

North San Joaquin Water Conservation District  
Weekly Update  
Friday April 19, 2024



Bear Creek Dam near Harney Lane.

### Recharge Dashboard

<b>North System Recharge:</b>	610 AF
<b>Tracy Lakes Recharge:</b>	71 AF
<b>South System Recharge:</b>	681.4 AF approx.*
<b>CalFed Recharge:</b>	530 AF approx

\*this number had not been updated for a few updates

**Landowner Quote from newly probationary Tulare Lake Basin:** The State imposed probationary Status on Tuare Lake Basin this week, which comes with a \$20/acre pumping charge and up to a \$300 per well fee. One landowner reacted saying “because we have waited so long to address the problem, now we are under the gun to come up with a plan. She added, “this is not the first valley to go through a cycle of being extremely productive, and then become absolutely unfarmable.” Source: Visalia Times

**Operations Update:** Slow season for operations with only Tecklenberg Basin in operation. Arnaudo moved a lot of pipe around at the North System Phase 1b project to permit ag operations. Repeated rains have caused repeated needs for sulphur application. Thanks to Arnaudo for keeping our farmers able to protect their crops.

**Tracy Lake Fish Screen and Pump Station Issues:** The fish is clear once again. Divers inspected the 48 inch CMP supply line to the pump station on Friday and found no damage. Arnaudo and engineering staff are unsure what is causing the sinkhole and the sand intrusion but for now the pump station appears to be sound. However the district still needs to address the settlement in the sand which over time will undermine the foundation of the pump station.



Solid Seam in the Tracy Lake 48 inch CMP supply line

**Bear Creek Dam at Harney Lane:** Board President Valente suggested that staff evaluate the old dam at Bear Creek and Harney Lane as a possible recharge facility. Arnaudo visited the site Friday with District Staff and believes the struts and kickers can be replaced without any need for stream bed alteration or heavy equipment. The County responded that they have no objection to the dams being put back into use. Staff is getting a cost estimate for board and evaluating whether the project would qualify as maintenance work. While comparing the Harney Lane Dam to Lockeford Springs dam the landowner encouraged staff to consider replacing that dam as well. Staff is exploring whether we could get water behind the Lockeford Springs Dam.

**Tracy Lake Capacity:** The farmer out at Tracy Lake shot the elevations and reported that he believes the District can add 21 inches of water to the lake before hitting the neck of Jahant Slough. Not much water in the river for pumping though now with Woodbridge Golf Station only 14 inches above JSA minimums.

That will change tomorrow as EBMUD begins a spring Salmon pulse of up to 1,000 CFS through Sunday. However, that water will not be available to the District. Staff has reached out to EBMUD to determine minimum run times and minimum flows necessary to begin a release to accommodate adding water to Tracy Lake.



Low levels allowed a spit shine on the Gauge at Tracy Lake

**FDRE DWR Grant:** DWR is encouraging the District to apply for a Flood Diversion Recharge Enhancement (“FDRE”) grant to add a second temporary skid pump station at the North Station. Staff has discussed the concept with the Board in the past as a District funded concept but DWR is able to fund 100% of the cost with funds that may be lost if the project is not contracted before the end of the state fiscal year in June of 2024. Costs with professional fees are projected at about \$330,000. Staff will bring a resolution to the Board for consideration to authorize staff to execute the grant with the concurrence of General Counsel, the Board President and District Engineer at the Board’s April 29 meeting.

**EBMUD Preliminary Water Supply Assessment:** EBMUD delivered its preliminary water supply assessment in writing to the District this week indicating that it expected to have adequate supplies to meet the District’s request to store \$18,000 Acre Feet behind Comanche Dam through the 2024 water season. Staff is working on a water delivery plan for the year at EBMUD’s request.

**CalFed Fish Screen Issues:** The Cal Fed Fish Screen problem was diagnosed as a failed drive nut. The fix should be no more than a few thousand dollars.

**North System Phase 1B Progress:** No progress at phase 1b this week other than musical pipes. Arnaudo is still hung up for another week for the first and last fittings.