JULY 2013 Newsletter Volume 3, Issue 6

#### Odessa update

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) Manager Craig Simpson recently told the CBDL Board of Trustees that, concerning expansion on the East Low Canal and other parts of the project, feasible plans must be in place before they can address financing options.

Office space in Othello has been renovated and ECBID's new Development Coordinator and Engineering Technician have moved into the building. Simpson said the irrigation district is still looking for a Geographical Information Systems Technician who, once hired, will also work in the same building as the Development Coordinator and Engineering Technician. All three positions will include responsibilities to help with the Odessa project.

ECBID is now working on getting the precise information on who is eligible for groundwater re-See OFFICE PAGE 3

CASHMERE MAILING HOUSE

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**DRSRT STD** 

# **State budget approved:** Columbia Basin Project appointed \$27 million

Washington law makers approved their final budget early morning June 29, including approximately \$27 million for the Columbia Basin Project. The Department of Ecology Office of Columbia River was fully funded in the budget and will appropriate funds to extend the East Low Canal structure, part of the Odessa Subarea project which will bring surface water from the Columbia River to an additional 70,000 acres.

In 1943, the Columbia Basin Project Act was signed, authorizing over a million acres for the project. Currently 671,000 acres of the project are irrigated leaving under half to be finished. All principal features of the Columbia Basin Project have been constructed except the East High Canal and the extension of the East Low Canal.

In the 1960s and 1970s permits were issued by the Department of Ecology as a temporary solution to provide irrigation water from the Odessa Subarea Aquifer until surface water could be brought to areas of the Columbia Basin Project, specifically via the East Low and proposed East High Canals. However, irrigators in the Odessa Subarea are still getting their water from the Aquifer, which in turn has declined the water table to a critical level.

Water users relying on the



Odessa Aquifer for their water supply not only include irrigators but also municipalities, industrial users, and domestic users. Experts say if action is not taken to further develop the Columbia Basin Project the supply of water could disappear in some areas. Up to 35 percent of the water could cease production as early as 2020.

Even though the Aquifer is SEE BUDGET PAGE 3

#### CBDL sends out RFP for federal advocate

PERMIT NO. 7

The CBDL Board recently discussed the need for a federal advocate. This year's budget was drafted with the assumption the Board would consider representation. Consultants have talked at meetings but the Board asked staff to provide an assessment of current unmet needs to determine specific responsibilities and qualifications needed. Staff created a Request for Proposal (RFP) outlining the needs including creating a plan with goals that

encompassed communications to promote the Project and increase the visibility of the League.

The idea is for the relationship, between the CBDL and the chosen federal advocate, to increase awareness by policy makers. It is also essential to create media coverage on issues concerning the Project. The advocate would assist in creating a federal advocacy plan and goals to reach that plan, bill

SEE COMMUNICATIONS PAGE 3

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### FROM the CHAIR:



Milt Johnston, Ellensburg

It's an exciting time for the League as the state budget is now finished and the Project was allocated \$27 million. With this money assigned to the Department of Ecology Office of Columbia River, the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District will be receiving the funds incrementally to expand the East Low Canal.

It's great news for the League and the Project to know State Legislators support the Project and are willing to support it financially. Expansion of the East Low Canal is a major step in getting irrigators off the Odessa Subarea Aquifer and onto a different source for water. Construction for the expansion of the East Low Canal is expected to start in November.

I am thankful for all those who

have supported the League up to this point as it has helped us a great deal to get us where we are today. We still have a long way to go but the hard work and dedication from the Board of Trustees and League supporters shows we are capable of getting the job done.

Also, as summer is starting to come to an end, don't forget about the Columbia Basin Development League Annual Meeting coming up in November. This year's conference is Thursday, November 7. Please plan to join us and get an update on the work in progress.

# Upcoming Important Dates:

August 21: CBDL Executive Committee meeting, Moses Lake

August 22: Water Day

September 18: CBDL Board of Trustees meeting, 6-8 p.m. Moses Lake

November 7: Annual Meeting, ATEC, Big Bend Community College, Moses Lake

# Tom Donnelly retires from NWRA

Current president of the National Water Resources Association, Tom Myrum, who is also the Executive Director of the Washington State Water Resources Association announced that NWRA Executive Vice President Tom Donnelly is retiring after 28 years of service. At the direction of the Board of Directors, Donnelly has worked to build NWRA into a multifaceted modern advocate for western water resources issues. Donnelly's last day will be August 5.

Former Reclamation Commissioner Bob Johnson will carry out the duties of Executive Vice President until a permanent replacement is found. The NWRA board of directors plans to immediately begin the search for a new Executive Vice President.

NWRA is a nonprofit federation of associations and individuals dedicated to the conservation, enhancement, and efficient management of our Nation's most precious natural resource, water. NWRA is the oldest and most active national association concerned with water resources policy and development. Its strength is a reflection of "grassroots" participation it has generated on national issues affecting western water conservation, management, and development. NWRA is an advocate on federal policies, legislation, and regulations promoting protection, management, development, and beneficial use of water resources.

www.nwra.org

# Looking Back: April 10, 1959 Tri-City Herald

The Columbia Basin Project was often in the headlines of local media to update citizens on the development of the project. Back in 1959 on April 10, the top headline on the front page of the Tri-City Herald read, "Interior Department Expected To Compromise On Basin Pact."

Below is a snippet from the article by Herald Staff Writer Matt Miletich:

"Reaction of the Interior Department to a "package deal" proposal for re-negotiating the Columbia Basin repayment contracts is being awaited by Basin Irrigation district officials.

"Terms of their offer have not been disclosed, however observers expect it to provide an upward change from the previous offer to the Joint Irrigation Boards, inasmuch as it has been reported both sides have indicated willingness to give some ground from their previous positions.

"This morning, Earl Gregory, chairman of the Joint Boards, said he expects an answer any day. Gregory, who is also chairman of the Quincy Irrigation
District, East District
Directors, and Director
Berney Kempton of the
South Columbia District met last Friday in
Portland with Interior
undersecretary Elmer
Bennett.

"Bennett received their proposal. Should the department accept it the Joint Boards will be called into session to act on the agreement."

The article goes on to state the renegotiation had been frozen for the past two months with both sides rejecting previous proposals. Basin leaders, the state senatorial delegation, and interior and reclamation held discussions in an effort to melt the stalemate. On the morning of April 10 Secretary of the Columbia Basin Commission John Richardson stated settlers must be willing to agree to some increase in



their repayment obligations if the project is to continue. On the first April that year, Senators Warren Magnuson and Jackson told Basin leaders the House Appropriations Committee is sticking to its stand that farmers must pay more. The article ends in a quote with Richardson saying he believes the two entities could come up with a proposition to be voted on. Eventually Basin leaders and the Interior Department were able to compromise with each other.

#### Office:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

placement. They are starting to receive some information from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Levi Johnson, ECBID Development Coordinator has been working on the design of the project and recently traveled to Texas to see a potential fiber glass material used for pipe. Johnson said U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is consid-

ering incorporating fiber glass into the design for the project if the district agrees it's a viable option. The cost of the installation of the fiber glass pipe will be cheaper than other materials used, however, the cost of getting the material here may be more expensive.

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District Manager Craig Simpson

#### Communications:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and issue tracking, and communications to promote the League's issues.

CBDL Chair Milt Johnston told board members the executive committee recognized the League has more communications to do in local communities and he thinks CBDL has received great support for the Odessa. Johnston encouraged hiring a federal advocate to help the League get funding for the rest of the Project.

"I suggest when the board gets the RFP's back, review them based on who would work best for CBDL and the budget," Craig Simpson of East Columbia Basin Irrigation District said.

Request for Proposals for a federal advocate has been sent out and due back by September 1.

#### Budget:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dropping to critical levels, action could not begin until a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by US Bureau of Reclamation Regional (USBR) Director Lorri Lee authorizing implementation of a specific course of action within the Subarea Special Study Environmental Impact Statement. Lee signed the ROD April 2, giving the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District the green light to pursue the preferred course of action.

### ODESSA GROUNDWATER REPLACEMENT

#### How we got here:

In the 1960s and 1970s, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued temporary permits for groundwater irrigation in the Odessa Subarea assuming development of the Columbia Basin Project (CBP) would continue and that CBP surface water would eventually serve most of these lands. Since that time, the State of Washington, CBP irrigation districts, including the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID), and local constituents have advocated that the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) investigate providing CBP water to groundwater irrigators to help reduce demands on the Odessa aquifer.

From 2002 to 2004, the Columbia River Initiative (CRI) was developed under Washington's former Governor Gary Locke to meet the water needs of growing communities and their rural/agricultural economies along the mainstem of the Columbia River.

In the CRI, the State recognized the opportunity the CBP provides to address the declining Odessa Subarea aquifer. As part of the CRI, the State, Reclamation, and the three CBP irrigation districts signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in December 2004.

The CRI MOU describes the studies and activities needed to explore opportunities for delivery of water to additional existing ground-water-irrigated lands within the Odessa Subarea. In 2005, Congress funded Reclamation to investigate these opportunities.

The state agreed to partner with Reclamation and, in December 2005, provided \$4 million to cost - share the Odessa Subarea Special Study (OSSS) through an agreement between Ecology and Reclamation. The Coordinated Conservation Program makes replacement CBP groundwater available through the conservation efforts of the three CBP irrigation districts. The amount of water made available through the OSSS, LRIRP and Coordinated Conservation will be sufficient to replace over 87,000 acres of groundwater-served acres within the CBP boundaries.

In 2006, the Washington State Legislature passed the Columbia River Basin Water Re-

source Management Act, which set up the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Account. Expenditures from this account may be used to assess, plan, and develop new storage, improve or alter operations of existing storage facilities, implement conservation projects, develop pump exchanges, or implement any other actions designed to provide access to new water supplies within the Columbia River Basin for both in-stream and out-of-stream uses (Revised Code of Washington [RCW] 90.90.010 [2][a]).

In response, Ecology created the Office of Columbia River to manage development of new water supplies. RCW 90.90.020(3)(a) directs Ecology to focus its efforts to develop water supplies for the Columbia River Basin including alternatives to groundwater for agricultural users in the Odessa Subarea aquifer. Under the direction provided through this Act, Ecology has participated in and cost-shared Reclamation's efforts to evaluate replacement options for current groundwater irrigation. In 2006, Reclamation released the Initial Alternative Development and Evaluation, Odessa Subarea Special Study, a pre-appraisal-level investigation of water delivery and supply options for the Study Area, completed through a Project Alternative Solutions Study (PASS).

This was the first stage of alternative formulation and evaluation by Reclamation. The PASS was conducted over a 7-month period with the assistance of two teams – the Objectives Team and the Technical Team. Four water delivery alternatives and six water supply options were evaluated and carried forward through an appraisal-level study in March 2008, which resulted in a report entitled, Appraisal-Level Investigation Summary of Findings.

The appraisal-level study covered the same Study Area as the Odessa Subarea Special Study. Alternatives from the Summary of Findings were carried into feasibility-level analysis and evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement–Odessa Subarea Special Study, Columbia Basin Project, Washington, which was released October 2010.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement—Odessa Subarea Special Study, Columbia Basin Project, Washington (Final EIS), dated August 2012 (INT-FES 12-40), and the final Record of Decision (ROD) were prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500 - 1508), Department of the Interior Policies, and Reclamation's NEPA handbook.

The ROD documents the U.S. Department of the Interior, Reclamation's selection of the Modified Partial-Replacement—Banks Alternative (Alternative 4A) (known herein as the preferred alternative), identified in the Final EIS, for implementation. The Regional Director for Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Region is the responsible official for the decision made in the ROD.

ECBID was created in 1939 as part of the CBP. They entered into a Repayment Contract in 1945 relating to supplying water for the irrigation of lands within the District. A Repayment Contract was signed between the US government and the ECBID in 1968 when the administration was taken over from the USBR by the landowners. ECBID is organized under the laws set forth in Title 87 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), and has the authority to operate and maintain Reclamation facilities, to deliver irrigation water with these facilities and to apply levies, tolls, assessments and fees.

The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District's Board of Directors has voted to implement the preferred alternative as outlined in the ROD to deliver groundwater replacement to 70,000 acres. The implementation of the ROD preferred alternative will also consider the delivery of the water available through the LRIRP and Coordinated Conservation.

Background documents referenced in this section are available at the following RECLA-MATION website: http://www.Reclamation.gov/pn/programs/ucao\_misc/odessa/

#### ODESSA GROUNDWATER REPLACEMENT

#### Actions:

The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District is exploring different financing options to pay for the infrastructure that will be required to deliver groundwater replacement from the ELC to eligible lands. These options include the use of Local Improvement Districts (LIDs), revenue bonds, grants, federal loans and private financing options.

The question of Reclamation Reform Act (RRA) applicability and the acreage limitations (960 acres of Class 1 equivalency) it could impose on landowners is an important topic. This regulation is likely to be a requirement landowners will have to abide by to receive a water delivery contract.

Lands not presently included in the CBP will need to gain inclusion in the CBP prior to becoming eligible to receive water. The District and USBR intend to process inclusion request in a bulk process, rather than individually, to more efficiently include lands which is a public process. Lands that indicate interest in the project will have their inclusion status checked according to the information landowners provide in the enclosed questionnaire. We will inform those landowners of their inclusion status for each eligible parcel they indicate on

the questionnaire.

Another relevant issue is ECBID's ability to access reserved power for future ELC pumping plants (lower rate power than that for commercial use). Discussions around this are on-going between ECBID and Reclamation and may influence Reclamation or EDCBID ownership of pump facilities. Reserved power cost savings are significant enough to influence the decision on facility ownership.

Some landowners have voiced the desire for maximum flexibility in using ground replacement water and ECBID hopes to respond as fully as possible. One option being explored is recognizing the use of seasonal transfers of water rights allowing for rotations of service acreages. Discussions of ECBID, Ecology and Reclamation.

The preferred alternative includes an "in-fill" option to allow some groundwater irrigators in areas distant from the ELC to move their water right to previously disturbed lands closer to the canal. The water right would need to be within CBP boundaries prior to transferring it closer to the canal. The transfers should assist in allowing more economical delivery facilities constructed to serve the maximum amount of

land.

The timeframe for providing groundwater replacement is dependent on numerous factors. Early actions to increase existing infrastructure to accommodate additional flow are expected to commence this winter and last two and three years depending on contracting, funding, and other factors. Work to design groundwater replacement delivery systems will be iterative. This letter and questionnaire fall under the first iteration to determine what feasible options ECBID should pursue to provide groundwater replacement. Once a delivery design option is established, funding for the construction will need to be considered. As ECBID proceeds with construction of delivery infrastructure, it will be necessary to comply with NEPA, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA) and other regulatory requirements. This may necessitate supplemental environmental review before some actions are taken. With that, ECBID believes that construction of delivery systems may begin in as soon as two years. Phased approaches for the construction of delivery systems will also be considered.

#### Current status:

Reclamation has submitted a secondary-use permit request to Ecology to access water covered under the 1939 Reclamation Water Right. This request is going through public commenting and is expected to be drafted in August 2013. The permit will allow Reclamation to access, and the District to deliver, additional water required for groundwater replacement via the Banks Lake, Main Canal and ELC conveyance system. The District will use all allotted water under this and other permits to deliver groundwater replacement through the systems designed, constructed and operated by the District to lands that meet the eligibility criteria.

Alongside OSSS groundwater replacement efforts, the District plans on delivering additional water covered under the LRIRP (10,000 acres) and Coordinated Conservation Program (currently at 5,700 acres and expected to increase to 8,000 acres worth of water).

These allotments would allow the District to deliver water to approximately 88,000 acres of eligible land. These deliveries maximize the use of existing facilities for groundwater replacement.

The District and Ecology are currently drafting a grant agreement that would serve as the mechanism with which State funding is allocated to the District for early-action activities. This agreement is expected to be signed by both parties in August 2013.

The District and Reclamation have begun discussions about the Contract to be signed between the two entities that will afford the District the authority to deliver water authorized under the secondary-use permit to be granted by Ecology to Reclamation for use of the Reclamation's water under their Lake Roosevelt Storage Certificate. A Contract will need to be finalized before the District is able to deliver water.

# 2013 Member List

**Sustaining** 

JR Simplot Co

Leadership

ConAgra Foods/Lamb Weston

**Premier** 

**Lindsay Corporation** 

Washington State Potato Commis-

sion

Major

Big Bend Electric Cooperative

City of Othello

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Underwriter

**Adams County Commissioners** 

Zirkle Fruit Company

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McCain Foods USA Inc

McGregor Company

RDO Equipment Co

S & C Ranching Inc

Corporate

Ag World Support Systems

Connell Grain Growers

Johnson Agriprises/Johnson-

Reaugh Partnership

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Big Bend Ag Appraisals

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Cegnar Company

Central Bonded Collectors

CH2M Hill

Claasen Farms

Columbia Agricultural Consultants

Inc

**Crop Production Services** 

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Dan Piper Farm

Dano Law Firm PS

Darrel A Kulm Ranches Inc

David J Andrews

David J Greenwalt

Don Beus

Donald J Stucky

Duncan Crane Service Inc

Earthbourne Resources Inc

East Basin Ag LLC

East Columbia Basin Irrigation

District

EL & JH Ray Farms LLC

Finagele Farms Inc

Fode Farms Inc

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Franz Ranch Inc

Frick Farms

Friehe Farms

Galbreath Land & Livestock Inc

Gavilon Grain dba Union Elevator

Glen Bair Farms

Grange Supply Company of

Odessa

**Grant County PUD** 

Haricot Farms Inc/Central Bean

Co

HDR Engineering Inc

Hendrix Farms LLC

Horning Bros LLC

Hovde Orchards LLC Irrigation Specialists

Irrigators Inc

J&E Schafer Farms Inc

J&S Myers Inc

Jacklin Seed by Simplot

Janett & Associates LLC

Jay & Kathy Scrupps, JV

Jon & Sharon Fink

JTE Farms

J-U-B Engineers Inc

Jubilant LLC

K&D Farms Inc

Kagele Family Farms LLC

L&L Ag Production LLC

Lad Irrigation Co

Larsen Farms Inc

LaVerne Truman

LC Farms Inc

Leffel Otis & Warwick PS

Lenwood Farms Inc

Leroy & Shirley Welch

Lindcrest Ranch

Lynn Pittman Farms

Malinda Zilliox

Margaret Franz-Robinson

Mark Booker

Marlin Hutterian Brethren

Marvin and Neil JV

Mary Shinn

Mead & Hunt Inc

Merle Gibbens

Wiche Gibben

Mike LaPlant

Milton D Johnston

Mona M Freriks Moody Family

Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabili-

tation District

Nancy Franz

National Frozen Foods Corpora-

tion - Quincy

Neil Fink

Northwest Ag Plastics Inc

Northwest Farm Credit Services

NuChem

Odessa Dental Clinic

**P&P Farms** 

Pacific Northwest Waterways As-

sociation

Palmer Lake Ranches

Patty Kagele Farms Inc

Perkins & Zlatich CPA PS

Phillips Family Farms LLC

Phillips Ranch Corp

Piper Ranch-Steve Piper

Pomeroy Farms

Port of Pasco Port of Royal Slope

Port of Warden/Grant County

District #8

Qualls Agricultural Laboratory Inc

Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation

District

R&L St Hilaire LLC

Radach Farms Inc RAFCO Inc

Representative Joe Schmick

Representative Susan Fagan

Rexxon Inc

Richard A Lemargie

**CONTINUED LIST PAGE 5** 

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## Grand Coulee Dam

Living near the Grand Coulee Dam makes it easy to forget how magnificent the structure is. Recently CBDL staff member Sara Cornell took a trip to the dam for a tour and a reminder.

Grand Coulee Dam is one of the largest concrete structures in the world with nearly 12 million cubic yards of concrete. It is the largest hydropower producer in the United States, generating more than 21 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity each year. That's enough power to supply 2.3 million households with electricity for a year. Power from the dam is supplied to eleven states and to Canada.

Type of Dam: Gravity Dam

Operating Agency: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

• Total Generating Capacity: 6,8089 megawatts

• Dates of Construction: 1933-1941, 1967-1974 Third Powerplant

Height of Dam: 550 feetLength of Dam: 5,223 feet

Purpose: Power, Regulation, and Irrigation

### 2013 Member List, Cont.

Richard Erickson Richard Quirk Richard Stevens RJ Circle Farms Inc Robert A Marble Rod Rottinghaus Farms

Roger Gish

RP Stucky Properties LLC SAC Enterprises Inc Sackmann Law Office SC Communications Inc

Schibel Farms Inc Schlagel Farms

Schneider Farms - Pasco LLC Schoesler, State Senator Mark Schroeder Law Offices PC

Seed-Rite Inc SideB Inc

Skone Irrigation Warden/Pasco South Columbia Basin Irrigation

District

Spectrum Communications Inc

Su-Co Land & Cattle Inc

Sunset Farms Inc

Sutter Kunkle & Thompson PS

Templin Farm Service

Tippett Company of Washington LLC

Tom Dent Aviation

Tom Downs Farms

Treat Farms

Underhill Farms Inc Vernon C Phillips

Wacker Farm

Wajer Farms Inc

Washington Association of Wheat

Growers

Washington Association of Wine

Grape Growers

Washington Fruit & Produce

Washington State Water Resources

Association

Washington Trust Bank

William Johns William Riley Windy Prairie Inc

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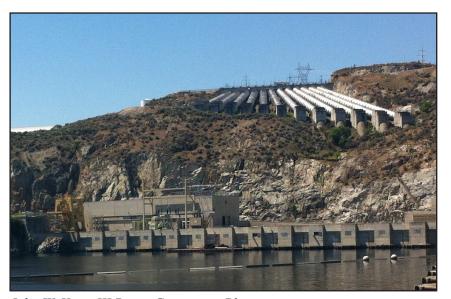
Greater Connell Area Chamber of

Commerce

Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce

Pasco Chamber of Commerce

Ritzville Area Chamber of Commerce



John W. Keys, III Pump-Generating Plant
Named in honor of the former Reclamation Commissioner
Completed in the early 1980s, the pump plant contains 12 pumps that lift
water up the hillside to Banks Lake to serve as the source of water for
the Columbia Basin Project. Six of the pumps are reversible and are also
capable of generating power.

# ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

It's easy, affordable, and a great way to reach nearly 2,000 contacts with interests in the Columbia Basin.

For rates and information, visit www.cbdl.org

## Help Sponsor Annual Meeting

The League's annual meeting is November 7, and we're looking for sponsors. Help support CBDL's effort to address issues and continue advocacy to get funding for the Columbia Basin Project by becoming a sponsor today. Sponsorships help underwrite the costs of bringing important information to those living and working in the Project area. In-kind raffle donations are another great way to support the League's 2013 conference and annual meeting.

# CBDL Now Offering Membership Online

The League's website is now offering the choice to pay membership online. New members can also sign up at the site. If you like printing out a form and sending it in the mail with a check that's still an option. Offering the ability to sign up online is just another way we are trying to better serve our members.

To sign up visit the Columbia Basin Development League website at cbdl.org.

# Help Us Save on Mailing Costs!

Help us save on printing and mailing costs. If you have an email, please share the address and we will email you the monthly CBDL newsletter or visit cbdl.org to sign up for the online newsletter.

## Water Day 2013

This year's Water Day targets elected officials, their staff, and those involved in economic development. The day-long tour will highlight the Columbia Basin Project and how it drives the Basin economy and is part of an ongoing effort by the League to promote the impacts of water. The intent of Water Day is to provide policymakers with a first-hand look at the economic impacts of the Columbia Basin Project. This year, Water Day is August 22.

# CBDL Represented at NWRA Annual Meeting

This year the National Water Resources Association meeting is in Stevenson at Skamania Lodge. Columbia Basin Development League Executive Director Vicky Scharlau will be attending the annual meeting July 29-31. The program for this year's

conference will feature panel presentations and discussions on a variety of water quantity and quality issues impacting water supply in the West. For updates, speakers or to register click on www.nwra.org

"Dig the well before you are thirsty."

- Chinese Proverb



Since 1964, we have supported the Columbia Basin Project and its future development. We protect its water rights and educate the public on the renewable resource and multiple-purpose benefits of the project.