

Chairman's Corner

The subject keeps coming up that the District has been making secret deals with neighboring municipalities instead of serving local needs. I would like to clarify this point because nothing could be farther from the truth. Currently, the District has no intention of selling water to the City of Stockton. Furthermore the City of Stockton is not interested in our water.



*Tom Hoffman,
Chairman*

The North San Joaquin Water Conservation District is committed to the preservation of our ground water basin. We strive to accomplish this by providing water from the Mokelumne River to farmers so they may irrigate without pumping from the ground, and by developing recharge basins where Mokelumne River water can be spread on the ground to seep in. Both of these means have restored water tables in other areas and can work here as well.

Our job is made complicated by the fact that we receive water about half the time. However, even when water is available, we still lack the ability to deliver water to all locations that can utilize it. For this reason, we must build our infrastructure and this requires both money and time. Funding for this endeavor will come from the groundwater charges that the District imposes upon those who pump water from the ground. Our goal is to develop a system that will utilize our entire water allocation and to be able to serve the entire district.

In the meantime, it is conceivable that there will be years when we will have excess water even after delivering water to all those within the district who

are able to receive it. To utilize this surplus water, one option is to sell it to a neighboring water district for irrigation, such as to Stockton East Water District and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District. A sale such as this could provide us with additional funds for our own system. But first, we must have the proper license to allow us to send it where it can be put to use. Recognizing this possibility, in 2007 the District's Board petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board to enable us to send this extra water to neighboring water districts to the south rather than allow it to escape out to sea.

The idea of selling water we cannot use is to everyone's advantage, and it is possible to deliver some surplus water to Stockton East via existing channels and creeks. The North San Joaquin Water Conservation District would NOT spend tax dollars to develop infrastructure to benefit another entity outside our boundaries. That would take away the financial resources we need to protect ourselves here, and it would not be fair to our constituency.

Fred Weybret's departure from the District



*Fred Weybret
Former Board Member*

For almost 33 years, Fred Weybret, has served on the North San Joaquin Water Conservation Districts Board of Directors. Citing difficulty hearing the audience and other Board Members, Mr. Weybret, decided to resign prior to the election next year.

Board President Tom Hoffman said Weybret brought a wealth of knowledge to the district. "He's just acquired a lot of valuable experience," Hoffman said of Weybret. "He understands the water issues, he understands

IN THIS ISSUE:

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER • FRED WEYBRET'S DEPARTURE • WELCOME MARK BECK • WATER OUTLOOK
ADJUDICATION • WELL OWNER PROBLEMS • GROUNDWATER RECHARGE WORKS
SURFACE WATER USERS WANTED • CURRENT PROJECTS

Save The Date: November 17, 2009

Town Hall Meetings: The District will be holding an informational town hall meeting on **November 17** from 6:30-8:30pm at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds in Burgundy Hall. The following topics will be discussed; Santa Clara Valley groundwater recharge operations, Eastern San Joaquin County groundwater banking authority, Mokelumne forum and the NSJWCD past, current and future projects. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Steffani at (209)712-5034.

Board of Directors Meeting: The next District board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1 at 8:30am at the Lodi Public Library.

our history, plus his personality provides us with someone with an even disposition on the board.”

Hoffman said that Weybret didn't feel that it is the right time for him to resign due to some tough issues the North San Joaquin board faces, but his hearing problems forced the issue. Hoffman said some of the issues include an election next year that would amend Measure V, the ballot measure approved by voters last November.

Weybret said the North San Joaquin board has accomplished what it could given the constraints regarding water availability by state authorities. He said he has confidence in his fellow board members and General Manager Ed Steffani to retain its Mokelumne River water rights and make a significant contribution to help resolve the region's declining water table.

(Portions of this article taken from the Lodi News Sentinel article "Fred Weybret resigns from North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Board" written by Ross Farrow published on July 17, 2009)

Welcome – Mark Beck

The District is excited to welcome its newest Director, Mark Beck. He has been a resident of Acampo since



Mark Beck
Newest Board Member

1977. Mark attended Oak View Elementary and Galt High School. He attended Modesto Junior College and then graduated with a bachelor's degree in vocational agriculture and teaching credential from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 1998. Mark taught vocational agriculture for 9 years and is also in the cattle business raising pure bred angus, commercial cow, calf and stockers. In addition to the livestock operation, he also farms wheat, sudan, corn, clover and alfalfa.

Mark has been married to his wife Kellie for seven years and has three children, Blake, Brett and Brooklynn. His family lives on Forest Lake Road in Acampo on their irrigated pasture ranch.

Water Outlook

The District was granted 6,000 acre feet to use by November 5, 2009.

The District has the right to a maximum of 20,000 acre feet annually (AFA), but cannot use this much without rehabilitation of the existing distribution systems and new infrastructure funded with revenue from the groundwater charge.

Adjudication

The word adjudication simply means that a judge would determine how much water can be pumped from the ground. The State has threatened to seek such judicial action if the District does not get its act together and start doing something to correct our groundwater overdraft problem.

A judge could decide that pumping should be limited to the 'natural recharge' of our basin or about 600,000 acre feet annually (AFA). Because we pump about 800,000 AFA, we would be cut back 25%. This would mean cutting 25% of our agricultural operations, which would be a catastrophe.

Adjudication is not new. A number of basins within the State are suffering from this legal action because they did not act to solve their problems. We don't want to be next.

Well Owner Problems

The district has been notified by two separate owners about well problems that had to be corrected by lowering existing wells and purchasing new pumps which cost substantial amounts of money.

The first location is about 2 miles south east of Clements on Acampo Road. The well owner, Ron

Taylor, had to lower and replace a worn out pump that was sucking air at a cost of \$2700. In 1994 when the existing pump was installed, the water level was 185 feet, currently, the water level is at 208, a 23 foot drop in 15 years.

The second well owner, Mike Ratto, had a pump, located 2 miles south of Lockeford on Victor Road, that was sucking air and sand. This forced him to drill the well deeper, replace the pump and lower the setting at a cost of \$9200. In 1976 the water level measured 100 feet, currently; the water level has dropped over 50 feet in 33 years.

These examples of enormous costs to well owners are why the District adopted an annual well pumping change to restore the water level in our aquifer.

Yes, Groundwater Recharge Really Works

There are four successful examples of groundwater recharge in the state. The following water districts have successfully used a groundwater recharge program.

Kern Water Bank - This example is the largest and most recent successful operation beginning in 1991. Approximately, 7,000 acres of recharge ponds overlay a 20,000 acre basin. This site yields recharge rates up to 0.3 foot per day, with over 60,000 acre feet in a month. The basin holds readily accessible 1.5 million acre feet of stored water.

The Kern Water Bank has a top percolation rate of 0.3 foot per day. Our CALFED recharge project is seeing rates between 2 and 3 feet per day, or ten times that of Kern.

Assuming 200 days of recharge at a rate of 2 feet per day, we would need only 50 acres to recharge the District's entire 20,000 acre water right. We should be conservative and assume a rate of 1 foot per day for only 100 days and 200 acres.

Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) - The SCVWD recharges 100,000 acre feet annually (AFA) in seven systems including creeks and 70 recharge basins totaling some 400 acres. This is exactly what the District wants to do locally. SCVWD has a total demand of 380,000 AFA. So, their recharge operation provides a substantial amount of their supply.

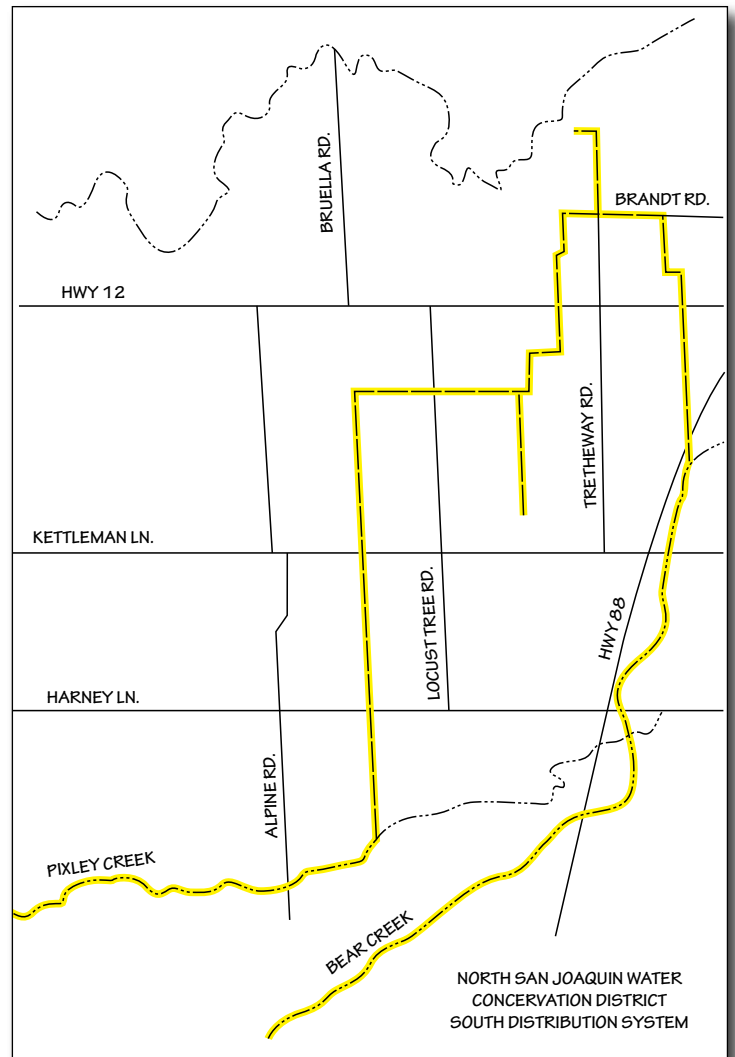
Orange County Water District - Recharge ponds were first constructed along the Santa Ana River in 1936. Today approximately 1,000 acres of ponds are in operation.

Alameda County Water District - This entity has been recharging the Niles area for many years.

Surface Water Users Wanted

The District is looking for interested customers along the south distribution system shown on the map who may want to invest in 'dual systems'. If this winter's rainfall is normal or better, the District will have water available for all nearby lands. To encourage irrigation with surface water. The District is considering a policy which would make water available for little or no charge to those who would invest in 'dual systems' to allow both use of well water in dry years and surface water in wetter years. The reduced charge would be in effect until the dual system costs were amortized.

If you are interested in irrigating with surface water or if you have questions about the proposed policy, contact Ed Steffani, District Manager at 712-5034.



Current Projects

Two projects are scheduled for the remainder of 2009. The first, a 30 cfs (13,500 gallons per minute) fish screen will be installed at the District's existing North Pumping station near Tretheway and Acampo Roads. The fish screen will make operation of the North Pumping Station possible since, the State has not allowed operation without a fish screen.



CALFED Spreading Basin

Second, a 12-inch diameter pipeline will be extended to the proposed Tecklenburg Recharge Basin near Kettleman Lane and Alpine Roads. Extension of the pipeline will allow the District to test the sandy 10-acre Tecklenburg property for possible use as a groundwater recharge facility. If recharge is sufficient, one foot per day or more, a larger pipe will then be installed.



Fish Screen at the North Pumping Station

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