, "but no less than every 3 years, with the purpose of promoting the highest level of water use efficiency reasonably achievable by project contractors using best available cost-effective technology and best management practices."

In preparation for the 2005 Criteria, Reclamation is asking all interested parties for their comments, suggestions, and recommendations.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the 2002 Criteria, please contact Leslie Barbre at 916-978-5232 (TDD 916-978-5608) or visit our website at www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare.

The public comment period starts January 10, 2005, and will end February 28, 2005. Please send all comments to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Attention: Mr. Jerry Townsend
2800 Cottage Way, MP-410
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

After February 28, 2005, Reclamation will develop the draft Criteria. The draft Criteria will be presented at workshops, giving the public an opportunity for questions and answers. After the public workshops, the draft Criteria will be entered in the Federal Register. Once in the Federal Register, the public will be given 30 days in which to comment. If no significant changes are made based on comments during the comment period, the review process will officially be complete, and the draft Criteria will be finalized. All plans received after the final date will be reviewed based on the 2005 Criteria.

