



## Messages from the Board

### FOR SALE!

1996 F-150 XL 4.9 Liter Ford Truck  
Approx. Mileage 78,310.

Dixon RCD will accept sealed bids until  
3 pm Friday January 1st delivered to:

Dixon RCD Office  
"Attn: Truck Bid"

**The truck is being sold, AS IS**

Interested individuals can set up an ap-  
pointment to see the truck by calling  
John S. Currey (707) 678-1655 ext 105

### Ditch Maintenance

In 2009 the Dixon RCD normal ditch maintenance activities included as needed excavation in Tremont 2, Westside Drain and Lateral 2, all conducted by S& S Farming. One complete herbicide application was conducted in the spring and one in the summer as well as spot treatments for tules and cattails in August. Washburn Spray Services performed all weed control activities. In 2009 improvements included repair & replacement of culverts. In addition to normal ditch maintenance, Dixon RCD monitors and repairs, as needed, District owned facilities based on observations of problem areas.

In surveying the RCD ditch system during the October 13th storm event, it appeared to be functioning with no major problems. If you observed problems that we missed please contact John S. Currey at (707) 678-1655 ext 105.

### Board of Directors

**President** – Charlie Misuraca

**Vice-President** – Mark Holdener

**Treasurer/Secretary** – Rick Martinez

**Director** – David Viguie

**Director** – Tom Bors

**Associate Director** – Jim Campbell

The Dixon RCD Board considers the fact that we have not raised the \$2/acre ditch fee in over twenty years an important accomplishment. Part of what allows us to keep costs down is a reliance on our members' actions.

### 3 Things Members Can Do to Keep Ditch Fees to a Minimum

\*Pay ditch fees on time and update contact information as necessary.

\*Contact the office if you see issues with the ditch system that require attention.

\*If you have a water control structure in the District's ditch, it is your responsibility to remove it prior to the storm season (by October 15<sup>th</sup>).

### The Dixon Regional Drainage Joint Powers Authority

The Dixon Main Drain / V-Drain Project is in it's final planning and permitting stages and is proceeding with easement negotiation and acquisition with a target of 2010 construction.

The JPA and its member agencies (Dixon RCD, City of Dixon, Reclamation District 2068, and Maine Prairie Water District ) are maintaining the completed drainage project (Lateral 1).

For more information on JPA activities please contact John S. Currey 707-678-1655 ext. 105.

### Staff

**District Manager** - John S. Currey, AFM

**Admin Assistant** - Kimberly Bratten

**Project Manager** - Kelly Huff

## What is Dixon RCD's Role on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area?

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In 2003, when Dixon RCD was approached by The Department of Fish & Game (DFG) to enter into a Master Lease Agreement on the Wildlife Area, the objective was to bring in a third party that understood agriculture and conservation to help navigate the partnership between the existing operators on the property and DFG. This allowed DFG to get to know their property and develop goals for its long term operation while keeping rental income local and available to reinvest in the Wildlife Area. When DFG completed their Land Management Plan for the property in June 2008, Dixon RCD was responsible for conducting competitive bid processes that have led to the development of three 5-year subleases with agricultural tenants. DFG staff have a better knowledge of their property and its surrounding community, thanks in large part to the knowledge and openness of the agricultural tenants. A mutual willingness from the tenants and DFG staff to experiment with ideas for using agricultural activities to benefit wildlife habitat has revealed exciting prospects. Dixon RCD's role is increasingly to help maintain the balance between the growing public uses and the tenants' productive agricultural operations. In 2010 we will be working with the sublessee, DFG and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to develop conservation plans for the agricultural activities on the wildlife area.



*Photo by Dave Feliz, DFG YBWA Wildlife Manager*

## Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition

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Our current water quality program membership includes approximately 650 landowners or operators covering 111,673 irrigated acres. The July 2009- June 2010 Program Year is proving to be busy on many levels. Just as we are getting accustomed to the current program's requirements and learning what our local issues are from five plus years of monitoring results, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) has begun another process to develop a long-term version of the program that will replace the current program which expires in July 2011. Increasingly, our regional as well as local staff time is getting diverted to help inform Regional Board staff of the practical considerations of some of the alternatives being discussed. Many of the program's requirements will affect our individual members, however, we will continue to work toward the most cost-effective and practical means for achieving compliance.

### Water Quality Program Required Activities November 2009 – December 2010

**December 2009** - Management Practices Inventory (summarized results from practices survey mailed in November) for algal & sediment toxicity, diuron, malathion (100% response required to remain in compliance).

**March 2010** – Develop a list of recommended practices for algal & sediment toxicity, diuron, malathion.

**June 2010** - Schedule for management practices & outreach activities for algal & sediment toxicity, diuron, malathion

**June 2011** - Implementation (by growers and/or landowners) of additional management practices to address algal & sediment toxicity, diuron, malathion.

## **Best Management Practices**

WHAT DO YOU THINK???

*(information and photos contributed by Solano RCD & USDA NRCS)*

Many Dixon RCD ditch members are also members of our water quality coalition. Compliance with Regional Board requirements increasingly includes proving that our members are implementing “best management practices” (BMPs) to address any water quality issues we have seen in our program monitoring. Algae toxicity due to herbicides (diuron), sediment toxicity due to pyrethroids (most recently Asana XL), and malathion detections are all high priorities for our local program to address. We will also be required to address dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, e.coli, salinity and total dissolved solids exceedances over the next two years. In order to focus technical assistance and resources toward the most helpful practices, we would like to know what our ditch members think, as a subset of the water quality program membership. Below are possible management practices with descriptions that have resulted from discussions with technical assistance and local farmers. Please review these, complete the enclosed survey and return it with your ditch fee payment to help us direct any resources toward the most appropriate practices for our local members.

### **SEDIMENT TRAP / BASIN**



**Sediment Basin in Solano County**

A sediment trap or basin is an excavated ditch with an outflow control structure that temporarily impounds irrigation tailwater or storm runoff. It is located just above the drainage outlet of a farm or field. Most use flashboard risers to serve as a dam that delays the flow of runoff water into the nearby ditch or stream. Other designs may use siphon pipes to control outflow. Temporarily impounding runoff water allows some of the sediment to drop out of the water and settle in the trap. The sediment can then be excavated and deposited on the field at the end of the season.



**Grassed Waterway in Solano County**

### **VEGETATED WATERWAYS**

Vegetated drainage ditches and grassed waterways are shaped and planted with a selection of plants which act as binding sites for pesticides & fertilizers in run off from fields during irrigation or storm events. They serve as filters for agricultural runoff, reducing movement of agricultural chemicals and sediment from the field to the waterway.

### **IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT**

The process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner. This can include installing new irrigation infrastructure (i.e. drip irrigation, sprinklers or micro emitters) or irrigation system audits for the purpose of increased water use efficiency and reduced runoff and/or application of materials (polyacrylamides) through irrigation to reduce sediment transport.

### **PEST MANAGEMENT**

Treat pest problems according to an integrated pest management plan and/or consider water quality impacts (based on local water quality monitoring results) in choosing pesticide products (i.e. consideration of alternatives to diuron, pyrethroids, malathion) and/or application methods (i.e. minimize drift from aerial applications near waterways).

## Dixon RCD Annual Financial Report

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The 2008/2009 fiscal year had total revenues of \$292,058 and total expenses of \$240,995. The policy of Dixon RCD continues to be to balance shortfalls and revenues between District activities if the long-term trends are balanced. When revenues exceed expenditure, the Dixon RCD sets aside a portion of the excess for drainage system repairs, drainage planning and equipment replacement. This year the Board chose to purchase a new vehicle for the District staff.

### Cooperator of the Year

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Each year the Dixon RCD Board of Directors and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) review many of the cooperators who have participated in NRCS programs to choose the District's Cooperator of the Year. The Board is pleased to announce that Mr. Ron Timothy has been selected to receive the 2009 Cooperator of the Year Award. Ron has installed numerous conservation measures on his operation. With NRCS assistance, he recently installed a sediment basin on his row crop land and a micro-irrigation system in his orchard to conserve water. Ron enhanced the sediment basin by planting the banks and borders to native grasses and soon will plant native shrubs, which will control weeds and provide beneficial insectary habitat. Along with his farming partner, David Viguie, Ron has recently installed 160 acres of buried drip lines in 5 year permanent beds in his row crop land. This innovative practice will conserve irrigation water and improve water quality by reducing runoff, deep percolation and the need for weed control. Buried drip should also improve crop yields, which increases the sustainability of farming, another conservation aspect encouraged by the Dixon RCD and NRCS.



Timothy Sediment Basin at Runge & Tremont Roads Post-Oct. Storm. Will control sediment from two 30 acre fields. *NRCS Photo*

DIXON



RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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