



Newsletter & AG Water Report

2017 Spring/Summer

2017 Water Supply Outlook

NEW HOGAN RESERVOIR:

As of February 21, 2017, New Hogan Reservoir contained 239,014 acre-feet of water. This total is significantly better than when we began the 2016 water year (at approximately 73,000 acre-feet). Currently, the Army Corps is trying to balance between storing water for irrigation purposes and releasing water for flood control purposes to protect the City of Stockton and its surrounding areas. The District is confident we will have a normal irrigation season.

NEW MELONES RESERVOIR:

Finally, some good news regarding New Melones Reservoir. The Reservoir is currently holding 1.35 million acre feet (vs. 393,000 acre feet this time last year) with a substantial amount of snow waiting to melt and increase this level even more. While there are no guarantees that the District will get an allocation of water, we have received water in the past with the reservoir at these levels, and are confident we will receive at least some water from New Melones.

CALL-IN REQUESTS FOR WATER:

As a reminder, you are required to request delivery of water a minimum of **48 HOURS** prior to diverting water. You can make these requests via the District website www.sewd.net or by calling (209) 469-3335.

State Trying to Take Your Water

In the past 3 years, we have witnessed a historic drought that compelled the legislature to enact the first groundwater regulation laws in California history (Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and prompted the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to undertake and update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan by issuing the Substitute Environmental Document (SED), which requires "unimpaired" flow standards on our rivers. These two regulations/laws contradict each other and could have dire consequences to the District and our customers (both agricultural and municipal)!

First, the SGMA regulates the amount of groundwater that can be pumped from our basin. We must convince the Department of Water Resources that we have a plan to minimize groundwater pumping. In order to keep our basin sustainable, we must use every drop of surface water we possibly can to replace groundwater pumping.

Second, the unimpaired flow standard in the SED intends to take nearly all of our surface water and release it to the Delta to support fish populations. Without that water, we have no ability to comply with the SGMA. Clearly, there is a real problem here!

Stockton East has been combining forces with other Districts, Cities and Counties affected to assemble strategic arguments, and if need be, a legal plan to fight the State's current agenda. We have, and will continue to offer, reasonable and rational ideas and proposals to improve our environment and sustain our community. As of the date of this letter, our proposals have been rejected because they do not offer more surface water to the State.

Please contact the District if you would like to learn more about this subject.

Reclamation Reform Act (RRA)

When the Reclamation Act of 1902 was enacted, the primary goal of the Reclamation program was to develop the arid West by promoting farming opportunities for families and limiting speculation on land that would benefit from the introduction of irrigated agriculture. In response to a lawsuit against the Federal government in the 1970's alleging improper acreage limitation administration, Congress passed Public Law 97-293, which President Reagan signed into law on October 12, 1982 - Title II of Public Law 97-293 is known as the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982

(RRA). The concept of acreage limitation provisions with regard to Reclamation irrigation water means the ownership limitations and pricing restrictions specified in Federal reclamation law, including but not limited to certain provisions in the RRA. All SEWD irrigators must comply with RRA requirements. Additional information can be obtained at: <http://www.usbr.gov/rra/index.html>



For Your Use!
Contact the District
(209) 948-0333

Preliminary Dam Installation

Installation completion & irrigation season is scheduled for May 1, 2017. The preliminary dam installation schedule is below. Any updates will be posted on the District website:

www.sewd.net

- April 17th - Bellota 2-foot weir & fish ladder installed.
- April 18th—21st - Dam installation on Mormon Slough and Potter Creek.
- April 24th—28th - Dam installation on Old Calaveras River & Mosher Slough.
- May 1st - Dam installation and system filling complete.

AG WATER ORDER PROGRAM

Mandatory Notification

District staff will operate the irrigation system diligently to provide irrigation water orders. Equally, irrigators need to provide their water order **48-hours in advance** of irrigating per the Mandatory Water Order Program.

Mandatory notification is required for any persons diverting surface water provided by the District per Revised Rule No. 120 adopted by the Board of Directors on June 24, 2014. Further, the Revised Rule No. 120 outlines District action of irrigator notification failure.

Here's to a successful 2017 Irrigation!

SEWD SOLAR UPDATE



As reported earlier, Stockton East Water District (SEWD) is working with a private section company through a power purchase agreement to install 2.2 megawatts of high-performance solar panels on the District's property. The project will allow the District to save on electrical cost without upfront costs. The electricity generated would be used by the District's most power consuming equipment. The solar systems are expected to generate enough energy to offset approximately 50 percent of all electricity used at the District. That same amount of electricity can power 650 Californian homes a year.

Currently, the District is working with a private section company to finish the design of the solar system and applying for permits with PG&E. The construction is expected to begin this summer with the system up and running by late Fall. The system will save more than \$9.5 million in energy costs over the next 20 years.

2016 FINAL BILLING Q&A

On or before April 15th of each year, at a meeting open to the public, the Board of Directors reviews all water assessments and determines the rates for the then current year.

The 2016 Ag groundwater rate is \$5.06 per AF; the Ag surface water rate is \$23.00 per AF; the domestic assessment is \$43.00 per unit (occupied or not); out-of-district water rate is \$58.04 AF; and the M&I rate is \$333.58 (\$3.60 for groundwater production assessment and \$329.98 for the rate equalization).

The rate for sales of out-of-district water from other sources shall be the cost of water designated under the purchase contract PLUS the New Melones Conveyance System wheeling rate of Thirty Five Dollars and Four Cents (\$35.04) per acre foot of water.

*District Ordinance No. 42
Adopted by the Board, 05/31/16*

AERIAL SPRAYING NOTIFICATION PROGRAM

In 1997 the District implemented a voluntary Aerial Spraying Notification Program. Aerial spraying around the District's water treatment plant, Lower Farmington Canal, Upper Farmington Canal and natural creeks is of concern to the District. If you use an aerial spraying company which applies chemicals to treat crops around these areas, please remind the company to contact the District at least 24-hours in advance of spraying at (209) 948-0537 and provide the following information:

- Parcel to be sprayed
- Chemical to be sprayed
- Time to be sprayed
- Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
- Your contact information (name & phone number)

AGRICULTURE/IRRIGATION PUMP TESTING

Free Pump & Irrigation Efficiency Tests for Agriculture Water Irrigators. If you're interested in saving both water & energy this year on your Agricultural irrigation, contact Ed Morley, SEWD Water Quality Control Analyst at (209) 948-0537 to take advantage of this Program and schedule your test today!

Funding is limited.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*The Board of Directors meet every Tuesday
at Noon at the
Stockton East Water District
Administration Building*

DIVISION 1 - Richard Atkins

DIVISION 2 - Andrew Watkins

DIVISION 3 - Alvin Cortopassi

DIVISION 4 - Melvin Panizza,
Vice President

DIVISION 5 - Paul Sanguinetti

DIVISION 6 - Lorelee McGaughey

DIVISION 7 - Thomas McGurk,
President

District Staff

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Scot A. Moody, General Manager

Kristin Carido, Administrative Services Manager

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Charles Naray, Finance Director

Juan Vega, Accountant

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Michael D. Johnson, Assistant General Manager

Jim Wunderlich, Water Treatment Plant Manager

Mark Wellsfry, Chief Plant Operator

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Cathy Lee, District Engineer

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

John Vernier, Maintenance Supervisor

WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

Aaron Riojas, Construction/Water Supply Supervisor

Lou Mendez, Grounds/Water Supply Supervisor

Chris Donis, Water Supply Operations Supervisor

WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Kristin V. Coon, (SAWS Education Program)

CONTACT US

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