

**MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**



**Jason Phillips**  
Chief Executive Officer

In my last message, I described the concerns we have about water from Millerton Lake being released into the San Joaquin River for delivery to the Exchange Contractors. This is directly related to the unreliability of Sacramento River supplies pumped through the Delta. Since those releases into the San Joaquin River began on April 1, more than 90,000 acre-feet of water has been lost from Friant Dam. At the time, we believed that these releases would likely continue through September at a water cost of over 500 thousand acre-feet. However, we are cautiously optimistic that the storms we received in April were enough to reduce the amount of time that these releases will be required, and they may be ending as early as July. This would be welcome news to the agricultural communities in areas that benefit from water in Millerton Lake as it may help reduce the likelihood of at least some community and domestic wells going dry this summer. Even with this glimmer of hope, the cool water pool at Millerton Lake has already diminished due to the releases for the Exchange Contractors, which means that temperature-related risks will likely remain for the Spring run salmon who are currently returning from the ocean and will spawn this fall below Friant Dam.

I want to end this message on a positive note, as we still have much to celebrate. In mid-May I had the opportunity to tour the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project construction site and witness the fantastic progress being made there. I took a short [video](#) during my site visit to share with the Friant community. FWA continues to have excellent project partners in the Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Water Resources, and the joint venture of Brosamer & Wall and Tutor Perini, which is doing

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## NEW TURNOUT IMPROVES FRIANT-KERN CANAL'S FLOODWATER CONVEYANCE TO HANNAH RANCH MULTIBENEFIT PROJECT

California water managers and policymakers are increasingly pursuing multibenefit solutions to help achieve more than one goal at once to help humans and natural systems. Late last year, Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District completed a new turnout on the Friant-Kern Canal to support the Hannah Ranch Water Management Project, a truly multibenefit project aimed at reducing flood risk, capturing water supplies when available, and achieving groundwater sustainability in the Kaweah basin.

The new turnout, located at approximately Woodlake Highway 245 and Cottage PO Drive, includes two 72-inch gates and 72-inch pipes, making it a considerably larger outlet than other turnouts on the Friant-Kern Canal. This feature was designed very intentionally because the new turnout is a key piece of a multibenefit flood management project. Its large size will allow it to divert flood flows in the canal from the Kaweah River and Millerton Lake – up to 1400 acre-feet over as little as a weekend – into a 380-acre storage basin. When high-flow events subside and the local Kaweah River's flow level no longer threatens public safety, that water will be released into the river and diverted further downstream into one or more of KDWCD's groundwater recharge basins.

Reflecting the project's multiple purposes, KDWCD received \$6.2 million for the project from California taxpayers, via a Proposition 1E flood protection grant awarded by the California Department of Water Resources in 2014. As required under Proposition 1E, KDWCD contributed a 50% cost share of \$3.1 million for the project, also.

Construction on the new turnout began in March 2021, just after KDWCD installed a cofferdam off the Friant-Kern Canal to allow work to proceed safely while the canal was conveying flows for Friant Contractors. Although the turnout itself is complete and can be used now to divert flows from the canal, a few pieces of construction remain before the project will be fully functional as a flood management feature, which KDWCD estimates will occur by the end of this year.

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## EVENTS AROUND THE VALLEY

**MAY 26**

FWA Board of Directors Meeting  
Visalia, CA

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**JUNE 13**

FWA Executive Committee Meeting  
Lindsay, CA

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**JUNE 20**

FWA Finance Committee Meeting  
Lindsay, CA

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**JUNE 23**

FWA Board of Directors Meeting  
Visalia, CA

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the project construction. We continue to work closely with DWR's leadership and staff to receive the funding California has invested in the project. The entire FWA team has been impressed by the collaborative and responsive team we're working with at DWR; the project wouldn't be as far along as it is without their help. State Senator Melissa Hurtado has also continued to be a strong leader on San Joaquin Valley water issues and advocate for funding to repair the Friant-Kern Canal and other major canals. On May 9, Senator Hurtado hosted a news conference to push for additional funding for the SB 559 projects out of California's record-breaking budget surplus this year. FWA Government Affairs and Communications Manager Alex Biering and other water and agriculture advocates spoke in support of her efforts, and you can watch a video of the event [here](#). After more than five years of intense efforts to make the MRCCP a reality, it's satisfying to see dirt being moved on this project; when the water finally comes, we'll be ready.

Jason Phillips, CEO, Friant Water Authority

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The new turnout from the canal brings floodwater into a channel connected to a series of basins before reconnecting to the Kaweah River.

## IN THE NEWS

"Four Strategies for Managing California's Crucial Watershed," *CalMatters*, May 17

[CLICK TO READ MORE ▶](#)

"MRI for the Earth' Probes Groundwater from the Air in California," *Sierra Sun-Times*, May 16

[CLICK TO READ MORE ▶](#)

"How California Can Survive Another Historic Drought," *Washington Post*, May 15

[CLICK TO READ MORE ▶](#)

"CA Senate Bill Pushes for Canal Repairs to Save Water Amid Drought," *ABC 30*, May 10

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"Allensworth Groundwater Storage Project Receives Funding from DWR," *The Sun Gazette*, May 9

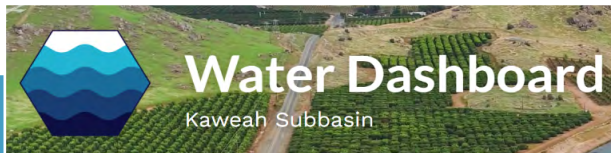
[CLICK TO READ MORE ▶](#)

"Policy Brief: Tracking Where Water Goes in a Changing Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta," *PPIC*, May 2022

[CLICK TO READ MORE ▶](#)



The six basins shown above provide wetland habitat while also recharging the underlying Kaweah groundwater basin.



## KAWEAH WATER DASHBOARD

Early registration for the Kaweah Water Dashboard is now available at [www.gsawd.com](http://www.gsawd.com). This tool will allow landowners in any of the Kaweah Basin groundwater sustainability agencies to begin tracking their evapotranspiration (ET) data that will be used under the Mid-Kaweah GSA Emergency Ordinance, which places restrictions groundwater pumping. Landowners will be able to view historical ET at the field level, with new data uploaded monthly, allowing for transparent implementation of new policies and billing.

Click to Read Jason Phillips' written testimony in support of S. 1179, the Canal Conveyance Capacity Restoration Act



# MIDDLE REACH CAPACITY CORRECTION PROJECT PROGRESS

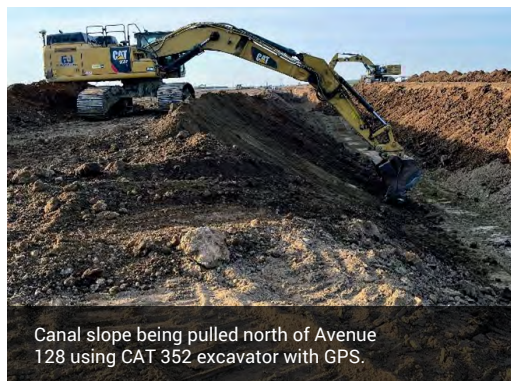
Since breaking ground in January, construction on the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project has moved swiftly. Below are several progress pictures from the past month.



Excavation and construction of the new canal and embankments parallel to the existing Friant-Kern Canal.



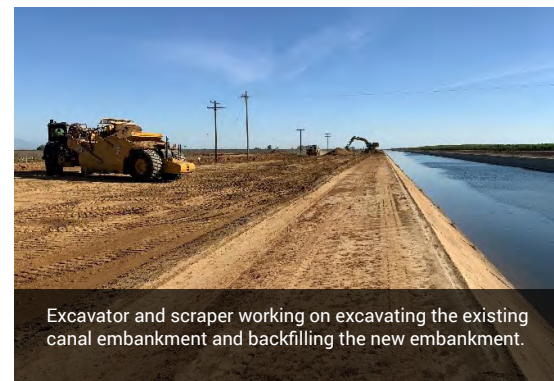
Saucelito Irrigation District temporary irrigation bypass line at Avenue 88, west connection point.



Canal slope being pulled north of Avenue 128 using CAT 352 excavator with GPS.



Concrete batch plant setup in progress.



Excavator and scraper working on excavating the existing canal embankment and backfilling the new embankment.

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

2020				2021				2022			
9	10	11	12	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
● 9/18/20 Final NOA / FEIS/EIR Published	● 10/22/20 FWA Certification of EIR	● 10/23/20 NOD Published	● 10/27/20 ROD Approval/Signature		● Q2 Issue Solicitation for Bids		● 10/7/21 Award Construction Contract	● 1/5/22 Groundbreaking			
	● 11/30/20 Project Section 106 Complete										

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 - FKC share of SB559	\$67 m	Signed By Governor Newsom
Groundwater Sustainability Agency mitigation funding	\$125 - 225 m	Agreements Finalized
Friant contractor funding	\$50 m	Confirmed/Committed



Construction along the new canal alignment near the Deer Creek crossing.