

# WATERWORKS

TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY



SPRING EDITION  
2026



## Major Projects Funded!

Many of you might recall that last year Congress passed a “Big Beautiful Bill,” otherwise known as the Reconciliation Bill. The bill funded most of the federal government, including the Bureau of Reclamation. That Big Beautiful Bill included \$1 billion for federally owned projects for water storage (think dams) and for conveyance improvements (think the Tehama-Colusa Canal or Friant Canal).

You may also recall that the TCCA sent a delegation to Washington DC to lobby for three projects to be included in that funding, totaling slightly more than \$15 million. Those projects included modernizing the Corning Canal Pumping Plant, completing the main pumping plant by installing two new pumps and motors in the vacant bays, and adding automated trash screens to key turnouts to aid water quality and safety. [Continued on Page 3](#)



Corning Canal Pumping Plant



Tehama-Colusa Canal  
Pumping Plant

Leila and Darin



## Meet the TCCA Family

### Darin Titus - Director, Kirkwood Water District

Darin has been married to his wife, Leila, for over twenty-five years and they have two boys Gusten (23) and Caden (20). Darin came to work for Orland-based Hart Farms in 2005 as General Manager of Farming operations. During his time there Darin has specialized in orchard development, along with the commercial production of Almonds and Walnuts. Under his leadership Hart Farms has grown its services to include processing, transportation, comprehensive farm management services and orchard development. Darin has dramatically grown Hart Farms footprint by fostering long term relationships with their customer base along with the utilization of sustainable farming practices across Glenn, Tehama and Butte Counties. In the fall of 2021 Darin and his longtime friend Dustin Coughlin purchased Hart Farms. With over 100 fulltime employees Darin hopes to continue to build on the tradition of success Hart Farms and California farmers are recognized for globally.

*A man at a baseball game wondered why the ball kept getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit him.*



## Return of the Salmon Net Pens



The “Bridge Group Project” has returned to the TCCA for a second year. The ongoing project is designed to allow juvenile salmon to imprint on the waters of the Sacramento River before being released further downstream. The hope is more salmon will return further upriver as adults.



Continued from Page 1.

The Bureau of Reclamation has reviewed the various proposed projects, sent their decision to the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) who approved their decisions and announced the final decisions in mid-March. The great news is that the TCCA projects were all selected! Details on how the funding will be released, whether the projects will be done by grant/co-operative agreement or another method, and the final timing on them, are still forthcoming.

The completion of the main pumping plant will benefit the TCCA by ensuring we are able to meet the full demands of all our districts, especially in May when rice is being flooded up in GCID. This past year, 2025, we had one pump down to be repaired and were maxed out at 1450 cfs pumped and that same amount of demand. These additional pumps will also provide some redundancy and water delivery security/reliability.



Corning Canal Pumping Plant fallout shelter.

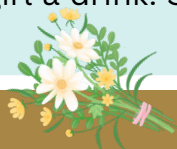


#### Existing equipment at the Corning Canal Pumping Plant

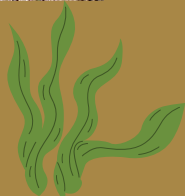
The Corning Canal Pumping Plant Modernization will provide new pumps/motors and new, modern electronics and control equipment for the pumping plant which was constructed in the late 1950s. The new equipment will return the pumping plant to its original design capacity of 450 cfs and provide water security and reliability by providing redundancy and more efficient power use. Groundwater recharge and annexation into districts, because of SGMA, are also increasing the demand for water service from the Corning Canal. This project will meet those demands. Continued on Page 4

#### *Joke of the month:*

A guy asks a girl to go to a dance. She agrees, and he decides to rent a suit. The rental has a long line, so he waits and waits, and finally he gets his suit. He decides to buy flowers, so he goes to the flower shop. The flower shop has a long line, so he waits and waits, until he finally buys flowers. He picks up the girl and they go to the dance. There is a long line into the dance, so they wait and wait. Finally, they get into the dance, and the guy offers to get the girl a drink. She asks for punch, so he goes to the drink table, and there is no punch line.



Continued from Page 3 The final component is the installation of possibly as many as 10 automated trash screens on key turnouts serving the districts. In 2024, aquatic vegetation caused severe water quality issues and had our workers hand raking turnouts to keep water flowing. While we were able to solve the issues in 2025 with changes to operations and treatments, we are moving to ensure we are ready in case those remedies do not work in the future. These automated trash screens will filter out vegetation floating downstream and deposit the debris on the canal bank for easier and safer removal. Staff will prioritize the turnouts needing a screen, and have those choices reviewed by the Maintenance & Facilities Committee with final approval from the full Board.



These projects will go a long way toward keeping the TCCA fully functional in delivering water to its members well into the future. Please feel free to contact Manager Vanderwaal at 530.934.2125 with any questions.



### March Madness One-Liners

"My bracket lasted about as long as a timeout."

"I trust underdogs, and I regret it immediately."

"The only thing perfect about my bracket is my ability to pick losers."

## Removing/Replacing Motors at the Pumping Plant



Dave with his family

### Meet the TCCA Family – Dave Nicholls Maintenance / Electrician

I grew up in Corning California. I was always an athlete starting in grammar school. My passion was Football and I was pretty good as a running back if I do say so myself!! I played football, baseball and track, and learned a bunch of stuff as a young whipper snapper. I got to go to State for track and field. After I graduated from high school I went to Shasta College and got an AA degree in Electronics. When I was 23 years old, I got a job at Diamond National and worked there for 31 years before coming to the TCCA. I truly love this job. I love my late wife (Dawn) my kids (Justin and Hailee), my grandkids (Clayton and Garret), and my

friends. I also love to fish, hunt and spend time outdoors. I also want to say, "I appreciate all of our staff at TCCA"!!! As I write this down "I'm just an ordinary person, nothing special, I just love my journey of life."

05/05



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