



# GCID *Currents*

SUMMER 2018

## Note from General Manager

### Dear Landowners and Water Users:

There is no question that natural factors are placing a lot of stress on our water supply and operations, on top of facing state proposals that could greatly impact us in the future as well – both issues you will read about in this newsletter.

As California’s water landscape continues to change and external pressures are placed on GCID – be it drought or fires or new regulations – the District is diligently working to position itself to respond strategically and responsibly to ensure a reliable supply. The District also depends on our water users to adhere to the water management policies the Board has put in place and take conservation measures seriously, so that the efforts are not wasted.

Included in this newsletter is an update on recent water use issues, Sites Project funding, and maintenance matters related to laterals and a culvert in Glenn County. We appreciate your attention to these important issues.

**Thaddeus Bettner**  
*General Manager*

## In this issue... Highlights of Topics Covered:

- *Water Use and Impacts of Fire*
- *Recommendations on Private Laterals Progressing*
- *District Seeking Culvert Repairs from Glenn County*
- *Sites Project Gets Prop 1 Funding*
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*Flume under construction by GCID crew.*



For more information contact us at:  
[www.gcid.net](http://www.gcid.net) or (530) 934-8881

# Water Use and Impacts of Fires

**This summer has been a challenging water use season**, and in order to conserve water and minimize costs the District has asked all water users to be especially attentive to their water management practices.

More water was used in June than was planned and scheduled, which resulted in additional costs. For context, roughly 15,000 more acre-feet of water were used in June this year compared to June last year. In July and August, the District relied on Project Water and this water is much more expensive than the Base Supply water used in the other months under the District's Sacramento River Settlement Contract.

On top of the increased water use, the Carr Fire caused more than just devastation in Redding; it temporarily interrupted power production from Shasta Dam and severed main transmission lines as well. GCID receives most of its power used to pump water from these facilities, managed by Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). Extensive damage was incurred that may take months to fully repair.

Absent being able to purchase power from WAPA, some of GCID's power had to be purchased on the open market at a significantly higher cost until repairs are made to the transmission lines and substations. The open market power purchases increased GCID's pump station power costs by an estimated \$100,000.

The northern California fires, particularly the Mendocino and Carr fires, also impacted the District's water use due to the amount of smoke that settled in the Sacramento Valley. The lack of sunlight that crops received decreased the amount of water required by plants and lowered the amount of Project Water used during July and August.



## 2016-2018 MONTHLY WATER USE (ACRE-FEET)

	2018	2017	2016
<b>April</b>	33,131	7,231	48,662
<b>May</b>	159,252	159,457	140,830
<b>June</b>	154,285	141,134	147,284
<b>July</b>	159,652	160,002	164,290
<b>August</b>	113,633	126,328	121,687
<b>September</b>		36,958	20,451
<b>October</b>		36,688	44,187

## RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRIVATE LATERALS PROGRESSING

**As discussed at recent meetings**, GCID has been evaluating the entire water delivery system in an effort to determine which facilities are privately owned and which have District easements and rights-of-way. This assessment is being carried out to determine how best to manage maintenance of the various categories of laterals and has resulted in the development of recommendations that are likely to be formalized soon.

These recommendations, outlined below, reflect the fact that, although historically private facilities may have been operated and had minor improvements performed by GCID, it is the responsibility of the landowners and water users to maintain the private facilities in operable condition.

Generally, if landowners who own and operate a private facility are interested in having GCID perform operations and maintenance (O&M) responsibilities, GCID has developed a petition process to initiate consideration of the District assuming the O&M responsibility. This is described in the *Water Distribution System Operation and Maintenance Policy* adopted by the GCID Board of Directors on January 23, 2014. **(CONTINUED ON BACK)**

# District Seeking Culvert Repairs from Glenn County

In March of this year, GCID personnel identified a failed 24-inch corrugated steel pipe under County Road D in Glenn County. The District conveys irrigation water eastward via an earthen canal, Lateral 36-1, through this culvert. The current state of the corrugated steel pipe is posing flow issues within the Glenn County right-of-way and to lands east of Road D.

After the issue was identified, the District contacted Glenn County to request that immediate and appropriate action be taken to fix the situation, as it is the District's position the County is responsible for work on or under County roads. Glenn County personnel then closed the road due to safety concerns and no repairs have taken place. Since that time, Glenn County has closed two additional roads as a result of similar culvert failures at County Road WW and County Road U. Unfortunately, the matter has not been resolved as the

County maintains that all the work is the responsibility of the District. The District and the County are consulting and conferring in an effort to resolve the issue.

In August of 2013, the District presented the County with a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) proposing shared maintenance and cooperative efforts for these types of issues, but the County failed to respond. The District has requested that current County representatives review the proposed agreement and consider implementing it to achieve an understanding of each entity's responsibilities in the future.

The District will continue to seek resolution of the issue from the County to ensure the County fulfills its public safety obligations, and to protect the District and its landowners' interests.



Artist rendering of Sites Reservoir.  
(Image: US Bureau of Reclamation)

## SITES PROJECT TO RECEIVE \$816 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING

The California Water Commission voted in late July to award the Sites Project \$816 million in state funding – the most of any Proposition 1 applicant – to provide environmental benefits for refuge water supplies, Delta smelt, recreational opportunities and localized flood control. In addition, the Water Commission agreed to provide \$40.8 million in early funding to assist in completing the necessary environmental analyses and obtaining permits.

The Sites Project Authority (Authority) has invested a significant amount of time and resources in developing a viable proposal that meets the strict environmental requirements outlined in Proposition 1. The vote by the Water Commission is a clear endorsement of the substantial environmental benefits Sites provides to the state of California, particularly during inevitable future drought conditions. With state funding decisions made, the Authority can finalize planning and move toward construction.

As proposed, Sites will add up to 500,000 acre-feet per year of usable water to the state's water system, which represents two-thirds of the total amount of annual storage being created through Proposition 1 funding.

The Water Commission's decision solidifies the Authority's partnership with the state of California to manage a large block of water specifically for environmental purposes. The Authority will continue working with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to forge a similar partnership, while working with its 35-member agencies to secure the funding needed to complete necessary planning activities and authorize construction.

Additional information can be found at: <https://www.sitesproject.org>. Follow the Sites Project on social media @SitesProject.



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## GCID Briefs

### **Water Resources Control Board Proposal Raises Questions**

In early July, the framework of a plan for the Sacramento River watershed was released by the State Water Resources Control Board proposing dramatic shifts to the amount of the water flowing into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and out to sea. The plan raises questions about who would supply the increased flows and what would change for regional water users. A formal proposal is expected this fall.

You can read a detailed article from the *Chico Enterprise Record* on the GCID website about the proposal, including comments from GCID General Manager Thad Bettner about how the District has been trying to work with the state on this issue. The article can be found under the NEWS section.

### **Project Video Resources on Website**

Sacramento Valley water users have completed dozens of projects in recent years to benefit fish. From restoration of spawning habitat to fish screens to fish food, water districts and agencies have been focused on implementing innovative and comprehensive ventures. The visual element to many of these endeavors, as well as hearing directly from the partners involved, helps put the size and scope of the work that has been performed into perspective. Some examples with links to videos detailing the projects are now on the GCID website under "Resources" ([www.gcid.net/project-resources](http://www.gcid.net/project-resources)). We encourage you to visit the website and check them out.

### ***Private Laterals (CONTINUED FROM INSIDE)***

For the private laterals serving multiple landowners with a history of O&M, totaling 15 laterals equaling about 12.6 miles in length, the recommendation as of now is to adhere to the process set forth by the Board's O&M policy, ultimately resulting in the recording of easements and performance of O&M on the systems in the future by the District.

In addition, there are 47 laterals identified, equaling about 26.8 miles in length, which have been historically operated and maintained solely by the landowners and have no history of O&M by the District. At this time it has been determined that the District will not actively seek easements for these historically private systems.

If you are interested in the petition process to have the District assume responsibility for the operation and maintenance of private facilities, or have questions, please contact the District office at (530) 934-8881.