



GCID

CURRENTS

WINTER 2022



A Note From the General Manager

Dear GCID Landowners and Water Users,

In light of historic drought conditions on the Sacramento River watershed and a second dry year, GCID is continuing to work with neighboring agencies, the state and federal governments, and our water users to operate prudently and make the most of our supplies.

GCID did not have fall/winter water available for rice straw decomposition or duck clubs after October 31, when the annual term ends for the District's Sacramento River Settlement Contract (SRSC). Most of the District's water supply under the SRSC contract was allocated during the spring application process.

From November 1 to March 31, GCID relies on a Winter Water Permit to divert water for rice straw decomposition and crop irrigation. The permit is subject to limitations under Term 91, which is enforced during dry year conditions. Starting December 1 and with Term 91 restrictions lifted, the District was able to divert water until the winter shutdown period.

We are working with other Sacramento River Settlement Contractors and our partners to maintain efficient operations and continue our mission to deliver water

for multiple benefits, including meeting environmental benefits for fisheries and wildlife. The three federal wildlife refuges supported by GCID have a separate water supply and contracts and are permitted to continue receiving water throughout the year.

Despite this year's enormous natural resource challenges, we at GCID will continue our long-term drought and water supply planning and system improvements to maintain efficiency. This water year has begun in a positive manner and we continue to look forward to a wetter year that will refill our reservoirs and groundwater as we proceed into the new year.

Respectfully,
Thad Bettner



IN THIS ISSUE:

- *A Note From the General Manager*
- *2022 Water Outlook Raises Concerns*
- *Change Proposed for SRSC Assessment*
- *Tuttle Check Structure Replaced*
- *Winter Maintenance Projects in the Works*
- *County Road and Culvert Repairs Taking Place This Winter*
- *Check Out Our New Look!*

2022 Water Outlook Raises Concerns

While the significant storms and snowfall we have received so far look to be a great start to the 2022 water year, Shasta Reservoir has gained little additional water in storage.

The District's water supply under our Settlement Contract with the Bureau of Reclamation states that we will receive a 75% supply if inflow into Shasta Reservoir is less than 4 million acre-feet and 100% if greater than. However, Shasta storage is barely over 1.1 million acre-feet, and given challenges of enough storage by April 2022 for cold water temperature management for winter run salmon, the District's supply may be at risk.

Unfortunately, the District is having to contend with these hydrologic concerns at the same time the State is proposing to limit our supply through an Interim Operations Plan. The plan was submitted to Federal court at the end of November as part of the State's litigation against the federal government and the 2019 biological opinions governing long-term operations of the Central Valley Project. In addition to threatening our operations, the proposed plan weakens our work on voluntary agreements for water supply and habitat improvements.



 **District staff is currently evaluating operational scenarios for 2022, which may include changing critical year allocations and additional actions by water operator area and crop unit duties.**

With the uncertainty surrounding next year's water supply and CVP operations, the Board of Directors instructed staff in October to temporarily suspend water transfer discussions with potential buyers until better water supply information is known.

Change Proposed for SRSC Assessment

The District is seeking landowner approval through a Proposition 218 process to revise the existing assessment to recover the costs associated with its Sacramento River Settlement Contract (SRSC) for a secure surface water supply.

The current assessment of \$1.62 per deeded acre has not been changed for more than four decades and the revenue generated does not cover the current SRSC costs. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020, the assessment generated \$250,000 in revenue, far short of SRSC costs of more than \$3.3 million.

If approved, the proposed assessment would be set at a maximum of \$29.63 per deeded acre in FY 2022-2023. The maximum potential assessment that may be levied increases each fiscal year based on estimated annual increases in SRSC costs through the end of the SRSC term (2045). However, if actual SRSC costs are less than the estimated costs, the assessment will be set below the maximum potential level, as the District will not levy an assessment that, over time, would collect more revenue than the SRSC costs. If the proposed assessment is approved, irrigation rates would be

reduced and the standby charge of \$6 per deeded acre would be eliminated.

Owners of property affected by the proposed assessment should have received a detailed Proposition 218 notice during the first week of January. Property owners may express their support or opposition to the proposed assessment by ballot, which accompanies the notice. Ballots may be returned by mail in the envelope included with the ballot or delivered by hand to the District office during normal business hours from now through the close of the public hearing on the proposed assessment, which is scheduled for 9 a.m. on February 17, 2022.

The District's website (www.gcid.net) has links to the Engineer's Report, which explains the proposal in detail, FAQs, and the presentation used in meetings with landowners.

If you have further questions, please contact District Finance Director Louis Jarvis at (530) 934-8881 or lj Jarvis@gcid.net

Tuttle Check Structure Replaced

The Tuttle Check Structure Replacement Project at Main Canal Mile Post 21.75 was completed in late February 2021.

While in use during irrigation season in late May, with the Main Canal operating, primary Tuttle Check control gates shifted from the supports and were damaged. Fortunately, the old check structure remained in place and the gates could be operated for the remainder of the irrigation season until repairs could be made.

In early November, representatives of the gate manufacturer and GCID inspected the de-watered gates and removed the damaged gates for return to the manufacturer, Aqua Systems 2000 Inc. The company will overhaul the gates and install additional brackets to secure it to the check and they will be reinstalled and operational by March 2022.



Maintenance Activities

32-1 check crossing replacement

As a result of Term 91 restrictions being in place earlier this fall, District maintenance crews were able to complete two check crossings, install several meter turnouts, and improve the Riz Pump site.

GCID's winter maintenance shutdown period began on January 7, 2022. During this time, the maintenance department will receive support from water operations staff on repairs and replacement of the District's aging infrastructure.



Riz Pump improvements



Meter turnout replacement



43-1M check crossing replacement



Meter turnout replacement

A check structure on lateral 25-1 is slated to be replaced with a long-crested weir, and it is hoped that another check replacement can occur on lateral 16-4. In addition, three failed drain siphons under laterals will be replaced. Construction to replace the Ranch Weir is also a high priority and is scheduled for the end of February. District crews will also continue recapture site improvements, including at Juney Pump.

Portions of the main canal downstream of Stony Creek and upstream of Stone Coral Creek are scheduled for sediment removal. A crew has finished installing more than 15 meter turnouts and will install as many as possible before the water conveyance system goes back into operation.

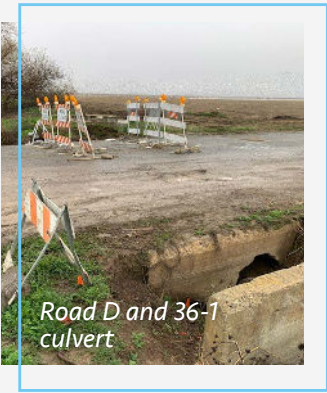
A main canal delivery will be constructed at lateral 47-1 in coordination with a Colusa County culvert replacement project. There are 11 failed culverts in Glenn and Colusa counties that are scheduled for replacement this season in coordination with the counties. There have been some difficulties in obtaining the pipe for these projects, but they have been prioritized and will move forward as the material becomes available.



Meter turnout installation



County Road and Culvert Repairs Taking Place This Winter

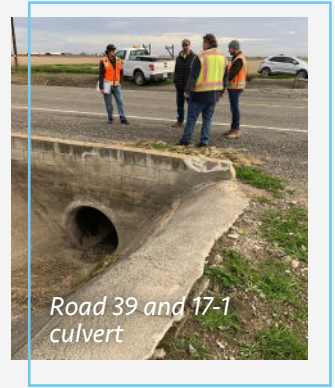


Road D and 36-1 culvert

Some long-awaited repairs and maintenance on bridges and culverts on or near county roads are underway after agreements were reached between GCID and Colusa and Glenn counties.

After several years of discussion and negotiations, the parties agreed to share maintenance costs on seven projects in Glenn County and four in Colusa County. The first two scheduled projects are in Glenn County at County Road 39 west of Road T and at County Road D north of the Colusa County line and are expected to be completed by the end of January.

GCID will purchase the pipe material and perform the work outside of the counties' rights-of-way at each site to resolve flow issues from failures of corrugated metal pipe. Each county will install the pipe and perform construction work inside the county's rights-of-way.



Road 39 and 17-1 culvert



Check out our new look!

GCID has a new logo to better reflect our commitment to providing water for farms, fish, wildlife and the environment.



Protecting agriculture and wildlife in the Sacramento Valley for more than a century

Join Us

The GCID Board of Directors meets on the **first and third Thursday of the month at 9 a.m.** Meetings are held both in person and by teleconference.

In-person:
 GCID Board Room
 344 E. Laurel St., Willows

By phone:
 Check our website or call the office for details.