



WATER NOTES

BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT NEWS AND EVENTS

January 2016

RD 108 Provides Waterfowl Habitat

RD 108 continues to provide great habitat to waterfowl as shown in the photographs below. In November and December of 2015 the District was able to flood a total of 8,035 acres to provide food and habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds during a critical time in the Sacramento Valley. The District was able to apply water under three different programs: 2,674 acres flooded under our USBR Sacramento River Settlement contract, 2,625 acres flooded of riparian lands, and 2,736 acres flooded under our junior water right when Term 91 was removed in mid-December. The different programs allowed water to be applied at different times throughout the last 2 months providing a continuous source of food and habitat during the migration season.



Waterfowl over Rice Fields at Dusk
Photograph by Steve Beckley

Memory of Trustee Mike Miller

RD 108 honors the memory of MIKE MILLER who passed away on December 27, 2015, and recognizes his devoted service to this District and its landowners and Water Users. Mike Miller served faithfully as a Trustee of RD 108 from December 12, 2001 to his passing, having made valuable contributions of his time and counsel to the District's continued success. Trustee Miller's dedication to, and love for, family, farming, this District and his many friends was so evident in his life, and his dedication and love will be a lasting memory to all who knew him.



Mike Miller, RD 108 Trustee

Colusa-Sutter Transmission Power Line

SMUD is proposing a new 500 KV Transmission Power Line that may go through a portion of RD 108. The map below shows the lands that may be impacted by the power line. Public Scoping Meetings for the project are scheduled for: February 2, 2016 at 4-7pm at the Arbuckle Fire Hall, and February 4, 2016 at 6-9pm at the Central Gaither School Cafeteria in Yuba City. If you are not able to attend one of the meetings, please visit the projects website www.cosuline.com to learn more about the project and to submit a public comment on the scope of the environmental analysis.



2016 RD 108 Water Rates

As part of the 2009 Water Conservation Act (SBX7-7), RD 108 has to change the way it bills its Water Users for services. The District must bill in part by volume of water delivered. State law requires the District to follow specific rules for changing water rates, as described in Proposition 218. Therefore, RD 108 will be mailing out a memorandum that will explain the justification for the change, how water service will be billed, and the new rate. Proposition 218 rules allow Landowners to protest the change, and if over 50% of the vote protest, the new rate cannot be implemented. Landowners in RD 108 are entitled to one vote for each acre owned within the District.

The proposed new water rates will have three components: acreage, crop, and measured deliveries. As part of the District's proposed rate changes and flow measurement program, the billing system is also changing. ***RD 108 is encouraging Water Users to inform the District of their planned irrigated cropping pattern and any cropping changes ASAP, to setup the billing software and to be able to correctly and efficiently bill Water Users.***

Since the proposed water rates will be partially based on volume, all water deliveries must be made through a District approved water measurement device. RD 108 worked diligently and has completed the installation of flow measurement devices at all known turnouts within the District before the 2016 irrigation season. However, if you plan on using a temporary turnout or pumping from a ditch, please contact the District as soon as possible to make sure an approved meter is installed. The District will not deliver water unless there is a District approved water measurement device starting this year.



Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

RD 108 continues to work with other local water agencies and the two counties to work towards forming an official Groundwater Sustainability Agency. On January 11, 2016, Colusa County held a public meeting to discuss groundwater to inform all groundwater pumpers of the implication of the new law and what to expect in the next few years. The Yolo County Water Resources Association and the Yolo County Farm Bureau are in the process of teaming up to coordinate a similar effort in Yolo County. An official GSA structure has to be formed by June 30, 2017 for the basin to not be designated as probationary and the possibility of State intervention.



RD 108 Maintenance Activities

RD 108 would like to thank Staff for continuing to operate and maintain the District in efficient and effective manner. Below are photographs of RD 108 employees hard at work. Keep up the good work!



IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 21.....Reclamation District No. 108 Board Meeting
- January 26.....Colusa County Board of Superintendents Meeting (**Decision on Continuing the Groundwater Permit Curtailment**)
- February 18.....Reclamation District No. 108 Board Meeting