



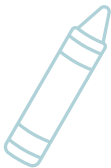
Stanislaus County

FARM NEWS PAPER

Water Issue



Water Policy In Plain English
Page 12



Kids Corner
Page 11



Board Member Introduction
Page 23



Pyrethriod Update
Page 9

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Sharon Naraghi Farms Spotlight
page 20



TID- Testing Smart Water Delivery
Feature Story on Page 3



**Modesto Independence Day
Parade Recap**
Page 13

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Feature Story

TID Tests Smart Water Delivery to Improve Irrigation Efficiency

By Vicky Boyd, SCFB

With water supplies only likely to grow tighter in the future, the Turlock Irrigation District is piloting an automated delivery system along one of its canals that could significantly reduce waste.

“We’re looking at a future of nothing but less water,” said Wes Miller, director of water operations. “The only way to keep everybody whole and be sustainable is to save water.”

Should the pilot along the Ceres Main Canal go as expected, he said TID has set an aggressive schedule to fully automate the district’s 250 miles of canals and laterals over 20 years. Currently, TID loses an estimated 40,000 acre-feet of outflow annually to the river.

“If we can save 40,000 acre-feet a year, that’s a difference in a drought of 18 inches versus 22 or 23 inches — that’s a huge benefit to our growers,” Miller said.

But TID isn’t the only local district that has tapped the technology. The Oakdale Irrigation District installed an automated system in a portion of its laterals in 2010, allowing it to save substantial surface water.

Known as “total channel control,” TID’s pilot system communicates among all the automated canal drops and farmer side gates along a canal to maintain more uniform water levels and more predictable flows to water users. This significantly reduces the spillage from the end of canals or worse yet, eliminates



“We’re looking at a future of nothing but less water.”

- Wes Miller, Director of Water Operations TID

one of the first to have the automated side gates that open and close based on water delivery schedules.

CERES MAIN IS REPRESENTATIVE

Miller said TID went with Rubicon Water, an Australian-based international company with an office in Modesto, because of past experiences. The district had previously worked with Rubicon to automate canal drops along Lateral 8 to test the technology.

having no water for users at the end. Growers also can place online water delivery orders for a specific day and time, and their gates automatically open to start diversion and close when finished.

Although many other U.S. water districts have installed total channel control systems, like OID, Miller said TID is

“If we can save 40,000 acre-feet a year, that’s a difference in a drought of 18 inches versus 22 or 23 inches—that’s a huge benefit to our growers.”

-Wes Miller

TID Tests Smart Water Delivery to Improve Irrigation Efficiency

Continued from page 3

Before, water levels were either feast or famine, Miller said. Essentially, the automation turned the lateral into a regulating reservoir. “We didn’t automate the side gates, but we did see a huge benefit,” he said. “The difference is Lateral 8 doesn’t have the data from the side gates or the schedules, so it’s reacting to level changes.”

The district chose the Ceres Main for the recent pilot since it’s representative of the entire 307- square-mile irrigation service area.

“There’s a lot of fluctuation because it’s the tail end of the system,” he said. “The end spills or it’s short, there’s groundwater that’s pumped, multiple laterals, storm water, and drip or flood customers.”

Starting after the 2025 irrigation season in the fall, TID replaced 10 older drop structures with 10 Rubicon automated flume gates. The old drops consisted of weir boards or concrete weirs. The district also installed 70 fully automated farmer side gates that provide accurate metering. Now farmers can monitor their water use in real time, Miller said.

Each of the drops and side gates is tied together through SCADA — Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition— via radio signals. Used in commercial settings, a SCADA system of software and hardware allows organizations to monitor, gather and process real-time data from remote



The solar-powered automated flume gates communicate among themselves as well as the 70 or so automated side gates to regulate canal flows and save water.

equipment. Currently, TID has 625 SCADA sites within the system, and they all can communicate with one another.

““There’s not enough water in that drop — I need to send more water,”” Miller said of the imagined conversations between drops. “It keeps the levels extremely tight.”

On the Ceres Main, it does so by factoring in farm water orders made a day in advance and pre-releasing water into the system.

The pilot also provided an opportunity to test three construction methods for drop installation: pour in place, speed forms and pre-fabrication. TID completed all of the canal work by March before the start of the 2026 irrigation season.

EDUCATING USERS ABOUT ONLINE ORDERING

As improvements progressed last winter, TID conducted numerous public outreach meetings, classroom training and even one-on-one instruction to teach customers along the main how to order water online, Miller said.

Of the 121 customers on the Ceres Main, he said 116 now order water online and specify a day and time. And about 95% of the growers get the water delivered when they want. Before, they’d put an order into the district, which would then deliver water within a three-day window.

“It’s more of a known instead of an unknown,” Miller said of today’s scheduling. “They have real-time access and can see everything that’s happening on their place — real-time flow and how much water they’re applying.” No major installation goes exactly as

planned, and the upgrade was no exception. One of the big issues has been growers reporting feeling overwhelmed by the number of notifications they receive. The district has worked with Rubicon to streamline the notification system.

The district will run the pilot during 2026 to work out additional bugs. 2027 will be the real test, after which the district will decide how to proceed.

Whether the automation eventually reduces labor requirements remains unknown, Miller said, adding the goal has always been about saving water and not reducing workers. “Part of the pilot is figuring out how much work this is going to take from the operators,” he said.

“We haven’t reduced any manpower. We don’t know how much time we’ll need to spend in the field maintaining all of these sensors and gates.”

Miller said it’s also too early to quantify any automation benefits, but he has seen less canal level fluctuation.

“And growers have even said, ‘I can’t believe how constant the levels are.’ They’re seeing the water not spill to the river.”

At a cost of about \$5.5 million, the Ceres Main pilot was funded entirely by water users. But Miller said the district has begun aggressively pursuing grants to help pay for any future expansion.

OID’S AUTOMATED WATER SAVINGS

Oakdale Irrigation District began installing total channel control in 2010 and brought the system online in 2011, said Eric Thorburn, OID water resources manager.

Of the district’s 300 miles of laterals, 200 miles are open ditch and 100

miles are pipeline. The district targeted the open portion and determined that roughly the middle third was where it would see the most benefits for its investment. Unlike Turlock, he said OID just installed SCADA-controlled Rubicon automated metering flumes and not automated side gates. Rather than operating from the top down, Thorburn said the system now considers downstream water needs and adjusts water levels accordingly. As a result, it creates miniature regulating reservoirs between each gate.

“Because the water in each pool is maintained, the water is always there when they need it and the water doesn’t disappear,” Thorburn said.

Users can opt for rotating delivers every 12 or 14 days, depending on the time of year, or they can contact their ditch tender via phone or text to place water orders. With the growth of permanent crops within the district, he said the bulk of orders are now on-demand. The SCADA system allows ditch tenders to monitor water levels in real time remotely and manually make adjustments if needed.

OID’s total channel control covers about 40 miles. Since its installation, Thorburn said the district has saved about 10,000 acre-feet of water annually. On top of that, the district has seen a reduction in groundwater pumping of 3,500 acre-feet as growers switched over to surface water.

“About 5,000 acres (of cropland) came back on line, and they have surface water,” he said. “We’re getting direct (groundwater) recharge with the pools. Having each pool completely independent throughout the system pushes more water into the ground directly.”



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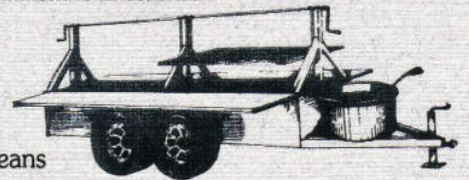
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Investing in Water's Future: TID's Path to Zero Spill

By Josh Weimer, TID

Water is the lifeblood of Stanislaus County agriculture and, at Turlock Irrigation District (TID), we're making a long-term commitment to protect every drop of it.

TID operates a system of 250 miles of gravity-fed canals and laterals — some of which were built more than 125 years ago. That aging infrastructure, while remarkably durable, was designed for a different era. Today, as our region faces increasing water uncertainty and growing competition for limited supplies, we know we have to do more with what we have.

That's the idea behind our Path to Zero Spill irrigation modernization plan — a 20-year, \$100 million-plus effort to modernize TID's canal system, reduce unintentional water losses, improve service to growers, and ensure water reliability for the decades ahead. When fully implemented, the plan calls for replacing 400 drops across the system, adding an additional regulating reservoir, and saving an estimated 44,000 acre-feet of water annually. That's water that stays in storage for our farmers instead of spilling at the end of the system unused.

This year, we're putting that vision into practice with a real-world pilot project on the Ceres Main Canal. The Ceres Main Total Channel Control (TCC) Pilot Project is automating a stretch of the canal from south of Keyes Road to Harding Road — an area encompassing more than 6,800 irrigated acres across 287 parcels. We replaced 10 manually operated drops and 69 side gates with automated Rubicon equipment, all controlled through an online water ordering and scheduling platform. Canal automation is nothing new for TID, as we've been doing it for nearly 20 years, but incorporating all elements of automation, from the customers' water ordering to side gate delivery, makes this the first fully automated canal in the United States.

The TCC pilot runs through the end of the 2027 Irrigation Season and the results will shape how TID approaches canal automation District-wide. We've already seen the promise of this technology on Lateral 8, where an earlier automation project reduced water level fluctuations, improved flow consistency, and cut spills at the end of the system.

This pilot is just one example of the innovative projects TID is exploring as part of the Path to Zero spill. TID is investing in the infrastructure, technology and processes that will ensure that every drop of water possible is available for our growers.



“TID is investing in the infrastructure, technology and processes that will ensure that every drop of water possible is available for our growers.”

-Josh Weimer, TID

Update from East San Joaquin Water Coalition

Pyrethroid Update

By Caitie Diemel, ESJ Executive Director

By far, the most common and persistent pesticide detections identified through the East San Joaquin Water Quality Control's surface water monitoring program is pyrethroids.

These insecticides are widely used throughout California agriculture because they are effective tools for controlling a variety of damaging pests, in many cases our only tool to control those pests. In addition to agricultural uses, pyrethroids are commonly found in residential pest control products, landscape applications, and even pet flea and tick treatments.

While pyrethroids remain an important part of modern pest management, their continued detection in surface water has become a significant focus of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Understanding the Regulatory Target

In 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted regulations requiring coalitions to monitor for six pyrethroid active ingredients. One challenge with pyrethroid monitoring is that these products can be detected in extremely small quantities. Laboratories are capable of measuring concentrations in micrograms per liter—equivalent to one-millionth of a gram.

Regulators evaluate pyrethroid concentrations using a metric known as the Chronic Concentration Goal Unit (CGU). Rather than looking at each pyrethroid independently, the CGU calculation combines the concentrations of multiple

pyrethroid compounds to determine whether water quality objectives are exceeded. This additive effect, coupled with very low thresholds has equated to more exceedances. As pyrethroid detections continue, monitoring programs are then required to increase sampling efforts and develop additional management plans designed to address potential sources.

Why Growers Should Care

1. Monitoring Costs Continue to Rise

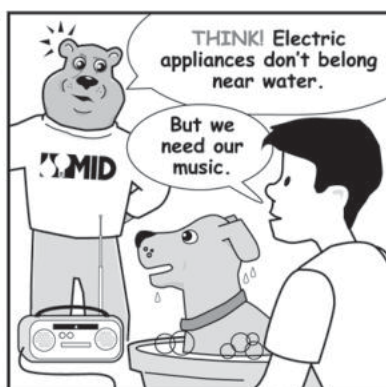
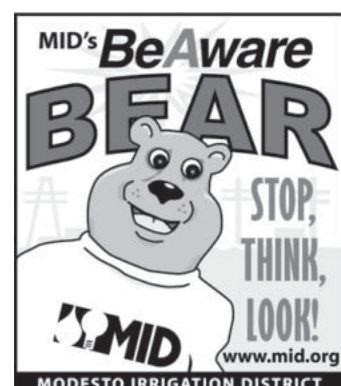
Surface water monitoring represents approximately half of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition's annual budget. Of those monitoring costs, roughly 70 percent is attributable to laboratory analysis. Each pyrethroid detection can trigger additional sampling requirements, increasing costs for coalition members. More detections often result in more monitoring, more analysis, and ultimately greater program expenses borne by growers.

Reducing off-site movement of pyrethroids is one of the most effective ways to help control these costs while supporting compliance with water quality requirements. Because we are finding these chemicals in extremely small quantities, it means that little changes on farm could lead to big changes in reducing these chemicals in waterways.

2. Protecting Critical Pest Management Tools

Pyrethroids are among the most important insecticide tools available to growers today. Following the loss of products such as chlorpyrifos, many operations have

Continued on page 10





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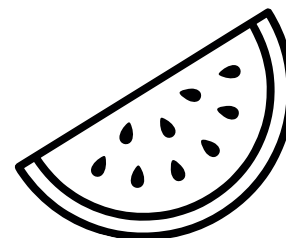
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- Juice from $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup coconut water
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp Himalayan pink salt, fine
- Fresh mint (optional)

Directions

- Blend cubed watermelon until smooth. Strain through a fine mesh sieve to remove pulp and seeds. Measure out $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of juice.
- Combine all ingredients. Stir to combine.
- Serve over ice and garnish with fresh mint, if using.



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become increasingly dependent on pyrethroids to manage economically pests and maintain productive harvests.

Continued detections in surface water could result in additional regulatory scrutiny, use restrictions, or other limitations in the future. By demonstrating responsible stewardship and implementing practices that reduce the potential for drift, growers can help protect the long-term availability of these valuable products.

Practical Steps to Reduce Risk

Pyrethroid detections can occur when products move off the intended treatment area through irrigation runoff, rainfall, spray drift, or erosion. Fortunately, a few management practices can significantly reduce the risk of off-site movement and help protect nearby waterways. Growers can reduce the potential for pyrethroid movement by:

- Avoiding applications when wind conditions increase the likelihood of spray drift.
- Selecting appropriate nozzle types, spray pressures, and droplet sizes to minimize drift potential.
- Maintaining required setbacks and buffer zones near creeks, canals, drains, and other water bodies.
- Avoiding perimeter treatments on roads, compacted soil, or other hard surfaces where irrigation water or rainfall can carry residues away from the target area.
- Preventing irrigation runoff by carefully managing water applications and avoiding overwatering.
- Monitoring weather forecasts and avoiding applications when rainfall is expected.

- Applying products only when needed and according to label directions.
- Managing field edges and drainage pathways to reduce the movement of sediment and pesticide residues into waterways.

Extra caution when applying these products not only help protect water quality but also ensure that the pesticide reaches its intended target, maximizing effectiveness while minimizing the potential for future regulatory restrictions.

Today’s Practices Protect Tomorrow’s Operations

Pyrethroids remain a critical tool for California agriculture. Through careful application and avoiding drift, growers can help reduce water quality concerns, control monitoring costs, and demonstrate the responsible stewardship needed to preserve access to these important products for years to come.



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Water Experiment

Kids Corner!

Which soil type holds water the best?



Supplies:



3 clear cups



Gravel



Potting soil



Sand



Water

What to do:

- 1 Fill each cup with a different material
- 2 Pour the same amount of water into each cup
- 3 Watch what happens as the water drains
- 4 Which soil type held the most water? Which one drained the fastest?

Why does this matter?

Different soil types hold different amounts of water. This is important to know so farmers can use water efficiently on their farms.

Did you know?

There are 6 main types of irrigation in Stanislaus County?



DRIP



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SPRINKLER



BORDER STRIP

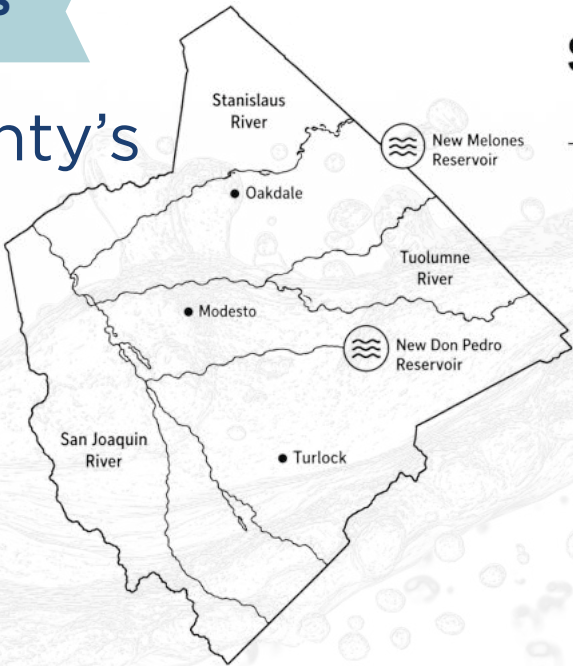


FLOOD

POLICY IN PLAIN ENGLISH WITH TOM ORVIS

Where does Stanislaus County's Water Come From?

Stanislaus County is one of the nations top ag producing counties. Water plays a major role in our success, **let's take a deep dive into where our water comes from.**



STANISLAUS COUNTY WATER SOURCES

WATER SOURCE KEY

Stanislaus River
Stored in New Melones Reservoir (Federal facility)

Tuolumne River
Stored in New Don Pedro Reservoir (Local facility)

San Joaquin River
Supplied by State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP), along with groundwater pumping.

Groundwater
Water located beneath Stanislaus County in four groundwater sub-basins.

Stanislaus River

Stored in New Melones Reservoir (Federal facility)

2.4 Million Acre-Feet

Storage Capacity

OID and South San Joaquin Irrigation District have **senior water rights**

Water can't be carried over year to year. **Use it or lose it** by 9/30 of each year

Tuolumne River

Stored in Don Pedro Reservoir (Local facility)

2.03 Million Acre-Feet

Storage Capacity

Owned by **TID & MID**, operated by TID. Both districts have **senior water rights**

Unused water can often be **carried over** for the future allowing more flexibility

San Joaquin River

Water provided by the State Water Project (SWP), Central Valley Project (CVP) and groundwater pumping.

Deliveries allocated based on **water availability**, snow pack & reservoir storage.

Main storage facilities include Lake Shasta, Lake Oroville and San Luis Reservoir

Groundwater

Our last resort - an estimated

8+ Million Acre-Feet

 Beneath Stanislaus County

The implementation of **SGMA** will greatly **impact** our access to groundwater

Currently no pumping restrictions due to groundwater recharge from available surface water provided by the irrigation districts

Why It Matters

Stanislaus County requires water from various sources.

Local Rivers (Reservoirs)

Imported Water

Groundwater

A reliable water source

4th of July Parade

Recap!

This 4th of July we were one of the **Grand Marshals** in the Modesto Independence Day Parade! We had a great turnout of board members and members who came to represent agriculture.

Our float **celebrated the heart of agriculture** and the people who provide food for our community.



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FARM BUREAU WIN

ANONYMOUS REPORTING PRESERVED!

California Farm Bureau and a coalition of agricultural organizations **successfully defended** the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition’s General Order in appellate court, **preserving anonymous reporting for growers.**

Impact: Growers can continue reporting through their local water quality coalition **without individual farming information being publicly disclosed.** This decision **protects grower privacy** while allowing coalitions to continue helping producers meet state water quality requirements.



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7/12	BANDA EL MEXICANO	BLOODLESS BULLFIGHTS
7/13	DIAMOND RIO	DESTRUCTION DERBY 1
7/14	TWIST ON TAYLOR	DESTRUCTION DERBY 2
7/15	3OH!3	MONSTER TRUCKS 1
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A white Vermeulen Almond Hulling truck is parked on a dirt road. The truck has a large hopper on the back and a conveyor system. The Vermeulen logo is visible on the side of the truck.

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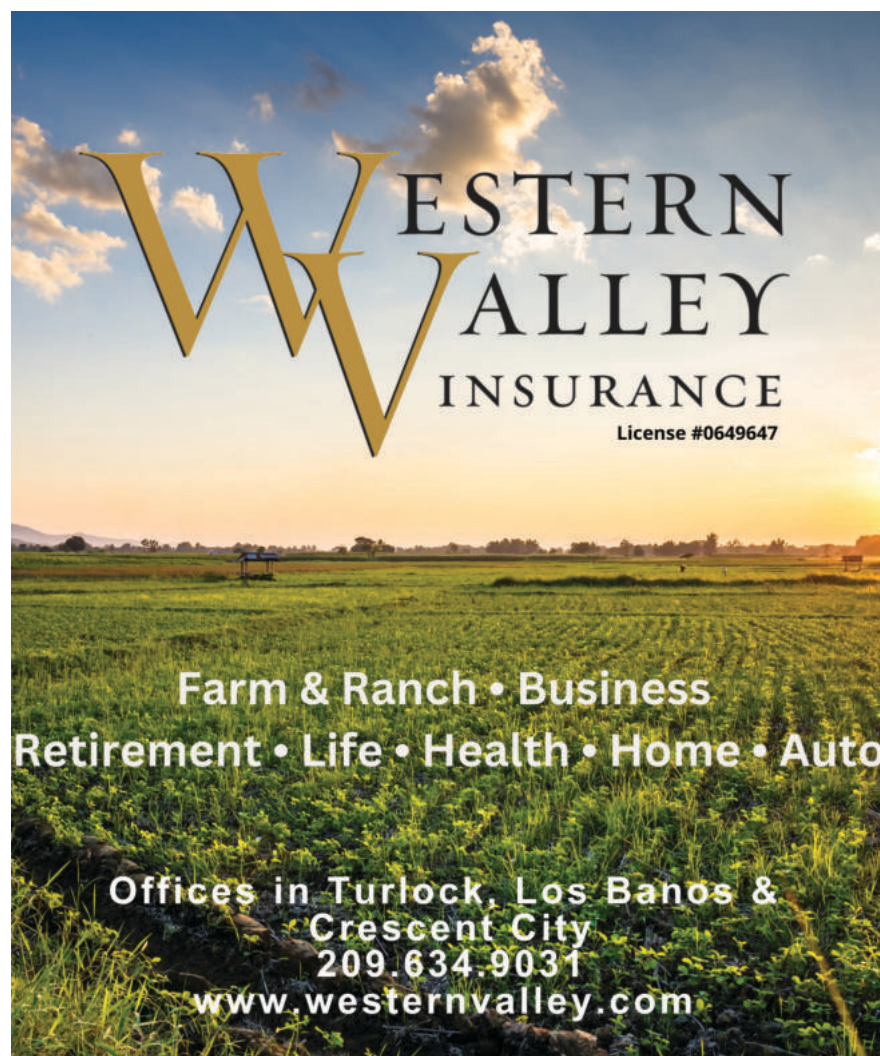
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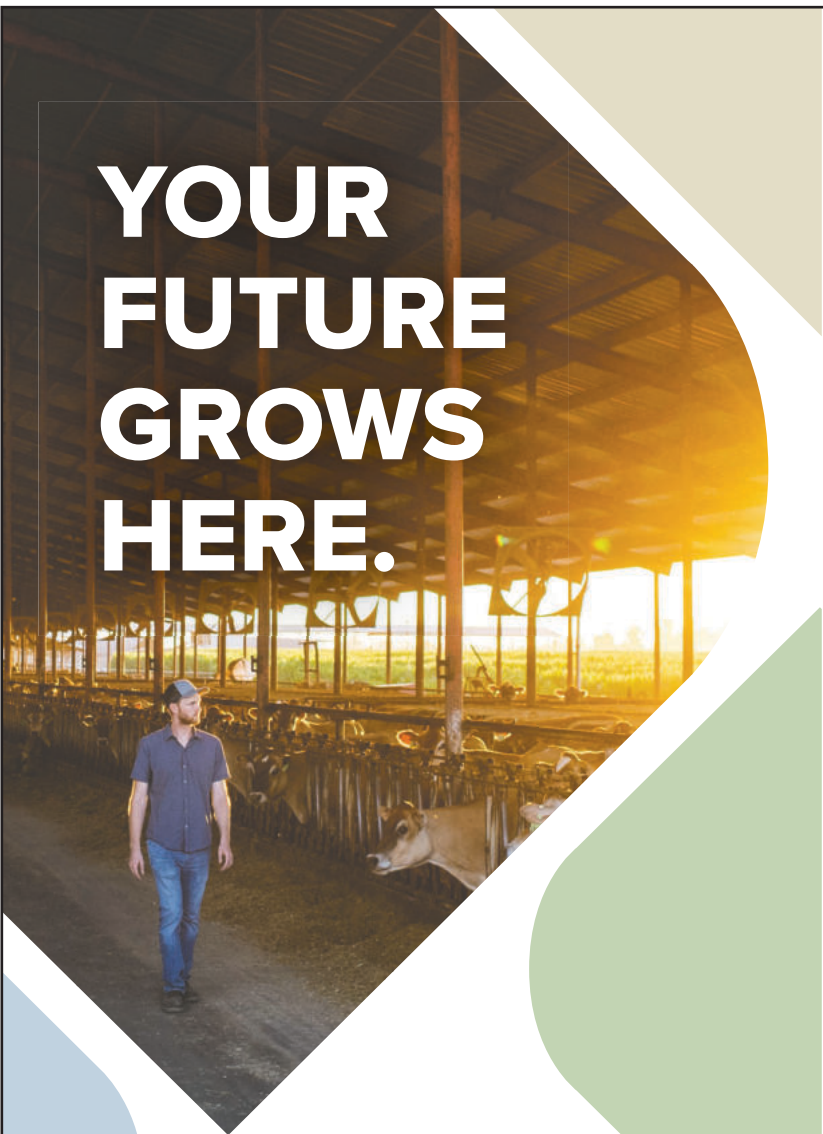
The Western Valley Insurance advertisement features a large, stylized "W" logo in gold. To the right of the "W", the words "ESTERN VALLEY INSURANCE" are written in a serif font. Below the logo, the license number "License #0649647" is printed. The background is a photograph of a green field with a small blue structure in the distance under a blue sky with clouds. The text "Farm & Ranch • Business Retirement • Life • Health • Home • Auto" is written in a serif font. At the bottom, the text "Offices in Turlock, Los Banos & Crescent City" is followed by the phone number "209.634.9031" and the website "www.westernvalley.com".

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Riding the Super El Niño: Turning Wet Years into Groundwater Gains

By Christy McKinnon, Water Resources Manager with Stanislaus County's Groundwater Division.



Early forecasts suggested that Water Year 2026 would be a good one for Stanislaus County. Experts expected it to look much like 2025, with below-normal rainfall but the potential for dramatic swings between dry conditions and heavy storms. This comes after a wetter-than-usual year in 2024, a wet year in 2023, and two extremely dry years in 2022 and 2021.

So far, Water Year 2026 has been dominated by warm storms. Then, a little more than halfway into the year, on June 11, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported that El Niño has formed and is expected to strengthen significantly during the next few months, with the potential to become a very strong event—often nicknamed a “Super El Niño”. There have been four very strong El Niño events since 1980, with the last one occurring in 2014 and 2015, according to the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center.

El Niño happens when a big part of the Pacific Ocean gets warmer than usual. Normally, winds push water to one side, but when the warm water spreads back across the ocean, it changes where rain and storms form. This affects weather all around the world. When the ocean gets warmer, more water evaporates into the air, kind of like how puddles dry up faster on a hot day. All that extra moisture can help make stronger storms. It can also feed “atmospheric rivers” which are long bands of wet air that can

bring heavy rains to places like California. El Niño has helped contribute to wetter winters that replenish California’s water supplies.

During an El Niño event, these atmospheric rivers can sometimes become more intense because there is more warm water and more moisture available. Every El Niño is different and some past El Niños have caused very wet years in California, contributing to above-average snowfall and serious flooding events, and in other years produced dry winters. Still, most events have contributed to wetter-than-normal winters.

To prepare for possible extreme weather conditions, state and federal agencies will make sure reservoirs have enough empty space to catch extra water from big storms, and that as much water as possible will be stored in case dry or drought conditions return. Local agencies will be prepared to take actions and make decisions to help keep communities safe and protect public safety.

During heavy rain and flood events, farmers can help by sending extra water to fields or other places with good drainage so it can soak into the ground and “recharge,” or refill the groundwater supply. Farmers can work with irrigation districts, groundwater sustainability agencies, and groups like Sustainable Conservation to find the best resources, places and times to do this. By planning ahead, farmers can look at ways to recharge groundwater, which will reduce how much land might need to be taken out of production in the future, and this will greatly support the agricultural industry, local communities and the economy. It also helps protect groundwater supplies for both current needs and future generations, so supplies stay reliable, strong and able to handle future droughts and climate change uncertainties.

To inquire further about local resources that support on-farm recharge for growers please contact Rogell Rogers at rrogers@suscon.org, or the Stanislaus County Groundwater Division at cmckinnon@envres.org.

If you have questions about flood control, groundwater recharge and your water rights, contact the Division of Water Rights at (916) 341-5300 or see additional information at:

“ *Planning ahead during El Niño can turn floodwater into a long-term water supply.* ”

-Christy McKinnon, Water Resources Manager



Submit your question here!



Dear Abi

Why Should Multiple Family Members have a Membership?

Dear Abi,

We have a family business and I heard the other day that you recommend each family member have their own membership. Why is that?

-Keeping It in the Family

Dear Keeping It in the Family,

This is a great question and one we get quite often! While one membership can represent a family operation, each individual membership helps to strengthen agriculture’s voice. Each membership represents someone who believes in protecting agriculture and adds to our numbers when advocating at the state, local and national levels.

Since we have multiple families that fall into this category, we created our **Farm Family President’s Club Membership** which makes it easy for your entire family to be a member.

-Abi

PRESIDENT'S CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Sharon Naraghi Farms



For Kent Naraghi, agriculture is about far more than growing crops, it's about carrying forward a family legacy.

Kent manages his mother Sharon's farming operation, Sharon Naraghi Farms, LLC, where they grow almonds, pistachios, walnuts and pomegranates throughout Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties. The family also provides custom almond and pistachio harvesting services. Kent says his mother continues the legacy of her father, Hashem, whose values of hard work, perseverance and stewardship continue to guide the operation today.

Spring is Kent's favorite time of year on the farm, bringing the excitement of a new crop and fresh optimism. Harvest is a close second, as it marks the rewarding culmination of a year's worth of dedication and hard work.

The Naraghi family chose to become President's Club members because they believe in supporting the organizations that advocate for California agriculture. "Farm Bureau is the voice for agriculture," Kent said. "It's a community of people working to protect the future of farming."

Kent encourages others to get involved, emphasizing that agriculture's greatest strength comes from growers working together. He also hopes more people recognize the long-term commitment farmers make to the land. "When you plant an orchard, you're making a decision that will last for decades," he explained. "Farmers are among the most patient stewards of the land because we're always planning for future generations."

His advice for supporting local agriculture is simple: stay connected to where your food comes from. By learning about farming, supporting local growers and appreciating the people behind California agriculture, everyone can play a role in preserving the industry's future.



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Almond Irrigation Management from Hull Split Through Postharvest

By Moneim Mohamed, UCCE

July 10, 2026 Stanislaus Farm News — 21
trees reach about -15 bars of midday stem water potential near the beginning of hull split) and continue until about 90% hull split. However, the appropriate % reduction varies with soil conditions and irrigation system, so it should be evaluated separately for each orchard. This RDI period typically lasts about 2-3 weeks.

After that point, irrigation should return to full crop demand. Maintaining stress for a longer period will not force nuts to split faster. Instead, prolonged or severe stress will stop hull split and result in hull-tights. Also, it can reduce kernel size and vegetative growth, and negatively affect next year's crop potential. Growers should keep in mind that this strategy is not a one-size-fits-all. Soil texture, soil depth, rooting depth, irrigation system design, and stored soil moisture should be considered.

Growers should be careful not to impose too much stress. Excessive water stress during this period can reduce yield and affect tree growth. RDI should be managed using evapotranspiration (ET), pressure chamber readings, soil moisture sensors, field observations, and consideration of the orchard's soil and irrigation system.

Applying moderate to severe water stress 20%-50% of ET for one week before harvest is generally enough to help minimize bark damage during

Continued on Page 23

Although any deficit irrigation can potentially reduce yield, hull split is one of the best times to apply RDI because moderate stress can help reduce hull rot, synchronize ripening, improve harvestability, and save water with minimal impact on yield when managed correctly.

Midday stem water potential, measured with a pressure chamber, is a useful tool to guide irrigation decisions during this period. Moderate stress levels vary by orchard, soil type, irrigation system, root zone depth, and irrigation history, but the following values can be used as general targets.

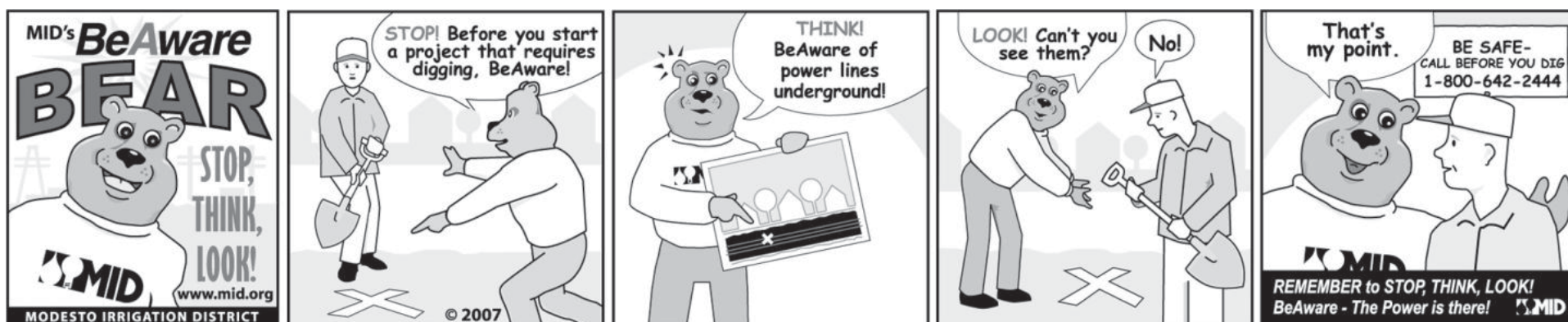
Strategy	Up until mid-June	1% hull split through 90% hull split	90% hull split to leaf drop
Moderate Stress	-8 to -12 bars	-14 to -18 bars	-10 to -14 bars

A practical hull split irrigation management strategy is to begin deficit irrigation just prior any hull split when you expect hull split to begin soon. The goal is to have trees already at mild-moderate stress when nuts begin hull split. A good strategy is to reduce irrigation by about 20-50% at approximately 1% hull split (One approach is to gradually reduce irrigation until

The goal of good irrigation management through the season is to match crop water use with water supply while avoiding over-irrigation and/or excessive tree stress.

Standing water and increased humidity from over-irrigation can increase the risk of diseases such as Phytophthora root rot, hull rot, and Alternaria. It can also reduce oxygen in the root zone, leading to poor root function and reduced tree growth. In addition, over-irrigation will increase pumping costs and fertilizer losses through leaching, which may require additional fertilizer applications to compensate. Excess irrigation can also increase the time needed for the soil profile to dry out, making it more difficult to apply deficit irrigation when needed.

During hull split, irrigation management becomes one of the most important tools growers can use to sustain yield, promote proper hull split, reduce disease risk, and prepare for harvest. Regulated deficit irrigation, or RDI, is the planned reduction of irrigation during specific crop growth stages when almond trees are less sensitive to moderate water stress.



Meet Your Board of Directors!

Vince Dykzeul

Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
1st Vice President



For the past 25 years, our First Vice President has been a dedicated advocate for Stanislaus County agriculture, serving on the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau Board of Directors since 2001. Alongside his wife and three children on the county’s west side, he grows corn, alfalfa, wheat and almonds.

When asked what he wishes more people knew about agriculture, his answer was simple: the vast majority of the food found in grocery stores begins with agriculture. It’s a reminder of just how important farmers and ranchers are to our everyday lives.

He believes Farm Bureau matters because it is the leading voice advocating for agriculture at the local, state and national levels. That’s also why he encourages oth-

ers to become members—supporting Farm Bureau means supporting the future of agriculture.

Although almonds are one of the commodities he grows, his favorite agricultural commodity is actually walnuts!

Thank you for 25 years of leadership and dedication to Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and California agriculture.



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Almond Irrigation Management

From Hull Split Through Postharvest

Continued from page 21

shaking. Water applications should be resumed as soon as orchard conditions allow after harvest. Studies have found that delaying or withholding irrigation after harvest can negatively affect the following season's crop by reducing fruit set and, to a smaller degree, bloom intensity. A study by Goldhamer and Viveros, (2000) reported that postharvest deficit irrigation is more harmful than preharvest deficit irrigation and resulted in reduced kernel yield by 73.6% in the following season. This is explained by the damage to primordial flower parts that prevent the pollen tube from reaching the ovary. Almond is sensitive tree crop to postharvest deficit irrigation due to

late fruit bud differentiation that occurs from late August to early September in California. Therefore, growers should plan ahead and keep at least 3 to 4 acre-inches per acre available from the typical 8 acre-inches needed for postharvest irrigation especially in dry years. Growers with drip irrigation may consider making one sweeper pass to remove nuts from the berm area before irrigating or using a single drip line to limit surface wetting. Using a conditioner can help improve drying before pickup.

For young almond trees less than 3 years old, do not apply deficit irrigation, as this can delay the time it takes for the trees to reach full production.

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Update from OID

Paulsell Lateral Expansion Project:

By Scot Moody, OID

The District is proud to announce the completion of the two-year Paulsell Lateral Expansion and Modernization Project. This significant improvement increased the capacity of the upper portion of the lateral from 30 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 150 cfs, enhancing the District’s ability to deliver water efficiently and reliably for years to come.

Largely funded through a \$14.4 million grant from the California Depart-

ment of Water Resources, the project extends from the South Main Canal to just south of Warnerville Road. We invite you to scan the QR code to view before-and-after photos, project highlights, and key statistics showcasing this important investment in the District’s infrastructure and future.



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Scouting: Your First Defense Against Pests

Responsible almond farming requires protecting the crop and trees from pests, weeds, and disease through an integrated pest management approach. Using tools and techniques like monitoring for pest levels, help growers use pesticides only when economic thresholds are met.

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How to Combat Webspinning Mites



Monitoring Tools for Navel Orangeworm



Mating Disruption Tools for Navel Orangeworm

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USDA-Wildlife Services Seeks Assistance! Feral Pig Eradication Update

By Matthew Bosworth, USDA Wildlife Technician



USDA-Wildlife Services has been conducting feral pig eradication efforts in Stanislaus County on the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge and adjacent properties. A significant number of pigs have been captured and removed, but some remain. Wildlife biologists and capture specialists suspect that some pigs may have dispersed along the Stanislaus or San Joaquin Rivers to other non-developed riparian areas or agricultural properties.

Due to the reproductive capacity of feral pigs and the significant damage they can do to agriculture, property and natural resources it is critical to be informed of all sightings, sign (i.e., tracks, scats, rooting) and damage to property. Feral pigs also pose a disease threat to people, livestock and pets. To achieve full eradication of this isolated population it is important to receive cooperation from landowners in permitting removal of pigs from their property.

Facts:

- Feral pigs can have up to 2 litters up to 12 offspring per year
- Cause \$1.5 billion agriculture damage annually in U.S.
- Primary disease threats: Classical swine fever, pseudorabies, and swine brucellosis. Known to carry 30 different diseases and 40 parasites that can affect humans, livestock, and pets
- This is a geographically isolated population and full eradication is feasible

How to report a sighting:

Suspected observations or potential signs of feral pigs should be photographed and immediately reported to Matthew Bosworth by email Matthew.Bosworth@usda.gov or by phone at 350-216-6622. Observations on county, state or federal lands can also be reported to the appropriate staff on the property. Reports will be followed up on by USDA-Wildlife Services.

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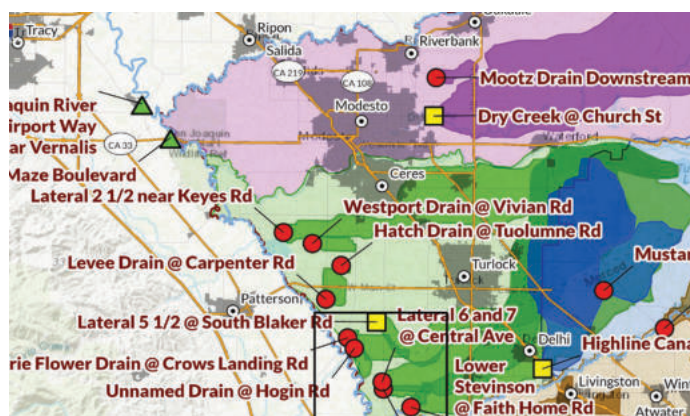
HOW TO HELP PREVENT PYRETHROID EXCEEDANCES

Stanislaus County

Why is this important?

Monitoring and testing for pyrethroids represents a significant cost, ultimately paid by agriculture.

This cost will continue to go up as exceedances remain an issue.



What is our biggest concern?

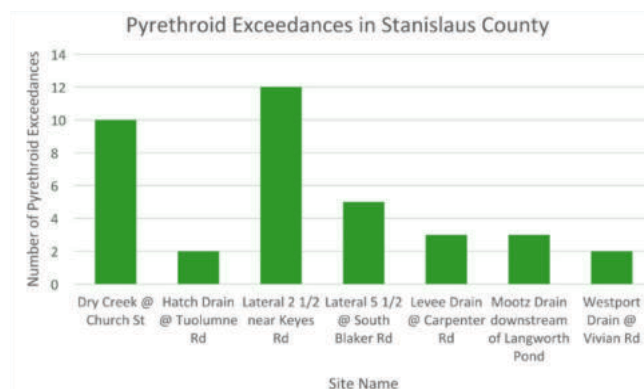
If exceedances continue, the biggest concern is that pyrethroids will be taken away.

We hope to minimize these exceedances to keep this product as a useful tool.



What you can do to help

Talk to your PCA about other products to minimize using pyrethroids and follow the management practices listed below.



Management Practices

- Manage spray drift
- Check wind and rain conditions before spraying
- End of row shut off when spraying close to waterbodies
- Maintain setbacks
- Calibrate equipment regularly

MORE INFORMATION:

209-846-6112

Even small amounts of pyrethroids can lead to exceedances.

Small changes in practices can make a big difference.