

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Jason Phillips
Chief Executive Officer

Senator Feinstein, who passed away last week, left a mark in American politics

that is unmistakable. She was a trail blazer in many ways, and the path that she carved and the leadership she showed on water issues during her career in the Senate is second to no one. The sheer number of resource and water related bills with her name on them, that have actually become law, are too countless to name.

Just like any other elected official, we didn't always agree on everything, but when it came to California water issues, Senator Feinstein could be counted on to be a thought leader, a reasonable deal maker, and a solutions-oriented person. Even on the tough issues, when the prospects of finding agreement were slim, she and her staff were always willing to meet with FWA Directors and staff to work through issues and to try to reach a compromise. To find a way to "yes" for the benefit of everyone involved. Her mentality often put her at odds with the majority of her fellow party members, as well as some of the most powerful and well-funded special interests working in DC. That is a rare attribute, especially in today's politics. And she not only routinely did the right thing on water issues, she frequently led the efforts to do the right thing.

Water policy discussions in California have become so politically charged, especially in the last 30 years, that it's almost impossible not to notice. Even for the most casual observers of water issues, the signs of strife, anxiety, and frustration are evident. You can't drive down a major highway in the central valley without

Continued on page 2

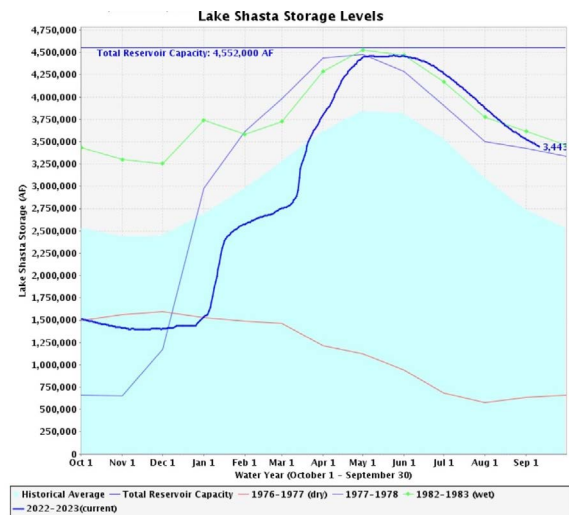
RESERVOIR LEVELS ACROSS CALIFORNIA REMAIN HIGH AS THE WET SEASON NEARS

Reprinted from **ABC10**, September 12, 2023

SACRAMENTO, California – Reservoirs across the state of California remain elevated as another wet season approaches. Following the record wet winter, lakes and reservoirs were nearly full to the brim as the melting snowpack made its way into them.

Following the melt-off period, Lake Shasta – the keystone of the Central Valley Project – was at 98% capacity, Oroville was at 100% capacity, and Folsom Lake was nearly full as well at 95% capacity. These bodies of water were quite parched heading into the winter due to the three years of drought preceding the past winter's deluge and ranged from 25-32% capacity before the atmospheric river events rolled in.

Now summer is nearing its end and the reservoirs remain at healthy levels. As of Sept. 12, Shasta is at 76% of capacity (129% of historical average), Oroville is at 79% (138% of historical average) and Folsom is 72% full (135% of historical average). Large jumps in storage levels can be explained by the persistent train of atmospheric rivers in both January and March and the steadier rise through the early summer is thanks to the snowmelt period.



Source: CA.gov

Although the wet winter was fantastic in terms of water supply for the thirsty state, it also pushed water infrastructure to the brink and flooding was an issue throughout the winter and spring. Flooding could once again be an issue with a strong El Niño expected this winter, which is expected to peak in either December or January. El Niño events are typically associated with wet winters in California, particularly in Southern California.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 16

FWA Executive Committee Meeting
Lindsay, CA
[CLICK FOR INFO](#)

OCT 23

FWA Finance Committee Meeting
Lindsay, CA
[CLICK FOR INFO](#)

OCT 26

FWA Board of Directors Meeting
Visalia, CA
[CLICK FOR INFO](#)

DEC 8

FWA Board of Directors Meeting
Visalia, CA
[CLICK FOR INFO](#)

NOT A SUBSCRIBER YET?

Click here to subscribe to this newsletter!



@FRIANTWATER
FRIANTWATER.ORG

seeing billboards, signs, and other outdoor messaging strategies, decrying the “man-made drought”, or the “Congress created dust bowl”. Because so many businesses, farms, and communities are tethered to water management policy, and a functioning infrastructure system to move the water, emotions can run high when having to deal with the increased number of regulations that have been layered on top of one another over the last 30 years, which have resulted in diminished water supply reliability for the central valley. In recent years, there’s been some progress made. There are signs that the democrat versus republican battles on water policy have begun to break down, which is a good thing. I believe one of the major reasons why those barriers are getting easier to overcome is because of Senator Dianne Feinstein.

In past issues of the FWA ewaterline, I’ve written about my frustrations with the gridlock in Washington DC. The passing of Senator Feinstein, who was so willing and eager to exert leadership on tough issues, makes that challenge even bigger.

My prayers and condolences go out to her family and loved ones, and may she rest in peace.



MEET THE FRIANT FAMILY

M. BRENT MECHAM

Engineering Technician

Friant Water Authority

Born and raised in Pocatello, Idaho, Brent has accrued a wide array of experience ranging from field work, to production processing, to the design, manufacturing, and assembly of industrial equipment. After receiving an A.A.S. Degree in Drafting and Design Technology at Idaho State University, Brent contracted for Carnation Potato Processing Plant in Twin Falls where he laid out the facilities equipment that processed the spuds from unloading, to packaging, to freezer units. He then worked for Double L Manufacturing (raw produce handling equipment) where he designed equipment, assembled harvesters, and compiled components for assembly of heavy-duty equipment including truck beds, conveyors, pilers, windrowers, and harvesters. After joining AMI Semiconductor as the Facilities Designer, Brent met his wife of 24 years, Pamela. Both sharing a dislike of the cold bay area climate, they moved to Merced in 2004, where Brent worked for the County of Madera as head of the grading department until 2009. The following year he joined Friant Water Authority, where his primary duties include managing canal records and Right-of-Way issues and plan checking proposed structure drawings. In his free time, Brent enjoys family, golf, and travel. He has visited Tobago, Hawaii, St. Johns and St. Thomas, and St. Maarten, while two kids and five grandchildren keep him on his toes.



M. BRENT MECHAM

JEEVAN MUHAR

Engineer-Manager

Arvin-Edison Water District

Jeevan has served the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District and its landowners for the past 14 years, and is only the fifth manager to oversee the District since its formation in 1942. As Engineer-Manager at Arvin-Edison WD, Jeevan’s duties include administration of a 350,000 acre-foot Federal Water Contract, a 30-megawatt Federal

power contract, a multitude of water management programs including one with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, oversees major infrastructure consisting of 45 miles of concrete canals, 50 pumping plants with 150 pumps/motors, 1500 acres of spreading basins, 82 groundwater extraction wells, and manages approximately 50 employees. Prior to the District, from 2002 to 2006, he served as an Engineering Consultant for Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, where he consulted for multiple water districts, providing construction observation and contract administration, design specifications, design of water pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs and energy consultation. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 2001, and earned his California Registration as a Professional Engineer in Civil Engineering in in 2006. Jeevan has deep roots in the San Joaquin Valley – he was raised in San Joaquin and Kerman (west of Fresno), his family still farms in Fresno County, and he currently lives in Bakersfield, with his wife and three sons.



JEEVAN MUHAR

EDWIN A. CAMP

Director (FWA Board of Directors)

President, Arvin-Edison Water Storage District

Edwin Camp has served on the Friant Water Authority Board of Directors since 2013 and also serves on the Board’s Executive Committee. He is President of the Board of Arvin-Edison Water Storage District and also President of DM Camp & Sons, a third-generation family farming enterprise and John Deere Distributorship based in Bakersfield. Edwin Camp is a Bakersfield native, born in 1956, one of five children born to Don and Izetta Camp. The quest to learn his trade began early, having been raised on the farm, he spent most summers and holidays working in various areas of the operation. He attended Shafter Schools, was active in his church youth group and became an Eagle Scout before reaching high school. He has a long history of business and community involvement, including as a director and former chairman of Western Growers Association. Edwin also serves as a director or member of the Cal Poly College of Agriculture Advisory Council, the California Agricultural Leadership Program, and the Advisory Board of Kern Citizens for Sustainable Government. He is a former director of California Potato Research and Advisory Board, the National Potato Board, the Kern County Farm Bureau and the North Kern Water District board. He and his wife Kaye have two daughters and live in Bakersfield. Edwin has a Bachelor of Science in Crop Science from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, where he also served as president of the Crops Club and was a member of Alpha Zeta national professional agricultural fraternity.



EDWIN A. CAMP

FRIANT-KERN CANAL MIDDLE REACH CAPACITY CORRECTION CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS UPDATE

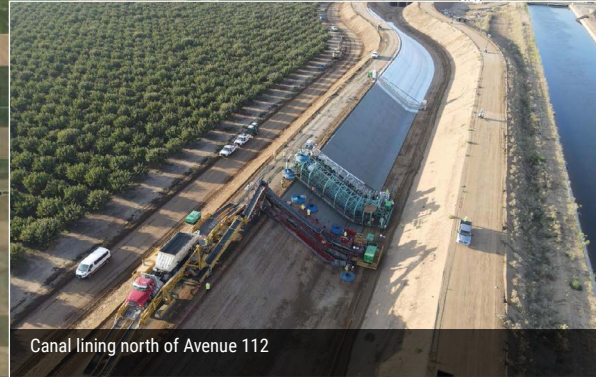
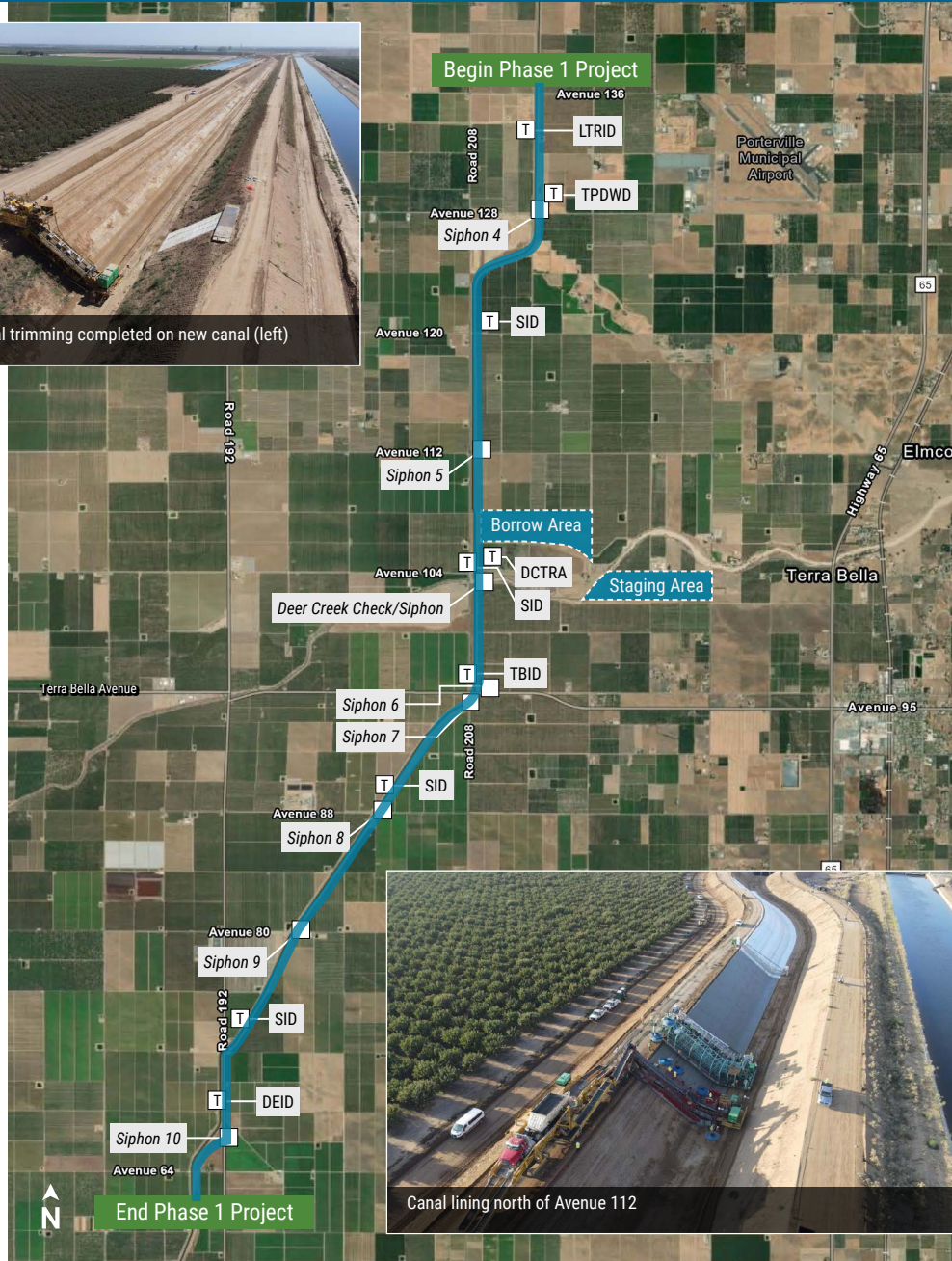
Weather was mostly clear and sunny, with substantive rain occurring on August 21st and 22nd from Tropical Storm Hilary. Cleanup efforts continued from March storms, including flood sediment removal from the Deer Creek siphon and check.

Canal embankment was placed between Deer Creek and Avenue 95; between Road 208 and Avenue 88; and between Avenue 88 and Avenue 64. Embankments are now over 95% complete. Canal trimming and lining operations continued, on the north side of Deer Creek, on the east side of the excavated canal prism. Trimming was completed from Avenue 112 to Avenue 128 with trimming material placed on the new canal left embankment. The canal lining machine advanced to approximately Hesse Avenue. Hand lining is being conducted at several areas along the alignment. Due to the hot temperatures, canal lining concrete is placed at night.

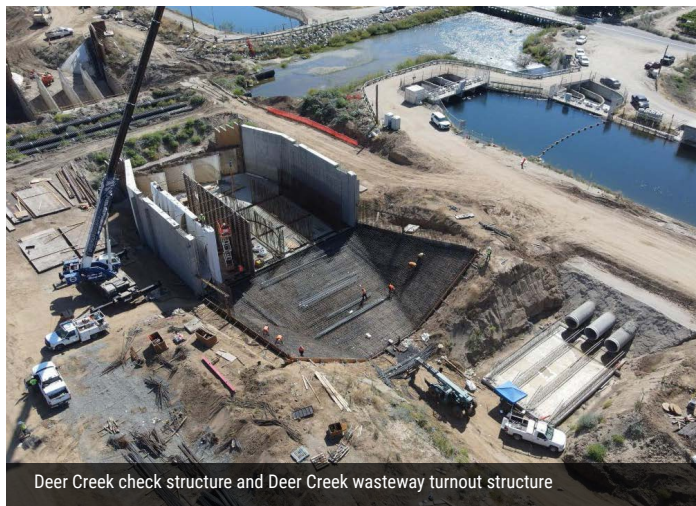
- Deer Creek check structure:** wall formwork and reinforcing bars installed, and concrete placed in one wall section.
- Road 192 siphon:** formwork, water stops, bulkheads, and reinforcing bars installed for deck sections and concrete was poured; with the overall concrete structure completed this month.
- Terra Bella Avenue siphon:** formwork installed for sloped deck sections, and concrete poured in one deck section.
- Avenue 128 siphon:** formwork, water stops, bulkheads and reinforcing bars installed for deck and headwall sections into which concrete was poured; with the overall concrete structure completed this month.
- Road 208 siphon:** reinforced bar placement, installed formwork, and placed structural concrete in several wall, and deck sections.
- Avenue 80 siphon:** installed reinforcement and formwork for walls.
- Avenue 80 siphon:** no work conducted.
- Turnouts:** formwork removal, placing structural backfill, and installing turnout piping at SID-S4, Terra Bella ID, Deer Creek Wasteway, and DEID-68 turnouts.



Canal trimming completed on new canal (left)



Canal lining north of Avenue 112



Deer Creek check structure and Deer Creek wasteway turnout structure



Avenue 128 siphon structural concrete completed 8/25/23

"FKC Middle Reach Capacity Correction Construction Progress Update" Continued



Avenue 95 siphon framework for the sloped deck section in progress



Road 208 siphon transition wall and deck for the flat section in progress



Road 192 siphon concrete structure completed 8/25/23



Avenue 80 wall reinforcement and framework in progress

IN THE NEWS

"DWR Awards \$187 Million to Improve Sustainable Groundwater Use and Storage Statewide," CA DWR, September 12, 2023.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

"Reservoir levels across California remain high as the wet season nears," ABC 10, September 12, 2023.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

"California ponies up \$300 million to prepare groundwater infrastructure for climate change," Courthouse News Service, September 12, 2023.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

"The Big Melt Transformed California," San Francisco Chronicle, August 23, 2023.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

"Local water district floats plan to turn ocean water into drinking water," KTLA 5, September 19, 2023.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

"Salinas Valley agency gets \$10.3M grant to fight against future California droughts," The Californian, September 12, 2023.

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

