



BVID News

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**Browns Valley
Irrigation District**

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Update on your water!

The water level at the Virginia Ranch Dam at Collins Lake topped out on May 1st at 2½ inches from spill (99.8% full). While this is fantastic news for the year ahead we understand that many people want to know if the drought is officially over.

Unfortunately this is a very hard question to answer. If you are a regular reader of this newsletter you likely already know that Collins Lake is filled entirely by rainfall from the surrounding watershed (not snow pack run off). It is impossible to predict from one year to another how much water will enter Collins Lake. There are several factors that play a role including:

- Ground water saturation
- Amount of water in Collins Lake at the beginning of the season
- Timing, level of precipitation and duration of rainfall

In other words it is not necessarily the amount of rain we receive as how wet the ground already is, how much rain falls during a storm and the timing in between storms.

It is simply hard to determine until it has happened. So while we are cautiously optimistic about the rain we received this year we are still monitoring the lake levels constantly and continue to encourage conservation and proper water system management.

Here is a look at the numbers from the rainy season of the past few years:

- 2009/10 - 24.3" of rainfall
- 2008/09 - 24.2" of rainfall
- 2007/08 - 19.4" of rainfall
- 2006/07 - 16.5" of rainfall
- 2005/06 - 33.8" of rainfall

As you can tell the levels can vary dramatically from year to year and since capacity to store water is limited it is difficult to keep a huge amount of reserves to handle more than just a year or two of lowered levels.

The true reason we have been so successful in the past few years of making it through the drought years is you! Your efforts to conserve water have lead to our ability to continue service in the hardest of times. We appreciate all your efforts and ask that you continue these efforts as normal practice. We routinely publish ways to conserve in this newsletter and also welcome your call should you have any questions.

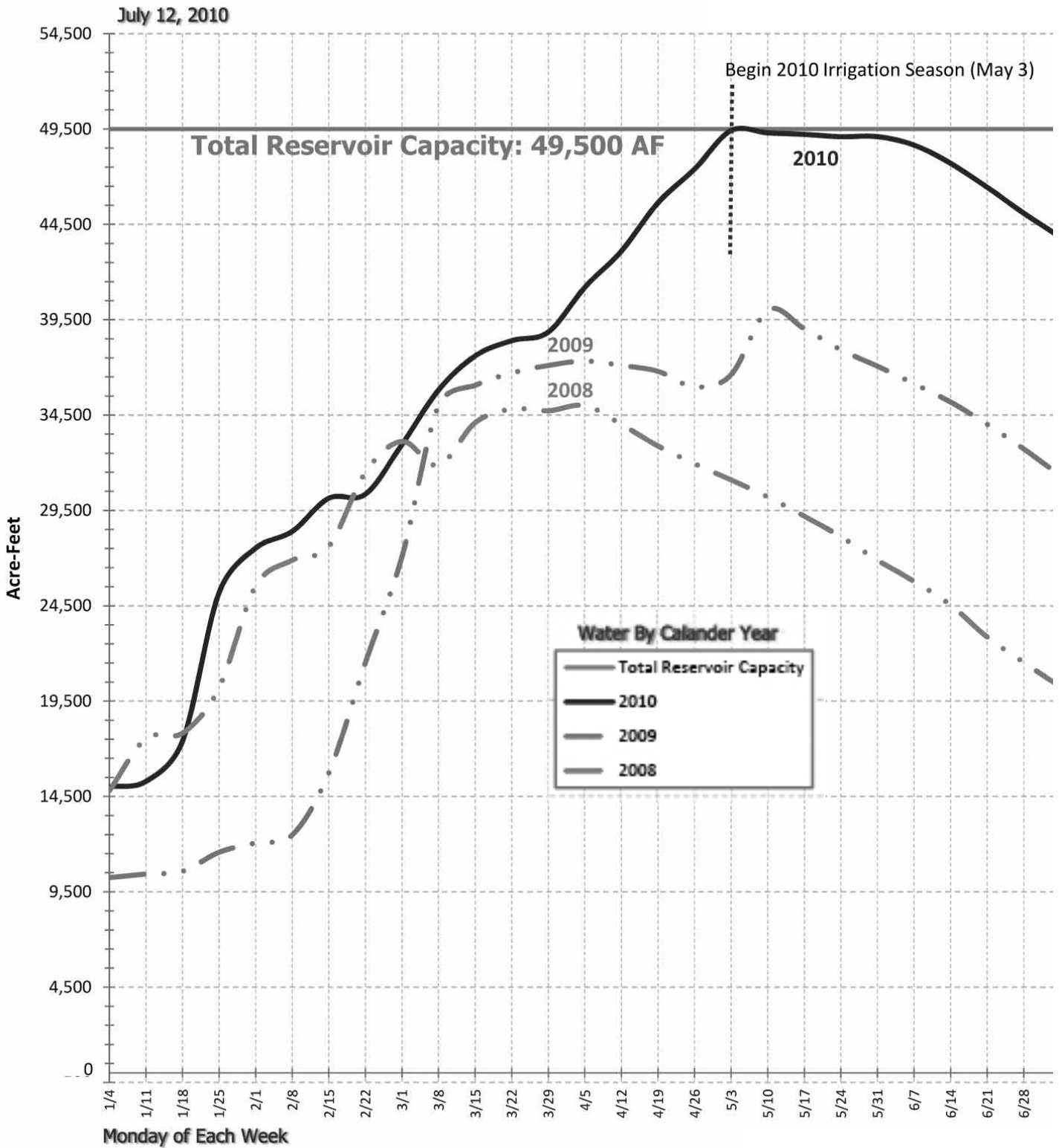
Thank you for keeping up the good work!



Collins Lake USABLE WATER

(Acre Feet)

2008, 2009, 2010 Comparison



Collins Lake Update: Ready for Summer Fun!

The place to be this summer when the temperatures rise is Collins Lake. As always the lake is a local and regional favorite, but with recent improvements and high water levels it is the perfect place for a one day fishing trip or a weekend getaway close to home.

Lincoln Young, Collins Lake Resort Manager, is very excited about what people are saying about the new campsites that were recently constructed. "The campers are really loving them," said Young, "they are well separated and it is good to have more sites to offer to visitors." Young also added that the camp sites near the lake are now very close to the water since the levels have returned to normal. "We have had campers here for the past few years and this year when they return have been very happy to see the lake being so full," said Young.

Young also said there are also additional benefits to higher lake levels including better fishing (particularly for bass and crappie) since the additional water contributes to a more successful spawn and hatching.

"People are really enjoying the lake this year," said Young, "the beach has been filled with nice people and each weekend we are busy with people enjoying the park and the facilities are in top notch shape." "It will be a banner year and we invite everyone to come and have fun at the lake," said Young.



A fellow columnist of mine, Ron Duncan, who is the manager for the Soquel Creek Water District recently wrote a great *Amazing Water Facts* column in his local newspaper. It was so great I have decided to use it as my column for this issue. Enjoy!

Water is a unique and amazing substance. It provides life, yet it can also take it away. Since it falls from the sky, flows freely in streams and rivers, and is available when we turn on the tap, it can easily be taken for granted -- like life itself. Below is a collection of various water facts. Some are interesting, others fascinating, and a few are disturbing. The goal is to help remind us that water is special and essential to life on Earth.

Physical Attributes

- Water dissolves almost everything, yet it is colorless, tasteless and odorless.
- Water is one of the few substances that expands when frozen.
- Frozen water is 9 percent lighter than liquid water, which is why ice floats on water.

Usage

- Basic personal water requirements are stated to be about 13 gallons of water per day.
- Individuals in the United States use an average of 125 gallons per day, Canadians use an average of 80 gallons and those in England average 55 gallons per day.
- An average U.S. household uses about 127,000 gallons per year, with 40 percent about 50,000 gallons going to landscape irrigation.
- Two-thirds of the water used in a home is used in the bathroom, with the toilet using the most.

- In the U.S., a person spends roughly 25 cents per day for water use not including bottled water.
- Per capita water use in the U.S. has increased almost threefold since the 1900s, but modest declines have been achieved since the 1980s.
- Approximately 85 percent of U.S. residents get their water from public water facilities. The remaining 15 percent supply their own water from private wells or other sources.
- About 95 percent of the water that enters a household ends up going down the drain.

Conservation

- A nonconserving household can save about 35 percent of their water use by installing water efficient fixtures i.e., high-efficiency toilets, low-flow shower heads, low-flow faucets and faucet aerators.
- If you shorten your showers by just a single minute, you can save approximately 100 gallons of water in a month.
- Letting the tap run when you brush your teeth wastes up to 4 gallons of water every time.
- A typical lawn would be 3 feet deep in water if all the irrigation water applied over a year was added up. Landscape irrigation accounts for between 30 and 50 percent of household water use.

Odd Facts

- Approximately 66 percent of the human body, 70 percent of an elephant, and 95 percent of a tomato is made up of water.
- Water witching has never been scientifically proven to be effective in locating groundwater.
- A birch tree transmits or releases approximately 70 gallons of water per day into the atmosphere through a process called evapotranspiration.
- Water regulates the temperature of the human body, which is why it is generally good to drink plenty of water in hot weather or if you have a fever.

Viva agua!

Meet your district employee: Tony Ward



“As the Operations Manager for BVID Tony is the one who makes it happen,” said Walter Cotter, General Manager, “he takes care of the day to day operations of the District.”

Tony Ward is usually found in his truck - the reason is that he is constantly monitoring the water delivery system, which means driving to various locations throughout the district. Tony logs hundreds of miles each week insuring that the system runs effectively so that you can receive water seamlessly. Besides this very large task he also runs the ditch tenders and pipeline construction crew; coordinates the materials, parts, and pipes for the crew to do the work; and is in charge of the District's safety program.

“Tony also has institutional duties of the delivery system which is important knowledge to making sure it runs as effectively as possible,” said Cotter.

At home Tony is a very involved father. With four children (Alex, Amy, Christopher and Stanley) he is dedicated father who loves to be involved in Boy Scout activities and to go hiking. He has been with BVID for over 19 years and enjoys it and the people he works with.



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.

Visit our website: www.BVID.org

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