



Winter 2023



Accomplished Local Businessman Tapped as New General Manager

Following a nationwide search for Kinneloa Irrigation District's next General Manager with two dozen resumes submitted, the ideal candidate was found in our own backyard. The District proudly welcomes Thomas Majich to lead our operations.



Majich comes to the KID with nearly two decades of experience in construction and project management. He most recently served as President and CEO of Arroyo Hill Development, a real estate company based in Los Angeles.

Many of you may already know Majich as one of your neighbors. His family has lived in the KID service area for multiple generations, and he now lives in the house his grandparents built in the 1960s. Tom also served on the KID Board of Directors and so is quite familiar with both the challenges and opportunities facing the District.

Majich grew up in and around the water industry. His great-grandfather founded a company in 1919 that installs underground water, sewer and storm drain pipelines throughout Southern California. Blueprints were often spread out on the kitchen table between meals and discussed while projects were planned. Tom even worked for the family business before venturing into real estate.

Having successfully built and run a small business that grew into a larger one, Majich has the financial and planning acumen to lead the KID as it continues to evolve into a modern water utility dedicated to customer service. The combination of Tom's strong family ties and demonstrated commitment to the area with his professional experience underscores the enthusiasm of the Board of Directors in selecting Majich to lead the KID team.



Rain Helps Though the Drought Persists

A series of January winter storms improved water conditions considerably across California, creating cautious optimism for the year ahead.

Snowpack across the Sierra Nevada reached its highest levels in 40 years, and reservoirs throughout California saw notable rises in water levels. As of February 28, statewide snowpack was 186% of normal for the date. And colder temperatures plus recent significant snowfall in higher elevations have thus far prevented its premature melting while adding to the snowpack, also causing optimism. Indeed, additional rainfall is predicted as we begin March, and the KID is currently seeing elevated flows of water entering our system from our network of tunnels dug into the San Gabriel Mountains.

While this is certainly good news, it does not mean the drought is over. Most of California remains in moderate drought and effectively capturing the rainwater which has fallen remains an infrastructure challenge throughout California as much of it gets simply washed out into the ocean. March also brings the possibility of drier weather that could start to melt the snowpack sooner than hoped.



Considering all the above, though, the water year is off to a strong start. Drought conditions from years of insufficient rainfall can only be remedied by years of consistent precipitation.



Understanding the Colorado River Crisis

While Kinneloa Irrigation District receives its entire water supply from local groundwater, many surrounding communities are dependent on imported water, including supplies from the drought-plagued Colorado River.

The entire Colorado River Basin, which crosses California and six other states, is experiencing a historic 23-year drought. Water levels have been in a steady decline for decades, leaving Lake Mead with the lowest amount of water since the reservoir was constructed in the 1930s.

To prevent water from dropping to a point where it no longer flows through dams, the federal government asked the seven states to come up with a voluntary agreement by January 31, 2023, to reduce water use. While a voluntary plan was not reached between the six states and California as of the date this is being written, we expect the federal government to be forced to intervene. Because the allotments of water from the Colorado River among the seven states are governed by a 1922 Compact, any effort to revisit them is likely to result in extended litigation.

While the outcome of the Colorado River decisions will not directly impact the KID, we need to be mindful that the resolution of this issue will not occur in a vacuum. Similarly, the conservation measures that each of us takes daily with KID water are also indirectly related. You may be interested in reading more about Southern California water issues in general through the excellent reporting by Ian James and Haley Smith in the Los Angeles Times.



Start Saving Now for a Not-so-Rainy Day

The recent rains have many lawns looking lush, and that means it's a great time to significantly ease back on outdoor water use for the next month!



Conserving now will leave more water available for drier times. We appreciate your efforts, and the KID wants to help you save even more water.

Here are some ways you can help make a difference:

- Use sprinklers at night to reduce evaporation
- Adjust sprinkler heads to limit overspray
- Avoid irrigating on windy or rainy days
- Check for leaks and repair them promptly
- Invest in water-saving appliances and landscapes

Additional water-saving tips and details about rebates are available on our website, www.kinneloirrigationdistrict.com, under "Water Use Efficiency."
