



March 29, 2018

Dear North Yuba Water District (NYWD) Irrigation Customer,

On March 28th, the group *North Yuba Grown* hosted their third annual community forum exclusively for NYWD irrigation customers. I gave an overview of how our water system works, discussed this year's irrigation season, and all five of your NYWD Directors were on hand to answer questions.

For those who could not attend, in a nutshell, even though we've had a few storms recently, we do not have the capacity or the means to deliver an irrigation season to irrigation customers this year. Here's why:

- NYWD's main conveyance system is The Forbestown Ditch, which can hold a maximum of 22 CFS (cubic feet per second.) It is an open ditch and loses an average of 35% of its water along the 10 miles, due to seepage.
- In 2005, the NYWD Board of Directors passed a new contract, that took effect in 2010, dramatically changing how the 22 CFS is allotted in the Forbestown Ditch.
- Prior to 2010, South Feather Water and Power (SFWPA) was contractually owed 11 CFS at the *head* of the Forbestown Ditch and they were responsible for the seepage and water lost along the way. This arrangement left about 4 CFS (out of 22 CFS) that NYWD diverted for irrigation purposes. When Mother Nature was good, it combined with water from Dry Creek to provide a full irrigation season most years.
- After 2010, under the new agreement, NYWD now owes SFWPA 11 CFS at the *bottom* of the Ditch and NYWD is accountable for all the water loss along the way, leaving virtually no water to divert for irrigation purposes.
- Last year Mother Nature gave us enough that the irrigation season could naturally occur, not this year.

The question was asked, why not start the irrigation system and run it as long as Mother Nature holds out, because some customers might get through June? Our answer is that we've tried this partial delivery in the past, and when the water supply is marginal the customers along, and specifically at the end of, Irrigation Ditch's "02" and "03" don't receive their anticipated amount creating bad will between the customers and the District. Our goal is to treat our customers equitably and fairly and provide a reliable level of service during years we can provide irrigation water.

We must work to pipe the Forbestown Ditch so we can regain the 35% of our water lost to seepage. I'm happy to announce this is not just a pipe-dream anymore! We obtained a \$500,000 engineering grant last year and we hope to follow this with an \$8 Million to \$14 Million partial construction grant next year. If all goes well, we have set our sights to be piped by 2021. The Board and the staff need your support in the coming years to accomplish this goal.

In the meantime, NYWD invested in an excavator to desilt and shape the irrigation ditch for maximum capacity and reliable delivery. We also equipped it with a flail mower to remove debris & vegetation. Using this equipment in conjunction with work crews to groom the ditches we hope to avoid the use of harsh chemicals as much as possible. In addition, last year, we identified about a dozen spots on the Irrigation Ditches with the worst seepage. The Board has approved the funds to pipe these hot-spots this year, so that if Mother Nature gives us a good year again, we can stretch supply a little further.

I'm always willing to discuss the details further with you, call me at (530) 675-2567.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Maupin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeff Maupin – NYWD General Manager