

**MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**



**Jason Phillips**  
Chief Executive Officer

After several years of investigation, planning, environmental work, engineering, lobbying, and advocating, among other things, we have finally reached the point where a contract has been awarded to begin the construction on the Friant Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project. As you know from previous editions of the FWA eWaterline, while this isn't the only project we've been working on, it has taken up a sizable amount of time from the Directors, district managers, and FWA staff from within the Friant division. And for good reason.

The events that got us here, and the process that was developed to deal with it has been well documented. Not just by FWA, but by many other observers at the federal state and local level that have followed and commented on this very important project. The design, engineering, and financing of this project presented many challenges, but the Friant division, and the state of California as a whole, are much better off for the process that FWA led to get us here.

There are very few other projects that can point to the robust federal, state, and local partnerships that came together to make the Middle Reach Project happen. At the federal level, the Bureau of Reclamation, as well as our representatives in Congress worked together to ensure that the federal government, who owns the canal, took the first step to prioritize the project and make sure that the federal funds flowed. It's very rare, but we were fortunate that party politics did not get in the way of the progress needed to make that happen.

The same could be said at the state level where our

[Continued on page 2](#)

## RECLAMATION AWARDS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR FIRST PHASE OF FRIANT-KERN CANAL REPAIRS

*News Release, Oct 7, 2021*

On October 7, 2021, the Bureau of Reclamation and Friant Water Authority (FWA) announced the selection of a construction contractor to begin work on the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project.

Brosamer & Wall/Tutor Perini Joint Venture, based in Walnut Creek, was awarded a \$177 million contract to perform the construction aspects of the first phase of work to repair the Friant-Kern Canal along a portion of the 33-mile stretch. This portion of the canal has lost more than half of its capacity due to subsidence—a sinking of the earth from groundwater extraction.

The total project is estimated to cost around \$500 million and will eventually restore water delivery to over one million acres of farmland and 250,000 residents in California's eastern San Joaquin Valley.

"Repairing this portion of the Friant-Kern Canal provides significant improvement for the canal's conveyance capacity and is a key priority for Reclamation and the Central Valley Project," said Reclamation Regional Director Ernest Conant. "We are looking forward to working with FWA and Brosamer & Wall/Tutor Perini Joint Venture to have shovels in the ground by the end of the year—a significant step to providing reliable water supplies to farms and communities throughout the eastern San Joaquin Valley."

Brosamer & Wall/Tutor Perini Joint Venture was selected through a best-value competitive bid process overseen and managed by Reclamation throughout the summer. Reclamation anticipates a Notice To Proceed for the contractor in November with resulting construction activity beginning by year's end. Although the contract will be managed by Reclamation, FWA and Reclamation will work jointly with Brosamer & Wall/Tutor Perini Joint Venture to implement construction of the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project. The work under this contract includes 10 miles of new canal with eight concrete inverted siphons below various structures and creeks along with various concrete turnout structures, and other miscellaneous work.

"After more than four years of work to assess the canal's problems, develop designs to fix it, and assemble an initial funding and financing package, we are thrilled to take this enormous step toward restoring critical water deliveries that support the San Joaquin Valley's businesses, communities, and farms," said Friant Water Authority Chief Executive Officer, Jason Phillips. "FWA looks forward to launching this phase of work with our partners at Reclamation and Brosamer & Wall/Tutor Perini Joint Venture."

[Article continued on page 2](#)

## EVENTS AROUND THE VALLEY

**OCTOBER 18**

FWA Executive Committee Meeting  
Lindsay, CA

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**OCTOBER 25**

FWA Finance Committee Meeting  
Lindsay, CA

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**OCTOBER 28**

FWA Board of Directors Meeting  
Visalia, CA

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**NOVEMBER 22**

FWA Finance Committee Meeting  
Lindsay, CA

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legislative representatives from the valley, in a bipartisan way, worked together to ensure that the state of California would become a significant funding partner in the project.

Locally, FWA, irrigation and water districts, and local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies found a way to put the pitchforks down to achieve a mutual goal of working together to fix the most important water delivery artery on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley. To date, no other agreements or partnerships have been developed in any other part of the state, making our coalition of partners truly unique and something to be very proud of.

So, as we take stock of where we are in this process, and the work that's been put in by so many to get here, it's important to remember that finding a way to work together is far better than the alternative.

In the coming weeks and months, as construction on the Friant Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project finally begins, FWA will work to make sure that the project gets done on budget and on time, while proactively pursuing other projects and initiatives to maximize the water supply to the east side of the Valley. In an ever-changing world, especially where it involves water, standing by and watching things change is no longer an option.

Jason Phillips, CEO, Friant Water Authority

**THE WATERING HOLE PODCAST EPISODE 3, FEATURING DON WRIGHT, NOW AVAILABLE**



Don Wright joins the podcast to talk about water, the absurd politics of water, and how he came up with the idea to found [www.waterwrights.net](http://www.waterwrights.net), a news and editorial website that covers California farmers and water policy.

**IN THE NEWS**

"Water is scarce in California. But farmers have found ways to store it underground," *CapRadio* (Oct. 6, 2021)

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"City of Fresno drops lawsuit against Friant Water Authority," *The Porterville Recorder* (Sep. 30, 2021)

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Article continued from page 1

**Background:**

The Friant-Kern Canal delivers water to more than one million acres of highly productive farmland and 250,000 residents. The canal, part of the Central Valley Project's Friant Division, is owned by the federal government but FWA and its predecessor agency have operated, maintained, and repaired it under contract with Reclamation since 1986. The canal's diminished capacity has resulted in up to 300,000 acre-feet of reduced water deliveries in certain water years with effects most prominent in the middle reach of the canal (milepost 88 to milepost 121). The Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project would restore capacity from the current estimated 1,600 cubic-feet-per-second to the original 4,000 cubic-feet-per-second in the most critical area near the Deer Creek check structure (milepost 103). Reclamation signed the Record of Decision for the project in November 2020.

**SENATOR HURTADO NOT SATISFIED WITH MONEY ALLOTTED FOR CANAL RESTORATION PROJECTS**

Reprinted from *Fox 26 News*, Aug 18, 2021

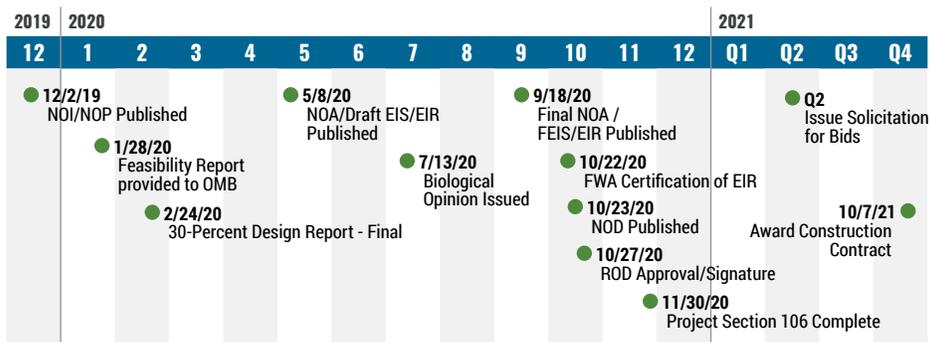
Senator Hurtado got \$100-million from Governor Newsom in her water bill. But it's \$685-million short of what she was seeking. The money will go to four water projects, the San Joaquin and San Luis Divisions of the California Aqueduct, Delta-Mendota Canal and the Friant-Kern Canal. The Governor has already promised another \$100-million for next year but Senator Hurtado wants more.

"We should celebrate any recognition California's water infrastructure requires repair but this is a drop in the bucket and doesn't square with a future that requires more planning and more thought and more unity...I don't give up. I think a lot of it is education to make sure that my colleagues know that water is not just an issue of the valley, water is an issue of western United States."

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**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 - 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

