MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Jason Phillips Chief Executive Officer

The importance of effectively communicating the impact, interests, and concerns of valley agriculture, and frankly the valley

in general, has never been greater. It wasn't that long ago when an article in the local newspaper, or a cleverly worded letter to the editor, or a brief interview at a local TV station was considered the most effective way to communicate with the public. The reality of today, in 2021, is that there are technologies that have emerged, and continue to evolve, to provide for cost-effective, and frankly, more reliable methods to reach any type of audience we want, whether it be a targeted audience specific to water issues, or a broader audience that covers multiple regions and interests.

At the Friant Water Authority (FWA), we're engaged in several platforms that allow us to communicate and to get our message out. We're active on a number of social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter, we communicate regularly via email to individuals who subscribe to our email list, we produce the **FWA eWaterline**, and, we still produce press releases for traditional media sources when the need arises. But, as technologies and methods continue to evolve, so do we.

I'm very proud to announce that we have launched a monthly FWA podcast called the Watering Hole. As with other podcasts, it provides us the opportunity to communicate using a long-form discussion format, to be able to dive a little deeper into the issues that we think need to be covered, or that we are struggling with as a region. And as far as I can tell, our podcast is the first of its kind. The host of the podcast is Johnny Amaral, who serves as the Chief of External Affairs for FWA, and his

Continued on page 2

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"THE WATERING HOLE" PODCAST DEBUTS WITH CONGRESSMAN DEVIN NUNES AS SPECIAL GUEST

Today Friant Water Authority (FWA) debuted its first episode of "The Watering Hole", a new podcast hosted by Johnny Amaral, Chief of External Affairs of FWA. Available on the **FWA YouTube Channel**, the monthly podcast hosts in-depth discussions with notable guests from a wide variety of backgrounds including politics, farming and agriculture, water, science, and many more. Topics include current events, water, and local issues and challenges, along with guest opinions and thoughts about the future. Listeners will also enjoy a glimpse into the lesser known side of the guests, as well as some potentially humorous banter.

In Episode 1, **Congressman Devin Nunes** joins Johnny to discuss the rancor and tension that permeates every aspect of Washington DC, dive into local water issues, and explore some unexpected topics of which most of the audience may be unaware.



JOHNNY AMARAL INTERVIEWED ON POWERTALK 96.7 FM

Johnny Amaral, FWA Chief of External Affairs, recently joined **The Trevor Carey Show** on **Power Talk 96.7 FM** to discuss the bureaucracy challenges California continues to face in trying to establish more balanced, efficient and common sense water conveyance policies.



EVENTS AROUND THE VALLEY

APRIL 26

FWA Finance Committee Meeting

Lindsay, CA

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APRIL 29

FWA Board of Directors Meeting

Visalia, CA

CLICK FOR INFO ▶

MAY 17

FWA Executive Committee Meeting Lindsay, CA

CLICK FOR INFO ▶

MAY 24

FWA Finance Committee Meeting

Lindsay, CA

CLICK FOR INFO ▶

first episode is accessible on this month's eWaterline.

As you will see, his first guest was quite a "get". Johnny was able to schedule time with Congressman Devin Nunes to have a discussion about water and other issues and to take a little bit of a deeper dive than in most interviews on those topics. I think if you listen to the podcast you'll hear some good information and some insight from the congressman, and a different side of the congressman that you might not have thought existed until hearing the podcast.

Johnny's plan is to continue to book guests for the podcast who can provide an interesting take on the various issues that we deal with, but it won't just be politicians. Even though they may think otherwise, politicians don't always have all the answers!

I hope you enjoy the **first episode** of "The Watering Hole" as much as I did, and after you listen to it, feel free to share the link. As we continue with this project, we hope that our reach and our audience continues to grow over the next few months and years. You can help make that happen by sharing the YouTube link on your social media platforms, or by simply texting the link to a group of friends from your cell phone.

Enjoy!

Jason Phillips, CEO, Friant Water Authority

IN THE NEWS

"Valley Lawmakers Ask Newsom to Declare Statewide Water Emergency," GV Wire (Apr. 7, 2021)

CLICK TO READ MORE ▶

"Amid A Drought, Disinformation Runs Rampant On California's Waterways," *The Sun (Mar. 17, 2021)*

CLICK TO READ MORE ▶

"Farmers Try To Plan for a Critically Dry Year," *The Sun (Apr. 7, 2021)*

CLICK TO READ MORE ▶

"Vice President Kamala Harris Warns Of Looming 'Wars Fought Over Water'," CBS SF BayArea (Apr. 5, 2021)

CLICK TO READ MORE ▶

FWA SENDS LETTERS TO SWRCB AND CONGRESS



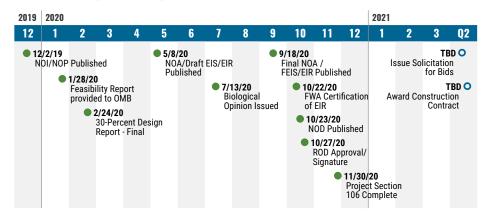
On March 30, law firms representing the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors authored a letter to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to dispute recommendations from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) regarding threats to the spawning salmon population in the Sacramento River.



On March 19, FWA, along with San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) and State Water Contractors, **wrote a letter** to California Senator Melissa Hurtado in support of bill **SB 559**, which, if passed, would provide infrastructure repair funding for canal systems used to deliver water to cities and farms, including the Friant-Kern Canal.

UPDATE ON FKC CAPACITY CORRECTION PROJECT

The following is a summary of the design, permitting, and regulatory work completed by the FWA project team in recent months.



The following is a summary of the funding options and benchmarks that the FWA project team are pursuing to piece together a final finance plan.

SOURCE OF FUNDS	AMOUNT	STATUS
Bureau of Reclamation SJR Restoration Program	\$41.8 m	Confirmed/In-hand
Bureau of Reclamation SJR Restoration Program	\$9 m	Requested
WIIN Act FY18 and FY20 Appropriations	\$4.55 m	Awaiting Congressional Action
WIIN Act FY21 Trump Administration funding request	\$206 m	Signed by President Trump
State funding (SB 559 - Hurtado)	<\$308 m	Reintroduced on 2/18
Groundwater Sustainability Agency mitigation funding	\$125 m	Agreement Finalized
Friant contractor funding	\$50 m	Confirmed/Committed

FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

