

WATERWORKS

TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY



FALL EDITION
October 2024



MANAGER NOTES

Aging Infrastructure

At the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority, we are fortunate to have a “state of the art” Fish Screen and Pumping Plant to rely on our diversions. However, the 110 mile long, concrete lined Tehama-Colusa Canal, the mechanical & electrical components at the check structures, and the Corning Canal Pumping Plant all fall within the category of “Aging Infrastructure”. One major challenge facing the TCCA and its member districts in the next decade will be the replacement, modernization and upgrade of these aging facilities.

Over time, the concrete lining on the canal degrades, whether due to subsidence from groundwater depletion, buckling due to uplift or local settlement, the panels routinely need to be replaced. There are numerous siphons where the canal goes underground to avoid roads or ephemeral streams and some of those have seen issues requiring emergency repair. Recently a bridge that was originally built to aid construction access for the canal but remained in place over the years, collapsed during a historic rainfall and had to be demolished and removed. The cost to demolish was reasonably low, but to replace the bridge was not economically feasible and so it will not be replaced.

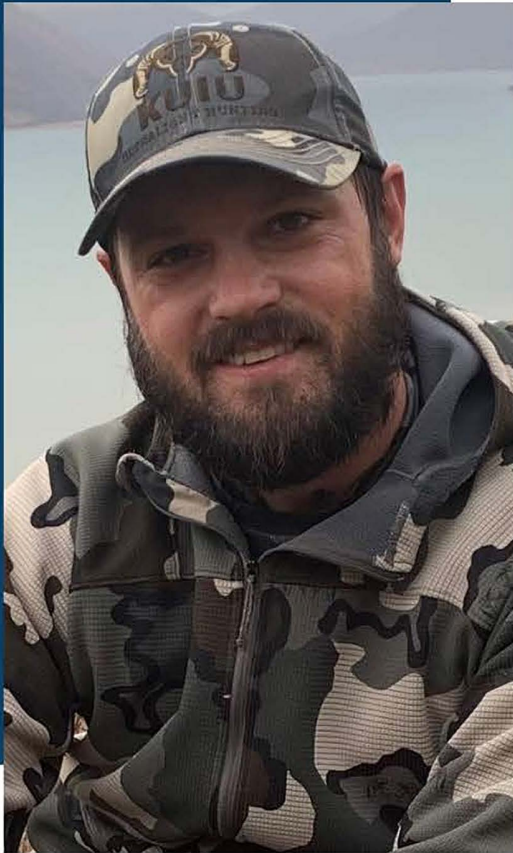
One of the major maintenance evolutions that TCCA staff will undertake this winter is the removal, repair and refurbishment of the hydraulic lift for Check 15 (located just upstream from Funks Reservoir). These hydraulic lifts were custom made for the Tehama-Colusa Canal and require up to two months to repair and refurbish. Additionally, the electrical components for Checks 5, 6, & 7 will be replaced and upgraded this winter. The TCCA and member districts are finding that electronic equipment designed and installed in the 1950’s and 1960’s are no longer available and that is requiring costly upgrades and modernization.

The TCCA Board is considering setting a Reserve target for the Corning Canal Pumping Plant, which was originally built in the 1950’s and has many original components still in service, despite a small refurbishment around 2014. A cost estimate that looked at several options and done by CH2MHill (now Jacobs Engineering) had a range of \$2.7 million to \$12.7 million depending on the scenario, and this was in 2009. With the inflation that has happened over the past 15 years, one can imagine what it would take to fully rebuild the Corning Canal Pumping Plant.

Our member districts face the same challenges with aging electronics, pipelines and pumping plants. One of the first topics discussed at the TC District Managers meeting this past summer was information and resource sharing on where to find electricians who can work on this aging equipment, and sharing old components amongst the districts. Often, one district will have a component that another district needs and the districts can aid each other.

Sometime in January or February, the TCCA Board of Directors will be conducting a Strategic Planning Session, to focus on the TCCA’s goals and priorities. It seems likely that aging infrastructure will be one of the items discussed during that process, along with how to fund those efforts.

Meet the TCCA Family

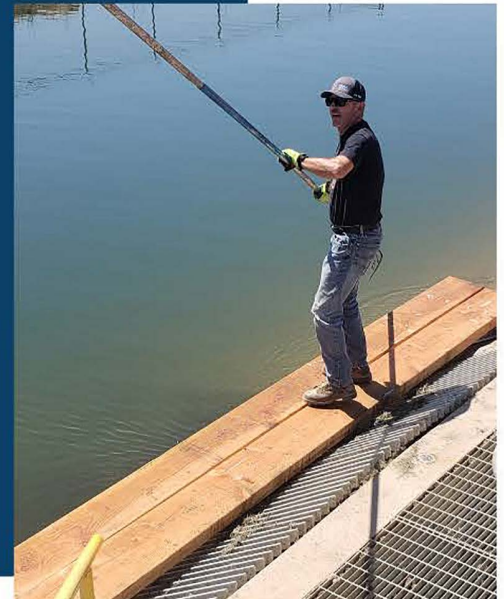


Justin Dahl - General Manager of Orland-Artois Water District, has served as General Manager since February 20th, 2024. Justin started his career in the water industry as a Water Operator for GCID in 2007. In 2019, he was promoted to Water Operations Supervisor, after 3 years in this role he decided to further his career in the water industry and accepted the position of General Manager of Maxwell Irrigation District. In 2023, Justin was offered an opportunity to become General Manager of Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District. Justin managed 35 miles of canal, servicing a 7500-acre area with over 800 customers. Since becoming manager of Orland-Artois Water District in 2024, Justin has been working on updating OAWD's water measurement system, upgrading aging infrastructure, and finalizing an annexation of 10,000 acres into the district. Justin and his wife, Ashley, have 4 adorable children they are raising in the Artois community. He is an avid hunter and fisherman who loves the outdoors and enjoys spending his days off on adventures with his family and friends.

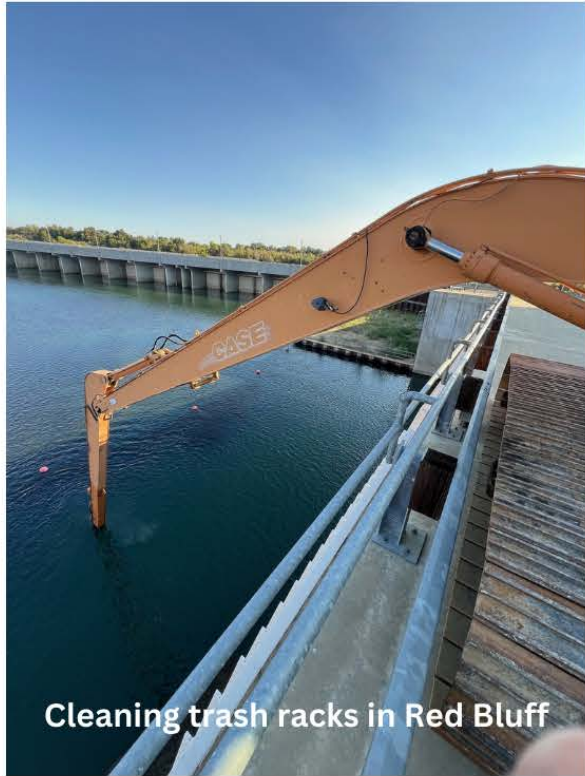
Bob Duty has worked at TCCA since March of 1989. Before that he worked at Yolo Flood Control in Woodland CA. Bob is married to Rochelle who he's been with since high school. He has three children; two boys and a girl, with 5 grandchildren. His hobbies are fishing and camping while spending time with the grandkids.



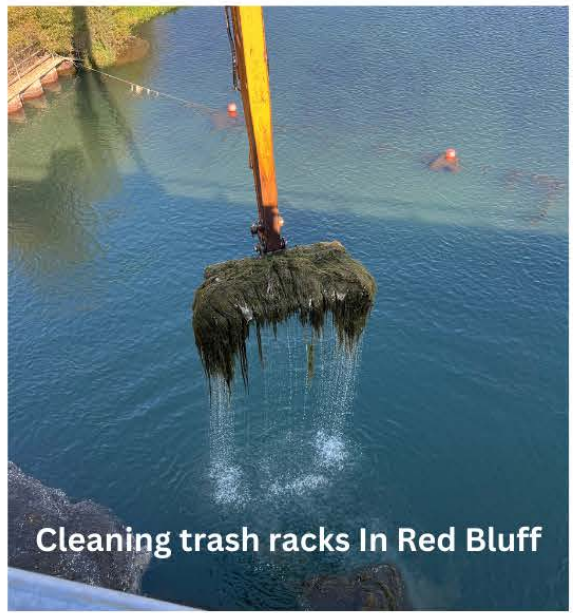
Ron Dillard has worked at TCCA since it's beginning in 1987, though Ron worked on the Canal for the Bureau of Reclamation from 1977 until the time TCCA was established. Ron is married to Anna his high school sweetheart and they have two children, five grandchildren and one great grand child. He was born and raised in Princeton where he still lives. His hobbies are coaching 4-H basketball and watching his grand children play sports.



Check out a few of our
summer projects!



Cleaning trash racks in Red Bluff



Cleaning trash racks In Red Bluff



Grading by Arbuckle Complex



Bathtub cleaning CK 22



West Canal RD chopping/ mowing
weeds



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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.