



19604 Buck Canyon Rd., Bend, OR 97702
Phone: 541-382-7664 Fax: 541-382-0833

January 2, 2024

Dear Arnold Patrons,

2023 was an eventful year for a number of reasons. While still needing to end the irrigation season early in August, that was an additional month compared to the previous three years, and the drought condition improved. In addition, the Main Canal Modernization Project began construction of Phase 1, which will conserve over 11 cfs, or nearly 12% of demand. This conservation will reduce the amount of water needed to be diverted from the Deschutes River to still deliver the same amount of water to the headgates and extend the availability of supply from Crane Prairie Reservoir. This makes the District more resilient to drought and lower water supplies.

It is still too early to forecast the water outlook for the 2024 irrigation season. While there has been plenty of moisture so far this winter it is not coming as snow and the snowpack in the Cascades is minimal. A classic El Nino weather condition of above average moisture and above average temperatures appears to be taking hold pointing to caution for water supply this coming summer. We will keep you posted as we approach this spring.

There will be no increase in the assessments for the fifth consecutive year in a row. The District continues to optimize cost savings through efficiencies in operations and generating additional income through development fees. The Board did approve the continuance of the special \$5 per acre charge for legal defense of modernization in order to replenish operating cash reserves used in order to pay the \$115,000 cost of the lawsuit.

Main Canal Project Update

The project began construction of Phase 1 in September and by April 1 will have piped over 3.8 miles of the main canal. In late December the project was slightly over 50% complete with two crews working both east and west with remaining activities including excavation, pipe welding and restoration. Phase 2 is scheduled for construction in October 2024 and is fully funded and already in engineering design. The last phase is scheduled for October 2025 with full design and planning funding received with construction funding proceeding with the NRCS. An application to the Oregon Water Resources Department for the necessary non-federal match funding will be submitted before the end of January. Periodic project updates will be posted to the District website www.ArnoldID.com. In addition, the lawsuit brought against Arnold ID and NRCS in federal district court was dropped in late fall.

Maintenance and System Improvements

This winter the District has been active with repair, maintenance and improvements to the water infrastructure:

- A special lining was installed on 1,200 linear feet of the flume to eliminate corrosion. The District will plan to line the remaining 4,000 linear feet next winter. Completion of the lining should extend the life of the flume 10-15 years and provide time to fully implement a more permanent solution.
- The final 1,000' of the Estes Lateral was piped with two smaller piping projects planned before the start of irrigation season
- Automation and remote management of the river radial gate is nearly finished with final calibration scheduled for early April. This work was funded in conjunction with a grant from the US Bureau of Reclamation. This project will save a great deal of manpower time used to manually adjust the diversion and improve water management and safety.

District Manager

The District has begun looking for a new District Manager as Steve Johnson will be decreasing his role with the District in 2024. Steve will continue to work in the District's office and spend the majority of his time focusing on the Main Canal Modernization Project. We anticipate having a replacement hired and trained by spring.

We will continue to focus on the impacts of the long-term drought for things under our control through water conservation projects, water management practices and cooperation with the other irrigation districts. We will continue to keep you informed of water conditions and impact on your irrigation supply as we all navigate these unprecedented conditions.

Arnold Irrigation District