

North San Joaquin Water Conservation District  
Weekly Update  
Sunday March 10, 2024



Tecklenberg Basin after a stormy weekend

**Recharge Operations Dashboard:** A new feature to the weekly update, at the suggestion of Consero will be a recharge dashboard. The dashboard will start with our water right year beginning December 1 and go through Sunday of the Weekly Update. My less than perfect grasp of the SCADA reporting system left me shy a few numbers for this inaugural effort but we will work the kinks out going forward. Also important to note that the North System projects were brought online over time starting January 22. The North System recharge would be closer to 500 AF **per month** at current capacity.

<b>North System Recharge:</b>	524 AF
<b>South System Recharge:</b>	not available at press time
<b>CalFed Recharge:</b>	not available at press time

**Operations Update:** Tecklenberg Basin was briefly shut down Thursday this week to hunt down the leak that was causing the unplanned “Mettler” recharge project. District staff found the leak just where Larry predicted driven by a perpendicular fracture in a concrete line. Pacific Southwest was able to respond and pour a cement jacket around the fracture and operations were only impacted for a day. Staff left Tracy Lakes to stabilize and will reevaluate this coming week. CalFed continued as normal. District staff brought the fourth Lakso project online on Thursday and was pleasantly surprised to see that the two hookups to the old Lakso Flood irrigation systems can take all 2600 GPM staff has been sending to the Lakso fields, giving John a lot more flexibility to pursue his pre-season preparations.



**Landowner Meetings:** Staff met with two more landowners (Teresi and Gini) who are interested in taking water on the north system. Both are closer to Woodbridge Road and would require thought about how to finance the extensions.

**EWA Meeting:** District Staff presented a request to the Eastern Water Alliance to join the DREAM Monitoring Committee in recommending that the Board of Supervisors extended the EBMUD extraction period through the end of April to allow the full test amount to be extracted. The EWA issued the recommendation which will now go to the Supervisors at their last meeting in March.

**PG&E in motion on North Station Power Supply:** The District Engineer's efforts to get the North Station surveyed paid dividends this week with PG&E arriving on site and agreeing that the existing service pole is on District controlled property. PG&E issued the District a \$1,000 bill to get the project started which we will pay this week. Transformer lead times are notoriously long at the moment given recent storm and fire hardening demands. PG&E projects a late fall installation leaving the District to rely on generator power for the next 6-7 months.

**Third North System Monitoring Well:** The District has been looking to install three monitoring wells on the north system and a landowner has stepped forward willing to consider the third option needed north of the Reynolds project. Staff will get them a draft agreement this week and hope to have it finalized quickly.

**Reynolds challenges:** The Reynolds project has presented a number of challenges. To date most have been around mosquito issues and staff reached out to the landowner to get approval for some operational changes to address them including goats to knock down vegetation that provide mosquito habitat and knocking down the outer rows of vines to allow deeper flooding that could accommodate mosquito fish. A number of leaks on the west side of the project have also appeared drawing a request for solutions. Richard Rodrigues installed a second furrow on the west side that resolved the issue. However, staff inspection revealed two potholes in the location of the leaks that may be related. We will be reaching out to contractors for an assessment of repair costs.



Second Reynolds Berm

**MICUP Project Meeting:** Staff hosted a meeting with the County Consultant GEI and District Engineer to discuss project options to take MICUP water. The County application must be supported by projects that can actually take the water or it will be denied. This will be a challenge to work on as the District still needs to protect its own water right before it can take on new projects. However, it is an important one to address as the additional water is needed in the Basin.

**SOQ update:** The SOQ subcommittee met with Garney and Dewberry last week to delve deeper into their response for work on the North Pump Station reconstruction project. They will present a revised response for consideration by the Board on March 25.

**Cost of Money:** Most of the District's construction efforts are funded on a reimbursement basis. Meaning the District must first expend its own dollars first. As a result, a healthy short-term borrowing operation is essential to keep the District moving forward. The District has options to take short term financing from F&M Bank at a current 7.5% interest rate. At the Board's request staff also reached out to the County to explore options to take an advance on the GW pumping charge. The County is amenable to the request at a current 4.1 percent interest rate (actual rate based on the County's pooled interest earnings for the prior month.) District Staff has reached out to its existing lender, F&M, for the approval of the option.