

If you have a question on paying your water bill please give us a call.

Destiny Vender - 707-455-4005
Accounting Clerk & Primary Customer Service Representative

Veronica Sanchez-Miranda
707-455-4004
Accounting Clerk

Clarissa Lu - 707-455-4002
Senior Staff Accountant

Cammie Morin - 707-455-4008
Director of Finance



Paying Water Bills

There are a variety of methods available to pay your water bill:

- ◆ Mail a check in the provided self-addressed green envelope
- ◆ Come to the office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM (we are fully staffed during the noon hour).
- ◆ Place your payment in the white metal drop box with our logo in our parking lot. Check payments only, if you choose this option. Please do not leave cash in the drop box. We check the box daily.
- ◆ Make a payment online, through our third party Administrator MuniPay, via our website www.sidwater.org:
Electronic Check
Credit Card: Visa; Mastercard; American Express; or Discover card

Complete instructions on making an online payment are accessed on our website as follows:

- On the right side of our home page, click on the PAY BILLS button;
- Or, on the bottom left side of our home page, click on the Pay Bills link.

Here you will find detailed instructions on making an online payment, or if you choose, please give us a call and we will go through the process with you.

There is a convenience fee associated with making online payments, which is automatically calculated once a payment amount has been entered. At this point there is an option to cancel the transaction.



Customer Service Concerns?

SID launched a campaign a couple years ago to improve its customer service. In fact, we adopted a new logo with the word "Service" pasted prominently across the front. I'm aware, however, that adopting a new logo doesn't mean we're always great at providing service. So, please let me know how we're doing. Let me know of a concern. I'll do my best to find solutions. Send me an email at ckeaten@sidwater.org or, call (707) 455-4080.

Cary Keaten, General Manager

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SID QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

January Rain Increases Berryessa Lake Levels

2017 has started out with quite a storm event, producing rainfall totals twice the average precipitation for the month of January. Many of our customers are interested to know what the Berryessa lake levels are following major rain storms. Below are numbers as of January 24, 2017.

Current Water Surface Elevation as of 1/24/2017	425.78 feet
Top of Glory Hole Elevation	439.96 feet
Distance to Glory Hole as of 1/24/2017	14.18 feet
Current Lake Berryessa Water Storage Volume as of 1/24/2017	1,265,304 acre-feet
Maximum Lake Berryessa Water Storage Volume	1,600,000 acre-feet
Percentage of Lake Storage Capacity	79.08%
End of Water Season Water Storage Volume on 10/23/2016	855,434 acre-feet
Total Solano Project Annual Allocation	207,350 acre-feet
Solano Irrigation District's Solano Project Annual Allocation	141,000 acre-feet

For more information on water levels and for Real Time Monitoring, please visit Solano County Water Agency's website: www.scwa2.com

Contact Us

Give us a call for information about our services

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

(707) 448-6847

Visit us on the web at
www.sidwater.org



Who Manages Your Groundwater?

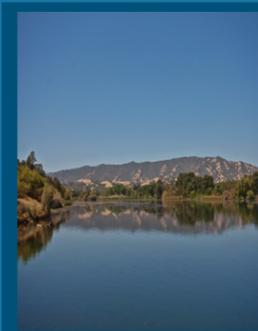
2nd Article in a Multi-part Series

To the best of our ability, SID is working to protect your share of the groundwater under your properties. This is why we are writing a multi-part series on groundwater. But, does your groundwater need protecting? We firmly believe the answer is yes. Please bear with us as this long, detailed and complicated story unfolds. Here's the latest update...

During its December 2016 Board Meeting, SID began a 2-path approach to complying with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The 2014 law requires establishing a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) with other local agencies in the local groundwater basin. Our basin is the "Solano Subbasin" and covers mainly the eastern half of Solano County but parts of Yolo and Sacramento Counties. The deadline to establish a GSA is June 30, 2017 or, the State could take over.

In general, the Subbasin is seen as sustainable today. However, future demand on groundwater will likely increase by 30% or more. This anticipated increase has highlighted the importance of representation in the GSA and the GSA's ultimate extent of authority.

(SGMA Update continued on page 3)



SID MISSION

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

Weed Control on Trial

The Solano Irrigation District (District) operates 95 miles of unlined dirt canals throughout the irrigation season (mid-April through mid-October). During the off-season, the canals dry out and terrestrial weeds invade the canals. When recharging the canals each April with water, the newly grown weeds restrict the District's ability to move water. Also, the weeds cause clogging problems for District facilities and our customers who irrigate with micro-spray or drip systems. As such, it's important to keep the canals clean and clear.

Challenges of Weed Removal

Options for eliminating weeds include either mechanically removing them or, spraying them with herbicides to kill them. In both cases the dead weeds pose problems with debris once the canal is charged each spring. Alternatively, the use of pre-emergent herbicides is preferred. Pre-emergent herbicides are applied to the ground when the canal is dry. Rainfall then soaks the herbicide into the soil inhibiting the germination process of nested seeds. In 2014, the District partnered with Valent and Alligare to perform a trial of their product, *Payload*. Participation in the product trial gave the District first-hand experience and feedback.



Tests and Trials

The District worked with Valent, Alligare, and the University of California, Davis during the trial. UC Davis did the research and obtained a "Special Local Needs pesticide label" for the product for canal usage.

The first trial was done over the fall and winter of 2014. The testing team applied the product and performed counts to assess the effectiveness against weeds in the canal. One issue the California Department of Pesticide Regulation wanted the trial to examine was whether any of the herbicide would remain in the canal and possibly enter the water when the canal was flooded for use. To meet this goal, the District treated two sections of canal and waited 60 days and 30 days, respectively, before bringing water back into the canal. Water quality samples were taken just before the water reached a field. Both the 60 day and 30 day samples contained no detectable traces of the herbicide in the water. Due in part to the data gathered in the District's trials, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation recently approved the Special Local Needs label for *Payload* to be used for irrigation water canals.

Application Process

The District applies *Payload* with a truck-mounted sprayer and adjustable boom (the boom adjusts to fit the size and shape of the canal). The herbicide is a dry, flowable product that is combined with water via an agitation device. The result is a thin slurry (a suspension). The District's truck-mounted sprayer also includes specialized injecting equipment to read the truck's ground speed, calculate the width of the pattern, and adjust the amount of herbicide dispensed. *Payload* is applied as a layer on top of the soil. Typically, about 40-60 acres is treated per day, depending on weather and wind conditions. Applications are timed to coincide with approaching rainstorms to allow the herbicide to enter the soil.

Results

Payload has proven effective, safe, easy to inject, and very cost-competitive compared to spraying or mechanically removing weeds after they emerge. The District's two primary concerns were how effective the product would be against the weeds, as well as how safe it would be for our customers' irrigated fields and crops. It has performed very well on both counts. Lastly, as with all herbicide products used by the District, this product does not have adverse effects on bee populations.

If you have any questions regarding the District's herbicide practices or, are wondering what we're spraying on the ground near your property, please call Jeff Null at (707) 455-4036.



Groundwater Update

(Continued from page 1)

Impacted County-wide agencies within the Subbasin have worked to establish a governance structure and governance principals; some good and some not so good. In general, SID has steadfastly advocated for:

- A small nimble Board of Directors with a transparent public process for their selection
- Equal or, proportionate access to groundwater
- For the properties or agencies who stored or conserved groundwater, access to said water

SID has not been in the majority for these discussions. In fact, SID has taken criticism from people who may believe that by assertively advocating for protecting groundwater rights for properties within SID and SID itself, others outside SID are harmed. In general, SID's response is; "Let's start from a foundation of recognizing existing property rights and water rights and then let's see how we can all work together."

Since the inception of the Solano Project in the late 1950's, the District has been importing surface water and selling it to customers in the heart of the groundwater extraction zone of the Solano Subbasin. The imports have both helped recharge the groundwater basin to a volume of about 26,000 acre-feet annually and taken large-volume groundwater pumpers off-line by providing them with surface water. These Ag customers paid off SID's share of the Solano Project (about 69% of the project). SID believes these properties, therefore, should have the surface water they purchased, their share of groundwater and their stored water.

The SID Board action in December 2016 established a 2-path approach to working with local agencies in the establishment of a GSA. For example, Path 1 generally supports the concepts presented in the local effort in establishing one GSA in Solano County or, Solano JPA-GSA. Path 2 is for SID to establish itself as the GSA covering its boundaries.

The proposed Solano JPA-GSA (Path 1) contains 14 agency or similar members with the County being assigned 3 votes (2 Supervisorial positions and an appointed position). The total JPA voting membership is 16 with SID having 1 of the 16 votes. Agencies joining the Solano JPA-GSA will assign their right to control groundwater within their jurisdictions to the JPA-GSA.

State-wide, the single GSA model (similar to Path 1) is by no means a standard of practice. In December of 2016, the Gould Center for Conflict Resolution at the Stanford Law School published a document entitled; "To Consolidate or Coordinate?" The document states the following regarding GSA formation:

Across the state, thousands of local agencies and other stakeholders involved in managing water and land use have been working to form GSAs before June 30, 2017 in order to avoid state intervention. In doing so, they face a critical choice: to consolidate their efforts by forming a single GSA for a groundwater basin [SID's Path 1], or to establish separate GSAs that will coordinate with one another to develop a single or multiple GSPs [SID's Path 2].

... given California's long history of local control over water and the diversity of conditions, creating a single entity to manage some basins may not be practical or politically feasible.

The Stanford Law School article essentially states that groundwater basins may be too complex for one governance structure. Similarly, SID's proposed SID GSA (Path 2) recognizes the best method in working together with other stakeholders in the Solano Subbasin is to do so; first, by SID establishing itself as a GSA and second, by partnership through "Coordination Agreements" with the other stakeholders in the Subbasin.



SID Welcomes New Board Member

At the November 8, 2016 election, SID had three Board seats on the ballot, Divisions 2, 3 and 4. The Board member representing Division 3 (Tolenas, Suisun, Elmira and Vacaville) ran unopposed as did the Board member representing Division 4 (Green Valley, Fairfield).

A new Board Member was elected to Division 2 of the District (Pleasant Valley, Quail Canyon, Lagoon Valley, Blue Ridge Oaks and Vacaville).

To learn more about our Board Members please visit our website: www.sidwater.org – click on "About Us", scroll down to "Board of Directors" and click on "Meet the Board Members".

