

EWD NEWS

Eastside Water District Newsletter

July 1, 2014



2014 Drought Update. With little rainfall this year, your irrigation water use is expected to be higher, further stressing our overdrafted groundwater basin. Please do **your** part to conserve water wherever possible. Any water not pumped out of the groundwater basin will be available in future years. Please visit the EWD website (www.eastsidewaterdistrict.com) for more information.

State Proposing New Groundwater Use Regulations. Sacramento is 'buzzing' with the potential for their long-sought after greater involvement in regulating **your** use of groundwater. Whether this year or as the drought continues, regulatory type legislation is expected. Local agencies will be given the first chance to properly manage their groundwater, but if they fail, the State will be poised to take over. Many feel this is simply another 'water-grab' now that most surface water rights are controlled by the State; i.e., latest 'curtailments.'

How Does a Groundwater Recharge Project Miles Away Help My Well? An understanding of how groundwater arrives at your wellhead is necessary. With that understanding most will accept that any groundwater recharge project that adds surface water to the water-bearing soil strata in which you are pumping will benefit your well's water source. EWD has recently contracted with groundwater hydrologists and geologist to demonstrate how surface water can be recharged into the strata from which most EWD landowners are pumping. Because this demonstration will not be something one can actually see other than through illustrations, it will require a certain level of trust in the experts for landowners to accept that EWD has demonstrated this benefit to each landowner.

Turlock Irrigation District (TID) –EWD Sharing Ideas and Resources to Promote Groundwater Recharge. An ad-hoc committee of **your** Board of Directors met with TID Board members and staff in November 2013 to discuss how a higher level of cooperation could be achieved. Recent meetings between TID & EWD have been productive; leading to a commitment of TID that allows use of TID canals to deliver storm water runoff to proposed groundwater recharge facilities. 'Diffused surface water' is a term that is the 'legal' term for some of the local storm water runoff which EWD intends to deliver to proposed groundwater recharge facilities. EWD consultants will complete designs for these proposed groundwater recharge facilities during 2014.

Proposed EWD Groundwater Recharge Project Facilities Explained. 'Direct' recharge facilities are capital improvements like excavated basins, dry-wells, and flooded fields, where surface water percolates by gravity into the groundwater basin over time. 'In-lieu' recharge facilities are capital improvements like outlets from canals, regulatory reservoirs, canals, and pipelines that convey surface water to your fields for irrigation 'in-lieu' of you continuing to pump water from the ground. The design of facilities to deliver diffused surface water to the groundwater basin will occur this year. These facilities will be sized based on the diffused surface water available and where the demand for direct or in-lieu water may exist. If you have interest in receiving diffused surface water on your property, please inform EWD of your need(s). Diffused surface water is available when normal storm water runoff occurs (October through March).

What EWD Diffused Surface Water Project is Expected to Cost **You**? The cost of this project could be in the millions of dollars. One focus of the design phase will be to take a 'value engineering' design approach to assure EWD landowners will gain an efficient benefit for their investment. EWD intends to apply for any available Federal and State funding available to minimize financial impacts. The EWD Board of Directors intends to propose options to its landowners for the portion of any project costs that will become every landowner's responsibility.

Landowners will have the option to pay a 'one-time' per acre capital charge or be assessed annually for this capital charge. The capital charge per acre will be based on the total net capital cost faced by EWD for funding this project. Assuming about a 50% cost-share of a 'hypothetical' two-million dollar total project cost, the local cost share for EWD landowners would be one million dollars. The cost per acre of this hypothetical local cost share is determined by dividing this local cost share by the roughly 62,000 acres within the EWD; which is \$16.13. Typical annual maintenance costs for these types of projects are about 10% of capital costs, or \$3.23 per acre per year. Please understand that if 50% funding of this project is not funded by others, the capital charge estimate will need to be adjusted accordingly.

By the end of this year's harvest, a 30% design effort should be complete, and EWD expects to have a more realistic estimate for the cost of its Diffused Surface Water Project. This project will not completely resolve groundwater overdraft beneath EWD, but will be a significant start.

What is the Value of the Proposed Project to Me? How valuable is the 'commodity' known as 'water' to **your** property? **Your** budget for **your** crop or 'livelihood' includes the current EWD annual assessment of \$2.00 per acre. What percentage of **your** budget is the current EWD assessment? How much will the estimated assessments for this proposed project be as a percentage of your budget? Only **you** can attach a value to the water available to **you** today, and what value it will have in the future. Is the assessment approach unreasonable? Please let your opinions be known to the EWD.

How Will **You** be Charged? Again the EWD Board of Directors is looking for **your** input as to how to assess and collect needed revenue to complete its diffused surface water project from its landowners. Please open up a communication channel with EWD and let us know **your** thoughts and desires. Our email address is eastsidewaterdistrict@yahoo.com

When and where can **you** voice **your** opinion? EWD landowner meeting date has been set for 9:30 am, Friday, July 11, 2014 in the Boardroom of the Turlock Irrigation District, 333 Canal Drive, Turlock, California. The EWD Board of Directors need input from landowners, so see **you** there!

"Water has become a commodity. As a farming community we must participate in this developing market or be left behind."

*Al Rossini, Chair, EWD
Board of Directors*

EWD Landowner Meeting on Friday, July 11 - Be There!

New Edition of EWD Newsletter

- Primary Purpose = Keep you informed!
- Do you know about groundwater overdraft and the risk of our inaction?
- Is EWD is not doing what you expect?; please let us know!

Don't miss 7/11 meeting!

To keep informed, every landowner in the Eastside Water District is encouraged to be at the TID Boardroom on Friday, July 11, 2014, at 9:30 am [333 Canal Drive, Turlock]. The EWD Board of Directors and its Water Consultant will be presenting the topics summarized in this newsletter, with the objective of informing every landowner of how the EWD intends to assure a sustainable water supply for area landowners.

Your input is needed

The EWD Board of Directors is looking for your input as to how to assess and collect needed revenue to complete its Diffused Surface Water Project from its landowners. Please open up a communication channel with EWD and let us know your thoughts and desires. If you cannot attend the 7/11 meeting, you can call us individually or email our Secretary at eastsidewaterdistrict@yahoo.com

Thank you for understanding and supporting the need to address our groundwater basin. With your help, the EWD Board of Directors will find reasonable solutions

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Visit our website: www.eastsidewaterdistrict.com

Eastside Water District

Addressing groundwater overdraft since 1983

Eastside Water District

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