



BVID News

Issue 3 • Volume 2
December 2011

**Browns Valley
Irrigation District**

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What It Takes To Run Your District

From dams to fish screens to vehicles to large heavy equipment the District has an infrastructure that is impressive and necessary to get the job done. It takes the skills of a very efficient crew to run the District operations. "We currently have vehicles ranging from pick-up trucks to

large excavators to atv's," said District Manager Walter Cotter, "they play an instrumental role in our care of the water delivery system."

The equipment allows the District to deal with almost every operation and maint-

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Water Update

2011 proved to be a good year for water conditions in Northern California. We are coming into winter in-better shape than past years.

The District has begun looking at ways to provide additional storage capacity in order to provide District Members with a larger resource of water. Additionally, we are also exploring ways to develop an additional hydroelectric generation facility using the existing elevation changes in the water delivery system. Currently the District operates a 1000 Kilowatt (1 megawatt) facility at the base of the dam at Collins Lake. Revenues from the current and possible future hydroelectric facilities help provide a clean energy source and finance many operations within the District.



What It Takes
from front page

enance issue that may occur. Over the last twenty years the District has developed a fleet of dependable equipment that has increased the response to problems which may occur.

“We are able to save money by not having to contract out on projects, but rather by performing the jobs in-house with our own machinery.”

“We also maintain a metal and woodworking shop that allows us to reduce costs on many projects,” said Cotter. Walkways, fish screens, and even the furniture in the District office is all manufactured and built in-house by District

employees. Light vehicle maintenance is also performed on-site. “We have an excellent crew,” said Cotter, “I have lots of depth on my bench as most of the crew is cross trained on all of the equipment.”

“Our goal in having the equipment is to better serve the needs of District members,” said Cotter, “we save funds on major projects and are able to handle almost any issue that may occur.”



End of 2011 Irrigation Season

The 2011 irrigation season officially ended November 4, but due to the special circumstances created by the meager rainfall thus far this year, the District released a shot of water into the Collins Lake service area on December 5 to help customers cope with the lack of rain. We cannot anticipate when it will start raining again, and as of right now there is no schedule for future releases. As always, any future updates about water releases will be posted on the website.



Meet Your District Employee: Donna Springsteen

Donna Springsteen is the newest employee at Browns Valley Irrigation District, but in some ways she has been closer to the District than most. Born and raised in Browns Valley and living here once again with her husband, Brian (A Sergeant in the Yuba City Police Department), she is not only a BVID employee but also a water user. "I can relate to the issues the people in District are facing when it comes to water," said Donna, "I understand when someone calls asking about the water schedule or other issues they may be having."

Donna, who spent 25 years in the Banking Business, is happy to be a part of the District now taking the

position of Office Manager in June. "It makes for an easier commute," said Donna, "and I enjoy being a part of the team at BVID." Donna says her goal in the position is to meet more people in the area (being raised here she already knows many) and becoming more



familiar with the water delivery system. "I want to learn about the system and the District so I can better understand the needs of the members, their issues and potential solutions."

In her spare time Donna enjoys horseback riding, waterskiing and spending time with family. She has twin four year old granddaughters she sees often. "We were happy to be able to take them to Collins Lake for the first time this summer, they had a great time."

If you need to call the office, Donna will likely answer the phone. Make sure to welcome her as our newest member of the BVID team.

Ask Flo...



Hi Flo! Over the years the number of people living in the District has obviously in-creased, but we still have water and don't have any problems with regular delivery. With all those new people I would expect that we would all have less water. How do we do it?

What a great question! This is one many people wonder about but no one has been bold enough

to ask. I can understand because no one wants to offend the new folks who have moved here over the years (who can blame them as our area is so beautiful and peaceful!). The answer is actually quite simple....Conservation and water system improvements. The actual number of water users served has actually more than doubled in the last 20 years!

However the water usage for the entire District is generally the same if not less. This is due to improvements in efficiency (i.e. pipelines instead of open canals) and water conservation.

When it comes to water rights do we have priority for water on the Yuba River or are we last on the list?

The most important thing must be said first, the majority of the District is served by Collins Lake,

which is filled entirely by rainfall, only parts of the lower District are served by the Yuba River (primarily agriculture customers). When it comes to the Yuba River however, BVID does have the oldest water right on the North Fork of the Yuba River. That means we get our water from the Yuba before anyone else does and we have priority over others with rights on the river. This water right also helps us generate revenues for District operations as the water which passes through the two powerhouses on the river is actually leased to PG&E for that purpose before we divert it. It is also important to note-the primary function of BVID is to serve our water users. The bi-product of our water rights does help generate clean energy and provides us revenues to help maintain the District.

Find all the latest information on your water district online at **www.BVID.org** You can see the Collins Lake Rain Gauge and Status updates. Also find District history, publications, forms and valuable information.

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