

THE BBID BULLETIN



BYRON-BETHANY IRRIGATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



ACWA President Kathleen Tiegs, left, BBID GM Rick Gilmore, center, and BBID Board President Russell Kagehiro, right, pose after the award ceremony.

BBID HONORED WITH STATEWIDE WATER LEADERSHIP AWARD

In recognition of its victorious, high-stakes stand to protect some of the oldest water rights in California, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID) was honored Wednesday with the 2017 ACWA (Association of California Water Agencies) Excellence in Water Leadership Award.

According to ACWA, the prestigious annual award recognizes those who make a “remarkable and visible contribution to the enhancement, protection or development of water resources in California.” The award was presented at ACWA’s Spring Conference in Monterey to BBID GM Rick Gilmore, and BBID Board President Russell Kagehiro, who accepted on behalf of BBID’s Board of Directors.

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“On behalf of the entire District, we extend our deepest appreciation to ACWA for this incredible recognition,” Kagehiro said. “Our fight was not only for BBID, but for districts statewide, whose water rights provide the backbone of the communities we collectively serve.”

“Providing reliable water is the essence of our mission,” Gilmore said. “Though it wasn’t easy, we had no choice but to take the lead, navigating extreme regulatory uncertainty to defend the water supply that is rightfully ours.”

Amidst harsh drought in 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) issued unprecedented curtailments, and subsequently accused BBID of taking water when none was available, threatening a \$5-plus million fine. BBID’s legal team fought back to preserve the District’s pre-1914 water rights, disproving the state’s arguments. The SWRCB eventually dismissed the case, securing a victory that would resonate throughout California’s water community.

“Byron-Bethany’s district staff and elected officials understood what was at stake for their community,” said ACWA President Kathleen Tiegs. “Their foresight, leadership and ability to build consensus in the face of extreme challenge kept water flowing for the residents, farmers, agricultural workers and families in their multi-county service area.”

BBID was nominated for the Excellence in Water Leadership Award by the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA),

FILM ROOM: BBID WINS ACWA LEADERSHIP AWARD



Click here to watch the District's award presentation, and watch BBID thank its supporters, or use your phone to scan the QR Code to the right!



a collective of water agencies representing more than 2 million acres of 29 federal and exchange water service contractors.

“California is blessed to have thousands of dedicated water leaders who make our incredible water management system work so well,” said SLDMWA Executive Director Jason Peltier. “When leadership shines through most clearly is in a time of crisis, and Rick and his Board earned this award by leaning forward into the regulatory machine that now controls so much of our system. It took guts and commitment to secure justice. They did it.”

“[BBID's] foresight, leadership and ability to build consensus in the face of extreme challenge kept water flowing for the residents, farmers, agricultural workers and families in their multi-county service area.”

KATHLEEN TIEGS, ACWA PRESIDENT



Demonstrating BBID's deep connection to its community, numerous Letters of support were submitted on BBID's behalf, including one from Gay Costa of the Mountain House School District.

"Mr. Gilmore, the BBID Board, and their staff went into the hearings with the weight of our farmers, ranchers' community and this school on their shoulders," Costa wrote. "The students witnessed a pillar of their community stand up for their right to carry on their family business and continue a culture deep in tradition and pride."

Farmer Mike Sandhu also wrote in support of the District, "Without BBID's stand, growers could have been stripped of our livelihoods and driven off our land that, for some of us, goes back generations. Their commitment secured our children's futures. We have the water we need today – and tomorrow – thanks to BBID."

Another letter was submitted by former BBID counsel and current in-house counsel for Placer County Water Agency, Dan Kelly.

"While, in certain circles, BBID's decision to challenge the SWRCB's curtailments was not popular – it was the courageous thing to do," Kelly wrote. "Leaders are not people who simply fall in line. Leaders are people who make hard decisions; often unpopular, to achieve the right and just result. Rick Gilmore and the BBID Board of Directors did just that."

As part of the Excellence in Water Leadership Award, BBID will be privileged to present a \$5,000 charitable donation to a non-profit organization of their choosing that works toward the enhancement and protection of California's water resources.



PAST AWARD WINNERS

2016: Mary Henrici, GM, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District

2015: David Orth, GM (Retired), Kings Conservation District

2014: Paul Jones II, GM, Eastern Municipal Water District

2013: John Rossi, GM, Western Municipal Water District; Marsi Steirer, City of San Diego



CAPITOL CORNER: ASSEMBLY PASSES BBID-BACKED FAIR WATER RIGHTS BILL

On Tuesday, May 30th, the California State Assembly overwhelmingly passed a major water bill backed by Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID). Assembly Bill 313, introduced earlier this year by Assemblyman Adam Gray (D-Merced) to reestablish balance and fairness for California's water rights holders, was passed with a 64-4 vote. BBID provided technical support in crafting the bill, which makes significant repairs to California's broken water management structure.



BBID GM Rick Gilmore, left, and BBID Board President Russell Kagehiro, right.

“Assemblyman Gray’s visionary leadership brought this critical, statewide issue to the forefront - and today’s decisive action signals that lawmakers agree it’s time to fix our broken system,”

**RICK GILMORE,
BBID GENERAL MANAGER**

“Assemblyman Gray’s visionary leadership brought this critical, statewide issue to the forefront – and today’s decisive action signals that lawmakers agree it’s time to fix our broken system,” said BBID GM Rick Gilmore. “State agencies shouldn’t have unchecked power and little accountability, preventing water rights holders from being treated with the foundational fairness our justice system promises one and all. AB 313 balances the scales.”

The bill establishes a new water rights management structure, creating a new Water Rights Division in the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) to handle all water rights matters. Currently, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) exercises near-comprehensive control over California’s water rights. The SWRCB writes regulations, initiates enforcement actions, and conducts hearings in its own courtroom in which Board staff act as the prosecution and Board members act as judge and jury.



Asm. Adam Gray (D-Merced) represents the 21st CA Assembly District.

AB 313: THE TIMELINE

**FEBRUARY 6TH, 2017:
BILL INTRODUCED**

**APRIL 25TH, 2017: AB 313
PASSES ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE
ON WATER, PARKS
AND WILDLIFE**

**MAY 26TH, 2017: AB 313 PASSES
ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE**

**MAY 30TH, 2017: ASSEMBLY
PASSES AB 313**

“As BBID itself has experienced, that structure’s built-in conflicts of interest and biases result in an unfair process,” Gilmore said.

Under AB 313, all quasi-adjudicative matters involving water rights would be decided upon by administrative law judges in the new Water Rights Division, which would conduct hearings neutrally. The bill ensures all hearings regarding the issuance of administrative civil liability (ACL) and cease-and-desist orders (CDO) involving water rights are to be held in the new Water Rights Division, rather than the SWRCB. This productive transfer of power eliminates any potential duplicative efforts for any similar hearings and responsibility to fall under the SWRCB.

This is a big step in the right direction for California water,” said BBID Board President Russell Kagehiro. “Should this bill become law, communities across the state will have a more secure water supply.”

Prior to Tuesday’s vote, AB 313 previously passed out of the Assembly policy and fiscal committees without a single “no” vote. The bill now heads to the Senate, where it will be considered in the coming weeks.

“This is a big step in the right direction for California water,” said BBID Board President Russell Kagehiro. “Should this bill become law, communities across the state will have a more secure water supply.”

**READ MORE ABOUT
AB 313 HERE**



PIPELINE FIX PREVENTS SERVICE INTERRUPTION

Fast-acting BBID staff mobilized to put a temporary fix in place, ensuring the District's customers will continue to receive normal water deliveries while pipeline repairs are made.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, part of the pipeline serving the District's Bethany Division failed. Staff worked around the clock, swiftly installing bypass pumps specifically to serve those customers, keeping the water flowing and preventing any service interruptions during the growing season.

Meanwhile, the District is hard at work on fixing the original pipeline, sourcing new materials to make the necessary repairs and replacements. A forensic analysis will be conducted to determine the cause of the failure of the cement mortar steel pipe.

In the meantime, the temporary bypass pumps will be in place until permanent repairs are made.



FILM ROOM: PIPELINE FIX

See the pipeline fix in action from the air, with BBID's state-of-the-art drone.



To watch, [click here](#) or use your phone to scan the QR Code on the right!



FARMERS RECEIVE FULL WATER SUPPLY



For the first time in more than a decade, growers and ranchers in BBID's Central Valley Project (CVP) service area will enjoy a full water supply. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) announced a south-of-Delta 100% CVP allocation in April, in the wake of a near-record winter that has reservoirs full and Sierra runoff in full swing. Initially, the USBR had announced a 65% allocation before increasing it to 100% amidst widespread criticism.

The USBR's announcement also means a reduction in pass-through rates for BBID's CVP customers. The reduction is retroactive to March 1st.



BUILDING A BETTER BBID

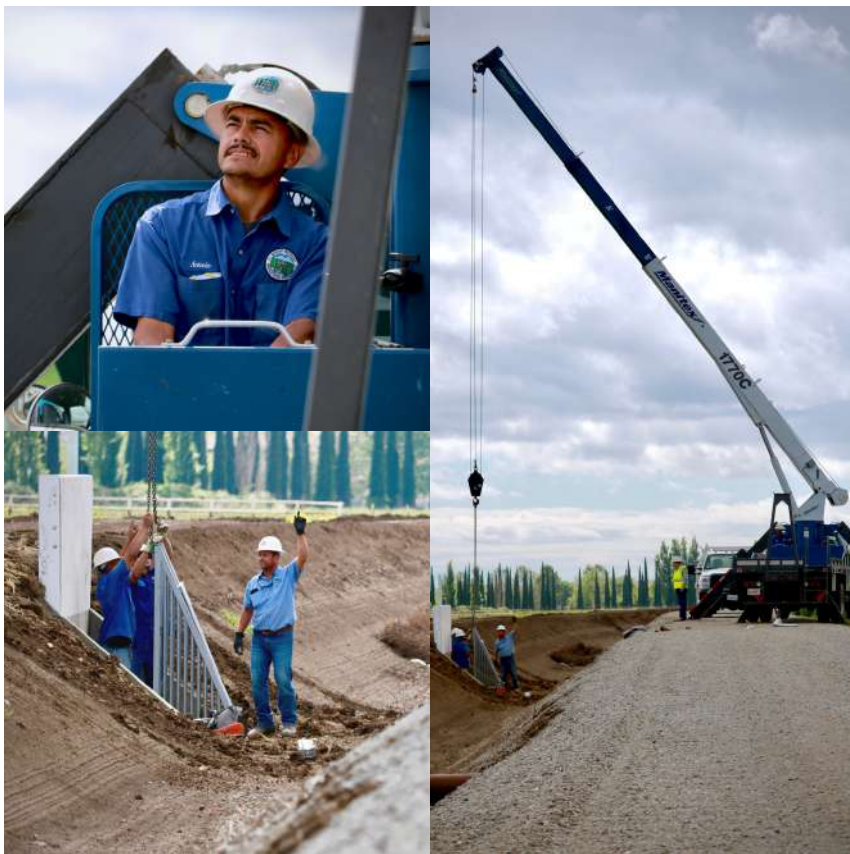


BBID WATER DELIVERIES IMPROVED

Investing in critical infrastructure is one important way BBID ensures its growers receive reliable water.

District staff are replacing Canal 120 farm gates, installing a new headwall and new flow meters, which will improve water deliveries and ensure accurate water data accounting.

The Canal 120 project is part of BBID's larger Capitol Improvement Project plan to keep District infrastructure functioning at peak efficiency.



BBID staff work on the Canal 120 Project in mid-April.

PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

BBID & WSID Consolidation

As part of the ongoing consolidation process of BBID and West Side Irrigation District, BBID has assumed management of WSID maintenance and enhancement projects, administered by WSID and BBID personnel.

Canal 45 Radial Gate Replacement

In a major investment that will serve many BBID customers, staff are working to replace the Canal 45 radial gate. Over the winter, staff already installed bypass re-pipe. The \$1-million project located off of Hoffman Lane will improve the efficiency of water deliveries.



FILM ROOM: CH2M HILL FEATURES BBID VIDEO

BBID's global engineering firm, CH2M Hill, is showcasing a District-produced video on its social media platforms. The video features CH2M's Jeremy Borchardt training BBID staff at Pumping Plant Three.

To watch, click here or use your phone to scan the QR Code on the right!



Russell Kagehiro
President
Division V

Tim Maggiore
Vice President
Division III

Larry Enos, Jr.
Director
Division I

Mark Maggiore
Director
Division II

Felix Musco
Director
Division IV

Charles Tuso
Director
Division VI

Jeff Brown
Director
Division VII

Rick Gilmore
General Manager
Secretary

ABOUT BYRON-BETHANY IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Byron-Bethany Irrigation District (BBID) is a multi-county special district serving parts of Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Joaquin Counties across 47 square miles and 30,000 acres.

The district serves 160 agricultural customers and approximately 12,000 residents of the Mountain House community. For additional media information, contact Nick Janes at 630.915.6493, or via email at n.janes@bbid.org.