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FID Project Build Out - Large Pipe Facilities Project

Farmers Irrigation District’s (FID) mission is to promote ecologically, socially, and financially sustainable agriculture by providing energy and irrigation service for the common good. To fulfill this mission, the district has constructed many large water conservation projects throughout the years. This winter’s massive ice storm caused hundreds of large trees to destroy Low Line Canal’s ability to reliably deliver irrigation and hydropower water. It is likely that Low Line will continue to fail if not replaced very soon. Since the January 2012 Ice Storm, we’ve already had 4 canal failures. These continued failures will eliminate the physical ability to deliver water and will severely compromise the fiscal well-being of District orchardists and FID.

On April 18th, 2012, the FID Board made the unanimous decision to borrow the required funds and hire the engineers and contractors needed to completely enclose Low Line and a lower segment of Farmers Canal in large diameter pipe. Built in the 19th century, Low Line is no longer a safe and reliable canal. Rebuilding the canals is cost prohibitive, and pipe is our only surefire way to ensure against future catastrophe. While these large pipe projects will cost District water users extra money, there is no other economically and ecologically viable option. Protecting our water supply and delivery systems through pipe remediation is the responsible thing to do.

Through a combination of tight budgeting, operational cuts, increased efficiencies, and the opportunity to borrow money at very low interest, FID plans to begin construction on the Low Line and parts of the lower Farmers Canal in October 2012. Field tours of the project will be available to anyone in the public that expresses interest.

To continue water service at the levels our water users expect, and to adequately cover the associated debt service, irrigation assessments are scheduled to ramp up to \$110/acre by 2015. Assessment increases will be phased in over a three year period beginning in 2013, at \$17 increments, per the following chart:

	2013	2014	2015
Total Irrigation Assessment per acre	\$76/ac	\$93/ac	\$110/ac
Project Fund Account Fee	\$200	\$200	\$200
*Total Bill for Irrigation Season for Someone with 1 Acre of Water Rights			
	\$276	\$293	\$310

**Irrigation season is approximately 180 days. Therefore, the patron having 1 acre of water rights in 2015 will be paying approx \$1.72 per day for pressurized, filtered, irrigation water. The same patron now pays approx \$1.44 per day. Said another way, by 2015 their assessment will have risen by \$0.28 per day over the approximate 180 day irrigation season.*

FID is proud of our century-long efforts in innovative efficiencies and environmental protection, and we plan on continuing to be the leader in irrigation management by aggressively raising the bar in sustainable agriculture, power production, fish screening standards, and water conservation. Only through wise water usage and fiscal responsibility can we accomplish our goals and meet the increasing demands of our future.



2012 Ice Storm Damage on Low Line and Farmers Canals.