

the Grower

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Eye-opening 2011 water year not done yet

There are still a few weeks remaining in the 2011 water year, but thanks to plenty of precipitation and late snow runoff, the year will conclude among the 10 wettest in the almost 125-year history of Turlock Irrigation District. The last time TID experienced a water year more abundant than the current one was 1995. And the season is not over yet.

As of mid August, the computed natural flow of the Tuolumne River was already near 180 percent (roughly 3,473,000 acre feet (AF)) of the Department of Water Resources' 50-year average of 1,939,491 AF. By comparison, the 2010 water year finished just shy of 1,900,000 AF.

Because of the bountiful year, **TID plans to extend the irrigation season by two weeks.** Plans now call for the irrigation season to conclude Nov. 2 rather than Oct. 19, depending on existing weather and crop conditions around that time. The final day to order water would be Oct. 30.

When water is abundant in the Tuolumne River Watershed, the benefits to TID and its customers are plenty. In addition to growers having a full allotment of water to help cultivate the crops that help feed the region and the nation, TID operators are able to keep Don Pedro Reservoir filled to flood control capacity, as determined by an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This bodes well for the 2012 water year and irrigation season, and would keep TID in a good position in the event that next year is dry.

The water supply outlook is good news, not only for irrigation supplies this year and next, but also the fishery, power generation, and reservoir recreation uses as well.

As required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Don Pedro levels will be lowered slightly below flood control levels by October, in preparation for the 2010-2011 winter season.



Looking south at a full Don Pedro Reservoir near the spillway.

October 30

Final day to order water

November 2

Final day of irrigation season

Throughout

November

Water Use Statements mailed

Interested in receiving
The Grower
newsletter

**via email
rather than a
printed copy?**

Please contact
us via email at
info@tid.org
or by calling
209.883.8448.

INSIDE

- Online Water Ordering Project
- DP Relicensing Update
- Canal Safety Tips
- Irrigator Responsibilities

Water data updated hourly on TID website

What's the inflow at Don Pedro looking like? How much is going to the TID canal? How much is headed down the river?

Getting the answers to these questions has never been easier. All you have to do is visit www.tid.com/water/hydrological-data on your computer or browser-enabled mobile phone and click 'Stations List' to view loads of hourly-updated data regarding Don Pedro water operations.

In addition to viewing graphs and trends, users can also download spreadsheets and view a map of station locations.



The Hydrological Data page at tid.com shows how much water is coming into Don Pedro, and how much is going to TID and MID canals and the Tuolumne River, as measured hourly at La Grange Dam.



TID and MID have submitted a Proposed Study Plan to FERC and are working with interested parties to develop a Revised Study Plan regarding the relicensing of the Don Pedro Project.

Don Pedro Project relicensing update

With a pair of scoping meetings held, the Proposed Study Plan filed, and plenty more in the future, the relicensing of the Don Pedro Project continues its progression.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hosted a pair of public scoping meetings on May 11 in relation to the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts' relicensing efforts. More than 100 people attended the events, which were held in Turlock and Modesto. Many individuals, organizations and other stakeholders shared their opinions about the project and its scope to FERC commissioners.

The districts filed their Proposed Study Plan to FERC on July 25, and look forward to continuing their work with federal and

state resource agencies, Indian tribes, FERC staff, local governmental authorities, non-governmental organizations and members of the public in finalizing the study plan for the Project's relicensing.

In the coming months, the districts will work to develop a Revised Study Plan to submit to FERC for approval in late fall. Once approved, the stage will be set for studies to begin the next part of the relicensing process. Studies will be conducted during much of 2012 and 2013.

Plenty of useful information regarding the relicensing of the Don Pedro Project, including plans, documents and meeting information, is available online at www.donpedro-relicensing.com.



It's beneficial to know irrigator responsibilities

Several times each irrigation season, TID staff refers to the Irrigation Rules to determine the responsible party when the improper operation of an irrigation pipeline or ditch has resulted in costly damage to the irrigation conduit or adjacent property.

When such an incident occurs, referring to Section 4.1, "Irrigator Responsibilities," usually determines a solution.

It's important that irrigators understand their responsibilities to avoid getting involved in an incident such as this. Before each irrigation, irrigators should ensure that the ground has been properly prepared to efficiently take the water and that irrigators will have a responsible person to attend to and control the water, day and night.

Prior to receiving the water, it is the irrigator's responsibility to check the irrigation pipeline or ditch to ensure that the gates and valves are set properly to route the water to the parcel being irrigated.

Water Distribution Operators (WDOs) will provide irrigators instructions regarding whom irrigators will receive the water from and to whom each irrigator will pass it on upon completion of the irrigation. These instructions will include details about whether irrigators are to open and/or close the sidegate in the TID canal or if the irrigator will be passing the water to/from another irrigator within the line.

Upon completion of irrigation, the irrigator is responsible for closing their private irrigation valves, contacting the next irrigator in a timely manner and reporting irrigation times to the WDO. Additionally, irrigators must also clear the line by opening stop gates and closing sidegates, unless directed otherwise by the rules of the irrigator's particular distribution system.

It is important to note that the irrigator is responsible for the water once it leaves the TID canal, as stated in section 4.1.4 of the Irrigation Rules.

Important canal safety reminders

Two considerations drive TID's desire to promote canal safety: 1) TID wants everyone to stay safe around water, and 2) TID wants to keep water flowing through the canal system so growers can irrigate their crops. Given these considerations, TID is asking for your help to ensure your safety and the safety of others.

- Please don't fish in canals.
- Please don't swim in canals.
- Please don't dump trash in or around canals.
- Report suspicious activity to law enforcement.
- Please don't drive on canal banks unless authorized to do so.



Sometime in the not too distant future, irrigators will be able to log onto TID's website to request water deliveries.

Online water ordering project in the works

Turlock Irrigation District is in the preliminary process of designing an online irrigation water ordering feature that would be integrated into www.tid.com.

Though still in the early stages of development, the plan would be for interested irrigators to log onto the TID website, click an icon, submit information and shortly thereafter submit a request for water.

Regardless of the popularity of the new online feature, TID's Irrigation Call Center will continue to field requests for water during current and future irrigation seasons at the regular (209) 883-8456 phone number.

Because there are many factors involved in

development, it's still too early to tell if online water ordering will be implemented in time for the 2012 irrigation season.

The feature comes on the heels of several other technological upgrades and additions that enhance the customer experience. These include a new tid.com that was launched in January, a Twitter account (see below) to inform customers, and online hydrological data informing people of Don Pedro and La Grange operations on an hourly basis.

Be on the lookout for updates in future editions of *The Grower* about this and other projects that benefit customers.



weather updates
water levels
hydrological data

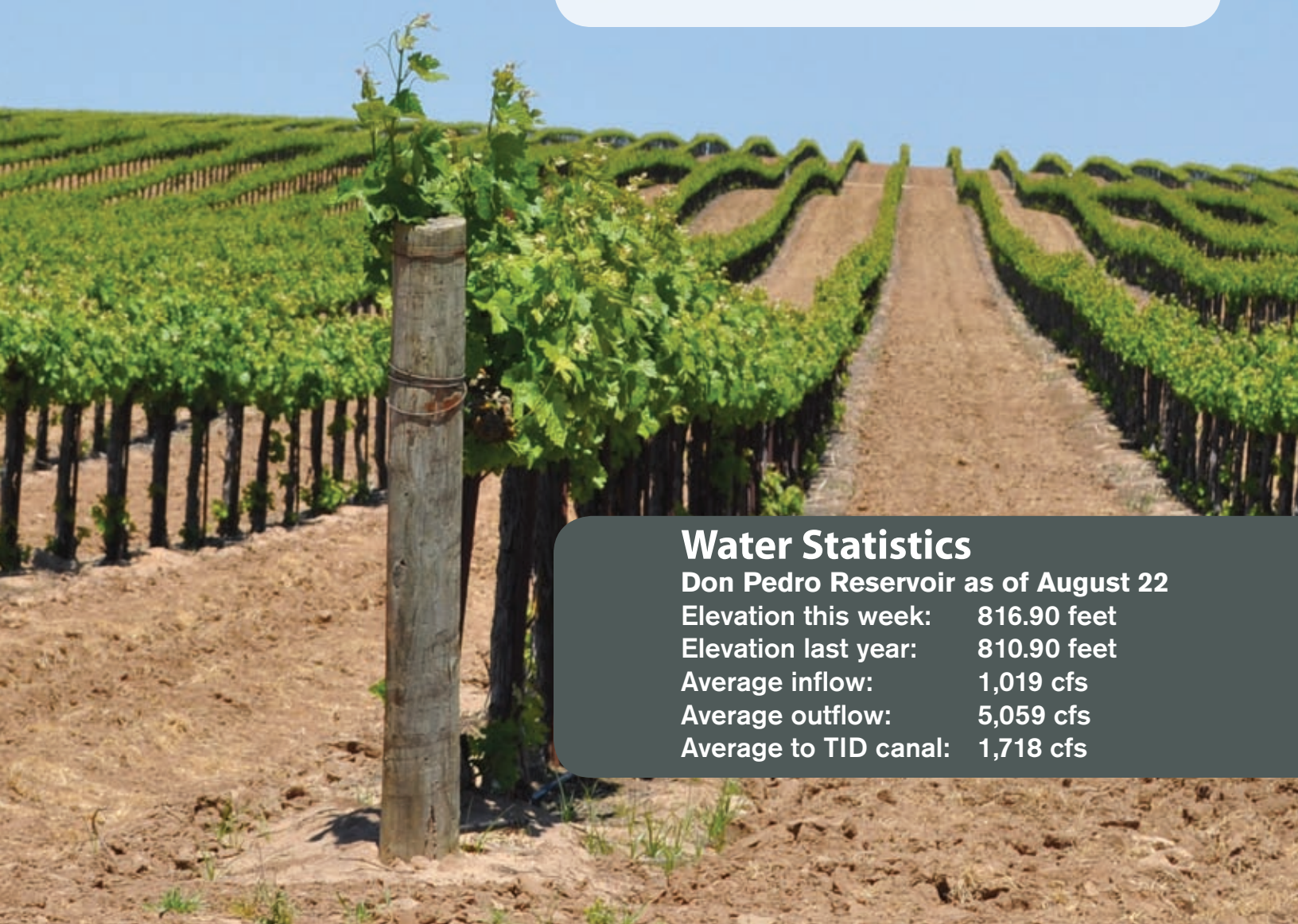
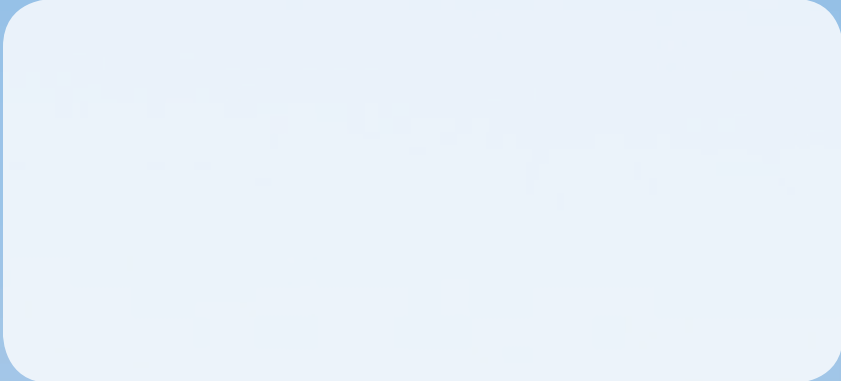


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Water Statistics

Don Pedro Reservoir as of August 22

Elevation this week:	816.90 feet
Elevation last year:	810.90 feet
Average inflow:	1,019 cfs
Average outflow:	5,059 cfs
Average to TID canal:	1,718 cfs