

# Finance Department Customer Service

The members of the Finance Department are as follows:

Name	Position	Direct Dial Phone	Email
Cammie Morin	Finance Director	704-455-4008	cmorin@sidwater.org
Clarissa Lu	Senior Staff Accountant	707-455-4002	clu@sidwater.org
Destiny Vender	Accounting Tech	707-455-4005	dvender@sidwater.org
Veronica Sanchez	Accounting Tech	707-455-4004	vsanchez@sidwater.org
Lucy Garcia	Accounting Clerk	707-455-4003	lgarcia-flores@sidwater.org



To facilitate customer service, our department is being restructured so that one of the accountants will be sitting at the front reception desk in the lobby at our offices at 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 201. In addition to assisting our customers and other guests, we will also performing other accounting duties, such as processing invoices for payment, assisting with water bills, and payroll accounting. We did not add a new staff member; we are simply moving existing staff to the front desk.

When we need to be away from the front desk, a sign will be on display to instruct customers and guests how to call the Finance department, and an accountant will come to the front desk as quickly as possible to assist you.

Our department will be available between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM to assist customers, via the phone or at the front desk.

Solano Irrigation District  
810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 201  
Vacaville, CA 95688

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HERE

**Contact Us**  
Solano Irrigation District  
810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Ste. 201  
Vacaville, CA 95688 (707) 448-6847  
Visit us on the web at [www.sidwater.org](http://www.sidwater.org)



# SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SID QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

## Losing Stream

By Cary Keaten

Recently, Maurice Hall with the Environmental Defense Fund was a co-presenter in a lecture series focused on water law and policy. The focus of the early May, 2018 lecture was 'Can California successfully integrate groundwater and surface water under SGMA? SMGA is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. The Solano Irrigation District (District) and its customer properties are heavily invested in the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) required under SGMA by 2022.



The lecture started with Hall providing an excellent description of one of the key issues facing us here in the Sacramento Valley. Mainly, the Sacramento River is a losing stream system. Hall described that when groundwater is pumped from multiple wells within a basin, it lowers the overall groundwater level so that water flows from the waterway (in our valley's case, the Sacramento River) back into the groundwater aquifer. Over the long term, the water way loses water to the lowered groundwater basin, termed a "losing stream".

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Groundwater Update

by Cary Keaten

In September 19, 2017 the Solano Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SID GSA) approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work with the other GSAs in the Solano Subbasin preparing a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). This approach pools resources and resulted in the group receiving a \$1,000,000 grant from the State of California, Department of Water Resources.

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## SID Sells Drain Water to MPWD

By Cary Keaten

The Solano Irrigation District (District) and Maine Prairie Water District (MPWD) have been partnering to exchange water since 1983. On March 15, 2018, the parties agreed to extend the *Agreement* another 5 years. In the Agreement, the District's drain water is exchanged for a 10,000 acre-feet (AF) of MPWD's Solano Project (SP) allocation. Depending on the year, MPWD receives an average of over 20,000 AF of drain water through the exchange. Also, they have an option to buy an additional 15,000 AF of the District's SP allocation (the District's allocation is 140,000 AF).



MPWD's original Solano Project allocation of 15,000 AF, which was not sufficient to meet the crop water demands in their service area. Concerned that the District would begin to recapture and reuse drain water outflow, which sustained MPWD's needs, 1983 Agreement exchanged 10,000 AF of SP water for all of the District's drain water. The Agreement was extended in 2002, 2013 and now in 2018.

The 2018 extension is for another three (3) years with two options to extend it one year at a time. The extension is for a relatively short term (5 years). One reason is that MPWD is considering funding and building a connection of the delta which would bring in water for their customers under the North Delta Water Agency agreement that about half of their properties have with the State Water Resources Control Board.

The 2018 Agreement is considered a bridge to a future long-term Agreement with the following deal points:

- a. MPWD receives ALL available drain water from the District and compensates the District an annual fee of \$50,000.
- b. The District retains the right to use up to 2,000 AF of drain water at its newly constructed recovery weir at the confluence of Sweeney and McCune Creeks.
- c. The District receives the right to use 10,000 AF of MPWD's 15,000 AF of SP allocation.
- d. MPWD can call for deliveries using the District's water delivery system.
- e. Tier 1 Water: MPWD's retains SP water in the amount of 5,000 AF.
- f. Tier 2 Water: MPWD can call on up to 10,000 AF of additional SP water at the current District's Ag Gravity rate. If unused, MPWD can purchase remainder of Tier 2 Water for use in the next water year and the District guarantees said water delivery.
- g. Tier 3 Water: MPWD may purchase an additional 5,000 AF of water after Tier 1 and Tier 2 waters are exhausted but, at the price point of 2 times the current Ag gravity rate. Also, the District will discount the Tier 3 rate based on an inverse proportion to the Lake levels at the beginning of the irrigation season and assuming SID has at least 20,000 AF in its carryover account with SCWA based on the following:
  - No sales if lake is below 850,000 AF
  - 0% discount if the lake is at 1,000,000 AF or lower
  - 5% discount if the lake level is 1,100,000 AF
  - 10% discount if the lake level is 1,200,000 AF
  - 15% discount if the lake level is 1,300,000 AF
- h. Lastly, Tier 3 water, if purchased, transfers to MPWD during the water season in which it was purchased.

When the Agreement expires in 2023, it is anticipated both agencies will enter into a long-term agreement as MPWD will have made a final decision of the North Delta Water Agency water and the District will have a better long-term understanding of its own water portfolio.



## Losing Stream (Continued from page 1)

Hall explained research has shown, prior to 50 years ago, the Sacramento River gained about 1 million acre-feet a year as it flowed south into the Delta in addition to the waters from the water shed. It was a "gaining stream". Over the past 50 years of groundwater pumping, however, the dynamic has changed. In a 2010 groundwater modeling exercise, it is now estimated that 900,000 acre-feet per year less water makes it to the Delta via the Sacramento River because it's a losing stream.

Mr. Hall said. "basically less water showing up in the river to meet the required flows in the Delta so upstream dam releases and diversions had to be adjusted to make up for that additional flow. All that's to say is that the collective groundwater pumping in the Sacramento Valley has a pretty significant impact on the flows in the Sacramento River." [1]

Closer to home, the "losing stream" description has parallels to Putah Creek. During the 2012 to 2016 drought, some farmers located adjacent to the creek reported having to drill their groundwater wells deeper. Since the implementation of Lake Berryessa and the Solano Project, groundwater levels within the Solano Irrigation District, however, have been exceptionally stable. The District has about 75 groundwater wells which it monitors, measures and reports to the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program which tracks seasonal and long-term groundwater elevation trends in groundwater basins statewide. The District does not track groundwater information adjacent to Putah Creek since it is about a mile north of its border.

The District is partnering with the Solano Subbasin GSA and other GSAs to prepare one Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Solano Subbasin. The required data gathering and groundwater modeling over the next 2 years should answer questions regarding Putah Creek and the groundwater basin adjacent to the creek.

Should you desire to read the full presentation by Hall and his co-presenter, Kevin O'Brien with the Downey Brand law firm in Sacramento, go to "Mavensnotebook.com", under the "News By Category" heading, click on "Speeches and profiles", the article will appear on the list. Also, you can sign up to receive news flashes while you're there as reading Maven's Notebook is a great way to stay up to speed on current California water issues.

[1] This section was referenced from an on-line article regarding the 'Can California successfully integrate groundwater and surface water under SGMA' lecture as reported on Maven's Notebook May 16, 2018.

## Groundwater Update

(Continued from page 1)

In March and April of this year, the GSAs party to the MOU formed the **GSA Coordination Committee** consisting of one voting member from each GSA. The Committee proceeded to write and issue a Request for Proposal issued in late March for the purpose of hiring a consulting firm to prepare the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Solano Subbasin. Once the Proposals were received on April 16, 2018, the Committee reviewed them and invited the firms for an interview. All the firms were highly qualified but, in general, the team lead by Luhdorff & Scalmanini was recommended and ultimately hired because the team already had extensive knowledge on the region's groundwater.

For example, the Luhdorff & Scalmanini team included David's Engineering and Kennedy-Jenks. All three team members have worked for the District, the Solano County Water Agency, Vacaville and other GSA Coordination Committee members in recent years. As such, their experience is specific to Solano County and the Solano Subbasin. The other firms, while qualified and capable, had the bulk of their experience outside of Solano County.

