



LOWER TULE LEGEND

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Board of Directors

Robert Bowman—President

Division 5

Ben Serafin—Vice President

Division 2

Don MacMillan

Division 3

Tony Simonich

Division 1

Gary Fernandes

Division 4

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.

LOWER TULE MOVES FORWARD WITH JOINT OPERATIONS

Districts Purchase Property for New Office Location

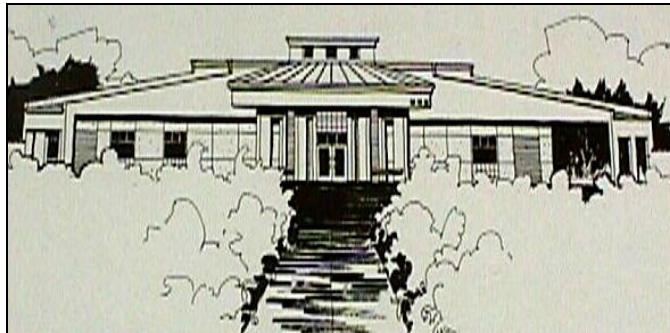
Over the past several months the Lower Tule River Irrigation District and the Pixley Irrigation District have continued to move forward in their efforts to provide more central and cost effective services to the landowners and water users within the Districts.

An integral part of the collective plans call for the construction of a combined office and administrative complex in the Tipton area. The office would house the managerial, accounting and water operations of both the Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation District. The Districts currently have separate offices in Woodville and Pixley respectively. In addition, both Districts have Maintenance yards located near their current offices. Under the joint operations plan the Districts would maintain their shop and yard facilities and work together to help cover each other's territory while using a central office facility to handle the administrative activities of the Districts.

In August the Districts opened escrow on a 2-acre parcel along Avenue 152 east of Highway 99 in the town of Tipton and plan to construct an office at that location. Preliminary plans call for a complex of approximately 4,500 square-feet that would include space for administration and water operations as well as conference rooms for Board meetings and other committee activities. As stated in the previous edition of the *Legend* and as reiterated by both Boards on many occasions, there is a commitment to three basic principles throughout this process:

throughout this process:

- The Districts will not be legally merged and will maintain separate water supply, assessment status and separate Boards of Directors.
- **None of the activities will result in cost increases** to the landowners either through water costs or assessment rates.
- A commitment to keep the District's landowners fully informed throughout the process.



Architectural Renderings of the Proposed Joint Office Project

It is anticipated that construction on the new office complex will begin by December of 2001 with completion estimated at Summer of 2002.

In anticipation of the joint operations project and new office construction the Lower Tule River Irrigation District began discussions in June with the Woodville School District regarding the purchase of the existing Lower Tule office by the school. Over the past several weeks final negotiations have been completed and the District has begun the process of selling the existing office building to the Woodville School District. The sale will include the existing office building and property only and will not include the Woodville shop facilities. Part of the sale process involved having an appraisal prepared from which the sale price was based. The school intends to use the property to house administrative personnel and resource activities.

If you have any questions about this process or any other District activities you are encouraged to call or stop by the District office or contact your Board representative.

WATER SUPPLY REPORT

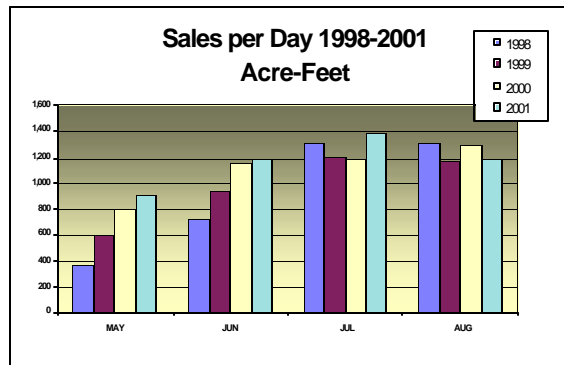
A wild and crazy water year has finally come to a close with the last of the District's summer water supply being run in late August. To recap, the season started with less than 75% Class 1 supply, was increased slowly to 100% Class 1 then to 5% Class 2 only to have that declaration reduced mid summer, back down to 100% Class 1. At the end of August, the 5% Class 2 declaration was restored giving the District enough water for a late August run.

Included in the chaos of changing declarations was the challenge of meeting in-District irrigation demands that exceeded any prior year of record. The graph above illustrates how sales to District water users during the months of May through July exceeded the same period from the three prior years. The summer's unstable energy rates and changes in cropping patterns

from cotton to corn, hay and trees is credited with increased demand in water use. In addition, the District has seen a significant change in the amount of water that individual users take at one time. In the past, a demand per turnout of 3-5 cfs was common

place with very few deliveries exceeding 20 cfs. With the change in farming operations and the advent of the dairy industry to this area, it is not unusual for a water delivery to a single user to exceed 40-50 cfs per day.

It is far too early to predict what will happen next year, early forecasts call for anything from a 25-year drought to another wet El Nino cycle. Regardless of the year type, the Board of Directors will work hard to provide irrigation water at a reasonable cost. Here's hoping that next year is that elusive "perfect year."



Lower Tule Water Facts 2001:

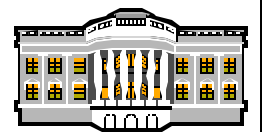
Total sales to water users:
72,506 a/f.

Total water brought into the District:
102,451 a/f

Percentage Delivered for Sale in 2001:
71%

Historic Percentage Delivered for Sale May thru August:
71%

LOWER TULE DELEGATION TRAVELS TO WASHINGTON D.C.



In June, Lower Tule Board President Bob Bowman, General Manager Dan Vink and Pixley irrigation District Director Thewis Atsma traveled with several other area water officials to Washington D.C. to discuss water related issues with Congressional and Administration officials. The primary purpose of the three day trip was to meet with local representatives to discuss the huge water bill known as "Cal-Fed" and the possible implications to Lower Tule and to the Friant service area.

The Cal-Fed program is a joint state and federal program that is being used as the vehicle to address long term water supply issues in the State of California. Early in 2001 a bill was introduced by Congressman Ken Calvert (R- Riverside) that moved the Cal-Fed program forward outlining water projects and water operation programs and providing for a collective \$8 billion (yes billion with a b) over the course of the next decade in water related infrastructure spending. While the intent of the Cal-Fed effort is applauded by most water users in California, there remain parts of the Cal-Fed bill that does not bode well for many in the Friant Division. In particular, there is language in the bill that would "hardwire" assurances for water supply to Westside (aka Westlands) water users in the range of 65-70 percent of their contract supply every year. Under

that scenario, the Bureau of Reclamation would be required to make that amount of water available to those water users. To apply that principle to the Friant Project would mean that Lower Tule would get enough water every year to provide for an uninterrupted water run from April through September. While that sounds like a good deal for the water users, it is important to remember that the water projects are not Disneyland, they can't make fantasies out of everyday reality. If the Bureau is legally required to make water available to a certain element of the project, then that will logically come at the expense of others in the project. Recall the passage of CVPIA. Since that time Bureau officials have been legally required to release 800,000 acre-feet of water every year to the environment. That water comes off the top and as a result has continually shorted other water users in the Central Valley Project. Accordingly, the delegation delivered the message to Capital Hill that the assurances language for the Westside puts the Friant supply at risk and therefore is not acceptable to Friant water users.

The local delegation met with local congressmen as well as both State Senators offices and various committee staff.

At the time of printing the language in the bill is still

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BOARD PRESIDENT TO RESIGN BOWMAN WILL NOT RUN FOR ANOTHER TERM



Citing the need for change and a desire to slow down and enjoy life, Board President Robert F. Bowman announced to the Board in August that he would not be running for re-election in November. Bowman has been on the Board since 1979 serving as President since 1988. Almost the entirety of Bowman's tenure was served while Roger W. Robb was Engineer-Manager of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District. Accordingly the *Legend* has asked Roger to offer his reflections on the Bowman reign.

Bob joined the LTRID Board in July 1979 to complete the un-expired term of A. E. "Spud" Panetta.

When the discussion of recruiting a new member arose, former District Manager Bill Alexander commented to me that Bob was too young and too impulsive to be a good Board member despite the fact that Bob was in his mid-50's at the time. Even with that warning I convinced Bob and the Board that he should be appointed, a move that has paid dividends since.

Bob has not only been an outstanding spokesman for the water industry but for agriculture in general, having traveled to many parts of the world to promote agriculture and water related issues, and a better spokesman they could not have.

*Being "outspoken" is an understatement to all who know Bob as he has a very **BIG** voice that can usually be heard without the aid of a microphone regardless of the size of the room.*

Bob has been fully engaged in water and water issues locally, regionally, state wide and nationally. Bob was elected Chairman of the Lower Tule Board in 1988 and has continued in that position until his retirement this year. He also served as Chairman of the Friant Water Users Authority from 1992 through 1998.

While Bob is a staunch conservative Republican he did not let that stand in the way of having his picture in the paper alongside Willie Brown, or while selling \$1,000 per plate fund raising tickets for Diane Feinstein or (another little known fact) while standing shoulder to shoulder with President Bill Clinton in Fresno during a "break" at a local water meeting.

It was my pleasure working as Engineer-Manager under Bob and I wish he and his wife Gloria the best in their future endeavors.

Roger W. Robb

vote time to both Districts, streamlining the duplication of the current financial process.

MEET THE STAFF

The District has hired Francia Mendoza-Reyes as the Controller for the District. Mendoza-Reyes came to work for Lower Tule in June of 2001 and is scheduled to take over for retiring Controller Vonnie Collier on November



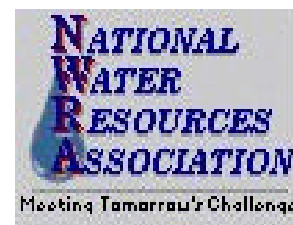
1st. Mendoza-Reyes and her husband Brian moved to the area from New York City following the completion of his medical residency. Originally from the Northern California area, Mendoza-Reyes and her husband now live in Porterville. As District Controller, Mendoza-Reyes is charged with overseeing all aspects of the District's financial operations. Under the joint operations scenario currently being discussed, the Controller position would de-

COLLIER TO RETIRE

For the last 17 years, one person has been in charge of all the financial aspects of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District. Vonnie Collier came to work for the District in 1984 and since that time has overseen the transformation of the District's accounting system as well as having handled the complex water and financial accounting issues of the District. On November 1st, 2001, Collier will begin her retirement, handing her job over to Francia Mendoza-Reyes. Collier hopes to spend time between her family in the Ventura area and the Coast where she intends to relax and enjoy the tranquility of the area.

The Board of Directors and the landowners of the District share in their gratitude to Collier for her many years of quality work and wish her the best in her retirement.

Follow National Water Related Issues including the Cal-Fed Bill and Klamath Issues at the National Water Resources Association Web Site



www.nwra.org

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Irrigation District

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

UPDATE!

The Group traveling to Washington was in D.C. at the time of the terrorist attacks. They have since traveled back to California. All Cal-Fed related legislation has been temporarily deferred.

Address

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 9 —Lower Tule Board Meeting
- November 22 –23 Thanksgiving Holiday—Office Closed
- December 20—First Installment of 2002 Assessment Due

**AT SMA ELECTED PRESIDENT
OF PIXLEY BOARD**

Long time Pixley Director and Lower Tule landowner Thewis Atsma was chosen to serve as President of the Pixley Irrigation District Board of Directors. Atsma replaces Joe Gastaldi who has served as President of the Board since 1987. The move was made at the request of Gastaldi who will continue to serve as Vice-President of the Pixley Irrigation District Board of Directors.



Friant Appoints New General Manager

Former Bureau of Reclamation official Dan Fults has been chosen by the Friant Water Users Authority Board of Directors to replace outgoing Manager Dick Moss. Following a lengthy and extensive interview process the Board voted unanimously in late August to offer the job to Fults.

Fults has a long history with the water users in the South Valley dating back to his days as Area Manager for the Bureau's Fresno office. Fults has also served as Assistant Regional Director for the Bureau's Mid-Pacific region. Fults is a familiar face to the Friant family having served as Special Project Coordinator from 1996–2000. During that time Fults headed up the Friant efforts in Sacramento and Washington D.C. playing a key role in the San Joaquin River restoration efforts. "Having been involved in the Friant Water Users Authority for almost four years I have a deep appreciation for the issues and challenges facing the Friant area," Fults said. Fults begins his duties at Friant in mid-September taking over for Moss who left the Authority at the end of August to open his own engineering firm.

(Continued from page 2)

being negotiated with mark-up scheduled for early September. At that time General Manager Vink, Pixley President Thewis Astma and other members of Friant will again travel to Washington to advance the Friant position and try to get the assurances language removed from the bill. Local Congressional support stacks up as follows:

- Dooley—Supports the Language**
- Radonovich—Supports Friant efforts**
- Thomas—Supports the Language**
- Condit— Supports the Language**

- Feinstein—Supports modification of Language**
- Boxer— Opposes Assurances Language**