



AUGUST 2016 NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 7

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.

ECBID Approves Bonds to Build Distribution Systems

The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) Board authorized the sale of bonds to finance construction of the first pipeline distribution system in the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program (OGWRP).

OGWRP is a joint partnership between ECBID, the Department of Ecology, and the US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to replace 87,000 acres of deep well irrigation from the declining Odessa aquifer with secure Columbia Basin Project water supply. The effort maintains agricultural production and jobs in the area and preserves the aquifer for domestic, municipal, and industrial uses.

Landowners receiving new Columbia Basin Project water supplies agree to repay a portion of the overall construction cost. Water service contracts between landowners and ECBID guarantee normalized rates for landowners to pay fees to ECBID. These fees allow ECBID to repay the cost of constructing the delivery systems and remaining East Low Canal improvements. These contracts secure ECBID's issuance of tax exempt municipal revenue bonds that finance the pipeline systems. Work will begin this fall following the irrigation season on a canal-side pump plant located at canal mile 47.5.

Delivery of water to 8,200 acres served by the system is targeted for the 2018 irrigation season.

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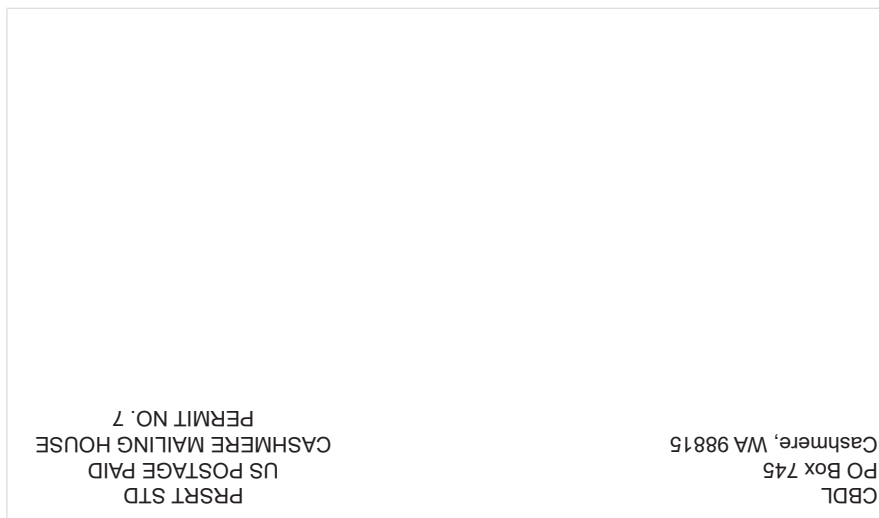
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2017-2019 Capital Budget Development Underway

Mike Schwisow, CBDL Director of Government Relations

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is well on its way to developing their Capital Budget request for the 2017-2019 biennium. Ecology's Office of the Columbia River (OCR) Director Tom Tebb presented the program's draft proposal at an early August meeting of the Columbia River Policy Advisory Group to gather input as the process moves forward. This is the initial step in a process that will eventually be part of the Governor's Capital Budget request which will be taken up by the Legislature in the 2017 session.

The Capital Budget is one of three budgets enacted by the Legislature for each biennial period. The Operating, Transportation, and Capital budgets adopted during the 2017 session will provide funds for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019. The Operating budget includes appropriations for the general day-to-day operating expenses of state agencies, colleges and universities, and K-12 public schools. The Transportation budget includes appropriations for both the operating and the capital costs of highways, ferries, bridges, public airports, rail, as well as motor vehicle registration and enforcement. The Capital budget includes appropriations for a broad range of construction and repair projects involving state office buildings; colleges and universities; prisons and juvenile rehabilitation facilities; parks and recreational facilities; K-12 schools; affordable housing for low-income persons and people with



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From the Chair

Orman Johnson

August is upon us and the end of another successful irrigation season is in sight. Read on for an ECBID update and the water shut off dates for all districts. As we look to fall, CBDL is gearing up for state and federal advocacy through participation in the Washington State Capital Budget planning, review of the Pacific Northwest Waterway's Association 2017 policies and positions, and preparation for Congress and the Washington State Legislature to begin their next sessions. CBDL is also finalizing plans for the 2016 Annual Conference on November 3

at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. Be sure to mark your calendars and register online today at www.cbdl.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, September 7, 2016
ECBID Board Meeting
10:00 AM
District Headquarters, 55N 8th Street, Othello

Wednesday, September 21, 2016
CBDL Board Meeting
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Simplot, Moses Lake

2017-2019 Capital Budget Development Underway *Continued from page 1*

special needs; water quality, water supply, and flood risk reduction infrastructure; and other capital facilities and programs.

The Senate Ways & Means Committee and the House Capital Budget Committee take the Governor's request and turn it into a budget to bring before the entire body. The size of the capital budget is determined by the available bond capacity and by moneys available from dedicated accounts, trust revenues, and other funding sources. The amount of state bonds, or available bond capacity that can be issued in any year is limited by a constitutional debt limit. This maintains the relationship between the Operating and Capital Budgets since a starting point in the Operating Budget process is to pay the debt service (principal and interest) on Capital Budget bonded indebtedness.

The second part of enacting the Capital Budget is the Bond Bill. The Bond Bill authorizes the State Finance Committee to issue general obligation bonds to finance many of the projects authorized in the state capital budget. Under the Washington State Constitution, legislation authorizing the issuance of bonds requires a 60 percent majority vote in both houses of the Legislature. This supermajority requirement typically means that yes votes from both sides of the aisle are required, which requires more bipartisan compromise.

OCR Director Tom Tebb is proposing funding for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program in the range of \$10 to \$15 million for the next biennium. That amount would go a long way toward completing the remaining elements of the East Low Canal expansion portion of the project. The next step in the proposal is review by the Ecology Executive team who will then submit the agency request to the Governor's Office of Financial Management in early September. At that point it all goes in the "black box" or put on hold until the Governor presents his budget requests in early December.

CBDL Supports PNWA's Proposed Policy Position

As a member of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), CBDL recently had the opportunity to review PNWA's proposed policy positions and supported infrastructure projects from which they will base their 2017 Washington DC efforts. As PNWA members, CBDL can provide feedback on their positions and messaging related to the Columbia Basin Project. With consideration to the League's advocacy and outreach efforts, as well as the Columbia Basin Project's irrigation districts' interests, CBDL confirmed that the below list continues to represent our interests and that we support PNWA's messaging on the following policies and projects:

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CBDL Supports PNWA's Proposed Policy Position *Continued from page 2*

Columbia Basin Project

- Support continued development of the Bureau of Reclamation Columbia Basin Project (CBP). Planning for appropriately timed project development should continue. Support the continuing implementation of the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program as the USBR's Record of Decision for alternatives developed in the Odessa Sub-area Special Study released on April 2, 2013. The Odessa Ground Water Replacement Program currently being implemented by East Columbia Basin Irrigation District will replace groundwater currently used for irrigation on up to 87,000 acres of land in the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea (Odessa Subarea) with Columbia Basin Project surface water. The replacement of ground water in the Odessa Subarea is critical to maintaining regional agricultural production which supports the Pacific Northwest food processing industry, Washington State jobs, Port activity through exports, preserves aquifer supplies for municipal purposes and creates new wildlife habitat.
- Support CBP conservation efforts aimed at developing water supplies for Project lands while addressing the aging infrastructure needs of the Project.

CBP Irrigation Districts Water Shut Off Dates

South Columbia Basin Irrigation District Dates -

September 17: Last day for Saturday ditch rides

October 24: Last day for water delivery changes

October 25: Last day for water delivery

Contact Dave Solem with questions, 509-547-1735.

Quincy Columbia Basin Irrigation District Dates –

September 3: last day for Saturday ditch rides

October 24: Last day for water delivery changes

October 25: Last full day of water delivery

October 26: Turn-off date for water at the head of the West Canal

Contact your ditch rider or area Watermaster with questions.

East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (ECBID) Dates –

September 3: Last day for full Saturday service

October 21: Last day for water delivery changes

October 24: Last day for water delivery, ditch riders will close all farm unit and water service contract turnouts

Contact Craig Simpson, 509-488-9671, with questions.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure,
you will fail above everyone else's success."*

-James Cameron, Director and Producer

2016 CBDL Conference to Highlight Infrastructure

CBDL is in the thick of planning for the 2016 Annual Conference on November 3 at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. With a focus on infrastructure, we are looking forward to highlighting successful and ongoing water delivery due to the infrastructure built and maintained over the past 60+ years while also looking ahead to the future and what needs to be done to ensure continued delivery.

Conference speakers will include Tom Tebb, Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River; Lorri Lee, Bureau of Reclamation's Pacific Northwest Director; representatives from each of the Project's three irrigation districts as well as the Bureau of Reclamation's Ephrata Field Office; Ian Lyle, Water Strategies, LLC; Mike Schwisow, CBDL's Government Relations Director and more. Join landowners, industry members, district staff, local leaders, elected officials, and others to network, hear updates, learn about current issues, and share information. Registration is now open at www.cbdl.org.

Help Us Honor CBP Leaders and Influencers

Help us honor the leaders who have worked tirelessly to promote the continued development of the Columbia Basin Project. CBDL is accepting award nominations for the Perseverance Award and the Honorary Life Member Award through September 9.

Perseverance is the ability to carry on until you complete the task regardless of how hard it may seem. Recipients of the Perseverance Award demonstrate the ability to fight on no matter the odds. Past recipients include Art Prior of Othello and Alice Parker of Royal City.

Honorary Life Members have demonstrated their support of the Project and its future development with tireless and significant dedication to efforts that advance the Project. The 2015 recipient was Christine Gregoire, former Washington State Governor.

Nominations forms are available at www.cbdl.org.

Ecology's Downes to Present at September Board Meeting

Melissa Downes, the Technical and Policy Lead at the Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River (OCR) will be the guest speaker at the September 21, 2016 CBDL Board Meeting at Simplot in Moses Lake.

Downes received her BS in Environmental Studies from the University of Nebraska and MS in Geology from WSU. With a few small consulting stints under her belt, she embarked on her Ecology career in 2001 with the Water Resources Program (WRP) in the Central Regional Office (CRO). She has broad range of water rights experience from providing hydrogeology support for water rights permitting activities to engaging in regional water supply issues to CRO WRP Section Manager. In her current role at OCR, Downes assists with project development, including technical, permitting, and policy evaluations of water supply development projects such as storage reservoirs, ASR projects, pump exchanges, water acquisitions, and conservation projects.

At the Board Meeting, Downes will share policy insights regarding the 2016 Columbia River Basin Supply & Demand.

The forecast looks at three areas of potential change: climatic, economic, and water management. Several different models are used to develop the forecast related to each area. Additionally, there are five exploratory modules that expand on the forecast beyond statutory requirements. These modules are intended to serve as a foundation for work in future forecasts. The five modules cover declining groundwater, use of a crop demand model called a METRIC, water banking, user-pay requirements and the effect on water permitting, and Western Washington supply/demand forecasting.

Long To-Do List Awaits Congress Post Recess

Ian Lyle, Water Strategies LLC

In August, the weather heats up in Washington, DC but congressional activity cools down. Congress is currently on August recess, a work period where legislators return to their home states to work, visit with constituents, and take time with their families. In election years like this many members also use the time to campaign.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate are set to return to Washington, DC on September 6, following the Labor Day weekend.



Melissa Downes, from Ecology's Office of the Columbia River.

When Congress returns it will have a full docket of issues to address and a limited amount of time. This is a Presidential election year, which will also weigh into how the schedule plays out.

The House is scheduled to be in session for a total of four weeks and the Senate for five weeks before breaking for the November election. Post-election, each chamber is only set to be in DC for four weeks before the end of the year. During that time Congress will have to make decisions on several key issues including appropriations, and energy legislation.

One of the most pressing issues is also one of its most basic charges: Utilizing the power of the purse. Article I, Section 9, of the Constitution states in part, "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law." Congress has exercised this responsibility through the passage of twelve appropriations bills that fund various federal operations. As of the writing of this article, Congress has not passed any of these regular appropriation's bills.

The federal fiscal year ends on September 30. With this pressing deadline, and because Congress has struggled to pass appropriations bills, it is likely that we will see either 1) a continuing resolution (CR) that extends current funding levels for federal programs, or 2) a combined group of appropriations bills into a larger omnibus appropriations bill. In the near term the most probable course of action is that Congress will pass a short term CR that pushes federal funding out until after the election.

Before the end of the year Congress could also have the chance to take up legislation aimed at modifying our nation's energy infrastructure and policy. The House and Senate are currently engaged in conference negotiations over S. 2012, the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act (ESA). One of the major provisions being debated relates to water management and drought response. The House passed a version of S. 2012 that contains language aimed at addressing western drought through a number of mechanisms including regulatory streamlining, ESA modifications, and the establishment of an account to construct surface water storage infrastructure. This language is not present in the Senate version of the bill and the ESA and streamlining language has triggered a veto threat from the White House. The ultimate fate of the ESA Bill is uncertain.

In addition to making funding decisions and energy policy determinations Congress could also take up an effort to fight the Zika virus. Growing reports of Zika infections in the U.S. are creating increased concern about the virus and it has some members of Congress calling on House and Senate leadership to end the August recess early so Congress can again attempt to address this issue.

One component of Zika prevention that has been discussed, with some controversy, is providing a short-term exemption to dual permitting requirements for certain pesticide applications. Under current law pesticides are regulated under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and

Long To-Do List Awaits Congress Post Recess

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Rodenticide Act (FIFA) and, since a 2009 court case, under the Clean Water Act. Some in the agricultural and nonprofit sector have suggested that this dual permitting is duplicative, costly and unnecessary. The House of Representatives has included language that would provide a temporary exemption to the dual permitting requirement in its proposed version of a Zika response package. That suggestion has been met with criticism but White House Spokesman Josh Earnest indicated in an August 3rd press briefing that the relaxing of pesticide regulation was not entirely off the table.

The new administration, whoever it may be, will also have its hands full after the election. There are less than seventy days between the November 8th election and the January 20th swearing in of the next President.

LOOKING BACK

Excerpts from A Dream Comes True...

By Rhonda Tidrick | Wenatchee World Grand Coulee Dam Collectors' Edition, 1984

The land is dry and thirsty.

A few die-hard farmers faithfully till the soil every year, growing what dryland crops they can. Like their forefathers, they are at the mercy of the elements. A period of drought could wipe them out. The land could become desolate.

That is what the Columbia Basin would be like today without water.

Instead, the land blooms several times a year. Shades of gold and green create an interlocking patchwork across the countryside. Asparagus, vineyards, potatoes, beans, wheat and much more grow in harmony side by side.

Lakes dot the region, attracting thousands of sportsman and lovers of the outdoors every year.

There is much talk of industrial development. If the water hadn't come, such talk would be rare.

History has molded an intricate and fascinating tale in the monolithic mightiness of Grand Coulee Dam and the sprawling Columbia Basin Project. [...]

Today, what was labeled a "colossal fraud" over 50 years ago is hailed as one of man's greatest achievements. The dam now provides the means by which 545,000 acres in the Columbia Basin can be irrigated and it also produces as much as 6.5 million kilowatts of power per year. [...]

Although construction of the dam begins in 1933, farmers to the south will wait 19 years for water to arrive in the Columbia Basin. During that time, contracts will be signed, irrigation canals built, lakes and reservoirs created or filled to capacity – and the struggle for money will continue.

In 1952, their dreams will be realized. Water finally flows from the mighty Columbia to the thirsty lands of the Columbia Basin. By 1967, over 500,000 acres will have access to water. [...]

Cooperation will become the catchword for the 1970s and '80s. In 1976, the federal government and state agree to share the costs to build the Second Bacon Siphon and Tunnel. That same spirit of cooperation will be needed as the future of the project's uncompleted second half is contemplated.

In 1983, farmers and federal and state officials are optimistic about the future of those remaining 540,000 acres. A leader is selected to pick up the banner and resume the march.

The final chapter in the story of Grand Coulee Dam and the Columbia Basin project is yet to be written.

It is a drama which will continue to unfold until the ultimate vision – irrigation of over one million acres in the Columbia Basin – is realized

CBDL Membership Online

The League's website offers the choice to pay membership online. New members can also sign up at the site. Offering the ability to sign up online is just another way we are trying to better serve our members.

Go to www.cbdl.org for more information.

Thank You to Our 2016 Conference Sponsors

The Washington State Potato Commission continues to demonstrate their commitment to the Columbia Basin Project through their Annual Conference Presenting Sponsorship. Thank you for your continued support!



Thank you also to our 2016 Platinum Sponsors:



Conference sponsorship offers unique industry exposure and provides a special way to support the ongoing work of CBDL. Sponsorships are available at a variety of levels and offer opportunities for onsite signage, ads in the program, recognition from the stage, and more. Check out www.cbdl.org or contact Kate Taylor, ktaylor@cbdl.org, for more information.



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Visit www.cbdl.org to sign up,
or send us an email: info@cbdl.org.



2016 CONFERENCE

Infrastructure, Operations, and Maintenance
What it Takes to Keep the Largest Reclamation Project Going

Thursday, November 3, 2016

Big Bend Community College Moses Lake

THANKS TO OUR 2016 MEMBERS

Sustaining

JR Simplot Co
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Leadership

ConAgra Foods/Lamb Weston

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Washington State Potato Commission

Major

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BR Bair Farms Inc
Brad Hirz
Bruce & Diana Carlson Inc
Burk Waluke Enterprises
Burk Waluke Enterprises
Canyon Crest Farms
Carpenter McGuire & DeWulf PS
Cecelia Quirk
Cegnar Company
Central Bonded Collectors
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
Columbia Agricultural Consultants Inc
Columbia Bank
Columbia Basin Machine Co Inc

Condon Dental Services
Country Financial
Crop Production Services
D&D Gilbert Farms
Dan Piper Farm
Dano Law Firm PS
Darrel A Kulm Ranches Inc
Don Beus
Donald Stucky
Earthbourne Resources Inc
East Basin Ag LLC
EL & JH Ray Farms LLC
Envoy Mortgage
Erickson Orchards Inc
Flying T LLC
Fode Land Co LLC
Franklin County Commissioners
Fresno Valves & Castings Inc
GDL Farms
Giselle Wiederhielm Farm
Gish Farms
Glen Bair Farms
Grange Supply Company of Odessa
Grant County EDC
Grant County PUD
Grigg Farms
H Lee Farms Inc
Haricot Farms Inc/Central Bean Co
HDR Engineering Inc
Helena Chemical Company
Hendrix Farms LLC
Hennigar Welding LLC
Henry Field
Hilmes Construction Inc
Irrigation Components International
Isaak Brothers
ITC Services Inc
J&E Schafer Farms Inc
J&S Myers Inc
Jack L Gilbert & Sons Inc
Jacklin Seed by Simplot

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Middleton Family Farm	Schroeder Law Offices PC	Pasco Chamber of Commerce
Milton Johnston	Schutte Farms Inc	Quincy Valley Chamber of Commerce
Mona Freriks	Schwisow & Associates	Ritzville Area Chamber of Commerce
Moody Family	Seed-Rite Inc	Soap Lake Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Air Service Inc	SIDEB Inc	Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabilitation District	Skone Irrigation Warden/Pasco	
Nancy Franz	Soiltest Farm Consultants Inc	
P&P Farms	South Columbia Basin Irrigation District	