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#### Board of Directors

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Vice President

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Division 1

Gary Fernandes

Division 4

Diane Bowman-Friend

Division 5

The Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. at the District office in Woodville. The public is invited to attend.

## NEW OFFICE COMPLETED

### LOWER TULE AND PIXLEY TO SHARE OFFICE BUILDING

The accumulation of three years of planning and discussion has been realized with the completion of the District's new administrative office building in Tipton.

For the past three years the Boards of Directors of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District and the Pixley Irrigation District have been involved in an extensive review of the District's operations. The goal was to provide a more efficient and cost effective service to our landowners and water users. One element of that process was to construct a centrally located office facility in the town of Tipton. In July of 2002 a contract was awarded to Webb & Son and construction commenced. The building itself is a unique design that took into consideration all the needs of a 21st century business while at the same time providing a comfortable look and ease of use. The exterior is made from Insulated Concrete Forms (ARXX Brand) that give the building the strength of a typical block

wall but utilizes Styrofoam to provide a quiet, energy efficient environment. Once the forms are set the middle is filled with six inches of concrete along with heavy steel to hold the wall in place. The interior walls are standard 2x4 framing. The cost of the Insulated Concrete walls is comparable to standard wood framing.



Construction took approximately 140 days with the move from the old office in Woodville to the new one in Tipton commencing at the time of printing, December of 2002. The old building was sold to the Woodville School District and will be used by them for administrative purposes.

The office building was one element of the joint operations process that included the centralizing of all water, maintenance and administrative activities. The Boards felt that by enacting certain personnel moves and joining work forces in one location the Districts could begin "doing more with less."

### Please Note Effective January 1st.

**New Address:**  
**357 E. Olive Ave.**  
**Tipton CA, 93272**

**Phone:**  
**559-686-4716**  
**559-752-5050 (Tipton/Pixley)**  
**559-686-0151 (fax)**

# WATER SUPPLY REPORT

## EARLY SEASON STORM SOAKS WATERSHED

A series of early November storms dumped as much as 20 inches of rain on parts of the Tule River watershed. The warm temperatures left very little snow in the higher elevations and as a result the inflow into Lake Success peaked at over 18,000 cubic feet per second. Storage in the reservoir prior to the storm was less than 4,000 acre-feet, leaving the lake looking more like a big mud puddle. Following the storm the storage was more than 21,000 acre-feet. Because of the early nature of the storm, the Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the Lower Tule River Irrigation District decided to initiate a flood release in order to bring the storage level in line with the requirements of the flood control diagram.

Most of the water released from the lake was brought into the District through canals and the Tule River system. The water was made available for irrigation, however, because of light demand, most of the water was delivered into recharge basins for percolation into the underground. After three years of below normal water supply, groundwater levels within the District have dropped an average of 20 feet. It is expected that flood releases will have to

continue on and off throughout January in order to maintain the storage limits required for flood control. Any flood releases are of course dependent upon rainfall. Early forecasts call for an El Nino year which usually means above average rainfall for Central and Southern California. The Western Regional Climate Center is speculating that this El Nino could be the 3rd or 4th strongest over the past 50 years. The last two big ones were in 1983 and 1998.

### 2002 Water Deliveries

Despite a below normal water supply year in 2002, the District still imported 104,000 acre feet for delivery between mid-May and mid-August. Deliveries to water users totaled 74,000 acre-feet or 73% of the water imported. The balance of the water was lost in conveyance through the District's unlined canals. The unlined canals serve as an excellent source of recharge in wet years. In dry years the water is "lost" for delivery purposes, but still ends up as part of the underground supply.



Follow the  
activities of  
our neighbors  
on the Kings  
River

**Kings River  
Conservation  
District**

WWW.KRDC.ORG

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS COMPLETED



### Westside Inter-tie

In early June, District crews completed the first phase of the Westside Inter-tie project. The first phase connects the District's northern most Lateral (#5) with Lateral #3. The first phase is one-mile in length and has a capacity of 250 cubic-feet per second. Deliveries through the Inter-tie helped alleviate capacity problems in the western end of the District. Once fully completed, the North to South Inter-tie will connect all four of the District's east to west canals.

### Seitz Pipeline

Prior to the start of the summer irrigation run, District crews completed the conversion of 3/4 of a mile of dilapidated ditch into a useable pipeline. In addition the line was extended to serve landowners who, prior to 2002, had not been able to access District water. In 2002, 331 acre-feet was delivered through the new line.

## 2003 BUDGET ADOPTED—



At the regular meeting in September, the Board Directors adopted the 2003 Budget.

The 2003 Budget total was \$9,497,000. That compares to a 2002 adopted Budget of \$9,386,000. Most of the increase was to accommodate the expected increase in costs associated with the enlargement of the Success Reservoir. The project is scheduled to begin in 2003 and the District share for next year is budgeted at \$140,000. In 2002, \$25,000 was expended for preliminary engineering and project feasibility. It is expected that the higher levels of funding will be needed through the project's completion in 2005. Several other budget highlights:

**Personnel and Payroll:** The 2003 Budget \$940,000, a decrease of \$80,000 from 2002.

**O&M:** The overall operations and maintenance budget was increased by less than 1% from 2002 to 2003.

**Water Supply:** Budgeted for an average water year the water portion of the budget is more than \$6 million.



**Above Left:** Crane sets steel for entryway. The vertical steel is encased in five-foot diameter casings eight feet deep.



**Above Right:** View of construction in early November.



**Middle:** Workers pump cement into the middle of Concrete Forms.

**Below Left:** Half section of Insulated Concrete Form with horizontal steel support. Vertical steel support added later

**Below Right:** View of unfinished interior entryway. Ceiling heights total more than 25 feet to accommodate roof slope



*“Keep your hand on your wallet, California...the administration (Bush) is planning a massive water giveaway to California growers. In fact, the administration is offering even more free water than the growers need. Forty years ago, we didn't realize that unchecked irrigation would devastate drinking water supplies, wildlife, the fishing industry and recreation.”*

*“It's nothing less than robbery when tax dollars are used to subsidize wasteful farming practices at the expense of our wallets, clean drinking water and healthy rivers.”*

Op Ed. Piece from the Los Angeles Times

written by

Michael Wall-NRDC

**Michael Wall is one of the lead representatives for NRDC and is heavily involved in their efforts to steal San Joaquin River water away from the hard working farmers of the Friant Division.**



Lower Tule River  
Irrigation District

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*Working together to  
meet your water  
needs now and into  
our future*

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**Address**

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**DISTRICT HIRES  
TWO FOR KEY  
POSITIONS**

**Mike Battles**

Long time Pixley resident and current General Superintendent of the Pixley Irrigation District Mike Battles has been hired by both Districts to oversee the Operations and Maintenance Department of the two Districts.



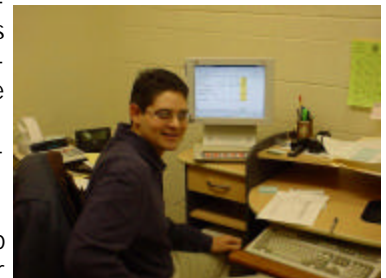
Battles' hiring was driven in part by the pending retirement of current Construction and Maintenance Superintendent Pat Burton. Battles hiring was also one of the important elements of Joint District Operations. The goal of the Boards and the General Manager was to have one person in a central position that can use the collective resources of the two Districts to the highest benefit. Battles has over 18 years of ex-

perience with the Pixley Irrigation District in both water and maintenance operations. He can be reached by calling the District office at 686-4716 or locally at 752-5050.

Mike and his wife Tami have two children ages 13 and 8. They live in Tulare and are actively involved in local sport programs.

**Eric Limas**

The District has also hired Eric Limas as Controller for the District. Limas came on board in October of 2002. Prior to working for the District Limas spent several years as an accountant for M. Green & Co. in Tulare. Limas is a graduate of Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Ag Business. He is a Certified Public Accountant with an extensive background in public agency auditing. He is also a graduate of the Leadership Tulare program.



Limas grew up in the Lower Tule River Irrigation District as the son of a long time District landowner.

Eric and his wife Adriane have two sons ages 11 and 2 with another child on the way in May of next year.