

# WATER NOTES

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT NEWS AND EVENTS

November 2015

## Knights Landing Outfall Gates Fish Barrier Commemoration

On October 22, 2015 local, state, and federal agencies gathered to commemorate the anticipated completion of the \$2.5M Knights Landing Outfall Gates (KLOG) Fish Barrier project.

In certain conditions, the Colusa Basin Drain flows entering the Sacramento River can attract adult salmon migrating upstream. The KLOG Fish Barrier is designed to prevent straying of these salmon into the Colusa Basin Drain. As a result the salmon continue to swim up the Sacramento River ultimately reaching their spawning grounds near Redding.



**Pablo Arroyave USBR, comments on the KLOG Fish Barrier**

(Background L-R: Chuck Bonham CDFW, David Guy NCWA, Mark Cowin CDWR, Fritz Durst RD 108)

*Photograph by Steve Beckley*

### Knights Landing Outfall Gates Fish Barrier

Designed to Prevent Straying of Adult Salmon from the Sacramento River

ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE:  
November 30, 2015

PARTNERS



RD 108 lead the project by completing the planning, design, and permitting, while other local, state, and federal agencies provided the \$2.1M of construction costs. The main sponsors of the project include: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the California Department of Water Resources, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. With broad support including all government and permitting agencies the project was completed from “concept to

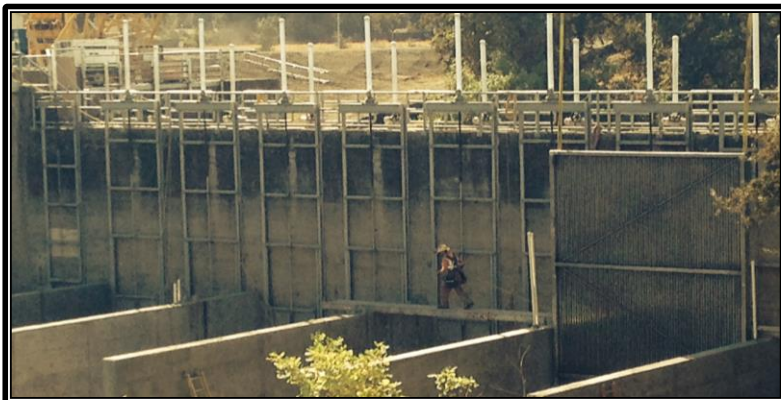
concrete” in less than a year, a lightning fast pace compared with many infrastructure projects.

*"We recognize that without having improvement in the fish numbers that there will be a stressor on our water supply," says Fritz Durst, RD 108 board president. "So we need to see the fish numbers rise in order to correct that."*

This is the second of several projects to be completed by local water purveyors as part of the Sacramento Valley Salmon Recovery Program. RD 108 plans to continue the momentum for the next salmon project by leading another project planned for construction next year. The District’s Board of Trustee’s approved being the lead for the Wallace Weir Project, which will stop salmon from entering the Colusa Basin Drain from the Yolo Bypass.

### Salmon Project 2: Wallace Weir

RD 108 has elected to lead the effort to improve the Wallace Weir to prevent upstream migration of straying adult salmonids and sturgeon into the last remaining entrance to the Colusa Basin Drain. In addition, the Project would improve operational reliability for managing water supply for agriculture and wetlands habitat.



**Installing the First Fish Barrier at KLOG**



**Wallace Weir during the summer (left) and winter (right)**

## Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

The Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA) is the new groundwater legislation that went into effect January 1, 2015. This law gives eligible local agencies authority to manage groundwater locally, with State oversight. The act requires the formation of local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) that must assess conditions in their local water basins and adopt locally-based management plans. The act provides substantial time (20 years) for GSAs to implement plans and achieve long-term groundwater sustainability. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act provides local GSAs with tools and authority to:

- Require registration of groundwater wells,
- Measure and manage extractions, and
- Require reports and assess fees.

The first important date for RD 108's water users is June 30, 2017, when a single local GSA has to be formed or multiple GSAs formed with coordinated agreements to manage the entire Colusa Basin. If no agency is elected to serve as GSA or if there is no coordination between GSA agencies, the entire Colusa Basin will be designated as probationary. The State Water Board may intervene in probationary basins and will collect fees and require groundwater extraction reporting.



At RD 108's September board meeting, the Board of Trustees elected to become the GSA for the RD 108 Service area. In addition, eleven other local agencies have filed to be the GSA for their service areas within the Colusa Basin. The boundaries of several of the local agencies overlap, which is not allowed under the law. In coordination with the Department of Water Resources, a facilitation service has been hired to help the local agencies work through the challenge of selecting a governance structure for the local GSAs to manage the entire Colusa Basin. RD 108 is confident that the local agencies will work together to form an official GSA structure that represents all local agencies before the June 30, 2017 deadline.

The next important date for RD 108's water users is January 31, 2022, when the Colusa Basin GSA must adopt their groundwater sustainability plan. The GSPs have a minimum of 38 components, which includes a water balance for the entire basin. The water balance is an important part of the sustainability of our groundwater, and will let us know if changes need to be made for the basin to become sustainable. RD 108 believes the Sacramento Valley is fortunate to have enough existing water supplies and water supply augmentation options to meet all of its demands. RD 108 believes Sites Reservoir may play an important part of the groundwater sustainability of the Colusa Basin by providing water to areas with current and future growth.

### USBR Allows RD 108 to Divert Water in November for Habitat

In coordination with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Waterfowl Association, California Waterfowl Association, the Nature Conservancy, and Ducks Unlimited, RD 108 has been approved for a program to divert up to 2,843 AF of water from November 1, through December 10, 2015 to be used for a combination of rice decomposition and habitat lands. The program will provide food and habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds during a critical time in the Sacramento Valley.



### RD 108 Nominations to NCWA's Water Leaders Program

RD 108 has nominated 6 individuals to participate in the Northern California Water Association's Water Leaders Program. The objective of the program is to inspire and cultivate the next generation of water leaders in the Sacramento Valley.

The individuals, nominated to participate in the six month program are: Deke Dormer, Kim Gallagher, Rob Meyer, Todd Miller, Hillary Reinhard, and Derick Strain.



#### IMPORTANT DATES:

- November 18**.....Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District Board Meeting
- November 19**.....Reclamation District No. 108 Board Meeting