

OID Hosting Free Water User Workshop

The Oakdale Irrigation District is hosting its first Water User Workshop as a free service for OID customers on Saturday, April 29 from 8 a.m. to noon at the OID offices located at 1205 East F St.

OID Water Operations Manager Kevin King reported that the district originally planned this workshop due to the large number of new people who have relocated from the Bay Area and have purchased small parcels and ranchettes but don't know irrigation practices. He added that the OID further realized that the workshop would be beneficial to all water users in the district and that the district is planning to provide more opportunities such as this to its taxpayers.

"This workshop is intended to

be an educational and informative venue where OID water users can obtain valuable insight into the activities of the District," said King. "We are hopeful that more than 150 water users will attend this useful and important event."

The workshop will feature topics including how water scheduling is established, best management practices concerning pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer uses. Speaker Wayne Zipser, Director of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau will discuss ag issues and John Meek from San Joaquin County and Delta Water Coalition will discuss Ag Waiver issues. There will also be information on how to obtain coverage for the Ag Waiver, an update on the Water Resources Plan, and an opportunity to

meet the 2006 Distribution System Operators. Local ag dealers will also be available to answer questions and present their latest products and services.

King said that the ag vendors are being brought in to help those who are new to the area to find out who they can contact locally should they have any needs or emergencies related to irrigation.

"We have had a great response on our RSVP and look forward to a good turnout," said OID General Manager Steve Knell.

The district will also provide refreshments and barbecue hot dogs to the water users in attendance. For more information or to attend the workshop, contact the OID office at 847-0341.