



# FRESNO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





**On behalf of the Fresno Irrigation District**, I am pleased to release our 2022 annual report, which highlights the successes and challenges our agency encountered through another historic drought year.

Years 2020-2022 went down in the history books as the driest three-year period on record in California. However, FID's sound management practices allowed water users some relief, with surface water deliveries lasting three months compared to 2021, which offered only one month of deliveries.

With shorter irrigation runs, FID has longer-than-average construction and maintenance seasons that allow for additional investments in our infrastructure. While many of these projects are capital intensive, FID continually seeks outside investment from state and federal sources to offset either all or partial costs of these capital improvements.

Since 2010, FID has secured \$28.4 million across 21 District projects. In 2022 alone, FID was able to obtain \$5.4 million for the Carter-Bybee Groundwater Recharge Basin as well as to make necessary improvements to the Big Dry Creek Channel.

Even with this additional external funding, there has been a recognition that this is not enough for all of FID's outstanding obligations. As such, FID's Board of Directors unanimously approved holding a Proposition 218 election in 2023 to increase local investments in water management infrastructure and strategies to continue the legacy that has been built over the generations. Continued investment in FID is critical to continue water supply reliability, conveyance, commitment, and excellent customer service to our users throughout the district. FID continues to work toward its commitment to acquire land for future groundwater recharge basins across the district, purchasing over 375 acres in 2022 alone.

I invite all stakeholders to connect with us via our website, public outreach meetings, or contact us at the office anytime. We hope you enjoy learning more about our district through this annual report.

Sincerely,

Bill Stretch  
General Manager

## Board of Directors

**Vice President Jerry Prieto Jr.**  
Division one

**Director Christopher Woolf**  
Division two

**President Ryan Jacobsen**  
Division three

**Director George Porter**  
Division four

**Director Greg Beberian**  
Division five



Flood irrigation along a row of almond trees within the district.

# PROP 218

## In 2022, the Fresno Irrigation District (FID)

Board of Directors commissioned the Engineer's Report for Proposition 218 Procedures for Benefit Assessments. The purpose of commissioning the report is to identify funding shortfalls and recommendations for addressing them equitably. On January 12, 2023, the FID Board unanimously approved the Engineer's Report and set a Proposition 218 election in motion in 2023.

For over 100 years, FID's landowners have financially invested in our area's water supply, facilities, infrastructure, and keeping our extensive water rights secure; this investment supports the production of bountiful crops, local jobs, and community growth. Building on this foundation of local support and investment, it's time to invest in the next era – to continue the legacy.

## What this means

FID landowners have direct influence over the legacy of their land and our area's water supply. Proposition 218 elections require the support of voters (landowners within district boundaries) to invest in activities that increase water supply capture and delivery efficiency, make us drought resilient, and protect local water rights. If you are an FID landowner, you are being asked to vote in a Proposition 218 election using the ballot to be mailed to you in early April 2023.

## Benefits

Benefits of a successful Proposition 218 will come back into the hands of the landowners FID serves:

- F**orward progress on groundwater sustainability
- I**nvest in our surface water infrastructure and a skilled workforce to operate and maintain it
- D**efend our Kings River water rights



To learn more about the upcoming Proposition 218 election and to view the Engineer's Report or other resources, visit:

[fresnoirrigation.com/prop218](https://fresnoirrigation.com/prop218).

## Proposition 218 Important Dates

### Prop 218 Public Meetings

- **April 18, 2023 at 6:00 PM**  
Clovis Veterans Memorial District  
808 4th St, Clovis 93612
- **April 20, 2023 at 8:30 AM**  
Kerman Community Center  
15101 W Kearney Blvd, Kerman 93630
- **April 26, 2023 at 8:30 AM**  
CPDES Hall  
172 W Jefferson Ave, Fresno 93706

● **Public Receives Ballots**  
Ballots will be mailed out in late April 2023 (around April 25).

● **Public Hearing**  
The Fresno Irrigation District will hold a public hearing to tabulate the ballots. The public hearing is scheduled for June 8, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. You are invited to participate in the hearing and provide comments at that time. **All ballots must be returned by the close of the public hearing to be counted for this Proposition 218 election.**



# WATER DELIVERIES

Despite multiple consecutive very dry winters, FID was able to deliver water for three months in the 2022 Water Season compared to the one-month run of the 2021 season. FID delivered 383,000 acre-feet of water to its growers during 2022. Water deliveries began on June 1 and continued to flow to customers until August 31, after which FID water operators began to drain the system in preparation for the pending maintenance season.

FID's average irrigation season typically lasts five months, in which an average of 500,000 acre-feet of water is delivered to FID growers and customers. In 2022, the Kings River yielded a natural runoff during the Water Year 2021-2022 of about 47% of average,

or approximately 771,000 acre-feet. The Central Valley Project (CVP) provided 25,200 acre-feet from the San Joaquin River to the City of Fresno under its Class 1 contract between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022. Class II contractors (FID and others) received a 0% allocation, and thus no water from the San Joaquin River during this period.

FID continues to deliver water to four treatment plants in the cities of Fresno and Clovis throughout the year to allow some city groundwater wells to be turned off while the cities maximized their available surface water. Reducing the use of the cities' groundwater wells results in improved local groundwater conditions in the sub-basin.



Water flowing through the Fresno Canal.

## During 2022 Water Season:

**15,600**  
Water Measurements Taken by Staff

**113**  
Telemetry Remote Operation & Monitoring Sites

**139,100** (During Water season)  
**828,805** (2022 Total)  
Miles Driven on Roads to Service Customers

**363,200 Acre-Feet**  
Delivered to FID Customers

**2,800 Active**  
Customer Delivery Turnouts

**680**  
Miles of FID Conveyance Facilities

# BIG DRY CREEK

After several years of negotiating with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), FID secured a long-term streambed alteration agreement in September 2022 for a 15-year term. It covers portions of Big Dry Creek and Fancher Canal within FID and provides guidelines for maintenance activities to facilitate flood control and water conveyance. Such maintenance activities include vegetation management, sediment removal and compaction, bank stabilization, and maintenance of existing structures.

The initial maintenance activities performed under this agreement started in Fall 2022 along nearly 2.5 miles of Big Dry Creek between the Enterprise Canal near Sunnyside and Shepherd avenues downstream to Minnewawa Avenue within the City of Clovis. The portion of the channel between Alluvial and Nees avenues utilized most provisions of the agreement, while the remaining portions of the channel focused on the removal of dead and downed vegetation that create flow obstructions. FID crews and equipment were utilized to perform this work in close coordination with FID's consultant for environmental compliance and assistance. This project was a considerable effort by FID and crews, led by Water System Supervisor Randy Boyd, just in time for the winter storms.

Big Dry Creek between Alluvial and Nees avenues before (below) and after (right) FID maintenance crews removed dead and downed vegetation as a part of the long-term streambed alteration agreement with CDFW to help increase the channel's flow capacity.



These activities are the first of future Big Dry Creek projects intended to increase the channel's flow capacity to reach the US Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) master planned flood flow capacity of 150 cubic feet per second. FID and the Fresno Stream Group (County of Fresno, cities of Fresno and Clovis, and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District) were successfully awarded a \$2.4 million California Department of Water Resources grant to fund these maintenance activities as well as the future planned capacity improvements. In 2023, capacity testing performed on the Big Dry Creek channel resulting in a capacity increase to 130 cfs, directly corresponding to the channel improvements and maintenance activities. The improvements to the Big Dry Creek Channel will help capture water that has been lost from the region during wet years.





# CONSTRUCTION

In 2022, FID completed many critical construction projects that address immediate and future needs, allowing FID to continue providing the highest level of service throughout the water season. These projects allow FID to improve delivery efficiency and system resiliency through canal lining projects, pipeline replacement projects, dredging canals, and a groundwater regulation basin. Where possible, FID has worked with developers and sought grant funding from state and federal partners to reduce budgetary impact on FID for needed improvements.

## Canal Lining

New canal lining will protect canals from seepage issues and breaching due to rodent activity as well as reducing the amount of maintenance required for an open channel. FID crews performed most of the canal bank grading and sediment removal, and a contractor was hired to concrete line approximately 4,050 linear feet of canal at the following locations:

- Enterprise Canal had approximately 2,450 linear feet of canal lined northeast of Shaw and Dockery avenues, and east and west of McCall Avenue, north of Barstow Avenue.
- Washington Colony Canal had approximately 1,600 linear feet of canal northwest of Jefferson and Maple avenues.



FID-contracted workers inter-tie the Savory Groundwater Recharge Basin to the Oleander No. 16 canal with RGRCP Pipeline.

## Pipeline Replacement Projects

FID replaced approximately 2,500 feet of failing pipeline infrastructure, ending the need of frequent repairs, and avoiding disruptions to grower service at the following locations:

- Anthony Canal had 1,900 feet of 20-inch non-reinforced concrete pipe (NRCP) replaced with 21-inch PVC pipe southwest of Barstow and Westlawn avenues.
- Barcus Canal had 300 feet of 24-inch NRCP replaced with 24-inch PVC pipe northwest of Bullard and Bishop avenues.
- Teilman-Valentine Br. Canal had 300 feet of 18-inch mortar joint pipe replaced with 18-inch PVC pipe southeast of California & Cornelia avenues.

## Canal Dredging

Dredging canals reduces bank erosion, increases capacity and reduces aquatic weed growth. FID hired a contractor to dredge approximately 4.5 miles of canal at the following locations:

- Enterprise Canal northwest of Bullard and Leonard avenues (2 miles).
- Enterprise Canal southwest of Bullard and McCall avenues (1.5 miles).
- Herndon Canal northwest of McKinley and Millbrook avenues (1 mile).

FID crews dredged an additional 1.25 miles of canal at various locations throughout FID.

## Regulation Basin

FID completed construction of the Savory Groundwater Recharge Basin (30 acres) located northwest of Lincoln and Chestnut avenues. FID is proud that the completion of the Savory Basin represents the first completed project funded by California Department of Water Resources' (CA DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program. The basin will recharge an average of 900 acre-feet of water annually, which will support the hundreds of residents nearby, including the disadvantaged community of Shady Lakes Ranch Mobile Home Park, dozens of nearby growers, and assist with maintaining sustainable groundwater levels in the surrounding area into the future.

## All-Weather Roads

Constructing all-weather roads along FID's canals allow safe and reliable access to critical conveyance and flow control locations during storms and other critical times. FID crews installed approximately 25,000 feet of all-weather road on the following facilities:

- 1) Big Dry Creek (3,350 feet)
- 2) Big Sandridge Canal (2,875 feet)
- 3) Briggs Canal (1,875 feet)
- 4) Dry Creek Canal Headgates (75 feet)
- 5) Fancher Canal (700 feet)
- 6) Gould Canal (1,225 feet)
- 7) Herndon Canal (6,300 feet)
- 8) Houghton West Canal (1,400 feet)
- 9) Lower Dry Creek Canal (3,450 feet)
- 10) Mill Canal (1,725 feet)
- 11) Washington Colony Canal and Central Canal divide area (775 feet)
- 12) West Lampe Canal (1,200 feet)

## Improvements by Developers

Developers installed approximately 6,700 feet of rubber-gasketed reinforced concrete pipeline (RGRCP) during the 2021-2022 Maintenance Season, estimated at \$1,163,000 to bring existing systems up to current urban standards to allow for the proposed change in land use. Developers also installed canal lining and all-weather roads where necessary.

## Pipeline Replacement

Approximately 5,000 feet of cast-in-place (CIP) pipeline was replaced with rubber gasketed reinforced concrete pipe (RGRCP), including 65 feet on the Maupin Canal, 2,465 feet on the Siskiyou Canal, and 2,466 feet on the Redbanks Canal.

## Open Channel Substitution

Approximately 700 feet of the H-Ditch open channel was substituted with RGRCP.

## Miscellaneous

FID installed the following:

- Replaced 100 feet of CIP pipe with RGRCP to accommodate a new Panametrics ultrasonic flow meter on the Houghton West Canal located at Nielson and Siskiyou avenues to provide better flow control for the Houghton West Canal and Siskiyou Canal systems.
- Installed one propeller meter on the Lampe S. Br. Canal; located southwest of South and Marks avenues.
- Installed two Rubicon flow meters on the Oleander Canal located southwest of Lincoln and Chestnut avenues.
- Installed two Langemann control gates on the Herndon Canal located at Shields Avenue and First Street.
- Installed four electrically actuated control gates (two on Kennedy-Owens Canal located at Barstow and Westlawn avenues, and two on Dry Creek located at McKinley and Millbrook avenues).
- Installed automated trash racks (one on Fancher Canal located at Church and Clovis avenues, and one on Kennedy-Owens Canal located at Barstow and Westlawn avenues).
- Replaced a stormwater siphon on the Enterprise canal west of McCall Avenue.
- Constructed a reinforcing support structure for the Gould Canal flume over Dog Creek west of Leonard Avenue.



An FID construction team prepares to pour concrete for a structure along the Minor Thornton Canal.



# MAINTENANCE SEASON

The 2021-2022 maintenance season lasted from July 19, 2021, to May 16, 2022, extending the season to 10 months, in which FID staff spent over 73,000 hours on various activities needed to keep infrastructure in working order and facilities functioning correctly. This brings the total since the end of the 2019 water season to nearly 164,000 maintenance hours spent on FID's system. In addition, crews took advantage of the much longer season to complete more projects than usual. As a result, in the 2021-2022 maintenance season, crews completed nearly double the work hours compared to an average maintenance season.

FID's Construction and Maintenance Department works closely with the Water System Operators (WSOs) and Watermaster during the water season. Together, along with engineering and management, they identify projects needing to be completed during the non-irrigation season, balancing and prioritizing immediate and long-term improvement needs. Following the completion of the water season, WSOs transition to maintenance crews for the duration of the maintenance season.

## Trash Impact

Trash removal made up 13% of the overall crew hours in 2021-2022, with over 9,500 hours. In that time, FID crews picked up an astounding 761.1 tons of trash and debris from inside the canals or from atop the embankments. FID is working with agency partners to stem the sources of trash and debris as they reach historic levels.

## Maintenance Activities

- Pipeline and Structure Repairs
- Turnout Gate Repair
- Weed Control
- Dredging / Scraping
- Canal Earthwork
- Brushing
- Canal Lining Repairs
- Rip-Rap Application
- Trash, Weed and Debris Removal
- All-Weather Access Roads
- Basin Scraping and Discing
- Maintenance Shop

MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES	HOURS WORKED	% OF TOTAL 2021-2022 HOURS WORKED
Construction & Capital Improvement Projects	23,014	31%
Canal Earthwork	11,628	16%
Brushing & Weed Control	10,299	14%
Trash Removal	9,543	13%
Pipeline Repair	8,001	11%

The FID shop crew provides maintenance to FID's fleet of trucks and machinery.



A sloping crew removes weeds and silt from the open channel by pulling a sloping machine through the channel's interior. This work allows for more efficient delivery of water to growers as well as better ground-water percolation along the channel itself.



An FID rig applies pre-emergent on canals, which prevents the growth of weeds before they emerge, helping keep on top of the district's weed abatement and control program.





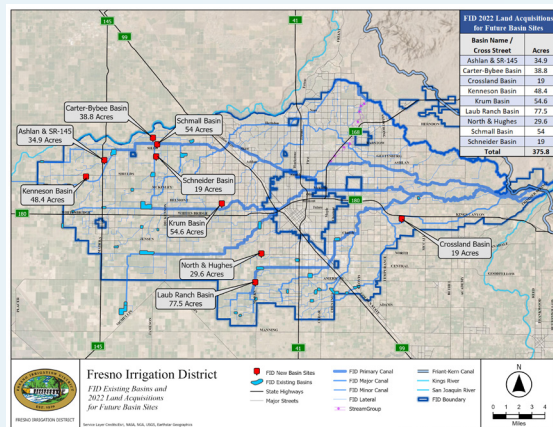
# GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

## Recharging Water Today for Tomorrow's Needs

The road to aquifer sustainability is paved with groundwater recharge projects throughout FID's service area.

FID is a member agency of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA) and has identified recharge projects to be completed during the 20-year path to sustainable groundwater conditions. In 2022, FID continued to acquire land for future basins. FID acquired 375 acres of land for groundwater recharge purposes, resulting in the addition of nine new groundwater recharge basins. In addition, the District approved interconnecting four FMFCD basin located adjacent to FID canals. FID is well on its way to achieving its goal of 420 acres of land for groundwater recharge, 89% of which was acquired in 2022 alone.

## FID 2022 Land Acquisitions for Future Basin Sites:



Since 2017, FID received \$10.3 million in federal and state grant funding to assist in drought-tolerance projects. Of that, \$2 million in federal grant funding from the US Bureau of Reclamation was received for the Carter-Bybee Recharge Basin Project under the Reclamation's WaterSMART Drought Response Program. Another \$932,000 in Proposition 68 grant funding was received from the California Department of Water



FID General Manager Bill Stretch (left) and former FID Watermaster James "Jim" Irwin (right) at the unveiling of the "James P. Irwin Basin" signage. The James P. Irwin Basin is located at Central and Hughes.

Resources (DWR) in furtherance of the Carter-Bybee Recharge Basin Project.

During a board meeting in November 2021, the FID Board of Directors approved the Basin Property Program, which awarded FID a \$20M loan over ten years. The first two years will be the drawdown period, while FID will pay off the loan over the last eight years. The loan covers basin land purchase and development, basin interties, pipeline and open channel projects, recharge basin performance improvements, and Big Dry Creek capital improvements.

To date, FID has used the loan to purchase 375 acres of land for groundwater recharge. Of the \$20M for the Basin Property Program, FID used approximately \$15M to buy land and will utilize \$2.2M for land clearing, building demolition, and design. The remaining \$2.8M will go towards intertying four FMFCD basins located adjacent to FID canals, allowing FID to deliver water to existing FMFCD basins for groundwater recharge to continue replenishing the aquifer. The potential FMFCD basin interties will cost an estimated \$1.6M to intertie 69 excavated acres of FMFCD basins.



FID celebrates the completion of the Savory Groundwater Recharge Basin alongside DWR and County of Fresno officials.

## Savory Pond Groundwater Recharge Basin

The Savory Groundwater Recharge Basin finished construction in Spring 2022; it was the first project constructed using the State's Proposition 68 SGMA Implementation Project grant funding awarded by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). A ribbon-cutting event took place in Summer 2022 to mark the completion of the basin and the first Proposition 68 Project completion.

The Savory Groundwater Recharge Basin totals 30 acres and is in a rural area east of Easton at the northwest corner of Chestnut and Lincoln avenues. This basin was constructed in record time and adds an opportunity to replenish the groundwater aquifer by an additional 900 acre-feet of water annually.

The basin increases water supply reliability for growers and residents from the nearby Shady Lakes Manufactured Housing Community, who rely on wells for potable water.

Savory Basin was the first completed project funded by Proposition 68 SGMA Implementation Project grant funds, and the fifth FID groundwater basin completed since 2019.





# SGMA/ NORTH KINGS GSA

## Groundwater Sustainability Plan revised to address State's concerns and keep local control

North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA) resubmitted its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in July 2022 following a seven-month effort to address the state agency's noted deficiencies.

Revisions to the GSP include increased coordination between the Kings Subbasin GSPs on subsidence criteria, clarification on water quality impacts, a commitment to explore further interconnected groundwater-surface water systems, and a mitigation program for dry wells. DWR is currently reviewing the revised GSP. As with many GSPs across the state and all in the San Joaquin Valley, the North Kings GSA's initial GSP was determined incomplete, requiring revisions by July 2022, 180 days after the determination.

The North Kings GSA and its six Kings Subbasin partners underwent extensive efforts to consider all DWR concerns in the revisions, critical to maintaining local control over groundwater management, while keeping in mind what is best for our local groundwater users.

## Well mitigation program will assist domestic well owners faced with a dry well

The revised Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) includes the advent of a well mitigation program to address impacts from expected groundwater level declines before the region reaches sustainability by 2040. By providing a funding mechanism for shallow wells that run dry, the program would ensure the North Kings GSA addresses groundwater level decline impacts DWR considers "significant and unreasonable," a violation of SGMA.

The North Kings GSA is home to thousands of domestic wells. A well mitigation program of this magnitude requires careful development and consideration from a wide variety of stakeholders. Its development over the next 1-2 years will define the nuts and bolts of such a program, including well identification, funding sources, eligibility requirements, and more.



North Kings GSA Executive Director Kassy Chauhan presents about SGMA and efforts towards groundwater sustainability to the Fresno County Farm Bureau's Future Advocates for Agriculture Concerned About Tomorrow (FAACT) class' eighteenth cohort.

## FID and North Kings GSA-opposed well permitting bill AB2201 defeated

Assembly Bill 2201 failed to pass the California State Senate in August 2022 in the wake of strong opposition from North Kings GSA, FID, and several other valley agencies.

AB 2201 would have required counties to forward well permit requests to the overlying Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for approval while requiring GSAs to undergo an expensive and lengthy scientific and technical process to determine whether the request would impact nearby wells or cause infrastructure-damaging subsidence. The result would be significant time delays for growers and businesses waiting on their well permit approval. Agencies opposing the bill recognized growers face persistent drought and a need to tap into water reserves underground to keep their businesses alive.

The Valley Ag Water Coalition (VAWC), a coalition of 43 water districts including FID, and the Kings River Legislative Committee, including the Kings River Conservation District, formally opposed the bill. The respective lobbyists for the groups took action to meet with elected officials, governmental staff, and others for the duration of the legislative session to ensure the challenges this failed bill posed to our community of growers and residents were well understood.

## Well permitting remains priority for North Kings GSA under Newsom Executive Order

A new well permit review process now includes the North Kings GSA per requirements outlined in Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22, signed on March 28, 2022. The North Kings GSA is responsible for determining whether the proposed well is consistent with the GSP regarding estimated groundwater demand and the water budget used to calculate sustainability needs for the future. The North Kings GSA continues to coordinate closely with the County of Fresno to review permits as quickly as possible.

*If you are experiencing a delay with your well permit application, we are here to help. Contact North Kings GSA Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan at (559) 233-7161 x. 7109 or email [kchauhan@fresnoirrigation.com](mailto:kchauhan@fresnoirrigation.com).*

## New Grower's Corner!

The Grower's Corner is a new series featuring local growers' personal stories, water management approaches, and more. Our region's journey toward groundwater sustainability under SGMA is a collaborative effort of every single grower, and we hope the Grower's Corner highlights the work being done in your backyard to succeed together.

Check out our recent Grower's Corner videos and editorials at [northkingsgsa.org/growers](http://northkingsgsa.org/growers). You'll find other resources there too, including irrigation guides, on-farm recharge tools, FAQs, and more.



North Kings GSA Executive Director Kassy Chauhan (center) at the California Women in Ag Central Valley Chapter meeting in April 2022.

*If you're interested in being featured, reach out to Executive Officer Kassy Chauhan at: [kchauhan@fresnoirrigation.com](mailto:kchauhan@fresnoirrigation.com) or (559) 233-7161 x. 7109.*

Stay informed on groundwater in your area – sign up for the North Kings GSA email newsletter. Receive timely updates on board meetings, project progress, public outreach events, and more. Sign up for our email newsletter at [northkingsgsa.org/email](http://northkingsgsa.org/email).

Austin Hubbell, Ranch Manager, Marthedal Enterprises, Inc was featured in a Grower's Corner video and blog highlight. ↓





# Cropping Pattern Changes

Cropping patterns within the District often showcase greater industry trends in our region. The top changes from 2021 to 2022 tell a story of continued trends for the top two crops, almonds and grapes. Almonds saw an increase of nearly 1.6% despite news reports that some growers are pulling out almond acreage. Grapes saw a continued decrease of 3.8% in acreage, further increasing the acreage gap between the top two crops. Citrus and vegetables kept the third and fourth top crop spots, respectively, while corn and silage crops saw the highest acreage percentage increase of all crops in 2022, replacing pasture as the fifth top crop and entering the top five for the first time.

CROP	2022 ACRES	TOTAL CHANGE FROM 2021	% CHANGE FROM 2021
Almonds	50,917	796	1.59%
Grapes	35,289	-1,377	-3.76%
Oranges/Tangerines	14,161	53	0.38%
Vegetables	5,587	178	3.29%
Corn/Silage	3,179	374	3.33%



Corn within FID using siphon pipe method of irrigating.

## Financial

### Revenue

FID property assessment continues to be some of the lowest compared to other California irrigation/water districts, with an equivalent water cost of approximately \$21.50 per acre-foot (AF) in an average year. The total revenue during the year was about \$25.2M, stemming from assessments, project contributions, water sales, service charges, and grant funds received.

However, current revenues lack funding for all essential District functions. Therefore, additional revenues are necessary to ensure all needs are funded. Specifically, they are required to replace infrastructure (pipelines, concrete lining, structures, etc.), legal expenses associated with protecting water rights, adding more groundwater recharge basins, technology upgrades, modernizing canal systems, competitive compensation for staff, and increased costs related to regulatory compliance and inflation.

### Expenses

FID directs revenue to cover District expenses (excluding depreciation) totaling \$35.8M. Of that, approximately 16% was used for general and administrative expenses, such as office expenses, salaries, and benefits. About 13% went towards transmission and distribution of water, including permitting fees and costs associated with water deliveries, such as wages for operations and water staff.

Additionally, 38% of the expenses went to land acquisition and basins, 13% were related to construction, a combined 9% went to maintenance, 7% to principal payments related to debt, 1% went to water purchase, and 1% was paid in interest fees. Maintenance of FID's conveyance system and expansion of FID's recharge capabilities, with a particular focus on groundwater sustainability measures like the construction of the Savory Groundwater Recharge Basin and the purchase of approximately 375 acres for future basin development, was a priority in 2022.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FID furthers its commitment to our stakeholders by consistently providing accurate, timely, and relevant information that stakeholders need. FID executes this critical information in various ways throughout the year, such as through Growers Meetings, an Annual Report, Waterways Newsletters, social media, service organization presentations, and other public education and meetings.

### Growers Meetings

FID held three Growers Meetings in March 2022, with presentations from FID regarding general updates, the 2022 irrigation season, the water supply outlook, and a SGMA update from the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (NKGSA). FID held the 2022 Growers Meetings in Kerman, Easton, and Clovis during late March 2022 with over 400 people in attendance. **The 2023 Growers Meetings are scheduled for April 18 (Clovis), 20 (Kerman) and 26 (Easton).**

### Annual Report, Newsletter, and Social Media

FID's Annual Report helps stakeholders understand the year-round work that goes into maintaining, sustaining, and expanding FID's surface water conveyance system and groundwater recharge capabilities, as well as accomplishments and challenges facing the district.

Two issues of the Waterways Newsletter were mailed out and available online in 2022. The first Waterways Newsletter was released in May and the second in November. Both covered topics such as the drought,



Assistant General Manager of Operations Adam Claes explains the purpose of the Serrato Intertie and how it works to the Fresno County Farm Bureau's ninth FAACT class cohort.

water rights fight, the long maintenance season, the Savory Pond Basin dedication, the end of another dry water year, SGMA updates, and more.

FID makes direct announcements to stakeholders through the email distribution list. Join FID's email distribution list to be the first to know all things FID. Visit [fresnoirrigation.com](http://fresnoirrigation.com) to sign up.

FID's efforts to make announcements to stakeholders timely also include managing social media channels where updates are posted multiple times per week. These channels include LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Follow us @FresnoFID to stay up to date.

### Public Education

FID's management understands the value of a community which is educated in water issues and encourages community groups to reach out to FID for presentations. In 2022, FID General Manager Bill Stretch, Assistant General Manager of Operations Adam Claes, and North Kings GSA Executive Director Kassy Chauhan each spoke to the Fresno County Farm Bureau's Future Advocates for Agriculture Concerned About Tomorrow (FAACT) Program. During these presentations, they discussed the importance of water to agriculture and municipalities, the growing role of SGMA in California water, and the impact that policies can have for FID at the federal, state, and local levels. Bill Stretch also spoke on the topic "Water in the Valley: Making Every Drop Count" during the Leadership Fresno 2022 class' Agriculture Day in October.



General Manager Bill Stretch presents to a room of growers at the Easton Growers' Meeting.



# EMPLOYEE & HUMAN RESOURCES

## Successful Succession

Succession planning is the process of developing talent to replace leadership roles and key employees when they transition to another role or leave a company. It ensures business continuity and organizational knowledge retention and is meant to keep the organization running smoothly with little interruption as staff changes occur. Succession planning is a big focus at FID, and such has been the case in 2022 with the retirement of two of FID's key leaders.

### District Watermaster

The recent retirement of Watermaster Jim Irwin brought the inaugural water season of David "Spanky" Burrow, who grasped the Watermaster reins and is leading the charge during challenging times. As FID's new Watermaster, David's primary responsibilities include tracking and monitoring the District's water supplies and managing water deliveries to our growers and other constituents. This transition was carefully planned and executed with immersive training, development, and mentoring.

### District Shop Supervisor

Before retiring, incumbent supervisor Don Miller paved the way for Chris Kennedy to step into the role of Shop Supervisor. As Shop Supervisor, Chris and his shop maintenance team keep FID running with a variety of specialized abilities. Chris brings the necessary proficiency and talent to lead his highly competent team effectively.

Chris Kennedy was promoted to Shop Supervisor in 2022.



## Core Overview 2022

2022 brought an increased opportunity to advance CORE. CORE is the culmination of FID's core values - those values which are at the very essence of FID, and which guide the day-to-day operations. The CORE framework was created in-house, based on direct input from our district employees and is tailored specifically to the needs of FID.

In 2022, FID completed the first round of CORE (CORE I); having created, completed, and presented training modules for all 12 core values. Throughout this next year, FID employees will be reminded of what they have previously learned via "CORE Cues" - three to five minutes videos summarizing each of our 12 core values. FID CORE branding will also be augmented through banners to be displayed onsite.



The development of CORE II will begin in 2023. CORE II will take a deeper dive into each of FID's established core values. It will also cement expectations and accountabilities for each District employee.

In addition to guiding our District's day-to-day operations, an aspect of CORE is to develop our employee experience. This is reflected in a 57% reduction of employee turnover (year over year 2021-2022), resulting in \$143,000.00 cost saving to the District. Ultimately, as with all aspects of CORE, an enhanced customer experience for our constituents is the projected outcome.

## Retired Employees

In 2022, four employees retired from the Fresno Irrigation District. FID thanks them for their commitment and dedication.

**Jim Irwin** retired after serving the District for 42 years. He started as a Ditchtender in 1980 and eventually made his way to Watermaster.

**Dan Guinan** served the District for 40 years before retiring. His first position in the District was as a Ditchtender in 1982. He retired as a Heavy Equipment Operator.

**Don Miller** retired after serving the District for 36 years. He started as a Shop Helper in 1986 and retired as the Shop Foreman.

**Shawn Repp** served the District for 19 years before retiring. He took on the position of Water System Operator in 2003 and retired as a Heavy Equipment Operator.



FID's longtime Watermaster Jim Irwin retired after 42 years.

## Employee Service Award Recognition

- 35 Years of Service**  
Douglas Griffin
- 25 Years of Service**  
John Jimenez  
William Pilegard
- 20 Years of Service**  
Virginia Irion  
Brandon Reeves  
Billy English
- 15 Years of Service**  
Calvin Sanders
- 5 Years of Service**  
Joseph Walker  
Scott Meyer-Mina

## BY THE NUMBERS



**87 Employees**  
*(82 full-time, 5 part-time)*



Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance  
**5 Employees**



Administration  
**16 Employees**



Construction & Maintenance  
**26 Employees**



Engineering  
**7 Employees**



Water  
**33 Employees**



# CHALLENGES

## Water Rights

Since 2017, those with historic water rights on the Kings River, such as FID, have faced well-financed and serious challenges to those very rights. With the advent of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), water users statewide are experiencing new challenges to their uses of both surface and ground waters.

On the Kings River, those with historic water rights are defending challenges to their uses of Kings River waters. Entities outside the historic reaches of the Kings River are making claims that century-old historic river diverters have forfeited or otherwise failed to use their water beneficially. These issues are raised in complaints filed with the State Water Resources Control Board and are part of an effort to take those Kings River water rights to Kern County and possibly even further south.

There are even areas within Fresno County that have never had any right to use Kings River waters that now assert their right to upend historic water rights so they may be able to use surface water on ground only previously watered from wells.

The Phase 1A hearing occurred in 2021 and addressed a complaint filed by Semitropic Water Storage District alleging Kings River Water Association (KRWA) member agencies violated their water diversion licenses by not diverting all available flows. In 2022, the California

State Water Board's Administrative Hearing Officer (AHO) was expected to declare a ruling, but that ruling is still currently outstanding as of the completion of this report. If the AHO finds merit in the complaint, there will be a Phase 1B to address a potential cease and desist order. After Phase 1B, or if Phase 1A results in the dismissal of the complaint, the hearing will move into Phase 2 to determine whether Kings River water is available for appropriation under new water rights permits issued by the State Water Resources Control Board.

There are no new developments in the State Water Resources Control Board's consideration and a possible interim ruling on the water rights dispute. The AHO has yet to issue an opinion on the Semitropic Water Storage District's attempts to gain Kings River flood release and other waters for its use in Kern County and possibly elsewhere. Kings River Water Association member units, including Fresno Irrigation District, strongly oppose the Semitropic Water Storage District's attempts.

Retaining the rights to historical surface water uses by FID and its fellow Kings River irrigation districts is an important priority to FID. Given the significance of keeping our water supply for use by FID growers, FID will continue to invest dollars into these legal challenges, as demonstrated in the 2023 Proposition 218 effort. Seventeen cents from every dollar received through land-based assessments proposed in this effort will be allocated towards legal and water rights defense.



The Kings River beneath Pine Flat Dam shows low water levels, exposing parts of the riverbed normally under water.

## Drought

California's historic drought forced FID to manage a severe lack of water in 2022. Yet another significant dry year resulted in a three-month irrigation season. The lack of surface water has challenged FID's ability to address SGMA and groundwater sustainability within district boundaries.

## COVID-19

COVID-19 has continued to impact many in 2022, and FID is no different. In an abundance of care and consideration for our employees, FID remained diligent and maintained COVID-19 protocols during 2022. The District continued to follow State and Federal regulations regarding COVID-19. The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CAL OSHA) have issued revised standards to become effective January 2023; these revised standards will remain in place for two years (unless it becomes necessary to change). Fresno County updates were offered and attended when presented regularly. In addition, FID constantly adapts to changing conditions through monthly agency calls for updates on local conditions and resources from the Fresno County Department of Public Health. FID also stays up-to-date with all Cal/OSHA requirements and State mandates for the protection of employees.

## Unhoused Encampments

Consistent with prior years, 2022 brought continued challenges with encampments along many of FID's canal embankments. These encampments have provided considerable challenges, including increased trash and debris in the waterways, which generates water quality issues. Additionally, the encampments create safety threats to FID staff in addition to the unhoused individuals who camp alongside cold, swift, and dangerous waters. The encampments require significant FID staff and financial resources to address the situation. As a result, FID continues to partner with other agencies on canal cleanup efforts.

## Aging Infrastructure

Maintaining and replacing aging infrastructure is critical to FID to ensure unobstructed flow to our growers and municipal partners. Therefore, FID continues to study the condition of facilities to develop a prioritized list of replacement and maintenance projects, some of which are currently underway to address immediate system needs. In 2022, FID commissioned an Engineer's Report for Proposition 218 Procedures for Benefit Assessments to understand the extent of the needs and what resources are needed to address outstanding system issues. These ongoing efforts remain a high priority to ensure the continued ability to provide water to our customers.

For more information on FID's 2023 Proposition 218 election, see page two of this report and visit [fresnoirrigation.com/prop218](https://fresnoirrigation.com/prop218).



The lower Kings River beneath Pine Flat Dam shows low water levels, exposing parts of the riverbed normally under water.



The Fresno Irrigation District serves a diverse range of crops over the nearly 130,000 acres of ag land within the district.





2907 S. Maple Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93725



To find more information and to stay up to date, go to [fresnoirrigation.com](http://fresnoirrigation.com) and sign up to receive our email alerts.



Fresno Irrigation District



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