



**MADERA IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
12152 ROAD 28 1/4  
MADERA, CALIFORNIA 93637  
[www.madera-id.org](http://www.madera-id.org)

# MID



THE MISSION OF MADERA IRRIGATION DISTRICT is to obtain and manage affordable surface water and groundwater supplies in a manner which will ensure the long-term viability of irrigated agriculture in the District.

## Stream Monitor

MARCH 2015

### MADERA IRRIGATION DISTRICT BRACES FOR REPEAT OF 2014

In 2014, and for the first time in the history of the Central Valley Project (CVP), the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) made a call on the San Joaquin River to satisfy the Exchange Contractors' demands. This topic was discussed in the last two issues of the MID Stream Monitor, which are available at <http://madera-id.org/index.php/newsletters>. The Madera Irrigation District (MID or District) is preparing for what could be a repeat of 2014; only worse. Last year the District utilized approximately 19,000 acre-feet of reserved, carryover surface water to conduct a partial run of the District. This partial run allowed the District to operate under a balanced budget. With minimal carryover this year, a current zero allocation from Friant, and little water from other sources, the District is faced with not only a water supply challenge, but also a financial challenge.

*"The District is faced with not only a water supply challenge, but also a financial challenge"*

Unless significant rainfall is received statewide soon, MID's water supplies and options could be very limited. If the dry conditions persist, the District may not be able to deliver water to any portions of the District in 2015. This situation would cause all growers to rely exclusively on the already stressed groundwater aquifer. The groundwater elevation decline observed last year would be expected to continue, if not increase.

With a nominal quantity of water to be available to the District comes the potential for minimal revenues from water sales. Fortunately, the District has been significantly reducing its operations costs over the last three years. Part of the reduction in operational cost includes operating at reduced staffing levels. There are current-

ly eleven open positions at the District which equates to over 20% of the optimal work force. The District has also recently been successful in marketing water that was a product of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (Program). This is water that is released for the Program from Friant Dam (an eastside reservoir) and recaptured and made available to MID in San Luis Reservoir (a westside reservoir). Due to physical and economic constraints, it is extremely difficult and expensive for MID to recover the water from San Luis Reservoir back to MID's service area either directly or through exchanges. Therefore, for the last few years the Board of Directors has chosen to sell the water on the westside to generate revenue. This revenue was then reinvested back into the Madera Irrigation District for the benefit of all District growers and used to replenish reserves, purchase other eastside water supplies for District use, and pay for capital projects and operations and maintenance. In March of 2014 the District marketed 3,236 AF of San Luis water and received approximately \$6.7 million dollars through a transparent, public bid process.

However, even during these recent challenging years, the District has made significant strides to benefit its District growers. The District has been able to significantly increase its reserve accounts over the last three years while continuing to implement its water efficiency programs including SCADA and system automation. The District has also utilized its Engineering, Maintenance, and Operations staff to complete much needed infrastructure replacement projects.

For more information on the District, these projects, and other current events, you can visit our website or follow MID on our new Facebook or Twitter sites.

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
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RICK COSYNS, **VICE PRESIDENT**  
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The Board of Directors meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.  
Regular Session begins at 2:00 p.m.

**THOMAS GRECI**, GENERAL MANAGER  
**DINA NOLAN**, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER  
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**JOHN BESE**, CHIEF OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE  
**ANNA SWANSON**, ASSISTANT CONTROLLER  
**TANESHA WELCH**, HR ADMINISTRATOR/RISK MGR.

For comments, questions, or story ideas please contact Andrea Sandoval, Editor at (559) 673-3514 ext. 215 or [asandoval@madera-id.org](mailto:asandoval@madera-id.org)

### LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

The Madera Irrigation District is conducting a logo contest for Madera County high school students. The contest is open to Madera County high school students in grades 9-12. Entries will be judged by a team consisting of MID representatives. The team will select top designs and any winning themes/idea that may be used as the official MID logo. More information and submission requirements are available on the District website [www.madera-id.org](http://www.madera-id.org). The contest deadline is March 31, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Questions can be directed to Andrea Sandoval at the District office.

### MID IS NOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Madera Irrigation District is now on Facebook and Twitter. Be sure to like and follow MID! We will be posting important topics related to the District and current events. Scan the code below to link directly to the District's Facebook page.



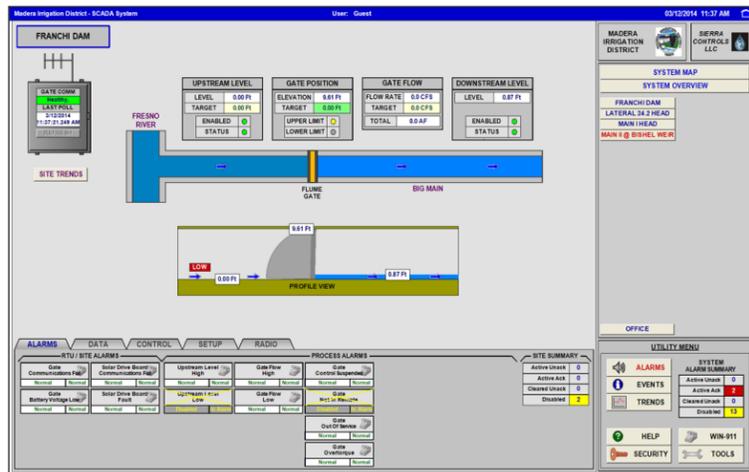
## USBR, WATERSMART GRANT AUTOMATION AND SCADA

In 2013, MID applied for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Program: Water and Energy Efficiency grant for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system improvements throughout the District. A two-year, 50% cost share grant of \$599,058 was awarded to MID in September 2013. The grant included establishing a SCADA Master Station at the District Office which would communicate to 16 new solar-powered automated gates and meters and 5 existing automated facilities.

The gates are programmed to automatically open and close to maintain a constant flow within +/- 2.5% accuracy, regardless of varying upstream water level. The gates can be remotely monitored and controlled by smart phones that were paid for by a previous grant. The gates and meters were designed to fit into the existing concrete structures with minor modification. MID staff assisted the manufacturer's field technicians with

the installation and provided additional protection measures.

The 21 locations were ideal for automation because of the high volume of water and the greater potential for improved operational control, flow measurement, and cost savings. These new gates and meters work together to control a large portion of MID's water supply to downstream lateral canals and pipelines within the City of Madera and southern Madera County. As funds become available in the future, MID plans to install more flume gates and meters with SCADA control at other key locations throughout the District.



Above: SCADA computer software

Below: Lateral 32.2-9.9-0.1 Head: before Right: Lateral 32.2-9.9-0.1 Head: after automated Flume Meter with cobble erosion protection



Above: Installation of SCADA radio antenna



## MADERA IRRIGATION DISTRICT REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH MADERA VALLEY, LLC REGARDING WATER BANK PROJECT PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

On December 10, 2014, the Board of Directors of the Madera Irrigation District (the "District") voted to settle a dispute with Madera Valley, LLC ("MV"), its former financing partner in the District's water bank, also known as Madera Ranch. The dispute arose from the June 5, 2012, Project Participation Agreement (the "PPA") between the District and MV.

The terms of the settlement agreement include a one-time payment to MV in the amount of \$500,000, and an option to purchase specified amounts of water in moderate to wet rainfall years, for a 25-year term (as opposed to a much lengthier term under the PPA), with the amounts depending on the hydrology. All water transferred must be used within the Friant service area, and in a manner consistent with the District's contract

with the Bureau of Reclamation.

According to the District's General Manager Thomas A. Greci, "the settlement removes a significant amount of uncertainty for the District with respect to the water bank. As far as what the bank may look like in the future, all options are on the table. But first, the District must engage in a transparent, well-planned process to ensure both the Board and the District's growers are apprised of the pros and cons of each option. The District welcomes input from its growers, and is looking forward to a positive public dialog on this issue in the months to come."

The District conducted the first planning and direction setting discussion for the water bank project during the open session portion of the MID

Board Meeting on February 17, 2015. Discussions on the water bank project will continue to occur during open sessions of the MID Board Meetings, please refer to the MID Board Agendas for more information.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**MID ANNUAL GROWERS MEETING**  
**APRIL 30, 2015**

**GROUNDWATER FORUM**  
**10:00 AM**

**GROWERS MEETING**  
**11:00 AM**

*More information will be mailed to growers*

## CALIFORNIA'S SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT AND MID'S INVOLVEMENT

On Sept. 16, 2014, Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law a three-bill legislative package related to groundwater in the State of California. This three-bill legislation is known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). The SGMA provides a framework for sustainable management of groundwater supplies by local authorities, with a limited role for state intervention only if necessary to protect the resource. The act requires the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that must assess conditions in their local water basins and adopt locally-based management plans.

Madera Irrigation District (MID or District) has been heavily involved in the development of the Madera Groundwater Authority Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). The Madera Groundwater Authority's goal is "to provide for the conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water within the represented groundwater basins to ensure the reliability of a long-term water supply to meet current and future beneficial uses through the development of a coordinated and comprehensive regional approach to the monitoring, evaluation and management of groundwater resources." Additionally, the District has begun discussions regarding the formation of the Madera Subbasin GSA with other

agencies including Madera County, City of Madera, and other water districts. It is the goal of the Madera Irrigation District's Board of Directors for the District to remain on the forefront of the discussions regarding groundwater, to have a successfully formed GSA, and to retain local control of the groundwater.

Additional information on the State of California's legislation and MID's role related to groundwater will be provided at the MID Annual Growers Meeting on April 30.

