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Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project Groundbreaking Ceremony

The Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project is the result of a settlement agreement between the United States, Washington Department of Ecology, and Sunnyside Division in the Yakima Basin Water Rights Adjudication. Under the agreement, Sunnyside will reduce its annual diversion entitlement by 19,450 acre-feet (two-thirds) and will retain 9,712 acre-feet (one-third) annually to improve the availability of water supplies for irrigation. The project is expected to cost about \$32.6 million over a 9-year period.

On November 15th, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Washington State Department of Ecology and Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District broke ground on the M.P. 59.29 Re-Regulating Reservoir.

The speakers shown below (left to right) for the ceremony were Bill McDonald, Regional Director Bureau of Reclamation; Linda Hoffman, Washington Department of Ecology; Virgil Lewis, Vice Chairman, Yakama Tribal Council; Bob Golob, Chairman, Sunnyside Division Board of Control; and Bill Renne, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

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Directors Adopt 2005 Budget

The Board of Directors adopted the 2005 Budget that calls for expenditures of \$7.685 million. The budget preparation is a complicated planning process that involves incorporating SVID's financial obligations from two Sunnyside Division Board of Control budgets, the Joint Drain Budget, and the Roza – Sunnyside Board of Joint Control Budget into a final budget that is the obligation of the SVID landowners.

The budget includes \$4 million for building a 300 acre-foot re-regulating reservoir near Spring Creek Wasteway east of Whitstran as part of a long term water conservation project. The budget also calls for several maintenance projects including additional work extending the Lateral 59.29 Enclosed Conduit System together with other piping projects, canal lining projects, and structure replacement and repairs.

Labor accounts for \$3.7 million, \$ 950,000 for vehicle and equipment acquisition and repairs, \$275,000 for chemicals, and approximately \$156,000 for SVID's share of the storage operation and maintenance.

The Board of Directors accepted the budget, set the 2005 assessments and equalized the 2005 assessment roll. The assessments will go up between 4.5% and 5.0% or \$3.00 per acre. Levy I rate was set at \$61.25 and Levy II at \$69.75.

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WaterMaster Retires



October 15, Delmas Church retired from Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) ending 33 years of service with the district. Mr. Church's effective date will be January 31, 2005. His last day of employment was October 15, 2004 and will use his accumulated leave until his effective retirement date early next year.

Del has agreed to return next March to help with one last irrigation season before turning over his responsibilities to others. His return will be under the retire/rehire program authorized by the state legislature to provide a smooth transition from experienced retirees to their replacements. District Manager Jim Trull says he regrets Mr. Church retiring but says he has "paid his dues." "It is rare to find an employee with the loyalty and dedication to an organization that Del has shown," states Trull. "He also has a strong commitment to people who pay the bills – the landowners."

Ken Ott, Public Works Director for the City of Sunnyside, has been hired to fill Church's position. Mr. Ott has been employed by the City of Sunnyside in various capacities for fourteen years and for twelve years for the City of Mabton. He will report to work October 1st.

An event recognizing Church's years of service will be scheduled for sometime at the conclusion of the 2005 irrigation season. 

Welcome New Watermaster



Ken Ott is a long time resident of the Valley. He graduated in 1974 from Mabton High School. For the last twelve years he has been living in the Grandview area and working for the City of Sunnyside.

Ken and wife Rachel have 3 children, Rebecca (Adam) Herrmann, Angela (Jeff) Colson, Kendra (Lupe) Hudgens. Ken enjoys playing golf, watching baseball and football, traveling and enjoying all his grandkids. Drop by and welcome Ken 

Fall Construction

Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) has a long list of construction projects planned for the winter season some of which are already underway.

SVID will continue to work on Lateral 59.28 enclosed conduit system in the vicinity of Pioneer Road and Old Inland Empire Highway near Whitstran, with approximately another 7,720 feet to be completed on 59.28B Line along Old Inland Empire Highway. The affected landowners will notice improved water pressure and more flexible control of the deliveries after the enclosed conduit is installed. The projects serve slightly more than 309 acres and 46 landowners. The enclosed conduit project will include installing 8,120 feet of PVC pipe ranging in size from 4 to 27 inch diameter

"Once enclosed the landowners will find it much easier to use and manage their water," adds Don Schramm, Assistant Manager Operations. The irrigation district plans to continue enclosing several miles of open laterals every construction season.

Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District crews will be working on several open channel lining projects. Three hundred feet of the Snipes Lateral on the south edge of Sunnyside will be lined with Shot-Crete, as will three hundred feet of Sunnyside Canal at 55.19 North of Prosser and two hundred feet on the Mabton Lateral at Mile Post 4.51 near Mabton. The lining projects are to increase the overall efficiency of SVID's delivery system by conserving water and reducing annual operation and maintenance costs. Piping projects include portions of Snipes Lateral 1.41, between deliveries #7 & #8, ongoing replacement of the Harrison Hill mainline in Sunnyside, eight hundred feet on Lateral 23.10 near Granger, Lateral 51.18B between deliveries #8 to #10, #11, lateral 44.38 in the Grandview area. Lateral piping conserves water and reduces annual operations and maintenance costs. Piped laterals also are generally more compatible with farming operations.

Discussions are underway with the Sunnyside School District, The City of Sunnyside and Yakima County regarding the piping of a portion of Joint Drains 35.4 along Washout Road north of Sunnyside. Similar discussions are underway with the City of Sunnyside on Joint Drain 33.4 (South Hill Road). Grant funding from South Yakima Conservation District (materials only), has been secured to fence a portion of Joint Drain 27.5 near Granger. The piping projects improve water quality through eliminating bank erosion and maintaining cooler water temperatures. Other drain projects will focus on improving access at various points in the system.

Various other projects are planned to include replacement of water control and measurement structures, road crossing improvements for county road projects, walkways, screens, and shaping and silt removal from open channels. 