

# 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

PLACE  
STAMP  
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

Spring 2018

## Mike Barrett, New SID Board Member

By Cary Keaten

During its March 20, 2018 the Solano Irrigation District (District) Board of Directors meeting, Mike Barrett was sworn in as a new Board Member. Barrett joins the Board as the 5<sup>th</sup> member and replaces Glen Grant who retired on February 21<sup>st</sup>. To be qualified for the appointment, Barrett lives within Division 3 (the Division with the vacancy), owns property within the District and is a registered voter in Solano County.



The District filled the vacancy on the Board caused by Grant's retirement by an appointment process after it initiated an extensive outreach effort. The District posted notices informing the public of the vacancy by placing advertisements in Vacaville Reporter, the Fairfield Daily Republic and the Dixon Tribune. The District also posted notices on various local web sites, posted hard copy notices on various local bulletin boards and posted physical signs on District property within Division 3.

Barrett is a partner in B&C Hay, Inc. and grew up raising cattle and irrigating pastures just outside of Dixon. Out of high school, he grew his operations from 1 hay baler to 24. Then, started branching out to almond orchards in the early 1990's. Today, he and his business partner operate an extensive haying operation consisting of alfalfa, straw, sudan grass, oats and rye grass. The almond side of the business is also flourishing.

Barrett stated in his letter to the Board that he is "excited for this opportunity and believe I can provide critical input to help guide the District through this new paradigm of groundwater regulation [an issue he sees as key in the current and near future]."

## Groundwater Update

by Cary Keaten



The Solano Irrigation District (SID) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) entered into a partnership with five other GSAs in the Solano Subbasin. The partnership was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and included the Vacaville GSA, Solano GSA, Sacramento GSA and multiple Reclamation Districts on the easterly side of the Solano Subbasin adjacent to the Sacramento River. The purpose of the partnership is to save money in the preparation of a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Subbasin.

Last fall, the group applied for State grant funds for help in preparing the GSP. In late January 2018, the State of California, Department of Water Resources announced **we were awarded \$1,000,000 in grant funds.**

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## Groundwater Update

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In order to comply with the GSP and grant requirements, the partners to the MOU are preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a consulting firm to development and prepare a single GSP for the Solano Subbasin. During the preparation of the Draft GSP over the next several years, there will be multiple calls for public review and comment. SID will also be hosting several workshops and we will mail notifications to our customers in the Solano Subbasin (mainly, the Solano Subbasin is from Vacaville and east).

The proposed total budget to develop the Solano Subbasin GSP is \$3,592,000 (as reported in the Prop 1 grant application work plan). The GSP funding requirements potentially line up as follows:

\$3,592,000 from GSP Work Plan

(\$1,000,000) Prop 1 Grant

(\$350,000) SCWA Grant

(\$450,000 or, a portion thereof) Prop 1 Grant to Freshwater Trust some of which will be available to the Solano Subbasin

Much of the \$1,790,000 Balance of GSP Work Plan funding requirement will be in-kind donations by the GSAs involved in the document preparation. However, at some point in time over the next 2 to 3 years, there will likely be a call for funds from each of the partners.



### SID MISSION STATEMENT

Solano Irrigation District's mission is to provide safe and reliable water to our farms, families and businesses.

## District's Division Boundary Update

By Cary Keaten

State and Federal laws require that public agencies periodically review and update the boundaries (usually referred to as districts). The Solano Irrigation District (District) recently reviewed its division boundary lines and found, that because of population growth in Dixon and Suisun City, they needed updating.

The District has five (5) divisions. The law requiring the necessity to review and update divisions requires their populations shall be within 5% of each other. In the fall of 2017 the District hired a consultant, Redistricting Partners, and developed several scenarios that complied with state and federal law.

Before initiating a mandated 2-step public hearing process, a District Board committee and the full Board of Directors reviewed and narrowed down various scenarios in late 2017. The final scenario complies with the legal requirements of updating divisions based on population, geographic boundaries (such as the cities, major streets and freeways, mountain ridge lines, etc.) and considering the existing architecture of the district to adjust each division's jurisdictional boundaries.

The 2-step public hearing process started on January 16<sup>th</sup> and on February 20, 2018, the Board approved an update to the divisions. The divisions could have a maximum 5% deviation from the median division size of 10,219 in a 5 division configuration, however, approved division maps generally have a deviation of about 3%.

To see the approved map, see the District's internet web site [www.sidwater.org](http://www.sidwater.org) and click on "About Us" then, on "Director Divisions Map"

## Legislation Update: Senate Bill 623: State Tax on Drinking Water

By Kevin King

A proposal to impose a state tax on drinking water is being advanced through Senate Bill 623 (SB 623) by Senator William Monning (D-Carmel), a two-year bill introduced in 2017 and a Governor Brown Administration budget trailer bill related to safe drinking water.

### Background on Drinking Water Tax Proposals:

In March 2017, Sen. Monning introduced SB 623, a bill aimed at funding drinking water solutions for disadvantaged communities. The bill was amended at various times throughout the year, however, language proposing the tax on drinking water was added to the bill on Aug. 21 – just two days before the bill was scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 623 was made a two-year bill on September 1, 2017. The Assembly Appropriations Committee referred the bill to the Assembly Rules Committee, where it remains today. The Assembly Rules Committee could refer the bill to one or more policy committees, or move the bill directly to the Assembly floor at any time.

In January 2018, Gov. Jerry Brown released his proposed 2018-19 budget, and the summary document signaled that the administration will be advancing statutory language consistent with the framework of SB 623. The California Department of Finance posted the budget trailer bill language on February 1, 2018 that is essentially the SB 623 language.

If the Brown Administration is not successful with the budget trailer bill, Sen. Monning will likely try to move SB 623. Regardless of whether the vehicle is a budget trailer bill or a policy bill, a proposal for a new tax requires a two-thirds majority of the vote of both the Assembly and the Senate.

### Assembly Hearing: Wednesday, March 14, 2018

On Wednesday, March 14, 2018, the Assembly's budget subcommittee held hearings on the Brown Administration's budget trailer bill related to safe drinking water. Wednesday's budget hearing included lengthy and emotional public testimony in support of the tax by dozens of men, women, and children from disadvantaged communities that lack safe drinking water. The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) was also present, flanked by numerous water agencies, in opposition of the trailer bill. After hearing all testimony, the subcommittee opted to hold the item open to allow further consideration of the issues involved before making a decision.

### Senate Hearing: Thursday, March 15, 2018

On Thursday, March 15, 2018, the Senate's Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environment Protection, Energy and Transportation held hearings on the budget trailer bill. Testimony was similar to what was given the day prior during the Assembly hearings. However, questioning during the testimony tended to favor an opposing viewpoint to the drinking water tax. The water agencies present for the hearings were encouraged by the dialogue during the hearings and left feeling positive. Nevertheless, after hearing all testimony, the subcommittee opted to hold the item open to allow further considerations of the issues involved before making a decision.

### Next Steps

With the budget trailer bill being left open in both the Assembly and Senate, both budget subcommittees can chose to take the bill up at any time, without further public input. Solano Irrigation District (SID) and ACWA will be closely monitoring the activity of these subcommittees.

Additionally, tax payers should be aware that while SB 623 (Monning 2017) could be moved from the Assembly Rules Committee at anytime, action on SB 623 is not expected while the budget trailer bill is pending.

The SID Board, will be considering adoption of a resolution in opposition to the Budget Trailer Bill and SB 623 during their regular Board of Directors meeting on April 17, 2018. More information regarding the drinking water tax is available on [www.sidwater.org](http://www.sidwater.org).

