



# PID NEWS

## 2024 PID NEWSLETTER

As the Patterson Irrigation District (PID or District) rolls into the New Year, it's time for the annual newsletter and District update. Provided in this newsletter are features about PID staff, updates from what happened in 2023, major project updates, action that the Board took in 2023, a recap of operations for 2023 and a projection for 2024.

### Staff Anniversaries

- Toni Russell – Secretary/Treasurer – 18 years
- Joe Silva – Mechanic – 18 years
- Allan Hooper – Assistant Water Operations Supervisor – 13 years
- Ethan Dias – DSO – 11 years
- Joseph Martin – DSO – 9 years
- Vince Sottile – DSO – 8 years
- Vince Lucchesi – GM – 7 years
- Darrel Worthy - DSI – 4 years
- Greg Reichmuth – Water Operations Supervisor – 3 years
- Juan Ramirez - Maintenance – 3 years
- Adelaide Etheridge - Maintenance – 2 years
- John Dores - Maintenance – 1 year



### Featured Employee – Joey Martin

The 2024 newsletter is featuring Joey Martin. Joey came to PID in January of 2015 with going on 9 years of dedicated service. Joey started at PID as a night man in 2014 but left at the end of the irrigation season, then transitioned to spraying weeds in 2015, then to mechanic, then to DSO on the northside, back to mechanic, and now he is a southside DSO.

Joey likes working at PID because it's close to home, he has a flexible work schedule, gets to work outside and likes the retirement with CalPERS. Joey grew up in Patterson, with most of his family still living in the area. Joey's hobbies include riding quads and dirt bikes, fishing, spending time with family, camping and working on cars.

Joey has been a great asset to PID with his knowledge of electric systems, HVAC, SCADA, equipment and ditch tending. His breadth of experiences and knowledge has been a huge asset to the district and has helped make water operations successful on the southside of the District. The District would like to extend a Thank You to Joey and all he has accomplished in his years employed with PID. And we look forward to many more years with Joey.

### New Water Operations Supervisor

As of December 31, 2023, Steve Trinta has retired from 20 years of dedicated service as an employee and 13 years as a Director with the Patterson Irrigation District. With Steve's retirement, Greg Reichmuth has taken over Steve's position. If in the event you have a water related emergency you may give Greg a call using the office directory provided on the PID website, or you can call the office and we'll route you to Greg for help.

### PID Main Canal Rehabilitation Project Schedule B Improvements

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Directors issued a notice of award to Arnaudo Construction, Inc., for the Schedule B improvements of the Main Canal Rehabilitation Project. The Schedule B improvements consist of abandoning pump stations 4 and 5, constructing a new pump station in place of pump station 4 and constructing a new discharge pipeline from the new pump station crossing Locust avenues. The pipeline would discharge just west of Locust Avenue.

This is a culmination of almost 10 years of studies and evaluations about how best to expand the main canal's capacity, not only for improved delivery flexibility to land within PID, but to also take advantage of potential opportunities to participate in regional water supply solutions through wheeling. Some of these opportunities include recirculation and recapture of San Joaquin River Restoration Program flows, and east-to-west water transfers, where excess capacity in District facilities is used to facilitate transfers between other water agencies in the region.

Funding for this project is from a \$5 million dollar State of California Appropriation from the General Fund by State Senator Anna Caballero for the project, in addition to utilizing PID's capital reserve funds to cover the balance of the project.

These new facilities will provide a more efficient pump station and distribution facility. It is anticipated that the construction will begin in early March and will be operational by the start of the 2025-26 water year.



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## Schedule B Construction Shut-Down

As the Schedule B improvements move forward, construction of the improvements will be built simultaneously with the irrigation season. Once the system is shut down in the winter, the contractor will only have to complete the connection to the turnouts and laterals that were operational during the irrigation season. Shut down is scheduled to be from Nov. 15, 2024, through March 1, 2025. This affords the contractor the time to be able to connect facilities that need to be operational during the irrigation season. Please plan ahead. The District will send out a notice in June and another in early fall to remind growers that the system will be shut down during this period.

## Capital Improvements

Regarding construction, outside of the Schedule B improvements, no other project will move into construction in 2024. However, we have projects designs done along with CEQA in preparation for construction. Once PID has the funds available after the Schedule B improvements are completed PID will move into construction with the following projects in this order:

1. Pipe Lateral 4N between Las Palmas and 1<sup>st</sup> Street to address critical safety and access issues
2. Construction of a bypass pipeline project along Pear Avenue from Armstrong to Tulip Avenue that connects the Southside Reservoir to the 3-south extension at two separate locations to provide relief and strain on the system
3. Pipe 2N between Elm and Cottonwood Avenues to address critical issues on canal failures

In regards to design, PID has commenced with the following projects:

1. Design of a recharge basin on the northside of the District on Elm Avenue along 2N
2. Design of a groundwater monitoring network for the Patterson Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency
3. Design of a complimentary DMC Pumpstation to the existing Pumping Plant 6 to help PID be able to convey up to 200 cubic-feet per second into the DMC

The groundwater projects are intended to help PID bridge data gaps in our area and to help us to better manage this valuable resource. In addition, the recharge basin project is intended to help the northside operations into the future with a plan to have a pump station that can recover some of the water recharged and recirculate that water into the northside to help offset impacts from future droughts.

PID retained the services from Dahl Consulting to design the final pump station and pipeline from the end of the Main Canal to the Delta-Mendota Canal. This effort is just for the

design services to have the project shovel ready in the event funding becomes available. The pump station will be designed to pump up to 165 cubic-feet per second (cfs) in concert with the 35 cfs that Pumping Plant No. 6 can do. In addition, the pump station will be able to return up to 165 cfs back down from the DMC to be able to serve PID entirely off the Delta-Mendota Canal. PID is only designing the pump station in the hope that in the future after the completion of the Main Canal Rehabilitation Project, we may be able to move forward with construction of this project if funding is available.

## Equipment Rates for Outside Labor and Materials

In the past, PID staff would use an outdated rate set for our equipment when we perform outside labor and services. In addition, landowners will sometimes come and borrow tools and/or equipment for the season. Over time as costs go up and as equipment would come back damaged, PID has implemented a new rate structure and methodology for outside services and for equipment. In the future, if you wish to borrow a tool from the District, District staff will be the ones present operating the tool or equipment and there will be a rate associated with it, such as a flow meter to check your diversion, or if you need a new turnout built. In the future, PID rates will reflect the costs of the replacement and operations of the equipment in addition to our fully burdened staff costs for their time.

## Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

In 2014, the California State Legislature passed comprehensive groundwater legislation creating the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). In adopting that act, the Legislature intended to provide local groundwater agencies with the authority and technical and financial assistance necessary to sustainably manage groundwater. The act anticipates that each affected groundwater basin or sub-basin will be regulated separately by one or more groundwater sustainability agencies. Groundwater sustainability under the act is to be achieved through groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs), which can be a single plan developed by one or more groundwater sustainability agencies, or multiple coordinated plans within a basin or sub-basin. The District is within the Delta-Mendota groundwater sub-basin, which is bounded by the coast range to the west, the San Joaquin River to the east, and extends from Tranquility north to Tracy.

The data collected and evaluated in the coming years will help paint a better picture of what is happening beneath our feet. With the evaluations and data collected, projects and programs may be developed with the intention to prevent or reduce the need to restrict pumping within PID's boundaries. However; due to the limited data within our area the data collection effort will be substantial. In the event that an issue becomes apparent in the next 5 years, PID will work on determining means for action to work towards sustainability without causing significant impacts to water users.



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One requirement that PID is requesting, is that landowners within PID that own irrigation wells to have a flow meter installed to aid in the monitoring in extractions of groundwater within the PID GSA. A few landowners have responded, however, well owners are to be reminded of the new policy and the requirement to register their wells with PID to allow PID staff to check extractions of their respective wells.

In January of 2020, the Delta-Mendota Sub-Basin submitted its first iteration of the six GSP's and respective common chapter summarizing all plans. On January 21, 2022 the Delta Mendota Sub-Basin was notified that its plans were deemed incomplete and the Sub-Basin had 180 days to make amendments and resubmit the plans. After a frantic six months, the amended GSP's were submitted to DWR on July 20, 2022 for a final determination.

On March 2, 2023 the Delta-Mendota Sub-Basin received its response from DWR on its second iteration of the six GSP's as inadequate. Put simply DWR found that the GSP's were inadequate on the following items:

1. Not having the same data and methodologies across the 6 GSP's
2. Common deficiencies of undesirable results
3. Not setting sustainable management criteria in accordance with the GSP regulations, particularly identifying a need for the various individual GSP's to demonstrate coordinated and consistent criteria for each undesirable result under GSP.
4. Agencies to better describe and support the creation of numerous formal management areas within the Sub-basin as required by the GSP regulations.

With this inadequate determination, the Delta-Mendota Sub-Basin is now in consideration of Probationary Status and possible development of an interim plan by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). With intervention, the SWRCB will also assess fees of \$300 per well and \$40 per acre-foot of water extracted. The process of State intervention with the SWRCB begins with a hearing on the determination by DWR and the interpretation by SWRCB staff. At this hearing the sub-basin will be able present its findings and possibly a new plan to circumvent probationary status, in the event the SWRCB members find that the efforts made by the Sub-Basin are inadequate the sub-basin will be placed on probationary status prior to the development of an interim plan. Once in probationary status, all well owners will be subject to the well registration and extraction fees adopted by the SWRCB. During probationary status, the SWRCB will develop an interim plan for the Sub-basin that will look at the Sub-basin as whole and to manage the Sub-basin as a whole. The interim plan will be in effect until the SWRCB has determined that the GSA's are demonstrating to the SWRCB their ability and willingness to manage groundwater sustainably and address the issues that caused State intervention.

The Delta-Mendota's probationary hearing is tentatively set for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025. Currently, the Delta-Mendota Sub-basin is implementing the following efforts to circumvent probationary status:

- Consolidating to a single GSP with the goal to have a final plan adopted by July 2024;
- Providing clear and objective measures to address:
  - subsidence,
  - declining water levels,
  - overdraft, and,
  - impacts to water quality
- Working with SWRCB staff to help understand the priorities of the SWRCB;
  - Provide tours of the Sub-basin to SWRCB Board Members and staff to identify the issues that the Sub-Basin is facing and what we are doing to address the deficiencies found in the determination by DWR

## **IMPORTANT SGMA NOTE**

An important note to all well owners within PID. As we proceed with implementation of the single GSP plan, if in the event water levels are seen to decline and are approaching levels that are below what have been set as a minimum threshold, wells within an area that is deemed to have affected the water levels in that monitoring well will be asked to reduce their pumping. Basically, if groundwater levels get too low, you may be asked to reduce your pumping to help recover groundwater levels.

If you utilize your well as the majority of your water supply, please be prepared to start taking surface water from PID in the event we require you to reduce your pumping.

## **End of Year Evaluation**

For 2023, the District Budgeted Operating Costs (District expenses not including capital improvements and costs for transfer water) at \$5.2 million (\$137/acre-foot after the assessment). With a 0.5 acre-foot per acre allocation and a water rate of \$45 per acre-foot, the District generated roughly \$1.7 million from PID growers and landowners. At the end of the year, the unaudited expenses put the District at operating costs of approximately \$3.8 million (\$164.42/acre-foot after the assessment based on 2023 tier 2 deliveries); which translated to a \$2.1 million subsidy to PID growers, or a subsidy of approximately \$119.42 per acre-foot.

The 2023 subsidy would not be possible without the efforts of PID with transferring surplus water at opportune times not impacting operations. These transfers were only made possible through the agreements made to allow PID to pump into the Delta-Mendota Canal, and the agreements made with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for water supply impacts from the construction of the Friant Division of the Central Valley



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Project. These transfers maintain the subsidy and the low rate water users within PID enjoy.

For 2023, the District allocated 0.5 acre-foot per acre with the expectation of some outside sales and some wheeling. It was projected that the District would lose or subsidize growers water rates by \$3.06 million. As the year progressed, the District’s staff worked to constrain costs and to transfer and wheel what the District could.

The information below is an unaudited summary of District operations for 2023:

2023 WATER DELIVERIES (AF)	
Allocated Water	5,682
Excess Water	18,707
Out of District	918
Wheeling to DMC	9,429

2023 BUDGETED FINANCIAL	
Budgeted Operating Expenses	\$5,150,255
Budgeted Non-Operating Expenses	\$4,562,017
Budgeted Capital Expenses	\$3,753,600
Budgeted Internal Revenues	\$2,090,905
Budgeted External Revenue	\$2,762,645
<b>Total</b>	<b>(4,858,723)</b>

2023 FINANCIAL <sup>1</sup>	
Operating Expenses	\$3,828,792
Non-Operating Expenses	\$1,787,524
Capital Expenses	\$844,107
Internal Revenues	\$1,715,799
External Revenue	\$4,993,509
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,092,992</b>

*Note: 2023 Financials are estimates and draft until the audit is complete*

## 2024 Outlook

**WATER SUPPLY:** As we move into the 2023-24 water year, it’s early to estimate exactly how much rain and snow will arrive this winter and spring, considering that the rainy season for the area runs from November through April. Water supply forecasts are putting our region in a possible normal conditions.

2023 was wet on the San Joaquin River and PID experienced a healthy water supply and clean water from the San Joaquin River. Its hopeful with the strong storms and snow pack

that water quality will improve on the River and the temperatures will slow the growth of the aquatics.

Current 2024 projections estimate CVP contractors will receive an allocation in the range of 35-50% depending on San Joaquin River hydrology through spring. These translate into revenue projections for the District. A lower allocation provides more opportunities to wheel water and generate revenue from water transfers; inversely, a higher allocation lowers revenue-generating opportunities.

**OPERATIONS:** For 2024, special operations and efforts outside of delivering water and general maintenance efforts include:

- Staff will continue with a more aggressive Teton schedule with attempting different approaches to help alleviate the moss and algae growth,
- The District will continue work on Project #2 of the Capital Improvement Plan, a northside recharge and recirculation project,
- The District is going to start construction on the Pumping Plant 4 and 5 improvements for the Main Canal Rehabilitation Project;
- Continue the Design of the expanded DMC pump station; and,

**Mark Your Calendars**  
**2024 Grower Workshop**

A grower informational meeting is scheduled for March 21 at 10 am at PID’s shop at 948 Orange Avenue. At this meeting, there will be a presentation recapping 2023, a discussion on SGMA, and projections for 2024.