

News from the KID

Kinneloa Irrigation District

March 2008

YES, IT'S RAINING...BUT CALIFORNIA'S WATER CRISIS IS STILL A SERIOUS ISSUE

The Kinneloa Irrigation District is the only water company in the San Gabriel Valley that is self-sufficient using its local groundwater rights so that we do not need to purchase imported water except in emergencies. However that doesn't mean that California's water crisis is not a concern for the District or its customers. Here are some facts for your information and consideration:

1. The water level in the Raymond Basin Aquifer, which is the natural underground water storage basin underlying the greater Pasadena area, has been declining three feet per year on average for the past decade. This is the source for up to 50-75% of our groundwater supply. Our water rights are meaningless if the levels decline below the pumping level of our current wells.
2. Our man-made water tunnels, which collect water percolating down through the San Gabriel Mountains, provide 25-50% of our groundwater supply. The quantity from this source is totally dependent on the long-term average rainfall. Since

continued on page 2

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE

Take advantage of our automatic payment plan and be assured that your account is always paid on time even if you are on vacation. You will still receive a monthly statement to keep track of your water usage and know the amount that will be debited from your bank account later in the month. Call 626-797-6295 today to request an application.

NEW YORK DRIVE WATER MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED

The current service area of the Kinneloa Irrigation District is a combination of two formerly physically distinct areas separated by the Wilcox Canyon. The District constructed an interconnection at the top of Sierra Madre Villa Avenue when the District acquired the previous water companies serving the eastern portions in the 1970s. However, the principal wells and reservoirs serving the west and east portions of the district were not interconnected until the recent completion of a water main in New York Drive between Eaton Canyon Drive and the Wilcox Reservoir.

SYSTEM RELIABILITY IMPROVED

The New York Drive project completes a vital missing link that now allows the transfer of water at the lower elevations of the system as well as at the existing transfer point at the upper portion of the system. This provides the ability to move water from one side of the system to the other for operational efficiency as well as the increased availability of reservoir storage to the entire system when needed in an emergency. The 1,100-foot pipeline is an extension of the existing New York Drive main that was completed in 2004.

The pipeline was constructed by the Stephen Doreck Company of Long Beach which was awarded the project after a competitive bidding process that attracted more than twenty contractors throughout Southern California.

This project was one of more than twenty five projects identified in the KID's \$5 million Water Master Plan which was originally prepared in 2000 and revised in 2005 and 2007 to address deficiencies in the water system infrastructure and to serve as a blueprint for recommend projects to improve the reliability and emergency preparedness of the District in future years. The Board of Directors approved another revision of this plan at the January 2008 board meeting. This plan can be viewed by clicking on the link on the documents page at the District's web site at: <http://www.kinneloirrigationdistrict.info>

we are currently in a long-term drought, a single year of above average rainfall has virtually no affect on this source.

3. The availability of imported water is not guaranteed if we ever need to supplement our local supply.
4. The cost a drilling a new well could be \$1 million or more depending on the site and the required depth.
5. Imported water may not be available to replenish the Raymond Basin and stabilize the level.
6. A shortage of imported water would cause our neighboring water agencies to pump their maximum allocated amount rather than leaving the water in the ground for use in drought years. This would affect our pumping operations.
7. A shortage of imported water and/or a continued decline in water levels could lead to a court-ordered reduction or re-allocation of pumping rights in the Raymond Basin.
8. Local shortages or an extended drought might make it necessary for us to purchase imported water on a long-term basis at the going rate. The current cost of imported water is up to ten times more than the cost of our locally-produced water. Water rates would need to be increased to pay for the imported water.

AND THE SOLUTION IS.....

As with all complex problems, there is no single low-cost solution. So here are a few responses to stimulate your discussion on this serious problem. Hopefully the collective action from all the water agencies with the support of the federal and state governments and the people will get us headed in the right direction:

1. **Conserve, Conserve, Conserve.** All water agencies including the Kinneloa Irrigation District have asked their customers for a voluntary 10% reduction in consumption. Even though past requests for voluntary reductions have not been very effective, greater awareness of the problem might make it different this time around.

Since most of us use 75-85% of our water on landscaping and because overwatering is the norm, the simplest, most effective step to take is to take one or two minutes off each cycle on your sprinkler timer or water on three days a week rather than every day. Your plants will never notice the difference!

2. **Support the Governor’s water infrastructure proposal.** Reservoirs, dams, canals, levies and pipelines benefit all Californians. This is not a “north vs. south” issue. Adequate water at reasonable prices is the foundation of a strong economy for the entire state.
3. **Support the *Foothill Water Coalition’s* effort to secure funding from a variety of sources for the coalition’s “Foothill Water Supply Reliability Program.”** The WSPR, which includes several critical pipeline construction projects, will:
 - a. Modernize water supply systems by storing water underground in the local aquifers for future use.
 - b. Make local systems more reliable by diversifying water sources.
 - c. Enhance the efficiency and reliability of regional water delivery.
4. **Use Native and California-Friendly plants for your landscaping.** Visit bewaterwise.com for suggested plants and other water-saving tips.
5. **Learn about the KID’s Capital Improvement Program.** Our annual net operating surplus is used for the KID’s capital improvement and planned maintenance programs. You are encouraged to come to our monthly board meetings to become informed about the challenges we face in providing a reliable water supply at a reasonable cost.

Your questions and comments are welcome. You can e-mail us at newsletter@kinneloirrigationdistrict.info or include a note with your payment.