

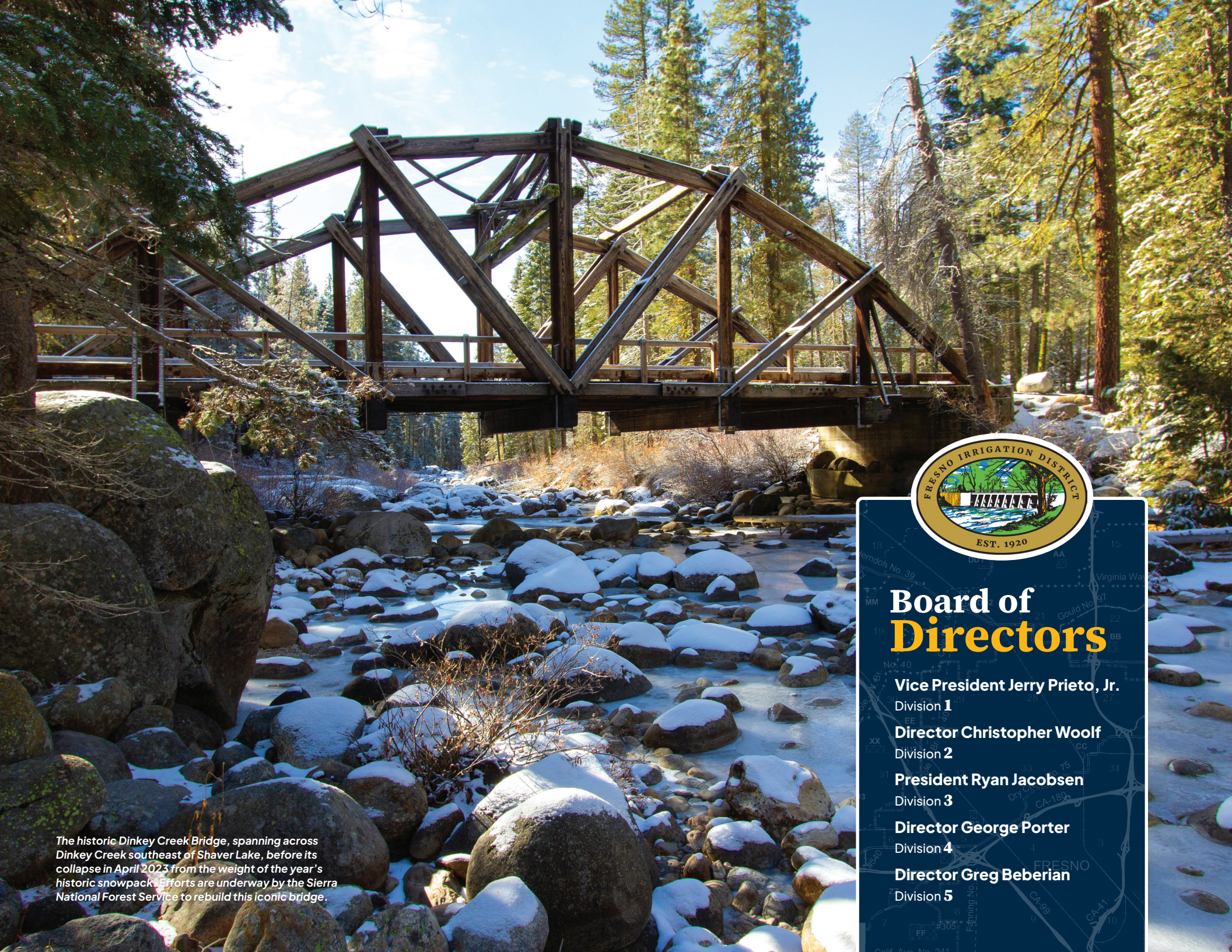


Biggest Kings River Water Year on Record



2023

ANNUAL REPORT



The historic Dinkey Creek Bridge, spanning across Dinkey Creek southeast of Shaver Lake, before its collapse in April 2023 from the weight of the year's historic snowpack. Efforts are underway by the Sierra National Forest Service to rebuild this iconic bridge.



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A Letter from the General Manager



“Your investment in FID sets the foundation for our next century of excellence and empowers FID to continue providing reliable water supply, facilities, infrastructure, and protection of our extensive water rights.”



2023 proved to be one of our most eventful years yet. The historic water year and Proposition 218 election led the headlines. While 2020–2022 marked the driest three-year period in California’s history, 2023 presented a stark contrast. The record-breaking runoff allowed FID to divert near record amounts of surface water from both the Kings and San Joaquin rivers and have one of its longest irrigation runs of eight months from March through October 31.

With a 64% majority of landowners voting in favor, the Proposition 218 (Prop 218) election successfully passed, signifying an important step toward carrying the legacy of our District and landowners into the future. On behalf of the District, I want to thank landowners for their participation in the election. These new investments will set the foundation for the next century of excellence, **empowering FID to continue providing our customers with reliable water supply, operational facilities, maintained and expanded infrastructure, and protection of our extensive water rights.**

I also want to express gratitude to the growers who took time to meet with the FID team, including myself, leading up to the election. I’m grateful for the opportunity to discuss the value of increased assessments through one-on-one discussions, small group meetings, and district-wide events. The new connections formed during these interactions have proven invaluable, reinforcing FID’s commitment to use its landowners’ dollars wisely for the improvement of District lands.

Although the Prop 218 election had a substantial impact on FID in 2023, the partnerships between the District and other agencies were equally noteworthy. FID seized the opportunity to partner with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for emergency flood response efforts. Additionally, the District continued its long-standing partnership with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) and cities of Fresno and Clovis to maximize groundwater recharge and provide greater flood control during the year’s unprecedented flood flows.

Amidst the action, **FID continued to be a leader in California water, making advancements in groundwater sustainability.** In November, the District began construction on 47 acres for the new Kenneson-Sanchez Recharge Basin, part of our plan to develop 400 additional acres into groundwater recharge basins to secure our area’s groundwater resources for the future.

The progress made during this historic water year **would not have been possible without the dedication and contributions of our employees.** Our dedicated and skilled workforce plays a pivotal role in our success, enabling the District to construct new groundwater recharge projects, maintain surface water infrastructure, and continue providing excellent customer service to our growers. Their commitment helps uphold our legacy.

Finally, I want to extend my **appreciation to all FID landowners and growers for their hard work and support.** Your commitment to navigating yet another growing season while demonstrating responsible water usage is commendable. We appreciate your excitement in new initiatives like the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service groundwater recharge pilot program. While this opportunity is newer and the funding pool is limited, we anticipate it will grow. We also value your involvement in the EQIP WaterSMART initiative, a \$1.3 million grant pool for FID growers to improve on-farm water conservation and irrigation efficiency. The District is thrilled to be designated as a priority area for this initiative and looks forward to the positive impact growers can achieve on their farms.

To all stakeholders, we hope you enjoy learning more about our District through this annual report, and **I encourage you to stay connected** with us throughout the year via our website, email list, public meetings, or by contacting our office at any time.

Sincerely,

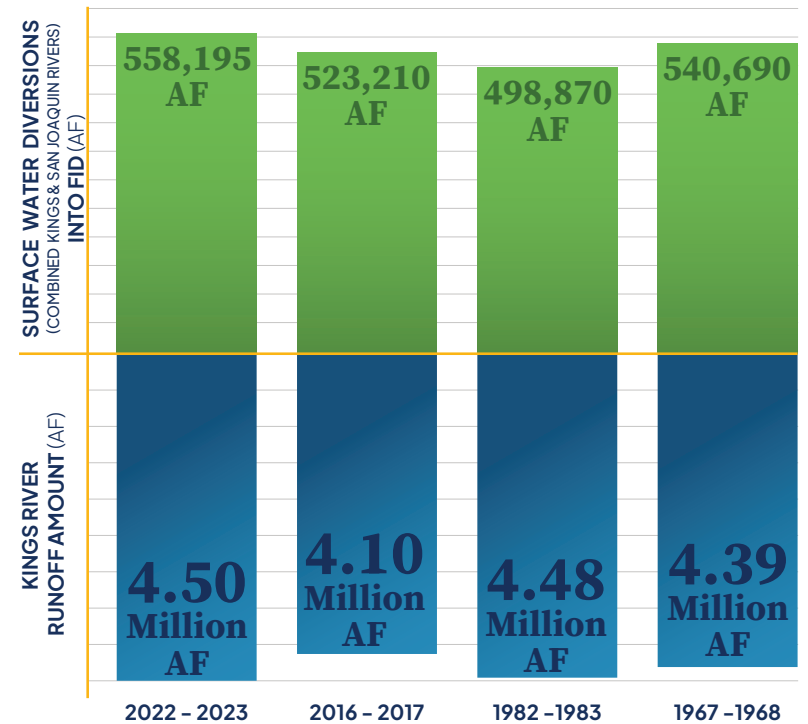
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William R. Stretch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bill Stretch, General Manager

In 2023, the
Kings River
 yielded a record-breaking runoff of
**4.50 million
 acre-feet.**

Upper Kings River above Pine Flat Dam.

TOP FOUR
Record Water Years



DID YOU KNOW?

The irrigation season does not align perfectly with what is defined as a "water year". A water year runs from October 1 through September 30 of the following year. Ultimately, this means the irrigation season length is impacted by what happens across multiple water years.

In exceptionally wet years like 2023, FID does typically run a longer irrigation season but also strategically stores some water behind Pine Flat Dam. This reserve ensures FID can continue delivering water in future years, providing a safety net if the following year is dry.

FROM DROUGHT TO DELUGE:

Record-Shattering Water Year Met with Extraordinary Stewardship

“The 2023 Water Year really was history in the making.”

– Bill Stretch,
FID General Manager



Pine Flat Dam low level gates releasing water into the lower Kings River, May 2023.



Kings River at the FID Headgates, northeast of Sanger.



Temporary pumps for flood diversion and recharge from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

SURFACE WATER DIVERSIONS

The 2023 Water Year was a record-breaking one, with 21 atmospheric river events hitting the Central Valley blanketing the Sierra Nevada in unprecedented snowfall. **The massive snowpack led to the most historic runoff on record.**

FID diverted a combined 558,195 acre-feet from the Kings and San Joaquin rivers, its major water supply sources. With the addition of other supplemental water supplies, **FID delivered a total 574,090 acre-feet to customers and recharge basins** from October 2022 through the end of October 2023 when regular water deliveries were completed. This well exceeded FID’s average water delivery season, which generally results in a total water year delivery of around 500,000 acre-feet.

During the Water Year from October 2022 through September 2023, the Kings River yielded a record-breaking runoff of nearly 4.5 million acre-feet of water, 265% of average.

The federal Central Valley Project (CVP) Friant system provided over 60,000 acre-feet of San

Joaquin River water to the FID region through the City of Fresno’s Class 1 contract. Class 2 contractors, including FID and others, received a 70% allocation through the end of San Joaquin River flood releases in July, later reduced to 15% for the remainder of the year. Combining Class 1 and 2 supplies, over 85,000 acre-feet of CVP supply was brought into FID.

FLOOD CONTROL OPERATIONS

Beyond irrigation demands, the abundance of water prompted a focus on flood operations and groundwater recharge, both in-lieu (using surface water instead of groundwater) and direct. FID used its nearly 900 acres of groundwater recharge basins to maximize its recharge capacity, and, in close collaboration with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD), redirected stormwater to nearly 2,000 acres of flood control basins owned by FMFCD and the cities of Fresno and Clovis.

The District also delivered water to three surface water treatment plants in the cities of Fresno and Clovis to allow some city groundwater wells to be turned off. The cities maximized their

available surface water to help improve local groundwater conditions.

A successful and highly coordinated regional and state-wide effort were critical to prevent flooding in downstream Kings River communities while reducing pressure in the Tulare Lake region.

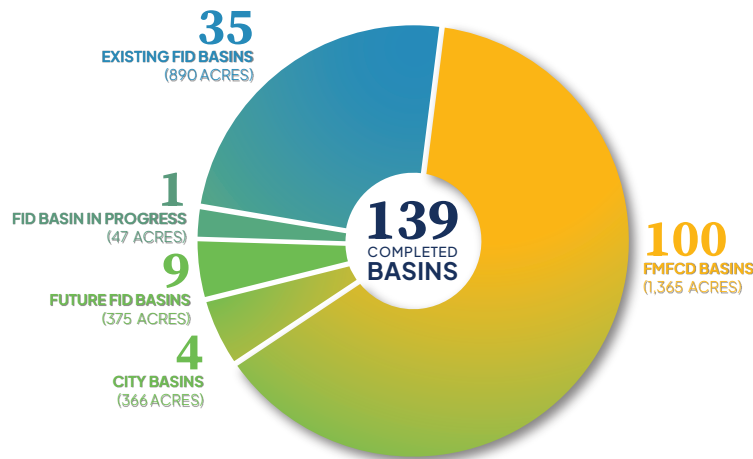
Further empowering local flood control and recharge activities, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) coordinated with FID in its statewide emergency flood response efforts. DWR provided FID with temporary pumps and siphons to divert excess Kings River floodwater into FMFCD basins that lack permanent connections to FID canals as a way to reduce flood risk in the Tulare Lake Region.

With high flood flows through the Kern, Tulare, Kaweah, and Kings rivers as the Sierra snowpack began to melt, the Tulare Lake re-emerged in 2023 for the first time since 1983. Kings River Water Association agencies, including FID, were asked to divert water upstream to minimize flooding in the lake bottom. Thanks to support from DWR and swift action by the local water managers, that flood water was largely diverted and put to use through groundwater recharge.

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Partnership Drives More Recharge Than Ever Before

Cooperative Recharge Efforts



180,000+ acre-feet recharged in FID

890 acres of existing basins used

180 acres of new basins constructed since 2020 bolstered capacity

2 emergency interconnections for expanded recharge & flood protection

FID was committed to flood control and groundwater recharge during the historic wet year, and it was key partnerships with both agencies and growers that provided the extra push needed for successful stewardship of water resources.

Although FID successfully used its vast network of nearly 900 acres of recharge basins to capture excess surface water, the bounty of 2023’s water year proved more than FID alone had room for. FID linked arms with the cities of Fresno and Clovis, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD), and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to increase its capacity to divert flood flows and recharge historic amounts of water. FID growers played their part, too, taking surface water during the eight-month irrigation delivery season, and, in some cases, receiving flood water for intentional on-farm recharge.

STATE CALLS ON FID AND FMFCD TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM FLOOD AND RECHARGE THE AQUIFER

When excess snow and rain threatened the region’s ability to control flood flows, FID answered the call from DWR to act as a local agent for its flood control activities. DWR provided funding for siphons, temporary pumps, and 24-hour security.

The support from DWR enabled FID to temporarily intertie two FMFCD basins with adjacent FID canals to take on flood water for storage and groundwater recharge. Due to the success of these efforts, FID’s Proposition 218 assessments



A temporary siphon and pump intertying an FMFCD basin with an adjacent FID canal.

and land acquisition bond funds are supporting efforts to permanently intertie these two basins and two additional basins for future flood control and groundwater recharge operations.

Through further cooperation, FID diverted water to FMFCD’s nearly 2,000 acres of stormwater and recharge basins in Clovis and Fresno.

The benefit was twofold — more groundwater recharge and reduced flood impacts on the Kings River, San Joaquin River, Tulare Lake region, and the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area.

“In a year like 2023, we really need to take advantage of all the available surface water, including flood and storm water, and put this water in recharge basins to replenish our aquifer. The actions we take in these wet years have to help carry us through future dry years where we are heavily reliant on groundwater when surface water is limited.”

– Adam Claes, FID Assistant General Manager of Operations

FID has had a longstanding relationship with FMFCD since its formation in 1955. FMFCD’s existing storm drainage basins in Clovis and Fresno play a vital role in controlling water during flood releases. There are 91 FMFCD basins currently interconnected with FID canals, and the two agencies work together on flood control and recharge operations during wet years like 2023.

FID is a member agency of the North Kings GSA, one of seven groundwater sustainability agencies that make up the Kings Subbasin.

An estimated
500,000 acre-feet
feet recharged in the Kings Subbasin –
nearly equal to the capacity of
Millerton Lake.



Construction crews add a turnout that allows water to flow from FID's Herndon Canal to Biola CSD's existing storm drain basin.

FID HELPS POWER RECHARGE FOR BIOLA CSD, FELLOW NORTH KINGS GSA MEMBER

Biola Community Services District (CSD) began construction on a groundwater recharge basin project to balance water use within the small community, west of Fresno. Powered through partnership with FID, the project includes a turnout from FID's Herndon Canal to deliver surface water to an existing 5-acre storm drain basin within the community. An agreement between Biola CSD and FID allows the community to receive FID flood water for dedicated groundwater recharge.

As is true for all ten member agencies of the North Kings GSA, Biola CSD is responsible for reducing the groundwater overdraft occurring within its boundaries. This approach gives each agency control over its own solutions to achieve sustainable groundwater use. This responsibility has been taken to heart by Biola community leaders.

"We can show the rest of the small communities that we can put water back as we take it out. If we can do it, anyone can do it."

– Martha Madera, Biola CSD Board Member

"Water is the lifeline to everything that lives...what we do get, we have to be better stewards of. This project is a great example of that."

– Phillip Cervantes, Biola CSD Community Member

The turnout was completed in November 2023, and Biola CSD is working on completing construction of their pipeline and basin to recharge an estimated 360 acre-feet annually.

WHY GROUNDWATER RECHARGE?

Groundwater recharge is an essential activity for maintaining a sustainable aquifer, but sustainability is no small feat. Despite FID's historic and continued efforts to replenish the groundwater supply, groundwater pumping coupled with longer and drier drought spells have

taken a toll on our groundwater supply. Over the last 100 years, groundwater levels have steadily declined within FID. FID is committed to actively expanding its recharge opportunities to stabilize groundwater levels. Groundwater recharge uses surface water to restore groundwater levels, replenishing the aquifer to create a sustainable groundwater supply for the future.

Beyond basins, FID growers can participate in sustainable water practices on the farm.

Growers should use as much surface water as possible, when available. Keeping flood irrigation pipelines in working condition is a great way to capture more surface water during wet years, important for maintaining irrigation flexibility based on water supply conditions.

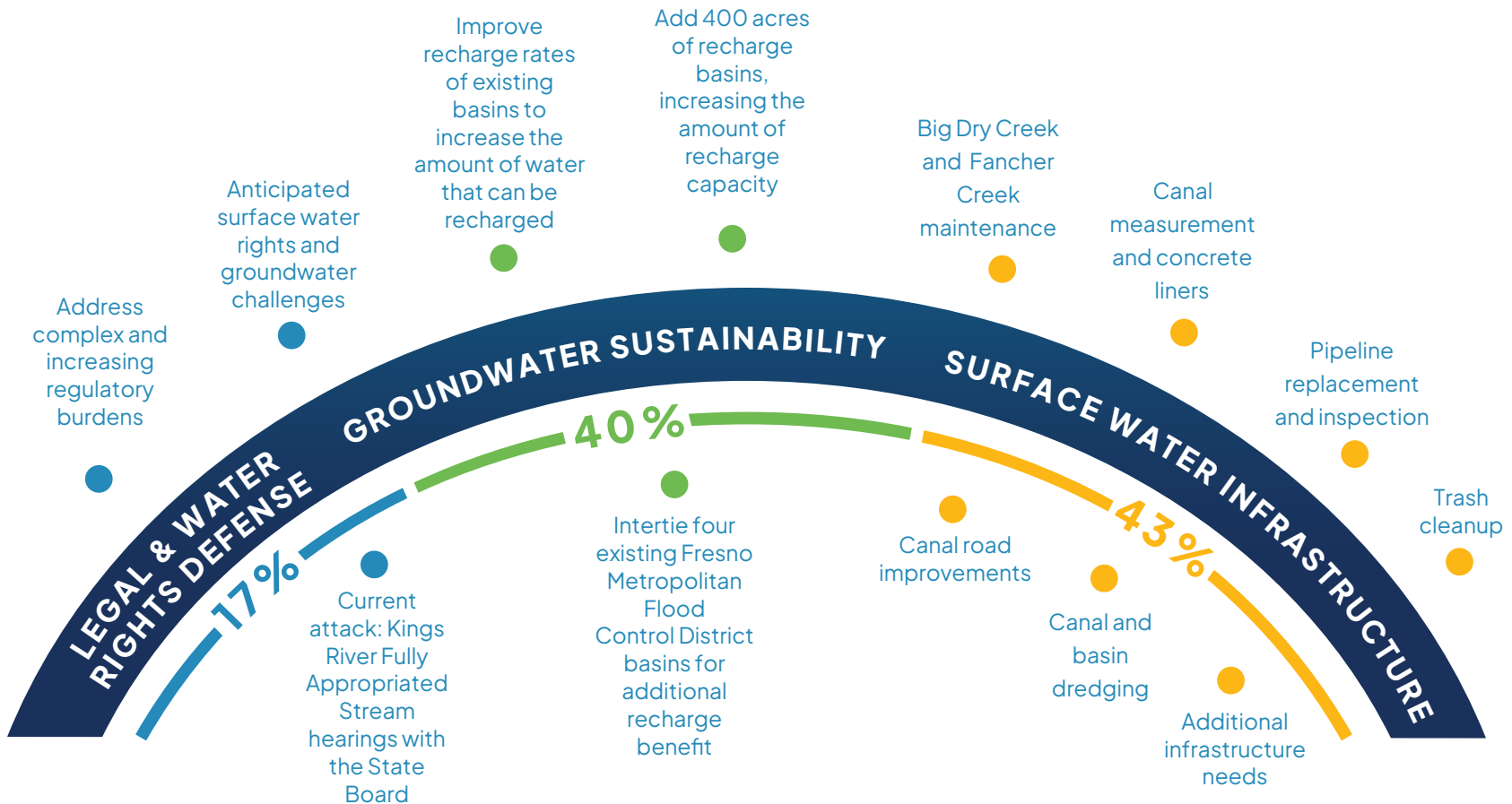


DID YOU KNOW? Prop 218 assessments will be invested over the next five years in projects to improve groundwater sustainability, including new basin development on nearly 400 acres of land.

Prop 218 Investments Through 2028

FID General Manager Bill Stretch provides a Prop 218 overview at the 2023 Grower Event in Easton.

LANDOWNER BENEFITS




INVESTING IN YOUR FUTURE

FID Landowners Continue the Legacy

FID's Proposition 218 (Prop 218) election passing in 2023 symbolizes an enduring drive within our landowners – a drive to carry our district's legacy well beyond its first century.

FID understands the new rates are a significant ask of its landowners. The District also presented assessment increases to landowners in 2010 and 2017, who by majority vote successfully approved both previous election rates. Comparatively, the assessment rates approved in the 2023 election reflects a considerable increase contrasting those previous rates FID landowners have now become accustomed to. Because of this, the District is incredibly thankful to its landowners who have again voted to approve increasing their local investment in water infrastructure, groundwater sustainability, and water rights protection.

The election provided an invaluable opportunity for FID staff to meet with growers one-on-one, in small group meetings, and through district-wide grower events to share more about the value of increased assessments as landowners prepared to cast their votes. These new relationships have only strengthened FID's commitment to steward its landowners' dollars carefully for the betterment of District lands and those who own them.

 **43%**
surface water
infrastructure
improvement &
expansion

 **40%**
fortifying the
aquifer's shared
groundwater
supply

 **17%**
fight for our
water rights and
advocate for
our landowners
on regulatory
issues

TODAY'S CHALLENGES MEET REAL SOLUTIONS

As Kings River water runs its familiar path, from the FID headgates through open channels and pipelines, it meets its final use – often the fertile lands that support our local economy and help feed the world. This pure Sierra Nevada snowmelt has been managed and maneuvered throughout FID for over 100 years. In some cases, the infrastructure that guides it is as old as our history in the greater Fresno area. And it's more than just our area's footprint that has changed since then, requiring improvements and adjustments to FID's water infrastructure and activities.

The challenges of today are knocking on our door, and FID intends to be ready. From changing weather patterns that are increasing the pressure on our water delivery and storage infrastructure; mounting reliance on our groundwater supply which risks the future health of this shared source; regulations that continue to complicate the economics of both water and our landowners' businesses; and active threats against our water rights that pose serious consequences if we fail to mount the strong defense FID is preparing.

With landowner investments through this Prop 218 assessment, **FID is positioned to meet today's challenges with real solutions.** Over the next five years, FID will invest 43% of revenues on surface water infrastructure improvement and expansion, 40% on fortifying the aquifer's shared groundwater supply, and 17% to fight for our water rights and advocate for our landowners on regulatory issues.

What to Expect as an FID Landowner

FID assessment rates have increased. For more information on maximum approved rates through 2028, review the FAQs at fresnoirrigation.com/prop218.

The first increase appeared on Fresno County tax rolls in fall 2023. For a majority of landowners (Water Service), the assessment increased to \$89 per acre*. This rate will gradually increase every year through 2028, to a maximum of \$128 per acre.

FID will communicate periodic updates on the projects and activities funded through Prop 218 revenue, maintaining transparency with landowners about where their assessments are going.

Have questions about where Prop 218 dollars are being spent? Contact FID at (559) 233-7161.

Learn more and find resources at fresnoirrigation.com/prop218.

* Each landowner falls into one of several rate classifications depending on how they receive their water from FID. Majority of parcels fall under the classification of "Water Service".

Building Reliable Infrastructure for Exceptional Water Service

Although the construction season was limited by historic wet conditions, FID successfully completed a number of projects throughout the year to build up its infrastructure, including canal lining, pipeline replacement, canal dredging, and more.

During the 2022–23 construction and maintenance season, FID used contractors in addition to its internal construction crews to complete critical construction projects. Using contractors increases construction capacity and saves customers money by optimizing project proficiency and leveraging cost-effective expertise. By completing these projects, FID improved water delivery efficiency and system resiliency to continue providing customers with seamless water deliveries for future irrigation seasons.



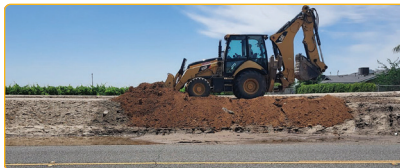
Groundwater Recharge Basin Construction

Broke ground on the Kenneson-Sanchez Groundwater Recharge Basin, part of FID's commitment to sustainability under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The 47-acre recharge basin will store roughly 160 acre-feet of floodwater and recharge 960 acre-feet annually. Completion is expected in Spring 2024.



Pipeline Replacement

Replaced 4,580 feet of failing pipeline infrastructure, ending the need for frequent repairs and avoiding disruptions to grower service.



All Weather Roads

Installed two miles of all-weather roads at six locations, enabling water operators to access important locations vital for ensuring the safe routing and management of storm and flood water during storm events.



Dredging

Dredged 20,000 feet of canals, allowing water to flow more smoothly and increase water conveyance capacity to customers.



Canal Lining

Lined 365 feet of canals to stop erosion and address water seepage issues, increasing the volume of water delivered to the end source.

Enhancing Water Infrastructure: A Look into 2024 Projects

The abundant snowpack and water supply during Water Year 2022–23 extended regular water deliveries to customers through the end of October 2023, coinciding with the typical beginning of the storm season. Since most of FID's larger canals are used for storm water routing, FID prioritized 2024 construction projects to be located along smaller canal systems. Construction projects on the books include two pipeline replacement projects, a canal substitution project, replacement of deteriorated turnouts, and the installation of water control structures.

Miscellaneous

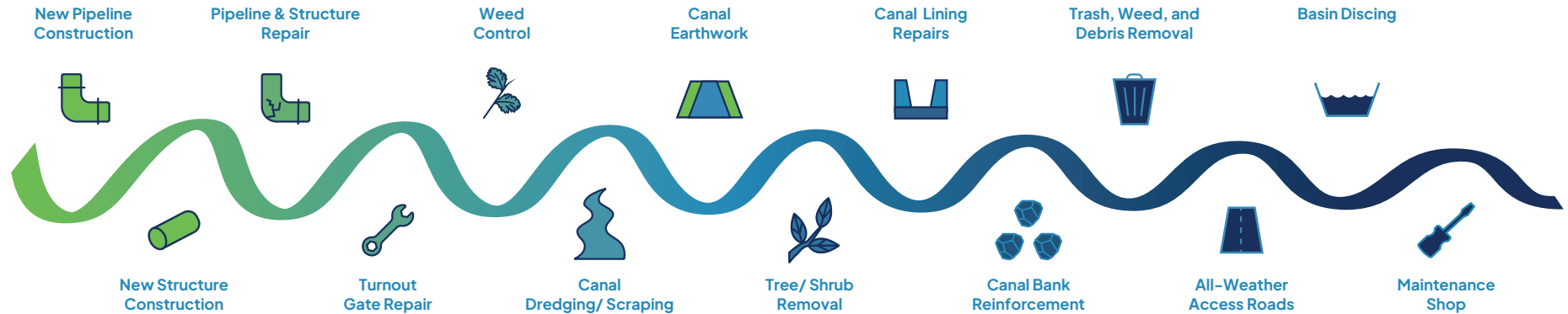
Completed the installation of two auto trash racks, six water flow meters, and three electric water valve actuators to ensure accurate water flow measurement, monitor canal water flow, and maintain cleanliness of canals.

Improvements by Developers & Agencies within FID

FID worked with developers and sought grant funding from state and federal partners for needed improvements where possible. Agencies within FID also made improvements to the system necessary for their projects. Activities included:

- Installation of 2,156 feet of rubber-gasketed reinforced concrete pipeline (RGRCP), canal lining, and all-weather roads where necessary
- Replacement of 3,690 feet of pipeline with RGRCP
- Substitution of 2,820 feet of open channel with RGRCP












FID's Maintenance Efforts



Maintaining the System for a Seamless Water Delivery Season

The 2022–2023 maintenance season lasted for six months, spanning from September 2022 to February 2023. The season was cut short due to the record water year and early start of the irrigation season on March 1, 2023. As water stops flowing at the conclusion of irrigation deliveries, the maintenance season begins and our Water System Operators transition to maintenance crews. During this time, they complete a wide variety of critical maintenance activities throughout the system to ensure the success of the following irrigation season.

FID maintenance crews completed just over **40,000 hours** of maintenance activities.

 <p>Construction & capital improvement projects accounted for 25% of total hours and include the completion of over 190 work orders relating to canal breaches, dredging, grading, application of rip rap to stabilize canal banks, bank repairs, and aquatic weed control.</p>	 <p>Tree/Shrub removal accounted for 21% of total hours, involving the completion of 70 brushing projects, coverage of 833 miles of canal bank by spray crews, and the execution of 5 district-wide copper sulfate applications to canals to control algae growth.</p>	 <p>Gate valve repairs accounted for 6% of total hours, including the completion of 50 gate repairs.</p>	 <p>Pipeline repairs accounted for 10% of total hours and included the completion of 76 pipeline repairs.</p>	 <p>Measurement site maintenance accounted for 3% of total hours and involved crews inspecting meter functionality, verifying meter readings, and calibrating meters to ensure water flows.</p>	 <p>Miscellaneous activities including rodent control, mowing, & building maintenance, accounted for 9% of total hours in which crews performed 13 miscellaneous jobs.</p>
 <p>New Structure Construction</p>	 <p>Turnout Gate Repair</p>	 <p>Canal Dredging/Scraping</p>	 <p>Trash removal accounted for 13% of total hours, including the removal of over 172 tons of trash and completion of over 360 trash removal requests.</p>	 <p>Shop fabrication & field repairs accounted for 2% of total hours, in which shop mechanics completed over 450 repairs & services on District-owned vehicles, heavy equipment, & tools.</p>	

DWR APPROVES Groundwater Sustainability Plan

The North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), along with the other six Kings Subbasin GSAs, received its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) approval letter from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in August 2023. As a member agency of the North Kings GSA, FID celebrates this step toward a sustainable future.

DWR approved the GSP on the condition that the subbasin address corrective actions including **developing a domestic well mitigation program** and **filling data gaps through a confined aquifer study and interconnected surface water study.**

Though GSP implementation began in January 2020 when the first version was submitted, the corrective actions guided the North Kings GSA's priorities for 2023 and will continue to take center stage leading up to the 2025 GSP update. The first corrective action, a well mitigation program, is being developed using a subbasin-wide coordinated framework to address impacts to

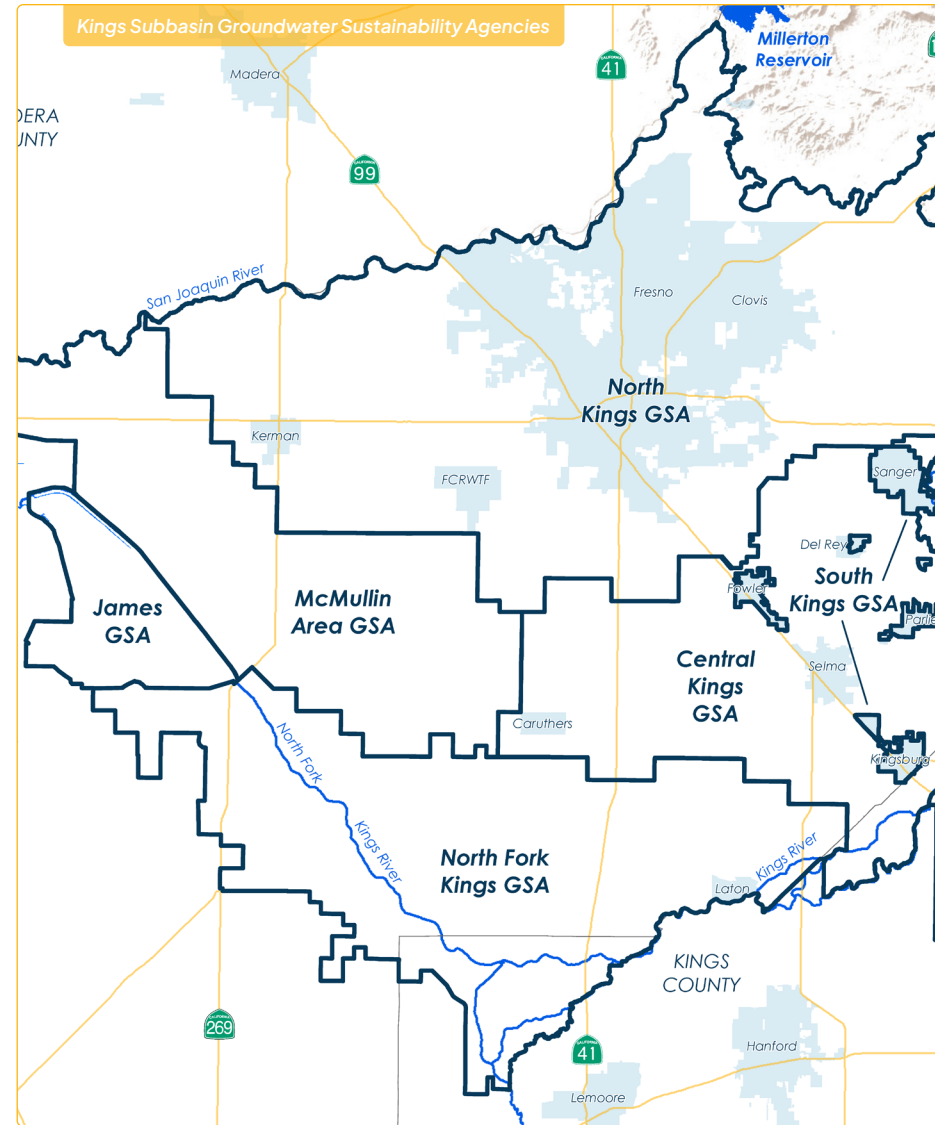
domestic wells caused by declining groundwater levels. Once completed, the following corrective actions — the confined aquifer study and interconnected surface water study — will inform the Subbasin on where groundwater and surface water interact and help develop a better understanding of what areas are at risk of unsustainable land subsidence.

DWR's conditional approval comes after the North Kings GSA submitted a revised GSP in June 2022. GSP approval was accomplished thanks to a highly coordinated effort among the seven Kings Subbasin GSAs.

The GSP represents a significant locally led effort to change how groundwater is monitored, managed, and used. The ongoing efforts and coordination to implement the GSP represents a good faith effort by the North Kings GSA and its subbasin partners to create consensus on sustainability activities at the local level, ultimately **keeping SGMA management in local hands.**

Commitment to Coordinate: Kings Subbasin GSAs Succeed Together

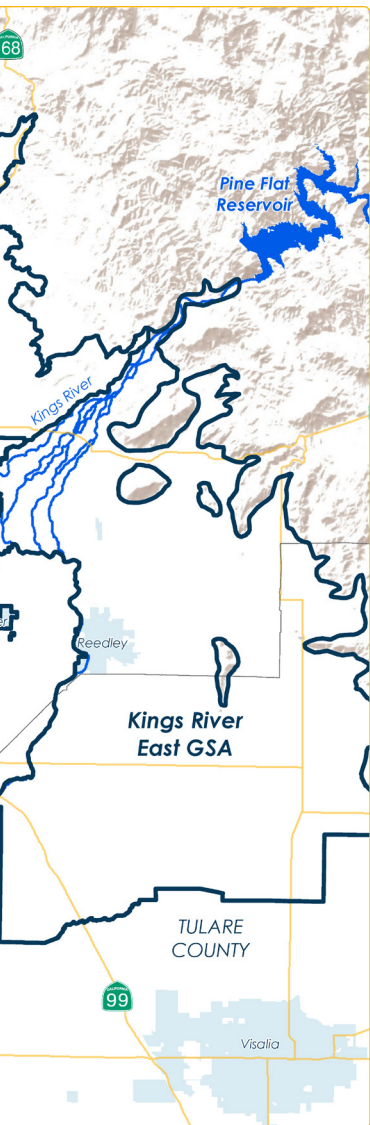
The Kings Subbasin continues its coordinated effort on behalf of the growers, domestic well owners, residents, and businesses within the region. The subbasin continues its regular meeting between representatives from each GSA, a group collectively tackling key priorities to ensure each of the next GSP iterations meets DWR's requirements. DWR's GSP approval was due largely to the group's high level of coordination. The Kings Subbasin will continue coordinating as each of the seven GSAs prepares to submit updated GSPs in January 2025.



 **Don't miss the latest groundwater updates**



Join the email list at www.northkingsgsa.org/email and be the first to know about groundwater news and hear stories from growers in the area.



Strength in Numbers

Kings Subbasin Makes History with Record 2023 Groundwater Recharge

Following a multi-year drought, the Kings River ended the 2023 Water Year (October 2022 – September 2023) with a record-shattering 4.5 million acre-feet of surface water runoff. Pine Flat flood releases moved water through the river channels and water purveyor headgates for 152 days straight. Kings River water districts, canal companies, and growers within the Kings Subbasin maximized surface water diversions during the action-packed year to recharge roughly 500,000 acre-feet back into the aquifer – enough to fill Millerton Lake.

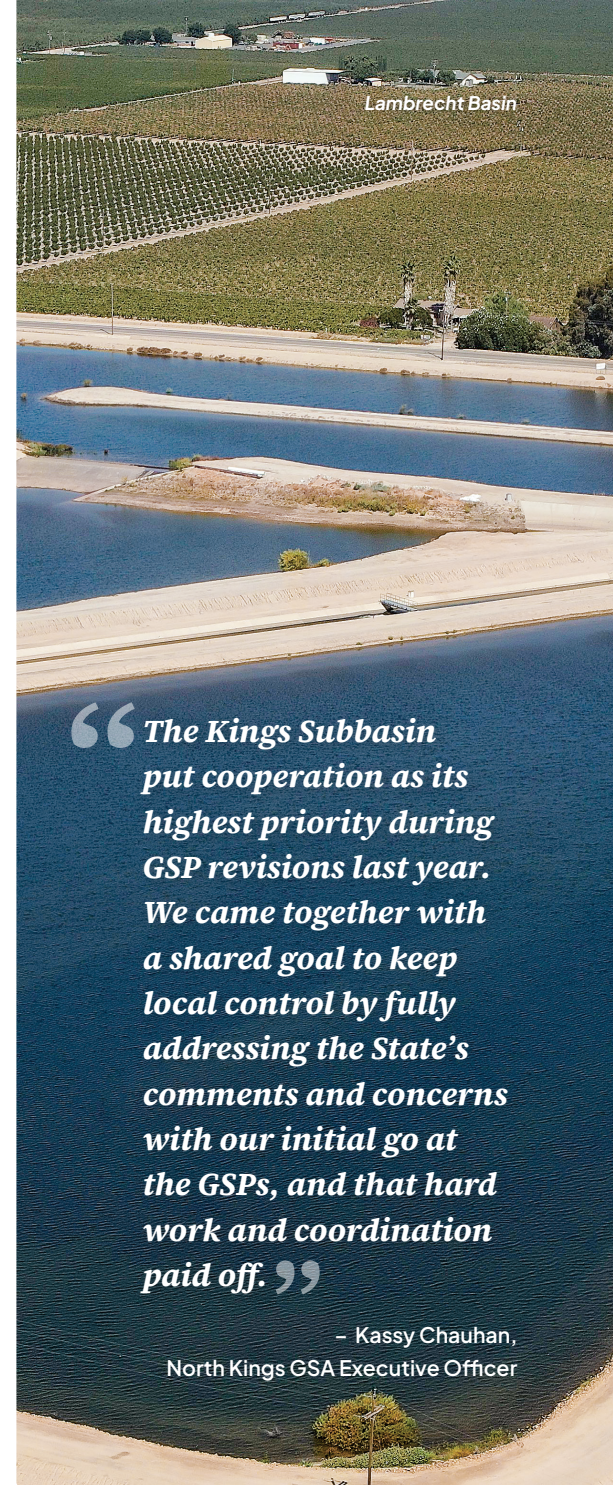
Since submitting their initial GSPs in 2020, the Kings Subbasin GSAs and their members collectively invested in over 1,000 acres of prime groundwater recharge land to construct 25 dedicated recharge basins yielding over 24,500 acre-feet of new recharge capacity annually. These basins are either constructed, in progress, or will be completed over the next several years.

The Kings Subbasin strategy to build recharge basins during the drought paid off with historic recharge numbers recorded in 2023.

A North Kings GSA member agency, FID played a key role in pushing sustainability goals forward through its participation in a significant effort to capture and recharge as much water as possible for groundwater recharge.

FID recharged using a shared network of 139 basins, including 35 of its own spanning 890 acres. The district also partnered with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District to use stormwater and recharge basins within the cities of Fresno and Clovis for flood control and dedicated recharge efforts.

Although dry years are expected to return, the GSPs are in place and designed to address them. While each GSA has its own plan, there are consistencies found among all seven. One of which is the strategy to capture as much surface water as possible during wet years like 2023 to recharge the aquifer and keep pumps turned off, knowing future dry years will mean more dependence on groundwater.



“The Kings Subbasin put cooperation as its highest priority during GSP revisions last year. We came together with a shared goal to keep local control by fully addressing the State’s comments and concerns with our initial go at the GSPs, and that hard work and coordination paid off.”

– Kassy Chauhan,
North Kings GSA Executive Officer

Share Your Story With Us!

North Kings GSA’s Grower’s Corner features growers in the North Kings GSA boundary who discuss their farming operations and approaches to groundwater sustainability. Do you or someone you know want to share? We’d love to tell your story.

Reach out to Kassy Chauhan at kchauhan@fresnoirrigation.com or call (559) 233-7161 ext. 7109.















Field to Fork:

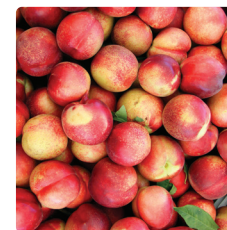
A Look at 2023 Cropping Patterns

Top 10 Crops in FID by acreage planted:

CROP	TOTAL ACREAGE	CHANGE FROM 2022
 Almonds	52,347	+1,430
 Vineyards	32,256	-3,032
 Citrus	14,680	+519
 Vegetables	5,431	-156
 Alfalfa	3,850	+831
 Corn/Silage	3,013	-165
 Pistachios	2,847	+621
 Nectarines/Peaches	2,230	-76
 Walnuts	1,389	+34
 Livestock/Poultry	991	-40



DID YOU KNOW? Fresno Irrigation District encompasses approximately 145,000 irrigated acres of prime agricultural farmland. Both the Central Valley and the nation depend on crops grown within FID's boundaries. With 8,500 active customers, FID ensures growers receive as much water as possible within nature's provision.





“The future of our area depends on FID’s steady commitment to protecting its water rights from beginning to conclusion.”

– Bill Stretch,
FID General Manager

KINGS RIVER WATER FIGHT CONTINUES

Despite Recent Delay in the Fight for Kings River Water, FID Remains Ready to Protect Rights

FID remains prepared to move forward in the fight to protect Kings River water despite recent changes in the Fully Appropriated Stream (FAS) hearing process with the State Board.

The hearing process was set in motion following the filing of petitions with the State Board’s Division of Water Rights concerning rights to Kings River flood waters. In 2017, FID, joined by Consolidated and Alta irrigation districts (also known as the Upper River Units), filed a pre-emptive petition with the State Water Resources Control Board asserting that prior rights of all excess Kings River waters were fully appropriated to the Kings River Water Association (KRWA) but if that determination was overturned, the Upper River Units of the Kings River were first in line to receive any excess water.

This came in anticipation of Semitropic Water Storage District’s own petition filed to the State Board later that year asserting a right to move over one million acre-feet of Kings River water to

Kern County – an attempted water grab to disrupt century old water rights practices on the Kings.

Early hearings held in June and July 2021 (Phase 1A) were to determine whether there was evidence that merited giving notice of a proposed revocation and cease and desist order to the KRWA and its member units regarding the excess waters. This preliminary phase will lead to additional hearing phases, ultimately to determine whether the Kings River’s FAS designation should be revoked or revised. A ruling on the Phase 1A hearings has not yet been issued.

After several years of quiet, the State Board held a Status Conference in January 2024 to decide next steps after determining that the administrative hearing officer who conducted the Phase 1A hearings does not hold the authority to issue a notice of revocation and cease and desist order to KRWA. This determination puts into question the remaining steps of the hearings – initially queued up to go through Phase 1A, Phase 1B, and Phase 2.

“History and real-world examples tell us that this type of fight within the State Board hearing process is not a sprint, it’s a marathon,” states Bill Stretch. “FID remains ready, knowing it will take time and resources to make sure we secure Kings River water for local use and benefit. The future of our area depends on FID’s steady commitment to protecting its water rights from beginning to conclusion.”

Remaining engaged with the 27 other Kings River member units and the State Board is an investment of time and resources – one that FID believes is worthwhile to defend the Kings’ more-than-a-century old water rights that have allowed for the flourishing of agriculture and community growth in the region for generations. As part of assessment increases approved in 2023’s Proposition 218 election, 17 cents of every assessed dollar will be invested in the current and potential water rights threats that come upon FID.



Digging in the Dirt: More Room for Recharge

The Kenneson-Sanchez Basin began construction in 2023. This site is part of FID's plan to develop its nearly 400 acres of newly acquired land into 10 dedicated recharge basins. The new 47-acre basin, located near Clinton and Modoc Avenues, is anticipated to have a storage capacity of up to about 160 acre-feet and will provide an estimated 960 acre-feet of annual recharge benefit.

KENNESON BASIN FUNDING

- DWR Prop 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant: \$1.6 Million
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services Grant : \$873,000
- FID Cost Share (including land purchase) : \$6.5 Million

The Bottom Line:

A Look at FID's Financial Stewardship

→ Revenue

Assessments, project contributions, water sales, investment income, power revenue, service charges, and grant funds made up a total revenue of \$18,412,024.00 for 2023. Assessments made up 66% of the total, while project contributions and investment income each made up 12%, water sales made up 4%, grants and power revenue each made up 2%, and service charges made up 1% with the remaining 1% attributed to other revenue sources.

Moving forward, assessments will make up an even greater share of total revenue for direct investment in legal and water rights defense, groundwater sustainability, and surface water infrastructure.

→ Expenses

FID's bank statements reveal the District priorities for 2023 — driven by nature's bounty - flood release management and groundwater recharge. Expenses in 2023 totaled \$24,518,210. Costs include general and administrative expenses, making up 28% of the total, transmission and distribution expenses made up 22%, maintenance fees made up 22%, construction fees which made up 16%, debt-related payments at 5%, water purchase fees at 4%, and finally interest expenses which made up only 3% of the total.

Tenure, Transitions and Strategic Succession

Succession Planning

Succession planning involves strategically developing talent to replace leadership roles and key positions when employees transition to another role or leave the organization. This proactive approach ensures the continuity of business operations, preserves organizational knowledge, and keeps the organization running smoothly with less interruption during staff transitions. Succession planning is a priority at FID, seen in 2023 with the retirement and subsequent succession of one of FID's key team members.

The recent retirement of Executive Administrative Assistant Lynn Rowe brought forth the promotion of Laurie Kiser into the role. As Executive Administrative Assistant, Laurie provides high level administrative support, overseeing office functions.

Additionally, FID has added three roles in the Engineering Department: two engineers, Ben Negley and David Vilcherrez, and one supervising engineer, Felix Vaquilar. The expansion of the Engineering Department assists with workloads and prepares the District for the future.

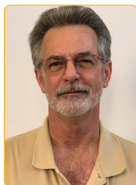


FID's Remarkable Employee Tenure

FID takes great pride in its employee tenure rate. While the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics states that public sector tenure averages around seven years, FID exceeds that number, with an impressive average of over 12 years of service per employee. In total, FID employees have accumulated 1,127 years of combined service! The District appreciates the unique talents of all our employees and relies on the valuable knowledge of our most tenured staff to mentor and guide those with less experience.

FID Congratulates Recent Retirees

In 2023, two valued employees retired from the Fresno Irrigation District.



Keith Patillo,
Water System Operator

Congratulations, Keith, on 22 years of hard work and dedication at FID.



Lynn Rowe,
Executive Assistant

Thank you, Lynn, for your dedication to FID and serving with excellence for 19 years!

Notable Longevity





FID Headgate.

FID EMPLOYEES

By the Numbers

93 90 full-time, 3 part-time

15 administration

10 engineering

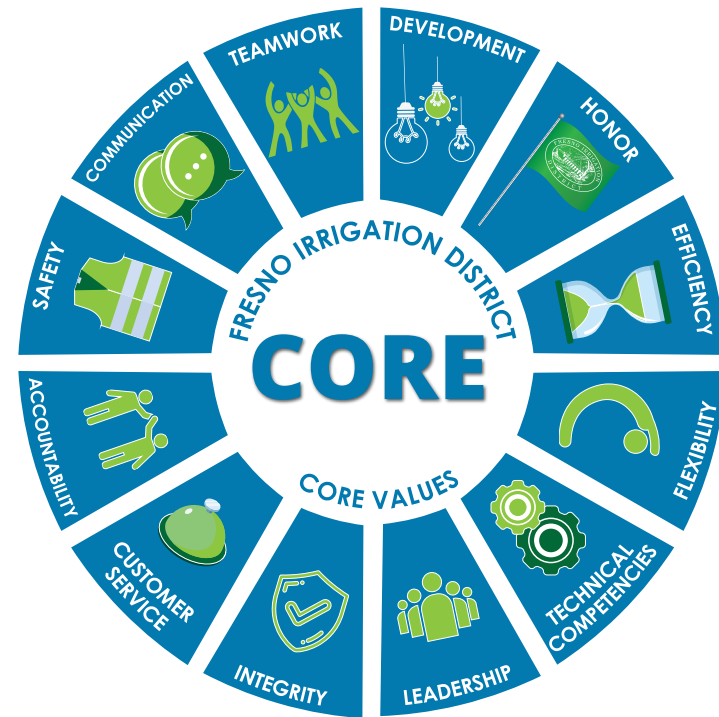
5 vehicle & equipment maintenance

29 construction & maintenance

34 water

FID'S CORE Values:

Cultivating Excellence Among Employees

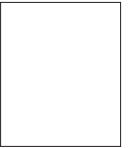


CORE is the representation of FID's core values. These values are the essence of FID, guiding day-to-day operations and behaviors. The CORE framework and subsequent training modules were developed in-house based on direct input from District employees and is tailored to reflect the specific expectations and needs of FID, its employees, and our constituents.

2023 generated CORE Cues: three-to-five-minute videos summarizing FID's 12 core values. CORE Cues are easily accessible reminders which reinforce the significance of our core values and were created to be accessible from either desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Also, CORE I sessions were memorialized in video format to ensure consistent communication for future employees.

Looking ahead, FID is actively designing and building CORE Cubed. The focus of CORE Cubed is the development of potential future leaders. Additionally, FID is crafting supplemental materials to echo aspects of CORE and keep CORE at top of mind.


The District's dedication and emphasis on its core values reflects a commitment to cultivate, strengthen and produce the overall enhancement of a positive customer experience, both internally and externally.




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