

# Finance Department Customer Service By Cammie Morin

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**

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**Contact Us**

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 810 Vaca Valley Parkway, Ste. 201  
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# SOLANO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SID QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017

## Gibson Canyon Water Treatment Plant Tracer Study

By Kevin King

In treated water systems, like the Gibson Canyon Public Water System, water purveyors use water storage tanks for many purposes. Tanks are used to provide water storage, provide stable water system pressure, and also help ensure water is disinfected properly for potable consumption. In the Gibson Canyon System, Solano Irrigation District (SID; District) operates and maintains four (4) water tanks; one (1) known as a “clear well” is located at the treatment plant and the other three (3) are dispersed throughout the distribution system. While all the tanks play a critically role in delivering safe and reliable drinking water to the Gibson Canyon community, the clear well at the treatment plant is most important when it comes to providing disinfection.



Figure 1 - Gibson Canyon Clear Well

SID uses liquid sodium hypochlorite (essentially chlorine) to provide the disinfection needed. This is accomplished by injecting chlorine into the water immediately after the water has been filtered at the Treatment Plant. As the water leaves the plant, chlorine is injected and then goes into the clear well prior to being sent off to the distribution system and consumed by our customers. The time spent by the water in the clear well is the most critical; because it is here that the disinfection process is completed. In the Water Industry, we refer to this period of time as “Contact Time” or “CT”. Sufficient Contact Time (tightly regulated by drinking water standards) is required to allow the injected chlorine to interact with the filtered water and destroy harmful contaminants.

*(Gibson Canyon Tracer Study continued on page 2)*

## The Future of Water

By Cary Keaten

This column is dedicated to water issues. Over the past months it’s mainly been focused on groundwater or, the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Over the past couple years, the Solano Irrigation District (SID)’s attention is been on forming Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) so that it has the authority to manage its groundwater. This past spring, SID successfully formed the SID GSA to become one of sixteen GSAs in the Solano Subbasin (three of the GSAs are in Solano County).



The SID GSA is now tasked with developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022 for its jurisdiction. In doing so, the SID GSA is partnering with other GSAs in the Subbasin to apply for up to \$1 million in matching funds from the State of California. If we obtain the funds, we will use them in the development of a single GSP for the Subbasin.

Believe it or not, there are other critical water issues in the state. Two, for example, could impact you!

### Proposed Senate Bill 623

It’s a Water Tax on connections that would be passed on to the State. It impacts everyone in California and you would pay about \$1 a month into the tax fund. The fund would be used for disadvantaged Californian’s to help upgrade their water systems. It is the Association of California Water Agencies’ (ACWA) position that, while they support the goal of helping disadvantaged Californian’s, they don’t support a Water Tax. SID has supported the ACWA position because our customers would be taxed about \$200,000 per year. The proposed legislation also has a fertilizer tax associated with it.

*(The Future of Water continued on page 2)*



## Gibson Canyon Water Treatment Plant Tracer Study

(Continued from page 1)

If the water moves too quickly through the clear well, adequate Contact Time is not achieved and contaminated water could enter the distribution system. If Contact Time is too slow, the chlorine could be completely used up and lead to violations of other water quality standards. It is a very delicate balance that the District's treatment plant operators monitor closely every day.



Figure 2—Baffles inside Clear Well at Gibson Canyon Treatment Plant

To help the treatment plant operators achieve the right balance, baffles are installed in the clear well. The baffles are large screens that create a

long pathway in the tank that the water must travel through. This is designed so the newest water in the tank is the last water to exit the tank into the distribution system. There are many baffling designs and some are more effective than others. Due to the highly variable nature of the baffles, each clear well is given a baffling factor when originally installed. This baffling factor is very conservative to ensure contact time is achieved. Some water utilities will perform tracer studies, which introduces a traceable substance to the water, so that the travel time in the tank through the baffles can be determined.

As a result of some changes in the treatment process last year, the District performed a tracer study of the Gibson Canyon clear well in order to help with optimization of the treatment operations. The tracer study was conducted using a very small dose of fluoride that was injected on the inlet side of the clear well. Water samples were collected on the outlet side of the clear well until the fluoride was detected. The amount of time that elapsed from injection to detection was used to calculate the baffling factor for the Gibson Canyon Clear Well. The tracer study was a great success for the District. The results of the study indicated the District had a 25% greater baffling factor than had been previously assigned. Having a higher baffling factor allows the treatment plant operators more flexibility to meet system demand and still ensure adequate Contact Time is achieved.



### SID MISSION STATEMENT

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

## The Future of Water

(Continued from page 1)

Recent efforts by SB 623 supporters include door-to-door canvassing in the San Joaquin Valley, hand delivering hundreds of letters of support to legislators, daily events, continued calls to sign their petition, a strong social media presence, and continued messaging through op-eds and other platforms.

While SB 623 is not likely to move this year, there are other avenues the Legislature or the Administration could pursue to establish a drinking water tax, such as an amendment and action on another bill this week.

#### Senate Bill 606 and Assembly Bill 1668

These are two Long-Term Conservation Bills that would require the State set standards for the efficient use of water, as provided, and performance measures for agriculture, commercial, industrial, and institutional water use on or before 2030. The laws would require significant increased water regulation, monitoring, reporting and planning above what's required today. While these sound somewhat inconsequential, SID and many ACWA agency members are concerned the State desires to regulate what should be the responsibility of local agencies.

The "Future of Water" column will continue to report on current water policy issues. The next quarter, we hope to let you know we received a GSP planning grant!



## Investment Returns By Cammie Morin

Solano Irrigation District's (the District) recently updated its investment policy. Both the previous and revised policy follows the Government Code Section 53600.5's primary objective of safeguarding the principal of the funds under its control. The secondary objectives are to meet liquidity needs and achieve a return on the funds.

Over the past eight years the District has been investing in the State Treasurer's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) but, while LAIF has met the preservation of principal and liquidity needs, its returns has been about zero.

The District receives monies in unequal amounts throughout the year. For example, in December and April, the District receives property tax and assessment payments and then throughout the seven-month agricultural water season the District receives water rate monies. The result is that the District needs to "park" monies in accounts for several months or longer before they are spent. Having the monies make a reasonable return on their investment is important. For example, the District could make \$80,000 or more with the flexibility to invest in non-LAIF instruments as follows:

- Local Agency Issues
- Bankers' Acceptances
- Commercial Paper
- Negotiable Certificates of Deposit
- Medium-Term Notes
- Money Market Mutual Funds



As part of the revised Investment Policy, the District should make better returns than LAIF while still protecting the principal and liquidity. The District doesn't really have long-term investments so, the focus is really just on improving short and mid-term investments.

## Safety at SID By Sally Donez-Lacy

Solano Irrigation District's employees perform work in a variety of environments – outdoor, industrial and office - and many spend a significant amount of time driving a District vehicle during the course of their workday. Whether it is driving a vehicle, operating heavy equipment, doing construction work or lifting a box – there are daily opportunities for accidents and injuries to occur.

The District is committed to the safety of its employees, workplace, and the general public and assigns this responsibility to its Safety Officer/Risk Manager, who monitors and implements the District's health and safety policy; ensures compliance with federal and state health and safety legislation; and focuses on ways to further reduce and prevent hazards, dangers and accidents.

The combination of employee involvement and the efforts of the Safety Officer are needed to develop and maintain a strong safety culture at the District. This requires a commitment to continuous training, forums for communication related to safety, methods for employees to make safety suggestions and recognition for working safely.

The District's Safety Officer/Risk Manager is Victor Fortenberry and he can be reached at (707) 455-4028 or [vfortenberry@sidwater.org](mailto:vfortenberry@sidwater.org).

