



GCID *Currents*

SPRING 2018

Note from General Manager

Dear Landowners and Water Users:

As a public agency, GCID is committed to operating as efficiently as possible and delivering a reliable, responsibly managed water supply. To deliver on that commitment and best serve our water users, GCID is continually evaluating its water supply management decisions.

In response to the shifting water landscape, GCID is actively pursuing broader water management goals, particularly regarding water management practices. The benefits of improving water practices, particularly more accurate measurement techniques, is that it allows for more consistent service and establishing a constant flow to fields on a 24-hour basis, among other things.

Included in this newsletter is an update on some of the actions the District has taken and tools being used to help us achieve better water practices. Our District has long been a leader in forward thinking when it comes to water management and we want to remain in that position.

Thaddeus Bettner
General Manager



*View of GCID Main Canal.
Courtesy of Jim Morris.*

In this issue... Highlights of Topics Covered:

- *Water Management & Measurement*
- *NCWA Annual Meeting Recap*
- *Sandy Denn Receives Will S. Green Award*
- *Sites Project Update*
- *GCID Briefs – Water User Meetings and Sacramento Valley Pages*



**For more information contact us at:
www.gcid.net or (530) 934-8881**

Water Management & Measurement



Rectangular flume recently completed on lateral 48-1

Growing demands for water in both urban and agricultural regions, coupled with the need to protect and restore fish and wildlife populations, makes it essential that water is managed as efficiently as possible. Conservation measures are a key component to that, but so is accurate measurement of usage.

Sustainable and efficient water management is most definitely not new to GCID, but we also recognize we must continually evaluate our water management practices to make sure we are being as efficient as possible.

In addition to the District's internal practices, legislative requirements in recent years, including SBX7-7 and SB 88, have focused on cutting water usage, including more effective water measurement and reporting.

The District is currently involved in a long-term effort of installing meter gates that meet all of the SBX7-7 State accuracy requirements. There are a total of 2,700 turnouts in the District, and approximately 135 have been installed, to date. GCID has

also completed the construction of two long-crested weirs, which are used to stabilize the water elevation to avoid fluctuations of the water surface elevation and maintain constant head pressure for the meter gates to work effectively. Not only do the long-crested weirs maintain steady water elevation, they also require less hands-on labor as minimal adjustments are necessary.

In conjunction with the construction of the long-crested weirs, GCID has completed three water measurement flumes. Each flume is constructed just downstream of a lateral headgate. The flumes will allow water operators to measure the flow in the lateral with a high degree of accuracy. Prior to the construction of flumes, water operators would measure the flow at the nearest upstream weir, which is not nearly as accurate as the flume measurement.

These examples highlight just some of the ways GCID is actively pursuing broader water management goals that will ultimately protect our resources and better serve our water users.



Long crested weir located on lateral 41-1



GCID water operator taking manual measurement at a weir

NCWA Annual Meeting Recap

This year's Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Annual Meeting, held on March 2, 2018, provided the near capacity crowd an opportunity to hear a framework of what water management for the 21st century will look like. A diverse group of presenters provided fresh thinking and approaches for Sacramento Valley water resources management.

The day began with Todd Manley of NCWA documenting the progress on the Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program and its important role in water management in the Sacramento Valley.

Miriam Horn, whose book: *Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman*, has received many accolades and was made into a Discovery Channel film, provided a perspective on resource conservation.

Paul Wenger, Stanislaus County farmer and former president of the California Farm Bureau Federation for the past eight years, reflected on California agriculture and the future of water resources upon which we depend.

Jim Watson, general manager of the Sites Project Authority, provided an update on the California Water Commission's initial scoring of Public Benefits Ratio under Proposition 1.

E. Joaquin Esquivel, member of the State Water Resources Control Board, presented his perspective on a 21st Century Regulatory Agency.

Bryce Lundberg, farmer, conservationist, ukulele virtuoso, vice-president for Lundberg Family Farms and NCWA Chair, discussed NCWA priorities for 2018 and the importance of progressive water management for the 21st century.

The day concluded with a spirited overview by Charlie Bamforth, the "Pope of Foam," Distinguished Professor in the UC Davis Department of Food Science and Technology, and expert on Sierra Nevada Brewery, about the special role that beer serves in our society.

SANDY DENN Receives Award

During the NCWA Annual Meeting, former GCID Board Member Sandy Denn received the Will S. Green award. The Will S. Green Award is presented annually by the Northern California Water Association Board of Directors to an individual who has devoted their life to the promotion and advancement of irrigation and regional sustainability in the Sacramento Valley.

We can't think of a more deserving individual. Congrats Sandy!



NCWA Chair Bryce Lundberg, along with GCID Board Member Don Bransford, presenting the Will S. Green award to Sandy Denn

SITES PROJECT UPDATE

Eligible Funding for Water Storage Project Increases to \$1 Billion

In a series of public meetings held in early May, the California Water Commission considered staff-recommended public benefit scores for applicants seeking Proposition 1 funding for new storage projects. The Commission voted to increase the public benefit score for the Sites Project, bringing the total eligible state funding up to \$1 billion.

The Sites Project Authority will continue working with state and federal agencies to complete the environmental review process and move toward implementation.



Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Post Office Box 150
Willows, California 95988

GCID Briefs

Landowner and Water User Meetings Held in March

GCID held landowner and water user meetings in March to provide updates on current issues. Topics covered included water supply, the 2018 water application process, Water Resource Plan status, and private facility operations.

These meetings are a great opportunity to hear directly from GCID staff and get answers to questions. We encourage all water users and landowners to attend future landowner and water user meetings.

Sacramento Valley Water Social Media Pages

Interesting stories, updates on Sites Reservoir, and lots of videos and pictures are all shared on the Sacramento Valley Water web page and social media pages. Do you follow them? If not, you should check them out and **“like”** the pages to stay up to date on everything that makes the Sacramento Valley so unique.

<http://sacramentovalley.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/SacValleyCA>
<https://twitter.com/sacvalleyca>

Also, don't forget to like us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/GlennColusaID/>

