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THE WATERFRONT

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Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project: 59.29 Re-Regulating Reservoir Final Stage



The 59.29 re-regulation reservoir is nearly complete. The reservoir will start filling in very early July with full operation expected by late July.



The 59.29 re-regulating reservoir on June 23, 2005.

The Sunnyside Canal Improvement Project is the result of a settlement agreement between the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Washington State Department of Ecology, Yakama Nation and Sunnyside Division Board of Control in the Yakima Basin Water Rights Adjudication. Under the agreement, Sunnyside will reduce its annual diversion by 19,450 acre-feet (two-thirds) to benefit in stream flows 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. Reclamation funds will cover 2/3 of total project costs with Washington Department of Ecology and Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District each picking up 1/6.

On November 15th 2004 Reclamation, Washington Department of Ecology, Yakama Nation, Sunnyside Division Board of Control, and many others broke ground on the M.P. 59.29 Re-Regulating Reservoir.

In early July 2005, Sunnyside Division Board of Control will start adding water to the 59.29 Re-Regulating Reservoir. w

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Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program

Interior Secretary Gale Norton has announced that Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District has been selected as a prospective recipient for *Water 2025* Challenge Grant funds from the Bureau of Reclamation for Fiscal Year 2006. The project is one of 43 competitively selected in 13 states throughout the West. Combined funding of all projects totals more than \$27 million, including the matching contributions of partners. The expected *Water 2025* project costs to 59.28 Enclosed Conduit System are \$624,761, with grant funding of \$300,000.

The 59.28 Enclosed Conduit System consists of replacing PVC pipe and water measurement capability. The conserved water will be stored in the District's equalizing reservoir downstream of the project on the Sunnyside Main Canal.

The *Water 2025* Challenge Grant Program annually funds a variety of projects to make more efficient use of existing water supplies through water conservation and water market projects as authorized under state laws. The program focuses on meeting the goals identified in *Water 2025: Preventing Crises and Conflict in the West* — encouraging voluntary water banks and other market-based measures, promoting the use of new technology for water conservation and efficiency, and removing institutional barriers to increase cooperation and collaboration among federal, state, tribal and private organizations.

Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District will now work with Reclamation to secure a cooperative agreement and complete any required regulatory processes. Groundbreaking on the project is anticipated in early August, with completion required within 24 months.

Information on *Water 2025* is available online at www.doi.gov/water2025.



Water 2025 Challenge Grant Program Fact Sheet

Water is the lifeblood of the American West and the foundation of its economy. It is also the scarcest resource in some of the fastest growing areas of the country.

Water 2025 is intended to focus attention on the reality that explosive population growth in western urban areas, the emerging need for water for environmental and recreational uses, and the national importance of the domestic production of food and fiber from western farms and ranches is driving major conflicts between these competing uses of water.

In some areas of the West, existing water supplies are, or will be, inadequate to meet the demands for water for people, cities, farms, and the environment even under normal water supply conditions.

Water 2025 recognizes that states, tribes, and local governments should have a leading role in meeting these challenges, and that the Department of the Interior should focus its attention and resources on areas where scarce federal dollars can provide the greatest benefits to the West and the rest of the Nation.

Water 2025 provides the basis for a public discussion in advance of water crises and sets forth a framework to focus on meeting watersupply challenges in the future. This framework includes:+

- Six Principles to guide Interior in addressing water problems.
 - Recognize and respect state, tribal, and federal water rights, contracts, and interstate Compacts or decrees of the United States Supreme Court that allocate the right to use water.
 - Maintain and modernize existing water facilities so they will continue to provide water and power
 - Enhance water conservation, use efficiency, and resource monitoring to allow existing water supplies to be used more effectively.
 - Use collaborative approaches and market based transfers to minimize conflicts.
 - Improve water treatment technology, such as desalination, to help increase water supply.
 - Existing water supply infrastructure can provide additional benefits for existing and emerging needs for water.
- Five Realities that drive water crises.
 - Explosive population growth in areas of the West where water is already scarce.
 - Water shortages occur frequently in the West.
 - Over-allocated watersheds can cause crisis and conflict.
 - Water facilities are aging.
 - Crisis management is not effective in dealing with water conflicts.
- Four Key Tools to help proactively manage scarce water resources.
 - Conservation, Efficiency, and Markets.
 - Collaboration
 - Improved Technology
 - Remove Institutional Barriers and Increase Interagency Cooperation



Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control: A MODEL FOR REDUCING SEDIMENT DISCHARGE

The Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control, which distributes Yakima River water through a series of canal and laterals, is considered a model. Its members have conserved water by, among other things, turning to drip and sprinkler irrigation, and by enclosing what had historically been open irrigation ditches. Many have also installed settling ponds, to remove sediment from excess water before it goes back into the system. Collectively, they have reduced the amount of sediment they dump into the Yakima River by more than 90 percent. This meets the state's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standard for turbidity, and makes Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control a poster child for the Yakima Basin water cleanup plan. Don Schramm explains that irrigation districts normally do not see themselves as regulators, but in this case, Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control encouraged members to clean up their acts, with the threat of cutting back or even cutting off, water if they did not.

Roza-Sunnyside landowners helped craft these policies through Roza-Sunnyside Board of Joint Control work group meetings, that certainly provided all the heavy lifting for changes that occurred on the ground. Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District has agreed to lease Roza Irrigation District 27,000 acre-feet of water this year. All the Roza farmers have junior rights, so that all else being equal, they face a water cutback of two-thirds. Because they raise high value perennial crops such as tree fruit and wine grapes, they can't afford to go through a year without water. Some Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District farmers have decided to let their fields go fallow for the year, in order to sell the water to Roza Irrigation District farmers. w

Bureau of Reclamation Rationing Update

The Bureau of Reclamation announced pro-rationing has been increased to 40%. All junior water rights will receive 40% of their April 6th to September 30th allotment. Senior water rights will receive a 100% supply. This translates to about 80% of allotment for the Sunnyside Division. At this point in the season the rationing figure is not expected to change although it is possible it could go up or down slightly

The current Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) share of system capacity is 4.6gpm/acre. In September SVID will likely drop share of system capacity to 4.1 gpm/acre, depending upon how much water is remaining in the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District share of allotment?

SVID appreciates the efforts of all landowners during this summer's water shortage. The effects of the water shortage are minimized when neighbors work together. w

Did You Know?

- Ditch riders make water delivery every week day.
- Paying your bill does not turn on your water. Use the automated system to order water.
- Turning your water on or off can be done by calling the automated system. 837-8611 , 837-2223, 837-3115, 837-5040, 882- 4343, 877-2122, 854-1540, 588-5521, 837-3115,
- Water delivery ordered today will be delivered the next weekday.
- Water delivery cannot be changed over the weekend. Only emergency service is available.
- Water can be ordered on the website. http://www.svid.org/order_water.htm
- It's easier to assist a customer if they know their lateral and delivery. It's located at the lower right hand corner of your bill.

Drought Strategies

Yakima Valley 2005 Drought

The following list is a compilation of tips and ideas from several sources, including WSU Cooperative Extension (<http://drought.wsu.edu/>), University of California at Davis, and a few older farmers who have survived several droughts in the valley. None of these are recommendations - only you can know what will work best in your situation. If you are interested in any of these ideas and would like more information, South Yakima Conservation District (837-7911) can provide you with more detailed, original fact sheets.

Irrigation Systems

Rill irrigation

To maximize the effectiveness of the water available, change sets just as the water reaches the end of the furrows. Most of the field should receive enough water to make a crop, except the bottom. This may require irrigating three times per day during the long summer days (near dawn, noon, and near dusk) to shorten set times.

Sprinklers, in general

Replace less efficient impact nozzles with more efficient rotator nozzles. Rotator nozzles are available for many spacings, at roughly \$7 per nozzle. If you do not have enough water to run your system, consider reducing nozzle size, sacrificing coverage yet gaining the ability to at least run the system you have over part of your crop.

Center pivots, wheelines

If you do not have enough water to run your system, consider installing shut-off valves on each sprinkler head, to reduce the number of nozzles being used per set. Both installation and operation are time-intensive but will allow you to alternate coverage and at least keep the system operational.

For wheelines, to improve coverage, water at your standard spacing on the initial pass, then add a 20-foot section of pipe to the swing line before the return pass, thus alternating coverage instead of watering in the same place every time.

Water sharing

If you do not have enough water to run your system, your neighbor may be in the same situation. If your neighbor agrees, you can share your combined deliveries, alternating between each property, instead of neither of you having enough water individually. Our website <http://www.svid.org/> has information on in-district rotations and transfers.

Crops

Row Crops

In the past, planting barley or other spring small grains has been effective, although generally this only pays for the water and taxes on the land. SYCD's inter-seed drill is available for use, but seeding spring grains is generally best before mid-March (the cooler night-time temperatures promote tilling, increasing yield).

Orchards

Is your goal survival of the trees or producing a crop? Heavy pruning can improve the survival chances but increases the risk of future decreases in production. Heavier than normal thinning may be necessary to produce fruit of acceptable size.

The minimum required gallons of water per tree per day during peak evaporation periods for tree survival depends on the tree size. Trees with

limb spreads of 1-7 feet need 2 gallons per day, trees with limb spreads over 23 feet need 14 gallons per day.

Water stress can reduce the amount, size, or quality of fruit especially during the period from full bloom to roughly 4 weeks post-bloom (a period of rapid cell division) and during final fruit swell (at least 3 weeks before harvesting cherries and over 2 months before harvesting apples.) Deficit irrigating after harvest of most species will have fewer detrimental effects than at other times (except apricots). In general, after harvest, as long as the trees do not defoliate, the stress can be tolerated with little impact on production in the following years.

Keep cover crops mowed to reduce their water consumption.

Vineyards

Extreme water stress can be most damaging during late spring and early summer when shoots grow rapidly and during late summer ripening. Fill (but not saturate) the soil profile early in the season and as much as possible at irrigation cutoff date.

Fertilize, prune, and thin to produce moderate growth and yields. Keep cover crops mowed.

Pasture

Keep at least a 3-inch stubble height. Grazing lower than 3 inches will increase stress on an already-stressed plant, almost certainly damaging future productivity. If you do not have adequate pasture size to maintain a 3-inch height: (1) reduce the number of animals grazing the pasture; or (2) designate a sacrifice area to restrict damage to only one area, and feed hay or other feed while the animals are in the sacrifice area. Feeding hay while the animals are on the pasture will be counterproductive, since the animals will still graze the sweeter grass in the pasture. If you currently use rotational grazing, allow longer recovery times since the grass will not be as productive.



The Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District publishes **THE WATERFRONT** biannually for landowners. All articles, letters and other items submitted to Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District (SVID) for use in SVID's landowner newsletter become the property of SVID 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 SVID. SVID reserves the right to edit all items submitted. Douglas Simpson, Chairman. Robert Golob, Dave Michels, John Newhouse, Mike Hogue, Directors. Officers: James W. Trull, District Manager; Donald Schramm, Assistant Manager; Patricia Bailey, Secretary-Treasurer. Address comments to: Trish Nelson, Editor, P.O. Box 239, Sunnyside, WA 98944.

