



BVID News

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**Browns Valley
Irrigation District**

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Your water district in 2009

Drought conditions are being talked about on the news and in the daily paper. The rainy season slips by us without even normal precipitation to fill an empty reservoir. While we remain optimistic that rains will materialize it is prudent that the district prepares for what could be a serious situation. To let you know the situation for 2009, it is important that we first review what happened in 2008. This year we started with a very dry January. Typically January will be the month in which the rainfall is the highest. The rain is essential for the annual refill of Collins Lake. January rainfall can account for as much as 80% of the water increases to the lake during the year. Each dry day in January reduces the odds of filling dramatically.

In fact 2008 happened to be one of the driest years on record with rainfall far below average. In a normal year rainfall will fill the lake. In 2008 Collins Lake was 16 feet short of filling. In February 2008 the Board of Directors

developed a drought plan which outlined several water saving measures. Notably this decision was made several months prior to the State taking any official action. It was not helpful that rainfall for 2007 was below average. 2008 marked the second year with substandard rainfall.

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Your water district in 2009 continued from cover

The drought plan options included rationing of water, pumping water from the Yuba River to supplement lower parts of the District that are normally serviced by Collins Lake water, and also notifying District members about water saving methods and practices. These options were enacted by the early summer months as rainfall did not bring substantial increases to the levels in the lake.

Despite the lack of rain in 2008 BVID was still able to provide water through the end of October though it was on a reduced weekly schedule. 2008 ended much like it started, dry and without any hope of precipitation. Despite this fact BVID was still able to meet a large percentage of its normal year water delivery.

We are proud of our hill district members. Their spirit of cooperation and understanding of the 2008 situation was great. We must now prepare for what could be extreme drought conditions in 2009. Through conservation efforts, cooperation and by understanding the problem we were able to make

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it through one of the worst drought years on record. Only rainfall levels in 1977 are comparable.

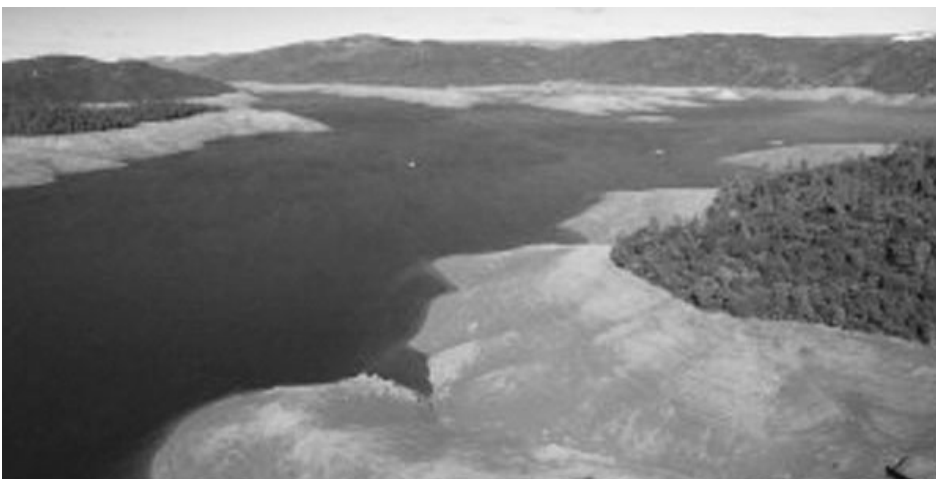
Looking ahead to the coming months we are of course hoping for at least normal amounts of rainfall. We are considering the options in front of us for 2009. Another concern is protecting our water rights into the future.

Every person within the District should be commended for their conservation efforts and patience during these situations. We will continue to keep you up to date on the situation and work towards doing what we can to prepare for the future.

If you have questions please feel free to call us as we are always happy to address individual concerns.

As we look forward to 2009 it is essential to understand a key issue

- **Two years of below average rainfall, with 2008 being labeled as a drought year.**
- **2007 started the irrigation season with the dam at Collins Lake just 8 feet below spill level**
- **2008 started the irrigation season with the dam at Collins Lake 16 feet below spill level.**
- **2009 has started with Collins Lake 51 feet below spill level.**
- **Current January 2009 rainfall levels are well below average (as of the printing of this newsletter).**



Nine Easy Water Conservation Tips



- Use large water barrels to catch water runoff from your roof. The water can be stored and later be used for watering plants and grass.
- Don't water on windy days as the wind makes water evaporate more quickly and makes watering less effective. Watering in the early morning when temperatures are cooler also helps prevent evaporation.
- Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
- Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
- When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.
- Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden with a hose.
- More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure only to water plants when necessary.

Loss in Pressure or Flow? Check filters.

During active months if you are experiencing loss in pressure or flow, before requesting a service call, please check any filters you may have installed on your system. A significant number of service calls are the result of plugged filters on personal irrigations systems.

Ask Flo...



Flo, what is a miner's inch?

It is a rate of flow determined by an orifice plate inside your service box. A 1-miners inch plate will allow 11-1/4 gallons per minute through your service box. 2-miners inches equals 22-1/2 gallons per minute.

Flo, my husband said that water season always starts in May, but I told him it changes each year depending on lake levels. Can you help set the record straight?

Unfortunately neither of you are right, but both of you are very close. There is actually no specific start or stop dates for the yearly irrigation season but rather, it is determined by the weather. In years with normal rainfall, the season begins when the

spring rains have ended and the majority of our customers will benefit from irrigation water. The season continues until sometime in the fall when the fall rains begin.

Who is Collins Lake named after?

Collins Lake is in honor of Merle Collins who as a Yuba County Farm Advisor was instrumental in getting the dam constructed.

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

BVID

Attn: Ask Flo

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