



BVID News

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**Browns Valley
Irrigation District**

9370 Browns Valley School Rd.
PO Box 6
Browns Valley, CA 95918

Executive Director

Walter Cotter
E-mail: Walter@bvid.org

Board of Directors:

Division I

Robert Bordsen
Email: bvidbobb@att.net

Division II

Russell Woods
Email: webinfo@bvid.org

Division III

Diana J. Wheeler
Email: webinfo@bvid.org

Division IV

Bill Lowe
Email: webinfo@bvid.org

Division V

Robert Winchester
Email: webinfo@bvid.org

This year's water schedule

While we still face many challenges in the coming year for our water situation, it is substantially better than the situation as it presented itself in January (when we last sent out this newsletter). Due to some very good and steady February rains as well as good rainfall at the beginning of May we find ourselves returning to near pre-drought conditions. With conservation efforts we should be able to provide a full schedule to BVID customers throughout the summer. Currently Collins Lake Dam is less than eleven feet below spill.

The current water release schedule is as follows:

- May to September
Water on full time
- October
Water schedule dependent on weather / cutting back as cooler temperatures allow

This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change as conditions and weather impact the situation. The Board of Directors will constantly meet and discuss all options available to see if any changes to the schedule can or will be made.

How this affects you

We must remain diligent in order to insure that we have water

“Due to some very good and steady February rains as well as good rainfall at the beginning of May we find ourselves returning to pre-drought conditions.”

throughout the season and to preserve water for future years. As we did last year we are encouraging water conservation and hands on management of your water usage. As part of our outreach efforts we will continue to communicate with you about the water schedule and any changes. We are dedicated to

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This year's water schedule *continued from cover*

keeping these lines of communication open. This way you have a full understanding of the efforts we are making to keep the water flowing as much as possible during the hot summer months. Last year the people of the District made significant sacrifices and worked hard to conserve our water. It is important that these efforts continue this year.

What we are doing to conserve

We are continuing our education and conservation program to insure those in the district know about the importance of limiting their water usage. Please notify us immediately if you see practices that waste water.

The pumping of water from the Yuba River to the higher elevation areas in the District is feasible only during drought years (as it is extremely cost prohibitive). Last year lifting water to higher elevations

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through pumping was used extensively.

We have recently completed a lift station to provide drought relief to

Collins Lake Reservoir in a limited capacity during drought years.

We continue our efforts to improve our ability to deliver water in the District. Over the last twenty years a substantial amount of water has been conserved by changing wasteful ditches to underground piping. This allows us to serve many more customers without increasing demand on Collins Lake.

Other projects are currently being explored with the idea of water conservation. As funds become available, these projects will be implemented and will help with your District's ability to continue to provide reliable water service to you.

Meet your district employee: Gary Henry

Gary Henry has been with Browns Valley Irrigation District for over 20 years. A Brownsville resident Gary says his favorite part of his job is being able to work outside, “I was raised in the country and love working for BVID because I spend my time outside,” said Gary, “I love being able to see the snow capped sierras and the green fields, I am happy to be a part of BVID.”

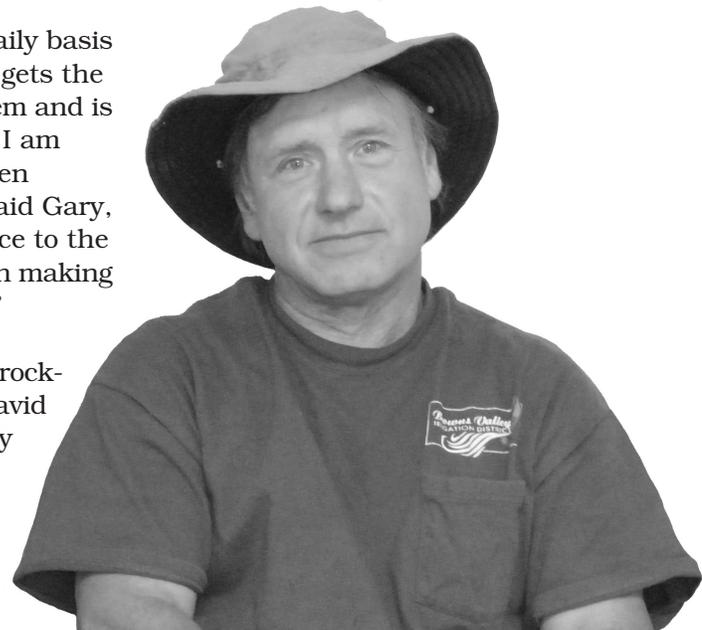
His position is titled Utility Worker II that hardly begins to describe the job that Gary performs on a daily basis. Gary's position with BVID is best described as the guy who controls water in the upper District and operates the powerhouse which is generated by flows at Collins Lake. When it comes to getting water to your house from Collins Lake to your home, it is Gary who is

responsible for making it happen through the maze of ditches and pipeline that make up your District's distribution system.

As busy as Gary is on a daily basis he is still the person who gets the call when there is a problem and is happy to respond. “While I am usually the one called when something goes wrong,” said Gary, “I am happy to be of service to the customers in the District in making sure they get their water.”

In his spare time Gary is a rock-n-roller at heart. He is an avid musician and loves to play the guitar. He has been married to his wife Lynda for the last 38 years and has two daughters; Emily, 24 and Paige, 21.

Next time you see Gary out in the District feel free to say stop and say hello.



Collins Lake is ready for summer fun!

Great camping, fishing and more right in your own backyard!



Most everyone knows that one of the most fun and entertaining places to head for a day of boating, fishing or camping is Collins Lake, but there are a few people who might not understand exactly what a treasure the lake is for the local area. The over 1,000 acre lake does more than just act as the reservoir that provides water to BVID customers; it also provides some of the most beautiful scenery in Northern California. With a recreation area comprising over 12-1/2 miles of shoreline it is easy to access right off Marysville Road.

“We are very proud of the facilities that we provide,” said Lincoln Young, Collins Lake Resort General Manager, “it is a great place to come to camp, fish, boat, and swim or just enjoy a day on the shore.”

The resort is open year round each day at sunrise and includes lakeshore camping, recreation vehicle sites, group camps, a boat launch, marina, boat rentals, a big sand swimming beach and a general store. “We offer lots of amenities for those staying just an afternoon or camping all week,” said Young, “we have a terrific children’s playground,

an onsite laundry and even hot showers.” “The biggest hit with the public though is our famous huge ice cream cones,” said Young.

Besides offering a recreational bonanza for boaters and campers Collins Lake is very well-known for its trophy trout and bass fishing. “Most people are not aware that we have Northern California’s largest trout planting program,” said Young, “with over 50,000 trout planted each spring.” Thousands of trout are trophy size, planted at 3 to 8 pounds in size. Bass, crappie, bluegill, and catfish are also plentiful. Intensive habitat areas have been built for them to insure that they flourish and keep Collins Lake as one of the best fishing lakes in Northern California.

“We have worked hard to provide the details that make a family trip to the lake the best it can be,” said Young. The resort provides a friendly and professional staff to answer questions and assist customers. Security and medical personnel are also on call 24 hours a day.

The resort goes above and beyond with a huge boat rental fleet that

includes outboard fishing boats, one and two story party patio boats, paddleboats, and ocean kayaks. Cabins and RV trailers are also available for rent. Waterskiing is also permitted on the lake from May 1st to October 15th, however jet skis and personal wave runners are not allowed.

“With the lake at normal levels we are looking forward to a great summer,” said Young, “we are sure that locals will enjoy all that we have right here close to home.”

Gate hours are as follows:

Open at Dawn Every Day Year Round

Summer:

May 1st through Labor Day -
Dawn to 10:00 pm
(Midnight on Fridays)

Winter:

Labor Day to April - Dawn to Dusk
(10pm on Fridays)

Reservations are recommended for campsites and RV rentals.

More information can be obtained by calling (530) 692-1600 or by visiting www.collinslake.com

Ask Flo...



Flo, how does the snow pack affect the water in Collins Lake?

It doesn't. Collins Lake is filled entirely by rain fall in the upper watershed. However, this is one of the most common misconceptions about your District's water supply.

The snow pack run off from higher elevations flows into the Yuba and Feather rivers to the north bypassing the Collins Lake watershed.

What can I do to conserve water?

The short answer is water conversation is all about you! If you water in the early morning or late evening that helps prevent evaporation and allows more time for the water to be absorbed. It is also a good idea to set a timer when you have the sprinklers on so that you do not over water. Also make

sure not to water while it is windy as this allows much of water to evaporate into the air. The best thing I can tell you is just to irrigate with common sense - don't misuse or overuse as it hurts us all.

Where can I go for fun in the summer around here?

You must be new to these parts. The District owned Collins Lake is a great place for recreational fun and features highly rated camping and boating facilities.

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

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PO Box 6
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