



Jen Spaletta Receives Watershed Stewardship Award

Congratulations to Jennifer Spaletta, 2024 recipient of the Lower Mokelumne River Partnership’s Frank R. Beeler Watershed Stewardship Award for her exceptional contributions to the Mokelumne River watershed. Spaletta helped the District develop and implement a strategy to fund the repair of and improvements to the District’s agricultural water distribution system, including securing over \$12 million in funding for projects to achieve groundwater sustainability. Thank you, Jen!

SWEEP Block Grant Pilot Program Fully Subscribed District expected to award \$2.1 in SWEEP funds to landowners

The District expects to award approximately \$2.1 million from the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program’s Block Grant Pilot Program to up to ten landowners in the District’s basin. Landowners will receive up to \$200,000 to install energy- and water- efficient irrigation improvements, which will support the District’s in-lieu groundwater recharge efforts and help maintain local control of groundwater management. All but \$70,000 will fund surface water conversion projects. The District partnered with Stockton East Water District and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District to apply for State funding to support this effort.



Landowner Spotlight: John Lakso

John Lakso is an unstoppable force!

At 89 years old, Mr. Lakso continues to run his farm with remarkable energy, including helping with District operations. John, Dolly, and the rest of the Lakso family support the District’s efforts to promote groundwater sustainability, most recently by entering into a 10-year lease on 80 acres of the Lakso property for a long-term groundwater recharge project. Thank you to the Lakso family for your leadership as local landowners.



District Continues Surface Water Irrigation System Improvements

South System Improvements On Time and Under Budget

Phases 1 and 2 largely complete, Phase 3 on target for completion in early 2025



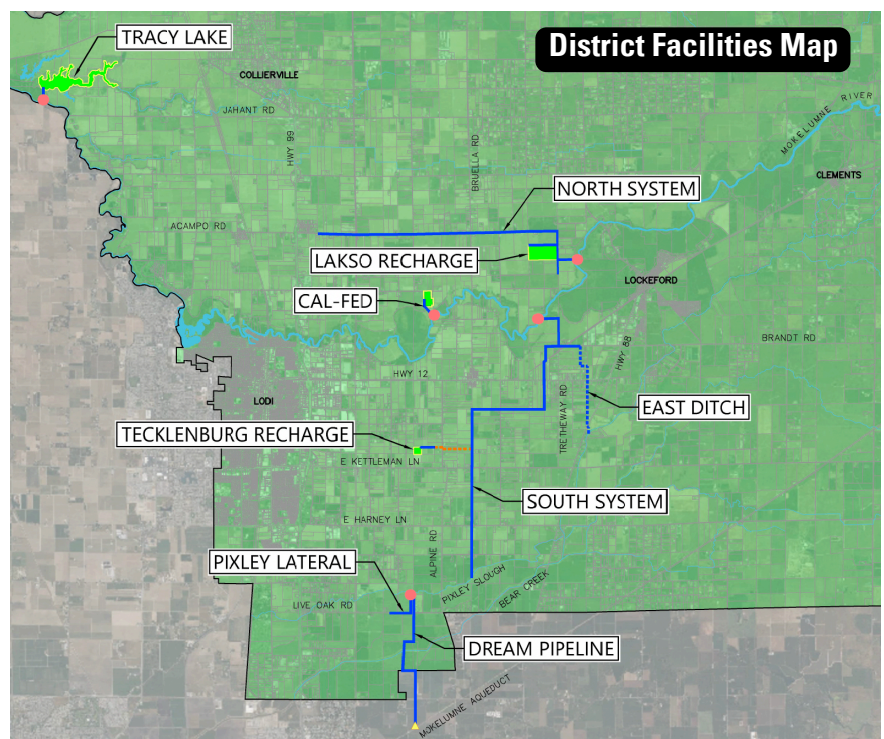
Phase 3 construction

In mid-2024, the District launched Phase 3 of the South System Improvement Project, which includes rebuilding the South System line from Harney Lane to a half mile north of Kettleman Lane. The Project will eventually rebuild the lateral serving the Tecklenburg Basin, doubling the size. The District began constructing approximately 7,460 ft of 48” pipe, two automated control structures, approximately 3,000 ft of 24” pipe, and the Tecklenburg Basin and associated recharge facilities. In 2025, the District will install a second pump with 20 cfs capacity at the South Pump Station which adds to the existing 10-13 cfs capacity pump. In 2022, the District secured a \$2.89 million Integrated Regional Water Management grant to cover a significant portion of the \$3.5 million cost of Phase 3. The District is funding the remaining project costs with the District’s groundwater charge revenue, improvement district revenue, and General Fund. Project bids came in \$1.5 million less than the District Engineer’s estimate, resulting in less reliance on groundwater charge revenue.

North System Modernization Phase 1B complete

This year, the District completed Phase 1B of the North System Improvement Project with a \$4 million grant from the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Program. The North System’s pipeline runs between the Mokelumne River and Highway 99 on Acampo Road.

The District installed a temporary pump station in 2023 to replace the existing defunct pump station and rehabilitated the steel pipeline on Tretheway Road. In 2024, the District replaced the first segment of the Acampo Road pipeline with new 42” pipe one half mile to the west of Tretheway Road. The District also received a \$300,000 Flood Diversion and Recharge Enhancement grant from the Department of Water Resources to double the pumping capacity of the North System’s temporary pump station from 3,500 to 7,000 gpm. The District also started design of Phase 2, which involves a permanent pump station.

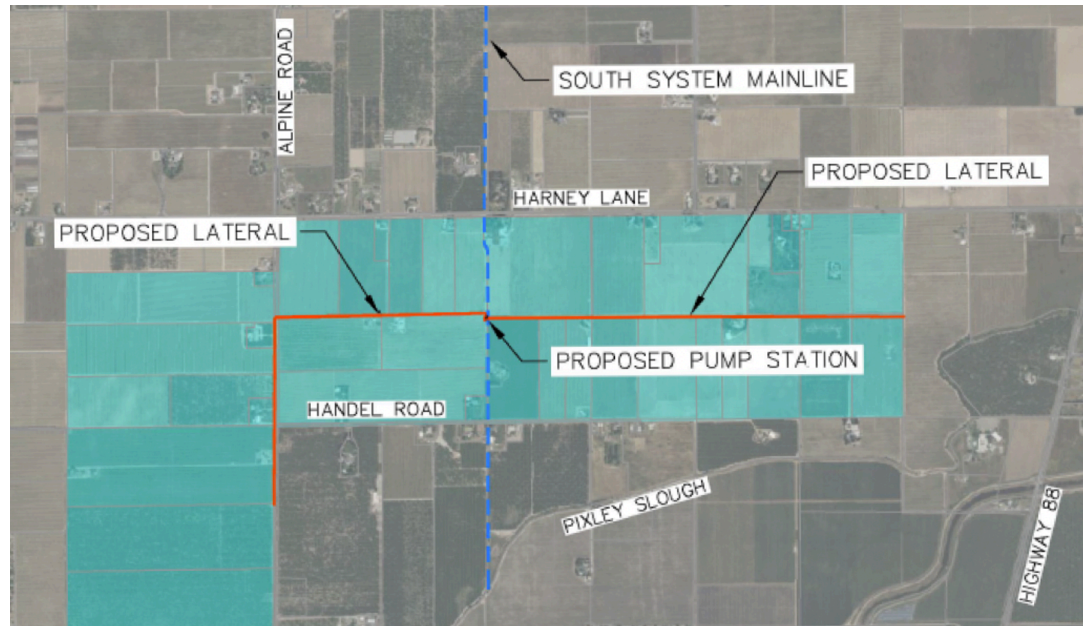


Calling All Landowners Along the Handel Lateral!



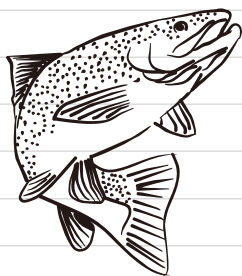
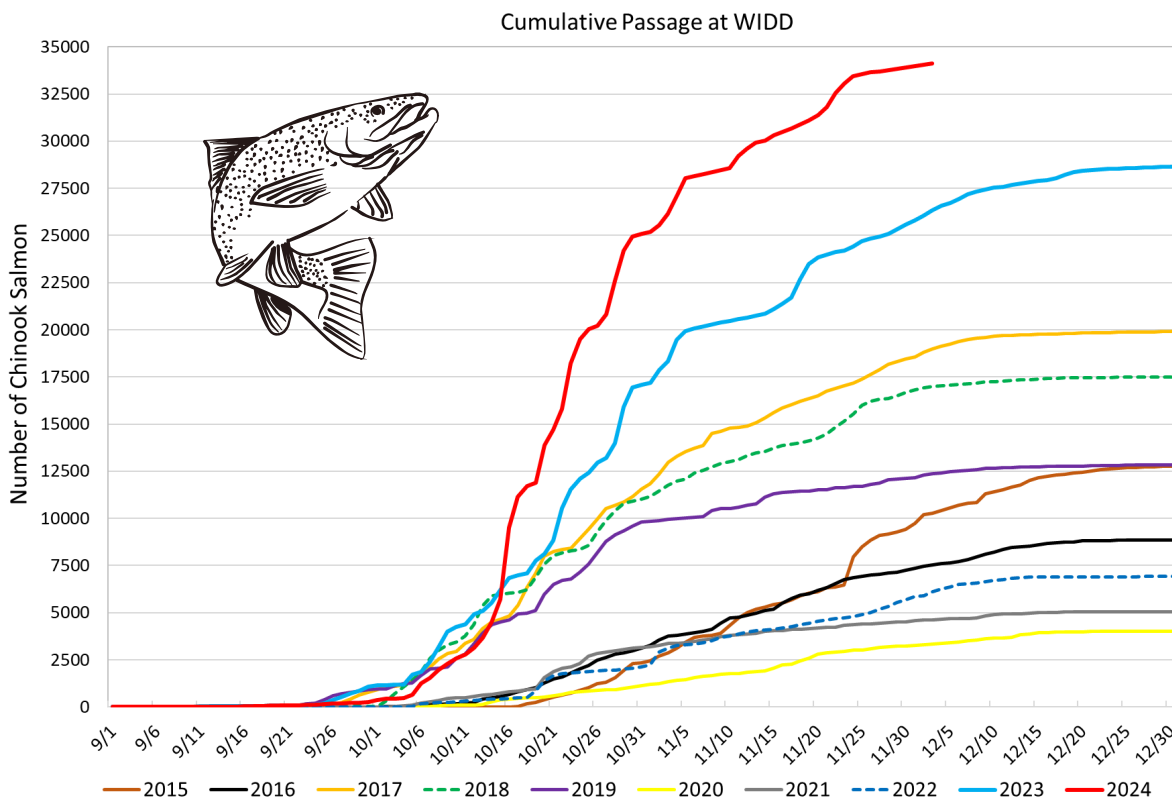
Join your neighbors and sign up for surface water!

The District is constructing the Handel Lateral and is seeking more landowners to sign up for surface water and participate in an improvement district. Landowners who join the district will pay a ten-year assessment but receive discounted water and a 50% discount on annual groundwater charges as incentives to use surface water. The Handel Lateral is a new lateral off the main South System pipeline running parallel to and north of Handel Road with capacity to service 1,000 acres with pressurized irrigation water and provide low-pressure flood flows for recharge purposes. If you want to learn more, please email the District General Manager.



Mokelumne River Fishery Update

East Bay Municipal Utility District reports record salmon passage for the Mokelumne River for second year in a row – the largest salmon return on the Mokelumne since record keeping began in 1940!



Questions?

Steve Schwabauer
General Manager
steve@nsjwcd.com

Shasta Burns
District Secretary
shasta@nsjwcd.com

Winter 2025

North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
PO Box E
Victor, CA 95253

Join our Board Meetings!

www.nsjwcd.com

WHEN: 2 pm, usually the last Monday of the month

WHERE: Lodi Grapes Festival grounds, Barrel Room



**NORTH SAN JOAQUIN
WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
Winter 2025 Newsletter

SAVE THE DATE!

**District Town Hall on
Wednesday, February 26th**

Join the North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (District) at the Lodi District Grape Growers Association Water Forum on February 26th. The District's Town Hall will take place at the *end* of the Water Forum, from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Come to the Town Hall to learn about the District's water year report, Strategic Plan progress, and landowner opportunities. Lunch will be provided.



Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Lodi District Grape Growers Association Water Forum: 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM
District Town Hall (last hour of Water Forum): 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Jackson Hall at the Lodi Grape Festival and Event Center
143 E Lockeford St
Lodi, CA 95240