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WATER 2025 CHALLENGE GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner John Keys III of Washington DC recently presented Roza Irrigation District and Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District with \$300,000 each in the form of a matching grant through the Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program. The federal grants were announced during a ceremony held at Sarg Hubbard Park in Yakima on August 22nd. The grants represent the second round of the federal program which began last year. There were approximately 120 funding requests submitted this year with 43 recipients of the grants, including Roza and SVID. There will be a total of \$10 million awarded this year to the recipients in comparison to \$4.5 million awarded last year. Roza board members Rick Valicoff, Mike Miller, Larry Haak, Dave Minick, and Jim Willard were present to accept the replica check for their district. Directors Bob Golob and John Newhouse represented Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District. The Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program is a federally funded program that works to facilitate a cooperative focus on water short areas in the western portion of the United States. This program works with regional, tribal and local economies to increase or stretch water supplies to satisfy the demands of growing populations by providing a balanced and practical approach to water management. Water 2025 is intended to focus attention on water conservation and resource monitoring to allow existing water supplies to be used more effectively. The Bureau of Reclamation is providing grants for the modernization and maintenance of existing water facilities in the effort to raise conservation and efficiency levels with limited water resources.



Ken Ott, Pat Bailey, Don Schramm, Congressman Doc Hastings, John Keys III, John Newhouse, Scott Coleman, Bob Golob, Gary Fitch, Lori Brady, and Jim Trull

In planning for its winter construction projects, Roza Irrigation District will offset a portion of the project costs to replace 10.2 miles of open laterals north of Prosser with the Water 2025 grant. This project includes the installation of gravity pressure PVC pipe and flow meters. This piping project is a continuation of the district's effort to replace open laterals. The project will save an estimated 596 acre-feet of water per year. The total cost of this project will be just over \$1 million. Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District will use its grant money towards the installation costs of piping 10,700 feet of open lateral with gravity pressure PVC pipe and flow meters. This project is located east of Prosser along Old Inland Empire Highway, Lateral 59.28, Delivery #22 to #28 and Lateral 59.28E, delivery #1, #2, and #3. This project will save an estimated 400 acre-feet of water per year. Total project costs are estimated to be around \$624,000 which will be funded in part with the Water 2025 grant over 2 years.



Jim Willard, Larry Haak, Tom Monroe, Congressman Doc Hastings, John Newhouse, Dave Minick, Ric Valicoff, and Mike Miller

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Irrigation Water Availability

The Yakima Basin fared slightly better than early predictions this summer. As the irrigation season began, the Total Water Supply Available (TWSA) forecast called for a 34% of entitlement supply for junior water rights. This figure improved to 42% thanks to above average precipitation in the mountains for the period March through May and favorable runoff of the meager winter snow pack. The 34% could have just as easily dropped to 26% or lower if below average mountain precipitation had continued through the spring and into summer. It's also possible high mountain temperatures and winds could have driven off the snow pack unusually early, stressing the storage system even further.

The 2001 and 2005 droughts both improved from early forecasts. The Yakima basin may not be so lucky next time. Efforts in the areas of water conservation, water transfers, and especially storage must continue. About 28,000AF of water was transferred from SVID to Roza Irrigation District this summer through fallowing land on SVID and moving the unused water to Roza. Roza also cost shared on projects to reuse drain water within SVID with a portion transferred to Roza.

The Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project (SCIP) is just one example of Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District's (SVID) ongoing conservation program. SCIP will make 20,000AF of water available for in stream uses to benefit fish & wildlife and 10,000AF to shore up water supplies for irrigation.

This season will end with very little water in storage; although with current storage capacity this makes only minor difference. Without a solid winter snow pack in 2005-2006, summer rationing is likely with or without carry over storage. Current basin storage only meets 40% of the basins water supply needs, the rest must come from snow pack.

Many people suffered due to the drought this summer. The level of success in improving conservation, water transfers, and especially storage will determine the level of suffering in the next drought. The next drought may see early season TWSA forecasts get worse rather than better.



Roza's Tentative Water Turn-off Schedule

With the existing water supply, Roza Irrigation District is planning on running until September 30th. As the month of September progresses and the water availability is evaluated, there is a possibility that water could run into October. Roza will post a water update on their web page (www.roza.org), through their landowner email list and through the news media as whether there will be water in October. Roza Irrigation District will also use their ditchriders to update the farmers on the status of the water supply as we approach the end of September.

SVID Winter Projects Planned

Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) has a long list of construction and maintenance projects planned for the upcoming winter season.

SVID crews will be working on lining projects located in both the Upper and Lower Divisions of the District. Shot-Crete, which increases the overall efficiency of SVID's delivery system by conserving water loss and protecting local groundwater from the canal's influence, will be used to line portions on the Mabton Lateral in the Lower Division. In the Upper Division, portions on the Snipes Lateral will also be lined with Shot-Crete.

Lateral piping projects include continued work on Lateral 59.28 ECS, replacing approximately 1,860 feet of Harrison Hill Mainline along Grandview Avenue in Sunnyside along with 480 feet of piping on Lateral 36.74, between deliveries #7 & #8, #9 near Outlook. Six Hundred and Eighty (680) feet of piping will be installed on Lateral 23.10 near Granger. Other piping projects include replacing the pipe in Lateral 28.28 delivery #12 to #14, Lateral 27.23 delivery #13 to #16, and Lateral 30.20 EK, delivery #1 to #2. Lateral piping conserves water loss and additionally reduces the annual operation and maintenance costs. Piped laterals are also generally more compatible with farming operations. There will also be a small re-regulation reservoir constructed at the end of Snipes 9.06.

Various other projects are planned that include the general maintenance of the canals, and the shaping and silt removal from open channels.



**Elaine
Brouillard**
*Water Quality
Specialist for
Roza and
Sunnyside Valley
Irrigation
Districts*

New Water Quality Specialist

Elaine Brouillard joined SVID and RID recently as the new Water Quality Specialist. The Water Quality Specialist is responsible for the operation of the water quality monitoring program related to surface water irrigation established by the Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control (RSBOJC), including conducting tests and field investigations to obtain data used to monitor water conditions throughout the RSBOJC. Elaine will work with various state & federal agencies and others on water quality monitoring and reporting.

Elaine spent her early years living in Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona and San Bernardino, California. She and her family – husband Lee, and son Russell moved to West Richland a year and a half ago from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She earned her B.S. in Geology and a Master's degree in Water Resources Administration (M.W.R.A.) from the University of New Mexico.

Since moving to Washington, Elaine has taken up quilting and is currently working on a Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery quilt. She serves on the local Park Board in West Richland and teaches religious education at her church. "My degrees in Geology and Water Resources Administration will come into play as the Water Quality Specialist for this beautiful valley. I've been warmly welcomed by the SVID staff and look forward to an exciting and complex experience," states Elaine.

Summer Maintenance in Review

Roza Irrigation District's summer maintenance efforts were directed in reshaping and grading the main canal road. Limited areas where road stabilization was necessary were also graveled. One mile of road was constructed and graveled on the low side of lateral 13 East. In a joint effort with the landowners, the lower end maintenance road on lateral 15 HL and lateral 57.9 were reshaped and graveled.

Considering the limited percentage of water to the farm, aquatic vegetation management was primacy in the ability to utilize the available water to the users. Four herbicide applications were made starting the first part of June in the main canal. Boost applications were also made in the laterals at points where the main treatments did not provide adequate control. Terrestrial vegetation management was the most challenging, with the constraints of adjacent crops, climatic conditions and so many miles of canals and laterals. Much of the time it was past prime time to apply herbicides and the results were not always effective. We continue with our mowing program and in combination with our herbicide program we find that we are getting greater rewards in our efforts.

A Look Back on 2005 Irrigation Season With RID

The 2005 irrigation season for the Roza Irrigation District started out as one of the worst on record. The first official forecast by the Bureau of Reclamation was that Roza would only receive 34% of our entitlement for the irrigation season. Immediately the District began pursuing water transfers from other irrigation districts and from tributary diverters. Temporary transfers for this irrigation season would make more water available to the Roza landowners. The district was able to transfer 30,000 acre feet of water with almost all of the transfers coming from SVID landowners. The total cost of the transfers was approximately \$3,000,000.00. The District applied to the state of Washington for Emergency Drought Funds and was able to receive just under \$1,500,000.00 of drought relief money.

The proration level has slowly increased as the water season progressed through the summer months and the proration level is now at 42% of entitlement for the Roza Irrigation District. By turning water off for three weeks in April and the increase in proration, the district will have water available until September 30th. We won't know if water will be available after Sept. 30 to proratables until we get closer to the end of September.

We have operated the system at very low flows in order to make water available as long as possible. This irrigation season has been very difficult for the landowners and the District and we can only hope this winter will be very wet with early fall rain and outstanding snow levels this winter.

RID Winter Construction Projects Planned

Each winter the Roza Irrigation District continues in the pursuit of completion of the District's Water Conservation Plan. With financial help from the Bureau of Reclamation, this year will be no exception.

A part of the Water Conservation Plan, called the Enclosed Conduit System (ECS) project entails replacing all of the open ditch and concrete piped laterals with gravity pressure PVC pipe systems that measure water through flow meters. This winter, the District will replace laterals 81.0, 84.9, 85.6, 86.0, 86.5, 86.8 and 87.4 with around 10 miles of PVC pipe to serve approximately 1,740 acres. A large portion of the approximate \$1,000,000 cost of this project will be offset by a \$300,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation. The benefits of the ECS project include zero losses from seepage and evaporation, no more weeds to spray or cut along the laterals, reduced lateral maintenance, and gravity pressure at the flow meter which many landowners are able to use to their advantage. Presently, 53% of the District is in the ECS and 86% of the laterals on the low side of the canal are in the ECS.

Another part of the District's Water Conservation project includes adding new or retrofitting existing check structures with automated gates and adding these sites into the District's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. Currently, the District has 18 automated check structures with 15 of these integrated into the SCADA system. This year the District will retrofit three more check structures with automated gates and integrate an existing automated gate with the SCADA system. The structures to be retrofitted include 64.2, 93.9, and 93.4. SCADA will be added at 92.4. This winter's check structure improvements will cost an estimated \$145,000. The District will receive a \$40,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to offset some this cost. The automated check structures enable the Water Master to better manage the main canal; thereby reducing the amount of water the District must spill in order to meet fluctuations in customer demand. This ability to better manage the main canal has become essential for two reasons. First, the chemicals which the District uses to kill moss and algae are restricted by the Department of Ecology and treated water is no longer allowed to reach the river, so when the main canal is being treated with these chemicals, the District must operate without spilling water down the wasteways. Second, as more and more acres are being served with the ECS system, larger flow rate fluctuations are showing up in the main canal because many landowners make unscheduled flow changes during the course of a 24 hour delivery period. With the automated check structures and the two re-regulation reservoirs, the District is able to compensate by storing or releasing water behind the check structures or within the reservoirs.

Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Shut-Off

In a water short year it is difficult to predict the exact shut off date. Depending on water storage at the end of September and fall rains, end-of-season operations may begin as early as the first week of October with the hope that service can be extended to near the normal shut off date of October 20th.

Below is a list of the approximate timeframes of when you can expect water delivery to cease by area, with day 1 referring to the first day of end-of-season operations. Water users may continue to utilize the water in the system as long as it is available. For deliveries using a pump, an automatic shutoff switch is highly recommended to avoid damage to the pump when water levels drop in the canal.

Please note that those water users within city limits of **Zillah, Granger, Grandview, Prosser** or serviced by **Grandview Irrigation District** or **Benton Irrigation District** should contact them for their shutoff date. SVID will post the exact water shut off dates on their web-site (www.svid.org) and through the news media when the dates are set.

Dewatering schedule – approximate date of shut off by areas:

Zillah area and above	Day 1	Prosser	Day 2
Granger area	Day 1	Lower End	Day 3
Snipes and Outlook	Day 2	Shut down completed	Day 5
Grandview and Mabton	Day 2		



On-Farm Loans Available to Assist Farmers

The Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control (RSBOJC) is working with the Department of Ecology to provide low-interest loan funds to assist growers improve on-farm irrigation practices. This program has been available to RSBOJC landowners since 2000. The original loan program expired in November, 2004 but was so successful that the RSBOJC applied to DOE for new funding to continue the loan program.



Drip Irrigation

The objective of the loan program is to assist farmers in upgrading their irrigation application type to achieve better utilization of the irrigation water. The On-Farm Loan projects would include converting rill irrigation to drip irrigation, rill to solid set sprinklers, or rill to micro-spray, center pivots, or linear moves. The funds can also be used for building pump back systems. Please contact the appropriate district for their specific criteria on acceptable projects.

The basic structure of the On-Farm Loan Program includes a low interest rate of 1% with a four-year repayment cycle. The yearly payments are included in the landowner's annual irrigation assessments. Landowners will be able to borrow a maximum of \$1,200 per acre.

Securing a funding source lifts some of the financial burden off farmers and enables them to implement Best Management Practices (PMBs) to improve existing rill irrigation practices that upgrade their irrigation delivery system. These projects ultimately improve the quality and decrease the quantity of irrigation return flows.

Applications for the program can be requested starting September 15, 2005. For more information or to apply for the On-Farm Loan, please contact Theresa Johnson, Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) at (509) 837-6980 or Wayne Sonnichsen, Roza Irrigation District (RID) Engineer at (509) 837-5141. RSBOJC encourages all qualified landowners to take advantage of the loan program.



Rill Irrigation

Do You Need to Update Your Contact Information?

Have you sold or purchased property this year? Please contact your irrigation district office to ensure we have the new property owner contact information.

**Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District
509-837-6980**

**Roza Irrigation District
509-837-5141**



The Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control (RSBOJC) publishes the **RSBOJC UPDATE** biannually for landowners. All articles, letters and other items submitted to RSBOJC for use in its landowner newsletter become the property of RSBOJC which is authorized to use any item submitted, without payment or compensation to the person submitting the item, in any newsletter or other publication of RSBOJC. RSBOJC reserves the right to edit all items submitted. Mike Miller, Chairman; Doug Simpson, Vice-Chairman; Robert Golob, Ric Valicoff, Larry Haak, Mike Hogue, Dave Michels, David Minick, John Newhouse, Helen Darr, Steve Smith, Jim Willard, Directors. Officers: Ron Van Gundy, Secretary; Patricia Bailey, Treasurer. Address comments to: Julie Bresson, Editor, P.O. Box 239, Sunnyside, WA 98944.