



Fall 2007

The mission of KRCDD is to provide flood protection, cooperate with other agencies to achieve a balanced and high quality water supply, and develop power resources on the Kings River for the public good.

Speakers' Bureau Programs

Kings River Conservation District has available speakers' bureau presentations to discuss issues relating to the valley's environmental, energy and water needs.

There is no charge for the programs and we would be happy to schedule a presentation. If interested, please e-mail or phone Toni Munoz-Woods at 559-237-5567, ext. 105 or tmunoz@krcdd.org.

To learn more about the Kings River Conservation District, visit our website at www.krcdd.org.

KRCDD News

KRCDD Files Community Power Plant Application for Certification



Simulation of the proposed KRCDD Community Power Plant which is to be located on the East side of Bethel Avenue between Manning and Dinuba avenues.

In pursuit of its vision of reliable power for the central San Joaquin Valley, the Kings River Conservation District is proposing to construct the KRCDD Community Power Plant. It will be a state-of-the-art power plant, fueled by natural gas, the fuel of choice for power plants in California.

The plant is entering into the permitting process with the submission by KRCDD of an Application for Certification to the California Energy Commission (CEC) in September 2007. The application includes over a year's worth of studies regarding the proposed site.

The CEC has the sole responsibility for permitting power plants of 50 megawatts or more. The CEC will evaluate all environmental, operational and other issues related to permitting the plant and will require that the plant meet all local laws, ordinances, regulations and standards as well. To make this process successful, public participation is strongly encouraged.

"KRCDD is committed to an open, responsive and comprehensive public process related to the building of the proposed power plant," said David Orth, General Manager of

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Water Management Plan Is Taking A Regional Look At Groundwater

There are many aspects and all sorts of potential projects associated with the new Upper Kings Basin Water Forum and its integrated regional water management plan.

"The Water Forum is all about working together to identify regional needs so it is no surprise that dealing with the Kings River service area's groundwater overdraft has emerged as a significant issue," said David Orth, Kings River Conservation District General Manager. "Water Forum members

recognize that groundwater deficiencies have the potential to be divisive among water users. They prefer constructive, regional solutions."

KRCDD is a partner in the regional planning process with the Kings River Water Association; Alta, Consolidated and Fresno irrigation districts; Raisin City Water District; California Department of Water Resources (DWR); cities and counties within the planning area; and a number of varied stakeholders.

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Dry Water Year Comes To An End

Kings River water users are hoping for better things in the just begun new water year after 2006-07 went into the books among the driest ever.

The Kings River Water Association reports the water year that ended September 30 resulted in only 679,000 acre-feet of natural runoff.

That was only 39.6 percent of average and made 2006-07 the Kings' seventh driest on record, in marked contrast to the 2005-06 water year which, at 190 percent of average, was the seventh wettest since the river's flows were first measured in 1895.

Kings River Watermaster Steve Haugen said that carryover storage in Pine Flat Reservoir made possible modestly better total water releases of 1,090,140 acre-feet.

"This past year's dry conditions took a toll on all of KRWA's member units and a few had too little entitlement to operate but some were able to use water they chose to carry over from the big 2005-06 year," Haugen said.

The reservoir, which essentially filled in each of the previous two water years, topped out at 698,671 acre-feet – less than 70 percent of normal – on May 24. The storage low point, 185,418 acre-feet, was registered on the water year's final day, September 30. There were no flood releases.

With 100,000 acre-feet reserved in Pine Flat as a temperature control pool under the Kings River Fisheries Management Program, Haugen said, "that means only minimal storage is being carried over." Another dry year would be more widely felt among Kings users as a result.



General Manager's Report
David Orth

Powering Added Value

What an exciting and promising time this is for the Kings River Conservation District and the San Joaquin Valley Power Authority municipalities that KRCD will soon be serving.

By early next year, if all continues to go as well as has thus far been the case, KRCD will begin phasing in power generation service to the 11 cities and one county that have stepped forward to embrace a new concept in energy supply.

Community Choice, a program made possible for cities and counties a few years ago, is a pacesetter opportunity for communities to provide lower-cost electricity without any change whatsoever in how that power is delivered, or the service, which is provided by existing utility companies.

KRCD is proud to be working side by side with Kings County, and the cities of Hanford, Corcoran, Lemoore, Dinuba, Kerman, Parlier, Reedley, Sanger, Kingsburg, Selma and Clovis. It is a historic undertaking.

Ours will be the first Community Choice program established anywhere in California. Many eyes are watching our every move. We are confident we are headed in the right direction.

Over the past few years, those of us at KRCD have talked a great deal about the mechanics of Community Choice and the District's plan for providing energy to be delivered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Southern California Edison Company.

You may have wondered why we are going to all of the effort to establish an all-new power program. After all, wouldn't it be easier for KRCD to just sit back and do the sorts of jobs – environmental studies and improvements, flood management, power generation at Pine Flat, groundwater enhancement, on-farm water management, engineering and, of course, conservation – that the District has done well for so many decades?

Of course it would. Nevertheless, KRCD's Board of Directors and your District's management have a vision that goes well beyond the status quo.

Our board and the late Jeff L. Taylor, KRCD's long-time General Manager (for whom our power plant at Pine Flat Dam is named), many years ago recognized that the District was exceptionally well positioned to undertake projects with regional benefits.

What KRCD has done in helping its city and county partners establish Community Choice is a continuation of the District's determination and desire, as a member of the San Joaquin Valley community, to put the resources with which KRCD has been blessed to work for the greater public good.

That also explains the motive behind KRCD's recent application for certification to develop the KRCD Community Power Plant in Parlier.

Not only are the planning, design and development of this state-of-the-art and environmentally sensitive facility the latest in many steps that the District has progressively taken, they represent the bottom line in why KRCD is involved.

Simply put, KRCD wants to add value to the valley.

Under our board's leadership, KRCD is putting its talented staff's skills and public-agency resources and abilities to work. We have done so to bring a much-needed new base-load supply of electrical generation to the central San Joaquin Valley, adding reliability and utilizing our tax-exempt financial status and lack of profit motive to achieve economic savings in which customers of every San Joaquin Valley Power Authority member city and county will ultimately share.

We want our efforts to make the valley a better place in which to live and work. KRCD is proud to be opening the door to the future.

Flood Control Works to Remove Unauthorized Encroachments

The Riverdale Flood Control Maintenance crew has been working on eliminating unauthorized encroachments on the Kings River project works which adversely affect the efficient operation or maintenance of the Kings River.

One encroachment removal project included clearing of one-quarter mile of cattle fencing from the project levee slopes, grading the slopes, then placing base rock gravel on the quarter-mile stretch of the project levee.

A second encroachment elimination job (see photos) consisted of moving one-half mile of fencing on the project levee crown off the land side of the project levee, brushing of trees, removal of unwanted invasive vegetation, grading the project levee slopes and crown, and installing new gates at both ends of this section.

While working on the removal of encroachments, the Riverdale crew continues to perform the regularly scheduled maintenance of the Kings River project works.

Overgrown state at the Jackson Avenue levee before removal project.



Same area as above, after clearing and grading.



KRCD Community Power Plant Application, *continued*

the Kings River Conservation District. “With the start-up of the detailed public hearing process required by the California Energy Commission, our goal will be to provide transparent and accurate information about the Community Power Plant project to our community at large.”

The proposed KRCD Community Power Plant will be located south of and adjacent to the Parlier Wastewater Treatment Plant on the East side of Bethel Avenue, between Manning and Dinuba avenues in Fresno County. The Parlier site was selected for its proximity to an existing electrical substation that serves the Greater Fresno Area, an adequate supply of waste water for cooling, and an opportunity to expand fuel capacity in the region.

The power plant will use reclaimed water from Parlier’s waste water treatment plant. “This allows the City to hold off on spending money to expand our treatment capacity,” stated Parlier City Manager Lou Martinez. The power plant will also prevent tons of salt from entering the groundwater

each year improving the surrounding drinking water supply. “Because of the economic and resource benefits to our community, this project has received unanimous support from the Parlier City Council,” stated Parlier Mayor Armando Lopez.

As an area in the State that is designated as generation deficient, the proposed gas-fired power plant will provide reliable electricity for the businesses and residents of the Central San Joaquin Valley. “This plant will provide low-cost electricity, millions of dollars into the local economy spent on supplies and materials, and hundreds of skilled jobs to our communities,” stated Orth.

As a local resource agency, KRCD’s mission is to develop power resources for the public good. The plant will have high efficiencies and low emissions. Its carbon dioxide emissions rate would be approximately 25 percent less than California’s newly established threshold for greenhouse gas emissions. KRCD will use the most advanced air emissions control systems available. This design

will result in a project that is one of the lowest emitting fossil fuel power generating facilities in California. “KRCD brings our values of balanced resource management and experience into building the infrastructure that is required to ensure we have the energy our Valley needs now and into the future,” stated KRCD Board Vice President Brent Graham.

The KRCD Community Power Plant is one of the potential generation resources for the Community Choice program, along with other resources including renewable energy. (See General Manager’s Column page 2)

The permitting process will take approximately 15 months. If the plant is approved, it will take two years to construct with an operation date of late 2011.

More information about the KRCD Community Power Plant can be found at www.krcd.org. For information about the Community Choice program offered by the San Joaquin Valley Power Authority, go to www.communitychoice.info.

Water Management Plan - Regional Look, *continued*

The Kings region overlies the Kings Groundwater Basin, a critically important common resource shared by all of the overlying water users to meet agricultural, municipal, and domestic water demands by conjunctively using a combination of surface water and groundwater to meet overall water needs.

Surface water does not meet all needs and heavy groundwater pumping more often than not results in an “overdraft” situation in which, on average, more water is removed from the aquifer than is replaced. Urban growth is further stressing this imbalance, which DWR has termed “critical” despite a number of highly effective and successful groundwater recharge operations that have long been in existence.

To better understand the situation, the Water Forum obtained funding support from DWR to develop computerized water modeling. It has been found that the Kings region’s average annual overdraft is approximately 162,000 acre-feet, leading to major declines in the water table. About 6.5 million acre-feet of groundwater were drawn from the Kings groundwater basin during the past 40 years and an additional 4 million acre-feet may be removed from storage in the next four decades.

Along with seeking to ultimately reverse groundwater overdraft and falling water table conditions, the plan seeks to increase water supply reliability, enhance operational flexibility and reduce



The Waldron banking facility is an example of an effective partnership between the Fresno Irrigation District and the City of Clovis, and how new water projects can be developed.

system constraints while improving water quality and providing additional flood control. Environmental improvements are also sought.

Three phases of varied projects are envisioned. Sub-regional work is to involve direct and in-lieu-of-irrigation recharge projects within the Alta, Consolidated and Fresno irrigation districts, while larger regional projects would be co-sponsored by multiple Water Forum participants and beneficiaries. There is also provision for large-scale water banking projects that could include water imports. Numerous candidate projects are inventoried.

There are numerous safeguards. Native groundwater, for instance, could not be exported. Third party and environmental impacts must be mitigated. Those who receive benefits from the project would be expected to

pay a proportionate share of the costs. Benefits of any groundwater banking operation must be clearly identified and measured. Any groundwater-banking program using imported water will be required to leave a portion of the water in the groundwater basin to benefit the Kings Basin.

**IS YOUR CONTACT
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Kings River Conservation District News

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