

WATERWORKS

TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY



SUMMER EDITION
SEPTEMBER 2025



Manager Notes

“Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting”



That quote, often attributed to Mark Twain, is as true today as it was in the 1800's when it may have first been used. In August, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released their final draft of the Bay-Delta Plan Update. This is the plan that dictates how water is operated in the Sacramento River/San Joaquin River Delta, aka “The Delta”. On September 3, the SWRCB also released the updated Diversion Permit for Sites Reservoir. These two documents are naturally of great interest and concern to those of us in the TCCA.

First, the good news; the revisions done to the Sites Project Diversion Permit were mostly positive and are not as restrictive (read ‘kill the project’) as the previous version was. In fact, on Friday, September 18th, the Project Board & Reservoir Committee voted to open investment in the project for the Construction phases. The project will proceed when there is 100% investment signed up. This was made possible during the comment period for the previous version, the Governor pushed his State Agencies to provide comments that pointed out flaws in the SWRCB's assessments and restrictions that were beyond what agencies like California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) required in their issued permits. This intervention appeared to be effective as the result was retraction of the most onerous requirements.

Continued on page 04/04

Meet the TCCA Family



Nathaniel & his family

Nathaniel Licea

Willows TCCA – Operations & Maintenance Technician

Born in Washington state and raised in Willows, CA, and a proud graduate of Willows High School, Nathaniel brings a great mix of curiosity, determination, and a hands-on attitude to the team.

When asked what he enjoys most about his job, the answer was simple: "Every day is a little different." He enjoys the variety that comes with the work, as well as the opportunity to be outdoors and put his problem-solving skills to use.

Outside of work, Nathaniel likes staying active at the gym, working on cars, and spending time with friends and family. And for a fun fact you might not expect—Nathaniel once ate only fish and chicken for an entire year!

Looking ahead, Nathaniel is excited to continue learning, gaining experience, and becoming even better at what he does. We're excited to see where that drive and dedication takes him!

Barb Lindauer

Corning Water District – General Manager

Originally from Diamond Bar in Orange County, California, Barb has called Red Bluff home for the past 47 years. After earning a degree in Social Work from Hayward State and working in Social Work for Tehama County and Enloe Medical Center, Barb found a new path in the water industry, eventually joining Corning Water District in 2016 as an Administrative Assistant. Today, as General Manager, Barb enjoys serving the district's landowners, leading by example, and helping guide the district toward a strong and sustainable future. Outside of work, Barb enjoys spending time with three adult sons and 10 grandchildren, along with kayaking, hiking, traveling, and reminiscing about the days when they used to surf. Looking ahead, Barb is excited about upgrading the district's infrastructure following the successful Prop 218 process and continuing to strengthen the services provided to landowners. From Social Work to Water Management, one thing remains constant throughout Barb's career: a passion for serving others.



Barb



Jamie, Amy, Taylor & Katie

Jamie Baker

Willows TCCA – Operation and Maintenance Supervisor

Meet Jamie Baker, a Willows, CA native who has been part of the TCCA family for the past 9 years. Jamie was brought to TCCA by our own O&M Manager, Don Babb, and we're certainly glad he did! Something many of Jamie's coworkers may not know is that after high school, Jamie served in the U.S. Army as a gunner on an M1 tank—a cool chapter of his life that isn't something he brings up every day!

One of Jamie's favorite parts of working at TCCA is training and teaching our newer employees. He enjoys sharing his knowledge and helping others learn the ins and outs of the job. When he's not at work, you'll most likely find Jamie enjoying the outdoors. He loves hunting and camping with his family and friends, making the most of his time away from work.

We're glad to have Jamie as part of the TCCA family and appreciate all the knowledge, experience, and willingness to teach that he brings to the team!

At TCCA, our greatest strength is our people. We truly value our TCCA family, and all that they do!

Late spring and summer TCCA Projects



Red Bluff TCCA hard at work, keeping our fish screens clean and ready for inspection



The salmon net pens have officially been removed



As the temperatures rise, so do the chances of encountering some uninvited, slithering guests



A picture-perfect Fourth of July as fireworks sparkle over the Diversion Dam



The arrival and installation of motor number 4



Is that the TCCA's dredge I see? Our Willows and Red Bluff O&M Technicians have spent the last couple of months training and assisting GCID with their dredging needs

DID YOU KNOW? :Rattlesnakes can sense the body heat of their prey using special heat-sensing pits located between their eyes and nostrils. It's almost like having built-in thermal vision!

Naturally, nothing is easy in California water and so we turn to the Bay-Delta Plan update. This update essentially provides the “option” to implement “Unimpaired Flows”, which would be devastating to agriculture in the Sacramento River Valley or implement the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Proposal (HRL’s) which would provide some additional environmental water and lots of habitat restoration. The issue has increasingly become the SWRCB staff’s continued efforts to negotiate toward unimpaired flows by shortening the period over which habitat restoration must demonstrate success—from the original 15 years, to 8 years, and now effectively to 8 years with off-ramps beginning at year 6, providing only two salmon life cycles to demonstrate meaningful results. It also placed onerous and overreaching demands on the two main projects, Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP), essentially transferring control over operations of those two projects to the SWRCB Executive Director. That is obviously an unacceptable position for the Bureau of Reclamation to accept, and they told the SWRCB that they will not participate in the HRL’s if there are no major changes. The most recent public comment period wraps up this week (week of September 21st) and then there will be public hearings scheduled for the end of October where the SWRCB will meet to make their decision.

As you can see, we’re in for a very interesting autumn this year, even without the super-massive-gigantic-mega el nino year that is upon us. We hope your harvest is plentiful and that the rain comes this winter to once again fill our reservoirs.

Something to make you laugh

Why was the irrigation ditch so popular?
Because everyone wanted to go with its flow.

Upcoming Meetings for the TCCA

Wed, Oct 7th - TCCA monthly board meeting
9:00 AM : Draft Budget for 2027
Wed, Nov 4th - TCCA monthly board meeting
9:00 am : Final 2027 Budget Approval & Guest Speaker
Wed, Dec 2nd - TCCA monthly board meeting
9:00 am : Political Update by Lobbyists

Celebrate a huge milestone!



The Board of Directors of the TCCA, individually, and on behalf of the TCCA, its member districts and the landowners, commend and thank Ronald L. Dillard for 47 years of dedicated service. Happy retirement to Ron!

The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of 18 Central Valley Project water contractors. The service area spans four counties (Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, and Yolo) along the west side of the Sacramento Valley, providing irrigation water to farmers growing a variety of permanent and annual crops. TCCA operates and maintains the 140 mile Tehama-Colusa and Corning canals irrigation water supply system. The service area is approximately 150,000 acres, contributing \$1 billion to the regional economy annually.