

WATERWORKS

TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY



SUMMER EDITION
JULY 2024



MANAGER NOTES

Long Term Operations Agreements and the TCCA

Some people will have heard about the upcoming “Long Term Operations” Agreement (LTO’s) that the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors (SRSC’s) are working on with the US Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau). Others may have not heard anything yet, and this article is intended to inform both sets of folks on how the LTO’s may affect those of us with junior, “Service Contracts” in the TCCA.

First, what exactly are the LTO’s? They are basically a set agreement between the SRSC’s, the Bureau, and regulatory agencies like National Marine Fisheries, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, and US Fish and Wildlife on how Shasta Reservoir and the Sacramento River will be operated to help preserve endangered salmon runs, specifically the Chinook Winter Run. This agreement takes into account the type of year that is occurring, wet year, dry year, “Shasta Critical” year and the water stored in Shasta Reservoir.

What is the major impact to the TCCA with these? In certain years, the SRSC’s will voluntarily give up an additional 25% of their contract water to the Bureau, to keep Shasta Reservoir above a certain level. In the SRSC’s contracts, the Bureau has the ability to reduce their contracts by 25%, thus giving them a 75% allocation. Under this LTO, the Bureau will be able to retain a further, up to 25% (equivalent of 500,000 AF) of water in Shasta Lake to maintain the cold-water pool, which is how they regulate water temperatures in the Sacramento River in the summer and fall to levels where Winter Run Chinook can survive. Many of you recall 2022 when the SRSC’s only had 18% allocation. Some of the SRSC’s chose not to serve water because most of it would have been lost in their canals to seepage, they instead transferred that water to the TCCA Districts which enabled us to serve our growers. In a year where the SRSC’s have a 50% allocation, those districts that transferred in 2022 would most likely serve their water to their landowners instead of selling it to the TCCA Districts. This would leave the TCCA without very much water to purchase except at following prices, meaning we would be paying higher costs to reimburse farmers to not grow.

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Welcome onboard, Bill!

The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) has named William (Bill) Vanderwaal as its new General Manager, effective June 10. Vanderwaal, a registered Professional Civil Engineer, brings knowledge and expertise in Sacramento River water contracts as well as experience with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to serve the TCCA's member agencies and the California water community. Vanderwaal has worked for Reclamation District 108 since 2017 as Deputy General Manager, and since 2018 has simultaneously managed Dunnigan Water District, a TCCA member agency. In addition to management of day-to-day operations and capital improvement projects for these two entities, he has spearheaded groundbreaking water resources initiatives, including regionally cooperative salmon habitat restoration projects and a groundwater recharge program that has received recognition throughout the State. He previously worked at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, where he served as Project Manager for the Red Bluff Fish Passage Improvement Project, a state-of-the-art facility that remains a backbone of TCCA operations. TCCA is a joint powers authority whose member agencies hold water service contracts with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and that delivers irrigation water to 150,000 acres of high-value crops in the Sacramento Valley. Vanderwaal will oversee the operation and maintenance of TCCA's extensive water delivery facilities and will manage relations with local, state and Federal entities with respect to water supplies and other critical policy matters. "The TCCA Board is thrilled to welcome Bill Vanderwaal as our new General Manager," said Zachary Dennis, TCCA Board Chair. "His close familiarity with water agency operations, deep understanding of water supply issues in the Sacramento Valley, and history of developing strong regional partnerships make Bill the right leader to serve the TCCA and its member districts into the future." Before his career in California water, Vanderwaal served as an Assistant Project Engineer for the Washington Department of Transportation and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service in Chesapeake, Virginia. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Washington State University and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Southern California.

Vince Laufer- General Manager Kanawha/Glide Water Districts

Vince has served as the General Manager of Kanawha/Glide Water Districts since January 1, 2024.

Vince previously worked at Glenn Colusa Irrigation District for 10 years as a Water Operations Worker then in July of 2021 became Maintenance Supervisor in Williams. In February 2023 he went to work for Reclamation District 1004 as Assistant Manager.

Vince and his wife have a three-year-old son and a baby due in September. They just bought a house in Princeton. In his spare time, he likes to spend time with the family and take his son fishing on the river.

Get to know the Directors



Manager Notes cont...

When would this sort of thing happen and how often could it occur? While not exactly correct, a good way to think of it, is when there is a second consecutive “Shasta Critical” year. Statistically, it is projected to occur about 7 times in 100 years. Since 1978, it would have happened 3 times, 1992, 2015 and 2022.

What do we do about it? Later this summer, the TCCA and several SRSC managers will be meeting to conduct a “Table Top” exercise, essentially to look at what transfer options and quantities might be available so that when this sort of year comes around, we’ll have recommendations and options for the various Boards to select from and hopefully minimize valley-wide impacts that happened in 2022.

Check out a few of our summer projects below!





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The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of 17 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.