



6133 Freeport Boulevard, FL2  
Sacramento, CA 95822-3534  
(916) 391-5030 FAX (916) 391-5044

#### Board of Directors

##### Northern Region

Leslie Swaner  
Outback Farms  
Don Bransford  
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District  
Greg Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer  
Western Canal Water District

##### North Central Region

Bob Amarel  
CoBank  
Bill Diedrich, President  
San Luis Water District  
Joe Alamo  
Turlock Irrigation District

##### South Central Region

Robyn A. Black  
Anderson Farms  
Scott Rogers  
Tulare Irrigation District  
Bill Stone  
Upper San Jose Water Company

##### Southern Region

Robert Krahn  
Neil Jones Food Company  
Bill Wulff  
Kern County Water Agency  
Peter G. Nelson  
Coachella Valley Water District

##### At-Large

Gina Dockstader  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Wayne Western  
Hammonds Ranch  
Mark McKean  
Kings River Conservation District  
Randy Record  
Metropolitan Water District  
Stan Lester  
Lester Farms  
Sheridan Nicholas, Vice President  
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa WSD  
Johnny Amaral  
Friant Water Authority  
Diana Westmoreland  
California Women for Agriculture

Executive Director  
Michael Wade

**TO:** San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Mike Wade, Executive Director, California Farm Water Coalition  
**DATE:** January 9, 2024  
**RE:** Program and Activities Update

#### **Hanford FFA Water Contest Team - Water Tour**

The California FFA hosts a number of statewide competitions for its members throughout the year, giving students an opportunity to compete among their peers for awards and recognition in numerous agricultural-related subjects. Inaugurated in 2023, one of the newest competition categories is titled California Water, which seeks to develop students' understanding of the importance and history of water usage, storage, and distribution and how it affects California agriculture.

The competition consists of a 100-question written test covering the history of water development in California, the state's various water users, State Water Project and Central Valley Project facilities and history, groundwater, and more. The test is slated for the first week in March.

**"As issues related to water in the state become even more complex, it is vital that those entering the agriculture industry have a general understanding of how the federal and state water systems operate, [and] how the history of water issues affect agriculture today."**

#### *Contest Syllabus*

CFWC was contacted by in December by Hanford FFA Advisor, Jason Ferreira, seeking information and possible tours of some of California's large water facilities, including the C.W. "Bill" Jones Pumping Plant. Ferreira was the 2022-2023 agricultural teacher of the year, an award bestowed by the California Farm Bureau Federation. Working with San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority staff, CFWC organized a tour for January 3 during the students' winter break.

The tour group, consisting of eight students and two advisors, started at Jones PP, where Seth Harris, operations superintendent for SLDMWA provided an inside look at the facility, including a great narrative on the history, purpose, and capability of the plant.

Next stop was the Romero Visitors Center atop San Luis Reservoir where DWR's John Halseth talked about Sisk Dam, how the reservoir operates, and the customers it serves.

The last stop of the day was at Mendota Dam where Central California Irrigation District General Manager Jarrett Martin led a discussion on the history of the dam and its critical importance as a centerpiece of the Central Valley Project System.

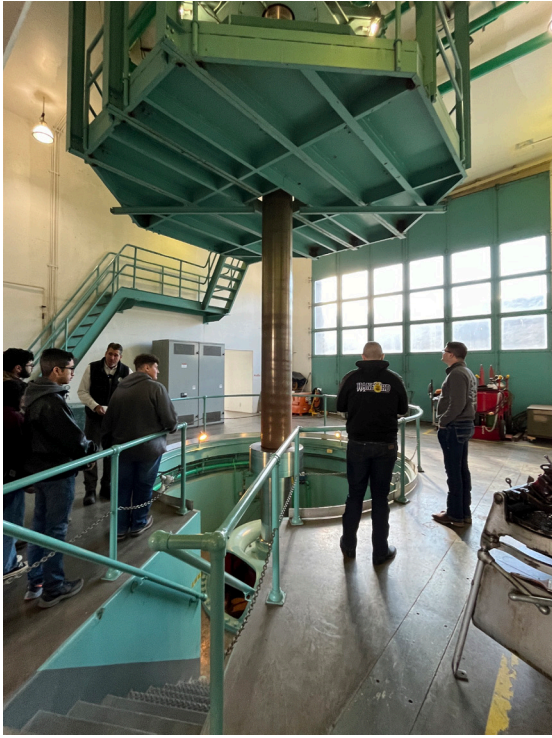
After the tour, Ferreira said, "My students and I consider ourselves blessed with the experiences and opportunities that we were granted as a result of the efforts that took place this week. They are still talking about it. I look forward to making this an annual experience and am thankful we got to work with such dedicated and inspirational individuals!"



**Seth Harris, SLDMWA, discusses the CVP water facilities map**



**Hanford FFA Water Contest Team**



**Jones Pumping Plant**



**Mendota Dam**



**CCID's Jarrett Martin describes the role of Mendota Dam**