



SWCD 2023 News

NRCS PL566 Watershed Planning

In 2020 the District completed a System Improvement Plan (SIP) which studied the potential benefits and costs of piping the delivery system. This year we are engaging in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) PL566 watershed planning process which works with local districts and other partners to identify priority areas for conservation and develop comprehensive plans to address resource concerns. These plans include a wide range of conservation practices, such as water management, cover cropping, and increases in delivery efficiency.

The District's existing System Improvement Plan details approximately \$67 million in infrastructure improvements that would result in roughly 19,000 acre-feet/year of water conserved. These types of large and costly projects need the involvement and funding from federal programs like the NRCS PL566 and US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) watersmart programs.

By engaging in the NRCS PL566 program, we can complete the federal requirement needed to receive grant funds from the federal government programs. In fact, many of you have used NRCS grant funds to make irrigation improvements on your farm and this process will allow the District to make similar improvements to the delivery system, ensuring our agricultural lands and irrigation waters are managed in a way that is both economically viable and environmentally sustainable.

We are including with this newsletter a notice of our first public scoping meeting and notice of intent to complete an environmental assessment. If you can't make it don't worry, there will be ample time to be engaged and we will have a dedicated area on our website to keep you informed.

We have water rights available!

We currently have permanent and annual water rights that can be added to you property. If you need additional water to fully cover your lot or have neighbors that need water, please pass along this information. Contact the district at (503) 769-2669 and ask for Austin. He can help review your water right coverage and what is available for each property.

Manager's Corner

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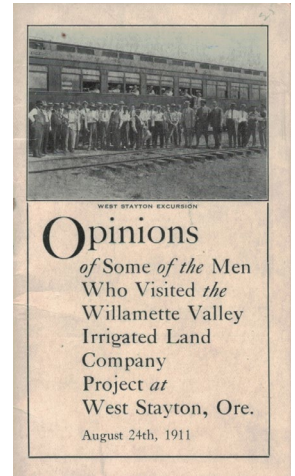
I wanted to talk a bit about maintenance of district canals this year. We operate and maintain over 114 miles of delivery ditches and canals, ranging in size from 75' wide to 7.5 inches wide. There has been an increasing amount of unauthorized or interfering activities that are impacting our ability to cost effectively manage the system. Planting trees and shrubs, storing farm equipment, fences and other obstructions generally closer than 20 feet to the top of ditch bank interferes with our maintenance and operations activities and is subject to legal remedies including removal at the landowner's expense. In addition, there are several instances of landowners digging out pump sites, installing culverts and other construction type activities within the districts ditch system. We are required to operate the system under Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality rules and any landowner working on their own are subject to violations and fines levied by them.

Thank You, Brent 503-559-2695



New Environmental Quality Rules and Requirements

The District is now required to submit, to Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality, and comply with Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plans to reduce silt and decrease temperature impacts as it relates to operation of our system. Anything that can create runoff or silt in the ditches can cause compliance issues. Please do everything you can to voluntarily reduce silt and sediments from reaching the ditches and then being carried to nearby streams. The new regulations could increase operational costs in the short term if we cannot meet goals. I urge everybody to do their part on a voluntary basis, it is important. Actions such as preventing farm field runoff, cleaning truck and tractor tires before using roads and keeping good gaskets on your pumps and pipes are some effective ways to help.



Oregon Special Districts

The SWCD is an Oregon special district formed under Oregon statute 553. We are a form of local government created by a

local community to meet a specific need. Your special district SWCD is governed by a 7-member board of directors. The district was formed to purchase and operate the facilities of willamette valley irrigated land company.

Board of Directors

President
Dave Dalke

Vice-President
Gary Butler

Steve
Schelske

Marty
Dozler

Randy
Gilbert

Steve
Keudell

Bob
Koenig

**Board meetings 2nd Monday of each month 3-5pm.
Upstairs @ 284 E Water St.**

Brent Stevenson, Secretary of the Board and General Manager
Diana Shapiro, Office Manager
John Asman, Field Manager 503-559-2698
Ben Devine, Asst. Field Manager 503-881-4851
Austin Wegner, GIS Analyst
www.Santiamwater.com
Office 503-769-2669

2023 Annual operation and maintenance assessment set at \$32.50 per acre due April 15th

May 1st – Sept 30 Irrigation season normal delivery. generally, 5.6 gpm per acre
March, April, and October reduced delivery by call in request only.

Emergency and weekend calls are paid overtime. Please be mindful.