



Farmers Conservation Alliance

(541) 716-6085

Contact: BJ Westlund

bj.westland@fcasolutions.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Klamath Irrigation District Reaches Major Milestone with NRCS Authorization of Watershed Plan

NRCS authorization marks a significant milestone toward modernizing critical irrigation infrastructure serving nearly 15,000 acres in the Klamath Basin.

KLAMATH FALLS, OR – July 1, 2026 – The Klamath Irrigation District (KID) has reached a major milestone in its efforts to modernize irrigation infrastructure with the authorization of its Watershed Plan by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Colton Buckley in June 2026.

The authorization marks an important step toward implementing critical infrastructure improvements that will increase water delivery efficiency, strengthen drought resilience, and improve the long-term reliability of irrigation deliveries throughout portions of the Klamath Project.

As the largest irrigation district in the Klamath Project, KID delivers water to approximately 2,500 patrons irrigating more than 53,600 acres through nearly 200 miles of canals and laterals. The authorized Watershed Plan focuses on improvements within the D and D-1 canal systems, which serve over 14,900 acres. The D Canal also supplies water to neighboring Shasta View Irrigation District and Malin Irrigation District extending the benefits of these improvements across multiple irrigation communities. extending the benefits of these improvements across multiple irrigation communities.

The Watershed Plan includes projects to modernize the D and D-1 delivery systems by converting more than 14 miles of aging, unlined earthen canals to concrete-lined canals or buried pipeline, while also upgrading two pump systems. Together, these improvements are expected to reduce seepage losses, improve operational efficiency, lower long-term operations and maintenance costs, and create a more resilient water delivery system for agricultural producers and rural communities.



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Gene Souza, Executive Director of KID, remarks, “Improving the efficiencies of our 1905 era system has multiple benefits, we are able to divert less water to meet our demands, thus enabling the holding of water in Upper Klamath Lake for extended periods. We are excited to begin a new era of water management in the Klamath Reclamation Project.”

Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) partnered with KID throughout the watershed planning process, providing technical planning support and helping advance the project from concept toward implementation. The authorized Watershed Plan establishes the foundation for pursuing future funding opportunities and moving these modernization projects toward construction.

“It is wonderful to see NRCS authorize a second Watershed Plan within the Klamath Project” said Julie O’Shea, Executive Director of Farmers Conservation Alliance. “From planning to construction, successful irrigation modernization efforts are rooted in collaborative partnerships. With this milestone achieved, we can now move toward implementing multi-benefit projects that support local agriculture and the environment.”

The Watershed Plan represents years of collaboration among local, state, and federal partners working to improve water infrastructure while supporting agricultural productivity, water conservation, and long-term community resilience throughout the Klamath Basin.



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About Klamath Irrigation District

Klamath Irrigation District (KID), established in 1917, is a public irrigation district serving agricultural lands within the Bureau of Reclamation's Klamath Project. Located primarily south and east of Klamath Falls, KID operates and maintains an extensive network of canals, laterals, and other water-delivery infrastructure that supports the region's farms and rural communities. As one of the major irrigation districts within the Klamath Project, KID works alongside other water users across the Klamath Basin to address the interconnected needs of agriculture, Tribes, communities, and the environment.

About Farmers Conservation Alliance

Farmers Conservation Alliance is a 501c3 nonprofit social enterprise. In partnership with rural communities, we are tirelessly in pursuit of water management solutions that benefit both agriculture and the environment. Since 2005, we have amassed trusted relationships through our hands-on, solutions-oriented approach with farmers and rural communities. Those relationships have built a deep understanding of the challenges and benefits associated with the process of irrigation modernization. Our Irrigation Modernization Program creates a path forward for irrigation communities to upgrade their infrastructure, saving water and operating costs, while restoring streams, protecting fish, and generating green, renewable energy.