

Meet your district employee: Carey Powell

Carey is the face and voice of the Browns Valley Irrigation District. When you call it is Carey who answers the phone and when you come into the office it is Carey who greets you. Her friendly personality is one that you can feel over the phone and is easy see when you come into the office. But these jobs are a small portion of what Carey does. "Carey is an essential part of our team here at the BVID," said Walter Cotter, General Manager of BVID, "her list of duties is long and she has performed them very well for the last fourteen years."

Her official title is Office Manager. She is also Clerk of the BVID Board, the bookkeeper, the dispatcher, and the Administrator of the employee benefit program. She also assists the General Manager and works closely with the Operations Manager on new services. "Carey is a very capable person," said Cotter, "you can always count on her to take care of all her multiple tasks and handle any project that is sent her way."



Get the latest updates

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.

BVID News



Issue 2 • Volume 1

March/April 2010

70% Full

Many folks in the District are keeping an eye on the water levels in Collins Lake. They are not alone – we are doing the same on a daily basis. We are currently 70% full in the reservoir, making us hopeful that the coming year will be less challenging than the past three years. We are still hoping for wet months ahead and are encouraged by the solid and productive rainstorms that we received in January and February (remember that Collins Lake does not receive water flows from snow run-off but is solely filled by rain in the surrounding watershed). Your efforts over the last two years to help the District conserve water were very successful. While we always encourage District members to continue these efforts we are cautiously optimistic about the water supply for 2010.

New Board Chairman - Russell Woods

Russell Woods recently was elected as Chair of the Board for the Browns Valley Irrigation District. After five years on the board Woods is excited to take on the new position. "I think it is a great opportunity," said Woods, "my focus will be on the infrastructure of the District and making improvements to the water delivery system."

Outgoing Chairman Robert Winchester had a very successful term on the Board. "Bob has been great to work with," said Woods, "we will continue to push forward on all our current projects as we focus on customer service and conservation."

"The challenge with the District is that when the water is flowing it is easy to ignore," said Woods, "I felt the same when I moved here, but as time went by I realized the importance of it and thought that getting involved with the District was a great way to give back to the

community in which I live."

Woods has lived in the Spring Valley Neighborhood for the last eight years and has a long family history in the area. "I love the area," said Woods, "when the opportunity for my wife Patrice and I to move up here with our two children (Melissa, now age 20 and Jared, now age 18) we jumped on it, it is a great place to raise a family and the lifestyle is just what we needed." Woods family has run the rock quarry on Spring Valley Road for the last several years and continues to be operated by Carl J. Woods Construction. The company primarily provides crushed stone for road base and other types of aggregate for various other uses.

Woods is looking forward to his service on the Board. "I am excited about the opportunity and welcome anyone with concerns to contact me at the District office," said Woods.

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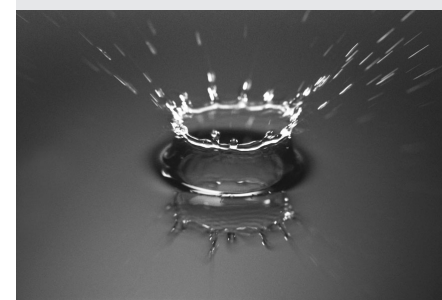
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Winter time is work time at BVID

Winter is the perfect time for District Employees to work on projects and improvements. While some might think that the winter months are easier around the office, the days can actually be busier and more intensive than when the water is flowing. Usual wintertime projects include: maintenance to ditches and general improvements; debris removal from ditches, servicing and general upkeep of District pumps, and necessary maintenance to equipment ensuring its readiness for the irrigation season ahead.

Over the past few months district employees have also been working hard on a major water quality enhancement projects that were funded by two grants, Proposition 50 & Proposition 204. This project will recapture water from Dry Creek that would otherwise be lost to the Yuba River. Due to this improvement water will now be reclaimed and put back in to the system.

The idea for this project was originally the idea of BVID Director Bob Winchester who developed it in late 1990's as efficiency and cost saving project. The project includes a lift station (a system of pumping the water out of the creek) and two miles of pipeline. The other benefit of this project is that it prevents warm flows in Dry Creek from getting into the colder fish friendly Yuba River as well as reducing pumping costs associated with lifting water out of the Yuba River for farmers in the lower part of the District.



Ask Flo...

Hello my friendly readers!

I was very pleased to receive a letter from a concerned district member. Though in my attempts at humor in the last newsletter might have been successful, I unfortunately got a very important point wrong. A local expert wrote me this letter with very good words of advice that I suggest everyone take to heart.

In regard to Ask Flo, issue 1, volume 3, I have very real concerns about recommending planting a cactus garden to conserve water. True, a cactus requires very little water, but it also requires perfect drainage. Crown and root rot are prevalent in clay soils. Cacti are best grown in pots in the interior Sacramento Valley. Cacti spines are a potential hazard to adults, children, livestock and pets.

Planting a drought tolerant or xeric garden would be better advice to save water. Many native and Mediterranean plants, when

established, require watering infrequently; usually every 2-3 weeks. These plants would have leaves, flowers and very few thorns.

The U.C. Davis Arboretum has done extensive research and has published a booklet called "Arboretum All Stars" that has a listing of the top one hundred plants that grow well in the interior Sacramento Valley. The booklet is available though the Yuba-Sutter Master Gardeners and online at the U.C. Davis website (arboretum.ucdavis.edu/arboretum_all_stars.aspx). It is a free publication that includes care, planting and watering information on each of the recommended plants.

The Yuba-Sutter Master Gardeners are a phone call or e-mail away to help answer gardening questions. They can be found at the Cooperative Extension Office, 142A Garden Highway, Yuba City, CA 95991. Phone: 530-742-5231 or E-mail: cesutter.ucdavis.edu/Master_Gardener

p.s. Drip irrigation is a great way to conserve water, because you can drip everything but a lawn, which is the number one water user in the landscape.

Pam Lowe

Pam – thank you so much for all the information. Keep those letters, comments and questions to **Ask Flo** coming!

Have a question for **Ask Flo**? Write your question on a piece of paper and mail it to:

BVID
Attn: Ask Flo
PO Box 6
Browns Valley, CA 95918

Why is there a BVID assessment on my property tax bill each year?

(Editor Note: We revisited this story with more details to answer some questions and make sure our customers have all the facts)

On September 13, 1960 by a vote of 238 to 8, BVID voters approved the District to enter into a contract with the United States Department of Interior for a no interest loan for the construction of Virginia Ranch Dam. The PL 984 loan also provided funds for rebuilding and enlarging the existing delivery system and building the pumpline system including the pumping plant on the Yuba River.

The approved government contract also provided that the BVID Board of Directors could collect a tax for repayment of the loan as well as the ongoing maintenance of the delivery system and Virginia Ranch

Dam. In August of each year the BVID Board of Directors sets the tax rate (per \$100 of assessed land value only (not including structures or improvements on the land). Over the years the tax rate slowly increased and was at 20 cents per \$100 of assessed land value in the late 1980's and early 1990's. At that time the BVID Board started lowering the tax rate as part of the budgeting process and it has been at 10 cents per 100 of assessed land value for the past several years.

At the time of the construction of the Dam, the plan was to use the additional water to put more acres of farm land under irrigation both in areas served by existing ditches as well as to provide water to the previously unserved western area of the District. Prior to Collins Lake, the irrigation demand for existing

ranches, farms, orchards, etc exceeded the water available from the historic Yuba River supply.

The expansion you see today, including pipelines and pumping plants, is the District's efforts to accommodate the changing irrigation demands within BVID. The pipeline construction program started in the mid 1980's and over the years there have been numerous changes in how pipeline projects are funded. Pipelines have been constructed by developers at their cost; funded by grants; built and paid for by land owners served by a new line; funded by BVID using out of District water sale income; and various other means. A portion of the new construction funding presently comes from the "Connection Fees" charged for each new service.

