

Finance Department Customer Service

The members of the Finance Department are as follows:

Name	Position	Direct Dial Phone	Email
Cammie Morin	Finance Director	707-455-4008	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



SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SID QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

Lake Berryessa & Ag Water Allocation

By Cary Keaten



Each year the Solano Irrigation District (District) Board of Directors set an allocation limit for properties taking agricultural water. The allocation is typically over 3 vertical feet per acre. The allocation in the 2018 Water Year was 4.75 feet but, was increased in July to 5.75 feet. Heading into the 2019 Water Year, the District Board is setting the initial allocation at 3.8 feet. The District's water sources making up the allocation includes 131,000 AF of surface water and 2,500 AF of groundwater.

Where does the Surface Water come from?

The District's annual allocation out of Lake Berryessa is 140,000 acre feet (AF). The District receives another 10,000 AF due to an exchange agreement with the Maine Prairie Water District but, the District also reallocates about 19,000 AF of its 140,000 AF to urban uses. Therefore the allocation from Lake Berryessa is typically about 131,000 AF for agricultural uses. In addition to the 131,000 AF, the District can add to its supply from "carryover water" and groundwater.

What's carryover water? If the District ends a water season with un-used water, it can save or "carryover" that water to the next water season. During normal hydrologic cycles, the District adds water to its carryover account. For example, the District added about 50,000 AF of water to its carryover account after the wet 2017 and 2018 winters and spring. Mainly, wet springs delay the irrigation season by a month or more because agriculture just don't need the water. Therefore, less water is delivered out of Lake Berryessa and carryover'ed to the next water year. But, there are rules we must follow when partnering with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The USBR, who owns Lake Berryessa, has a rule that when water spills into the Morning Glory Spillway (what most everyone calls the Glory Hole), the first water spilled is the carryover water.

In 2017, the District lost over 100,000 AF down the Morning Glory Spillway. This spring, due to the wet springs of 2017 and 2018, the District had accumulated about 50,000 AF of carryover water. Since water started spilling into the Morning Glory Spillway on February 26th, 2019, the District has lost all their carryover water. Also, all the other agencies who rely on Lake Berryessa lost their carryover water as well.

(Continued on page 2)

How is groundwater used?

During the irrigation season, properties located in the District usually have their irrigation needs met by the District's delivery of surface water from Lake Berryessa. However, many properties also have groundwater wells and use the water during off-season or to supplement their water needs. As reported in past Newsletters, the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) required groundwater basins around the state to develop sustainability plans and to be fully sustainable by 2040.

The District is part of the Solano Subbasin. The urban and agricultural interests within the Solano Subbasin rely on groundwater and surface water for their needs. Somewhere about 20% of the properties within the Subbasin are located within the District and those properties use mostly surface water. The remainder of properties within the Subbasin are split between groundwater and surface water. But, an estimated 100,000 AF of groundwater is used. Mainly, the large groundwater users are located in a band between the District's northerly border and Putah Creek. Also, just east of the District. As one may guess, ag interests utilize more groundwater in the Subbasin than urban interests.

The District does not extract anywhere near its proportionate share of groundwater from the Subbasin. If it did, it's conceivable the District and its properties could extract over 100,000 AF of groundwater. In the future, it is likely the District will be either extracting or managing said amount of groundwater. For now, however, the District only extracts supplemental water. For 2019, the amount is estimated to be about 2,500 AF. In the recent past, however, the number has been about 12,000 AF.



Water Tax or Drinking Water Trust?

By Cary Keaten

Newly elected California Governor Newsom made it clear he supports a water tax that would create a "safe and affordable drinking water fund" to assist disadvantaged communities in paying for their costs of treating and delivering water.



The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) launched an all-out effort to divert the Governor's (and MANY in the State Legislature) from enacting the water tax on all drinking water in the State. The effort keeps the "good intent" of the Governor and Legislature but, funds the program on budget surplus years and NOT an ongoing tax.

The draft Senate Bill (SB) 669 (sponsored by Senator Caballero), would create the Safe Drinking Water Trust (Trust) at the state Treasury. The Trust would be to provide a durable funding source to help community water systems in disadvantaged communities provide their customers with access to safe drinking water. ACWA and the State wide Water Agencies it represents believe the Trust would be a better approach than a statewide water tax.

The Solano Irrigation District (SID) signed on to ACWA's efforts

(Continued on page 3)

to avoid the water tax during their March 19, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting. The main stated reason to create the Trust was to:

- ◆ Agree that the vast majority of Californians have access to safe drinking water. However, some disadvantaged communities do not. This is a public health issue that the state must address.
- ◆ A financial solution is needed for O&M and capital costs that is not a tax but, rather, take advantage of surplus funding years to set aside dollars in a trust.

The ACWA and the California Municipal Utilities Association are sponsoring SB 669 to create the Trust. The Trust's principal would be initially financed with a one-time infusion of General Fund dollars during a budget surplus year. With the record budget surplus for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year, this is the perfect year to create and fund the Trust.

SID joined ACWA and many other State Water Agencies stating they agree it is NOT sound policy to tax a resource that is essential to life. State law sets forth a policy of a human right to water for human consumption that is safe, clean, affordable and accessible. Adding a regressive statewide water tax on local water bills would work against keeping water affordable for all Californians.

A better approach is supporting SB 669 by creating the one-time surplus funded Safe Drinking Water Trust.

SID Day

By Rachel Martin

SID Day is a team-building event established to give employees an opportunity to learn about the different departments in the District, this year it was held on February, 28th. Each employee plays an important role in the District's success, and SID Day provides a chance for employees to interact and grow as a team. This year SID did things a little differently from previous years –employees were taken to different sites throughout the District and discussed the importance of each location. This gave employees an opportunity to see different worksites and learn which department directly handles and manages each one. This year employees visited eight locations: Data Center, Nut Tree Pumping Plant, Terminal Reservoir, Sports Tank, Cement Hill Water Treatment Plant, Pleasant Hills Ranch Estates, Dixon Weather Station, and DW53.

Throughout the day you could see that it wasn't just the team leaders who were involved in the site discussions – other employees started getting involved as well, chiming in at different points to provide their expertise. Each department – SCADA, Engineering, Maintenance, Ag Ops, Pest Management, Water Treatment/Water Quality, M&I, Solano Project, Construction/Equipment, Finance, Human Resources and IT – plays an important role in the District's strength and growth. By working together SID is able to accomplish its objectives and meet customers' needs.



SID MISSION STATEMENT

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

Participation in SID Day promotes team bonding, creates a fun work culture, building bridges across departments, and helping define each employee's role in the overall prosperity of the District.

Each employee is a unique part of the momentum that makes Solano Irrigation District a success. It is by working together and learning from one another that SID is able to grow and evolve, now and going forward.

A few wonderful SID employees enjoying SID Day!

