

# Browns Valley Irrigation District

Post Office Box 6, Browns Valley, CA 95918

*Business Office:*

530/743-5703

*Water Operations Office:*

530/742-6044

*Fax:*

530/743-0445

*Email:*

bvid@bvid.org

April 28, 2008

Dear District Member:

## **Collins Lake DROUGHT!**

What a difference a year can make, and not in a good way. Collins Lake has not filled for the second year in a row<sup>1</sup>. Today Collins is at 70% of capacity with very little additional rain in the forecast. This puts the Lake more than twice as low as we were a year ago at this time. So low that at the April 1<sup>st</sup> Special Board meeting, the Board of Directors declared a **Water Emergency for the Collins Lake Service Area** due to the low Lake level. With the current supplies, there is NOT enough water to last for the entire irrigation season. As part of a plan to conserve water, the Board adopted an **Ordinance Providing a Water Conservation Policy** at the April 10<sup>th</sup> Board meeting along with the approval of a **Drought Operations Plan**. This Plan includes some District actions to substitute some of Collins Lake water with water from the Yuba River, and calls for water users to not waste water as well as requiring landowners to maintain their ponds to less than full levels. This Plan will be updated at each Board meeting. You can view these policy's as well as weekly drought updates at [www.bvid.org](http://www.bvid.org).

What does this mean for water users in BVID? Conservation is an absolute must. Please do your very best to keep your irrigation water on your property and don't let those ponds spill. If we all work together, we can get through this.

<sup>1</sup>*Collins Lake fills only from rainfall. The watershed above Collins Lake is cutoff from the snow pack by the Feather River watershed on one side and the Yuba River watershed on the other side. Therefore, once the rains end for the winter, the inflow into Collins reduces to a trickle.*

## **2008 SEASON WATER OUTLOOK**

Merle Collins Reservoir is short on supplies. If we use the same amount of water this year as we did last year, Collins Lake will be dry at the end of the irrigation season. Before that happens, the Board will be forced to institute a rationing program that will most likely include shutting down the deliveries for several days each week. Please conserve.

The Board has made a small adjustment to this year's rates, which are listed below:

- **All Users-** \$140 administrative service charge (a \$20.00 increase from last year).
- **Miner's Inch Users-** The miner's-inch rate of delivered water is \$90.00/inch. As always, a 5% discount will be given for pre-payment in full by May 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Acre Foot Users-** The acre-foot charge for delivered water is \$14.29/acre-foot. As always, a 5% discount will be given for pre-payment in full by May 30<sup>th</sup>.

In closing, if you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to contact me at the District office.

Sincerely,

Walter Cotter  
General Manager  
[walter@bvid.org](mailto:walter@bvid.org)