



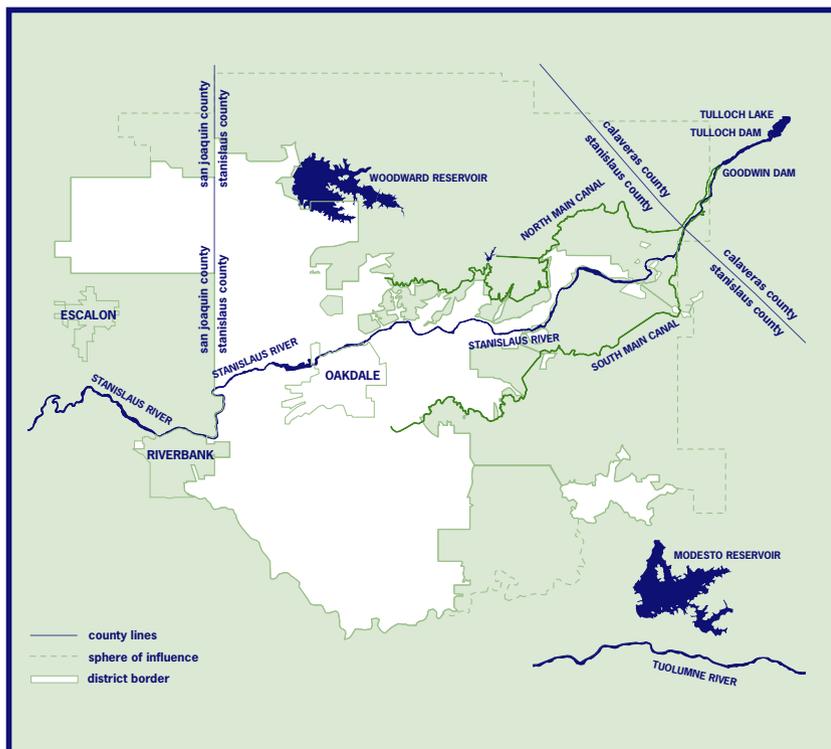
# WATER RESOURCES PLAN

A Community Plan. A Successful Future.

# UPDATE

WINTER 2005

## OID LAUNCHES MAJOR WATER STUDY



The Board of Directors of the Oakdale Irrigation District have initiated a major study to assess its water resources, delivery system, and operations to determine how it can best protect its water rights while meeting the needs of all its constituency and serve the region. "It's the most important OID effort since the development of the Tri-Dam project years ago," said Frank Clark, Chairman of the Board. "We are looking at ways to make District operations more reliable and better serve our customers."

Steve Knell, General Manager, said that one of the important reasons to be assessing the District's water practices and delivery system is that "Historic uses of the land are changing due to urbanization, new crops and the need for improved agricultural management. Accordingly, the District believes it is important to understand why and how we can utilize our resources more effectively to protect our water rights and also to provide better service to our growers."

To help facilitate the study, the District has retained CH2MHILL, whose expertise and experience in water-related planning is recognized internationally, to assist the Board of Directors and staff with the development of a comprehensive and implementable plan. Given the importance of thoroughly understanding and involving the public, Panagraph, a Fresno-based firm specializing in public outreach and communications, will lead efforts to ensure public input into the plan.



▲ *The Oakdale Irrigation District and its sphere of influence.*

▲ *330 miles of canals service OID customers.*

## WHAT THE PLAN WILL STUDY

The study, which was launched in November 2004, will look at various kinds of information and data including OID's Stanislaus River water rights, current and future groundwater levels, and how groundwater and surface water are used together to benefit the area.

The plan will review water management and OID's irrigation practices including how water is delivered to customers and how it is used. It will look at historic land use trends and develop forecasts for how future land use will impact water supplies.

Focus will be on creating a comprehensive plan that will provide specific, prioritized recommendations for OID facilities

and system improvements that will comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and how to phase the improvements consistent with available financial resources. The plan will also address how OID can best plan for the future and optimize how its Stanislaus River water supplies can be most beneficially put to use. Potential options include broader ranges of irrigation deliveries, drought protection measures, groundwater recharge programs, possible water deliveries to municipal, industrial users, environmental needs, annexations and water transfers.

# PLAN DEVELOPMENT TASK AND TIMELINE

The Draft Water Resources plan is expected to be completed by November 2005 and ready for the CEQA process.

Outreach Assessment	Meeting with local and regional stakeholders to review the purpose and goals of the Plan.
Data Collection/OID System Evaluation	Assessment of all historical information and the current system.
Public Outreach	Continuous effort to keep the public informed of progress of the Plan.
Detailed Analysis/Plan Development	Study of information gathered and development of solutions
Draft Plan/CEQA Initiation	Recommended plan with CEQA initiation submitted for the Board's approval.

## PLAN GOALS

The Board of Directors has set the following goals for the Oakdale Community Water Resources Plan:

- Preserve and protect OID's water rights and resources;
- Identify water management opportunities that provide better service;
- Review the OID delivery system and its infrastructure improvement needs;
- Identify facilities required to better meet water user needs and to improve on-farm water use efficiency;
- Identify alternatives for system and operational enhancements financing;
- Respond to stakeholders' expectations for service, cost and operational flexibility; and
- Prepare an affordable, implementable plan that will meet CEQA objectives.

## DISTRICT FACTS

Date Organized:	1909
Acres in the District:	72,500
Irrigated Acres:	54,000 (2003 season)
Urban Acres:	11,000
Annual Diversion Right:	300,000 acre feet
Diversion Point:	Goodwin Dam
Water Delivery System:	330 miles of canals (open, lined and buried pipelines)
Ag Wells:	24 systems



For More Information about the Oakdale Water Resources Plan, or to be on the mailing list contact Steve Knell, General Manager, Oakdale Irrigation District, (209) 847-0341 or visit [www.oakdaleirrigation.com](http://www.oakdaleirrigation.com).

*The Stanislaus River at Knights Ferry.* ►



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