

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Jason Phillips
Chief Executive Officer

2023. What a year it was. Much of what happened in the Friant Division was all over the headlines of local, and even national news. After consecutive years of drought, the state was slammed with one of the wettest years ever recorded. Without question, the change in hydrology was welcomed, but boy did it come with some challenges and problems to deal with. But as has been the history of the central valley, no challenge is too large for us to handle. From widespread flooding on river systems all throughout the Sierra Nevada, which fueled the rebirth of Tulare Lake, to the inundation of the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project, these events tested our resolve, expanded our necessity to work together, arm in arm, and demanded that we summon the ability to rise to the challenge, take responsibility, and get to work. These are traits that are common in this country. And something we should all be very proud of.

The January 2024 FWA eWaterline newsletter is devoted to a "2023 year in review". As you will see from the photos, we've been busy at FWA, as there has been much to deal with.

2024 is shaping to be every bit as busy as last year. Be on the lookout for Phase 1 of the FKC Middle Reach project getting done, some major water management and policy changes both at the state and federal level, and other interesting news. In the meantime, please enjoy the photos!



2023: A YEAR OF CHALLENGES, ACHIEVEMENTS, MILESTONES, AND COMMUNITY

2023 was a big year for Friant Water Authority. While the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach project saw its share of challenges with weather and flooding, a tremendous amount of progress was made along the alignment. This phase of the project continues to be on track for completion in 2024. FWA was also active on the political front supporting several initiatives to advance the interests and protection of our community and its vital resources. Last year's bevy of important meetings, offsite events, and festive / celebratory gatherings continued to galvanize the neighborly dedication and support that flows throughout our community. We reflect on the year with gratitude and look forward to 2024. The following photos provide a quick snapshot of the year's highlights.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB 12

FWA Executive Committee Meeting
Lindsay, CA
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FEB 26

FWA Finance Committee Meeting
Lindsay, CA
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FEB 29

FWA Board of Directors Meeting
Visalia, CA
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MAR 11

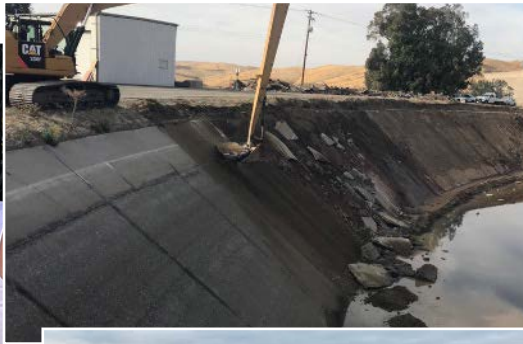
FWA Executive Committee Meeting
Lindsay, CA
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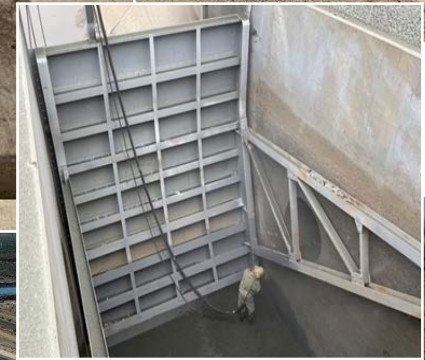
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Portions of the canal underwent a dewatering process (draining the canal) so that crews can make necessary repairs and upgrades to the canal's vital infrastructure in order to ensure reliable service into the future.



Last year, FWA staff, board members, and the Friant community gathered at the annual offsite meeting to discuss plans for the upcoming year. Gatherings like these provide numerous advantages for Friant Division Contractors while fostering a more enriched and engaged culture and strengthening relationships and bonds within the community.

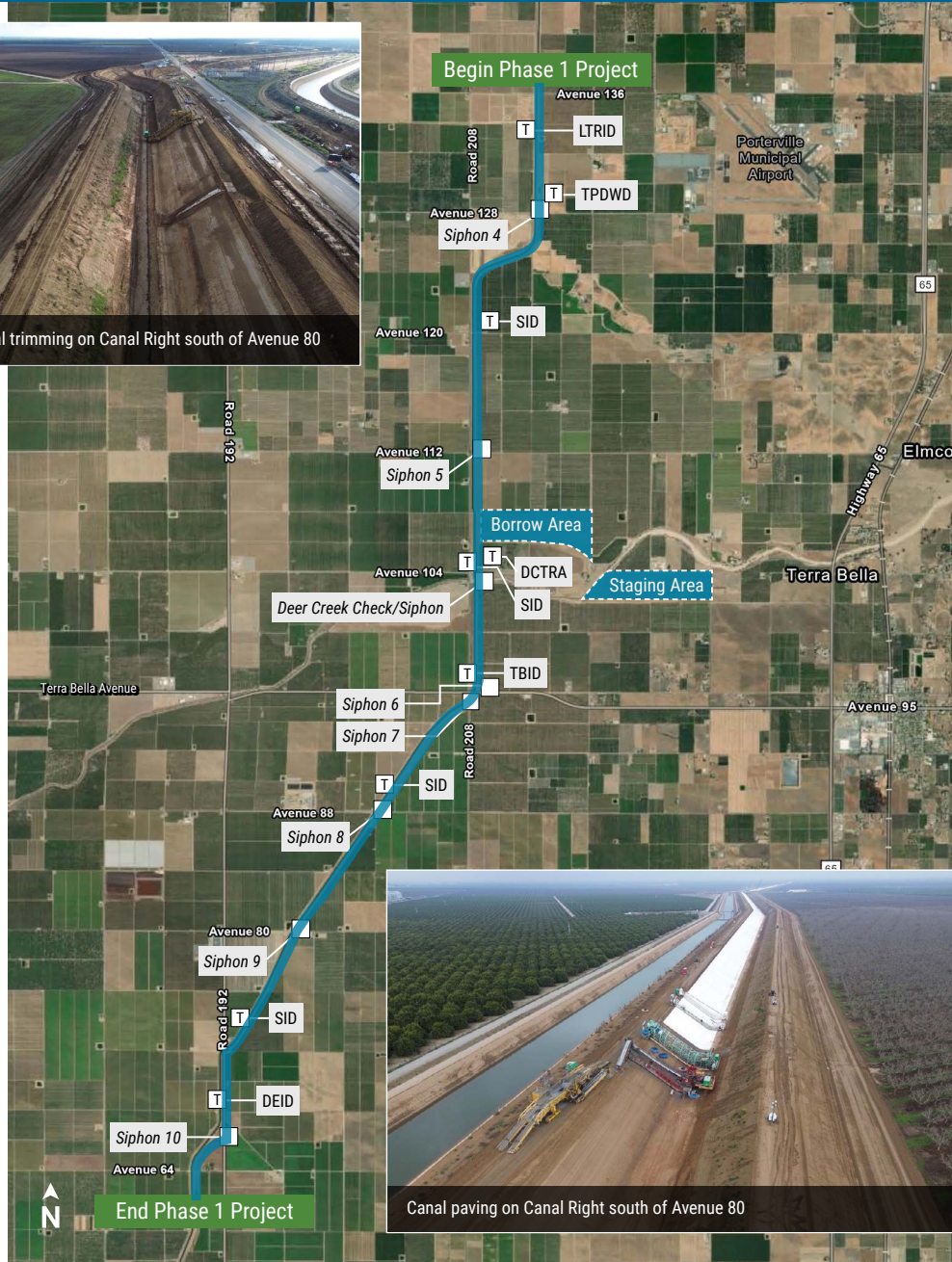
FRIANT-KERN CANAL MIDDLE REACH CAPACITY CORRECTION CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATE

The weather was clear and sunny with only several rain days. Canal embankment was placed along the entire alignment including constructing embankment freeboard and placing structural backfill adjacent to siphons. All segments of the embankment are approximately 99% complete and canal trimming and lining operations continued this month during daytime hours. As of the first week of January, the canal trimming was completed on canal to Road 192; and the canal lining was completed between Avenue 80 to Road 192. Hand paving was placed at various locations along the alignment.

Deer Creek check structure: completed installation of radial gate arms and gates, installation of gate hoists and stoplog guides began. Deer Creek channel was graded and riprap placed to protect the banks. **Road 208 siphon:** falsework removed and structural backfill placed. **Avenue 88 and Avenue 80 siphons:** installed formwork for remaining deck sections poured concrete, completing construction for both siphons. **Turnouts:** installed slide gates, formwork, reinforcing bars; placed concrete, structural backfill and pipe backfill. Formwork placed at the Terra Bella weir and concrete poured. Electrical and instrumentation work conducted at the TBID, Casa Blanca, and DCTRA turnouts and at Deer Creek. Installed conduits, ductbanks, cables, meters, transformer, remote terminal units, and terminating wires to slide gates and panels. **Road closures:** Terra Bella Avenue, Avenue 80 and 128, and Road 208. **Canal outage:** outage period continued for completion of excavation, grading, placing reinforcing bars, pouring concrete, and placing joint sealant at the north tie-in; excavation, grading, and placing reinforcing bars at the south tie-in; and completing irrigation district permanent pipe installations.



Canal trimming on Canal Right south of Avenue 80



Canal paving on Canal Right south of Avenue 80



South canal tie-in panel placement in progress



North canal tie-in hand paving

"FKC Middle Reach Capacity Correction Construction Progress Update" Continued



Avenue 80 siphon falsework removal in progress and structural backfill partially complete



Avenue 88 siphon formwork and falsework removal



Deer Creek looking eastward with the Deer Creek check shown on the left



Terra Bella ID weir box and outfall pipe installation

IN THE NEWS

"Snow drought' darkening California's water outlook,"
Courthouse News Service, January 22, 2024.

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"Work to remove Klamath River dams gets underway as crews draw down reservoirs," KGW, January 22, 2024.

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"Looking at reservoir levels in California," KSBW, January 22, 2024.

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"What climate change means for coastal fog in California" KQED, January 22, 2024.

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"Slowing climate change by capturing carbon," Public Policy Institute of California, January 22, 2024.

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"Conservation groups seek a permanent flow requirement for the Shasta River," Jefferson Public Radio, January 23, 2024.

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PUBLIC MEETING: Draft Dam Safety Enhancements Grant Program Guidelines

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California Irrigation Institute Conference

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