

Walker River Irrigation District

ROBERT C. BRYAN, GENERAL MANAGER

WALKER RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT (WRID)

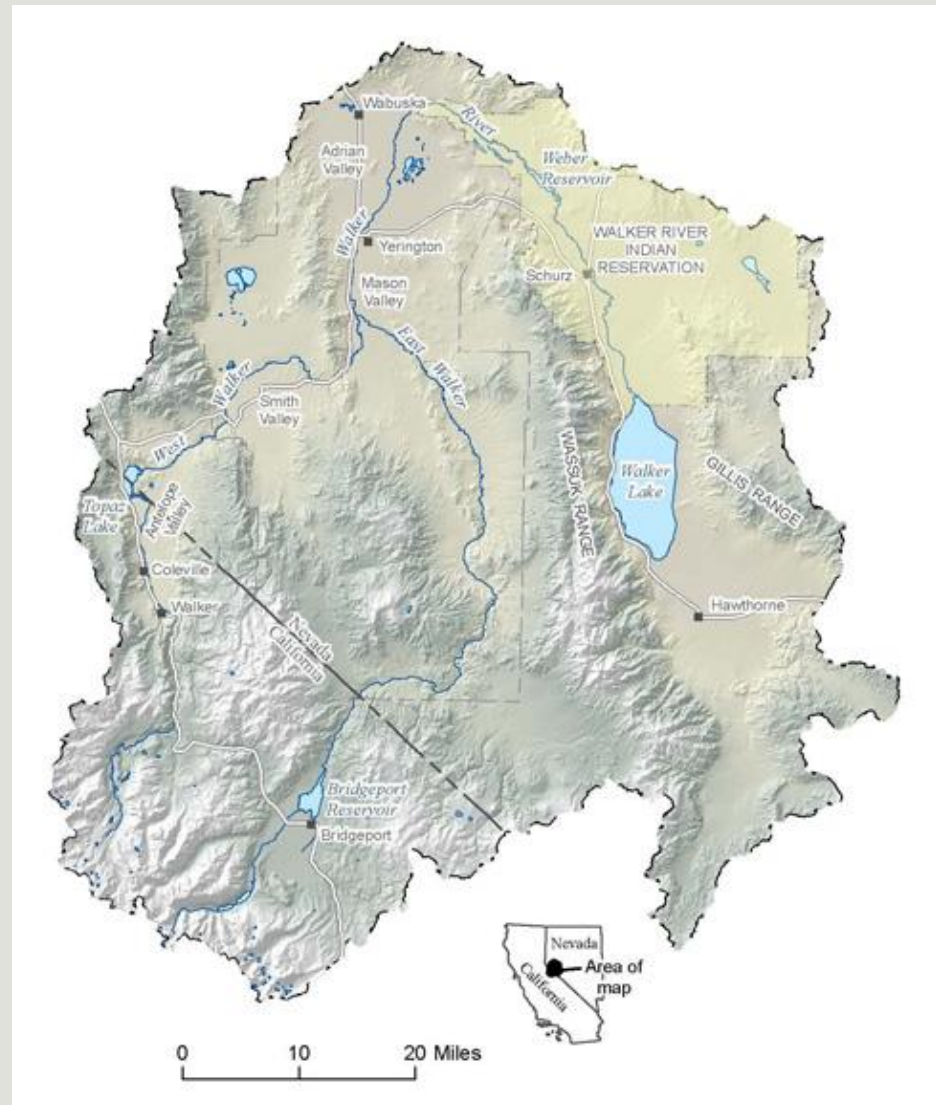
410 N. MAIN ST

YERINGTON, NV 89447

AGENDA ITEM IX A-LANDS
Meeting Date: 5-18-18

WRID

Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) was formed in April 1919 under the authority of the Nevada Irrigation District Act, now NRS Chapter 539. WRID encompasses approximately 235,000 acres of which 80,000 are irrigated. WRID owns and operates two storage reservoirs; east fork storage is located in Bridgeport, CA and west fork storage is located at Topaz Reservoir, a bi-state facility. WRID operates and maintains extensive, approximately 200 miles, drainage systems in both Smith and Mason Valleys. WRID is an independent (not a Reclamation Project) irrigation district. WRID is governed by a 5-member Board of Directors. Directors are water right holders elected at Large, but must reside within a division of the district. They are elected to a four-year term. An elector of the district must own a water right.



Bridgeport Reservoir

- Bridgeport Reservoir was completed in the early 1920's.
- WRID storage right is recognized by a California water right license and by the Walker river Decree right.
- Capacity of approximately 42,500 AF with refill rights.
- Bridgeport Reservoir is also used extensively for recreation with fishing, boating and swimming.



Topaz Reservoir

- Topaz Reservoir was completed in the early 1920's.
- WRID storage right is recognized by a California water right license and in the Walker River Decree.
- Capacity of approximately 60,000 AF with refill rights.
- Topaz Reservoir is also used extensively for recreation with fishing, boating and swimming.
- Douglas County operates a county park on the northeast side of the Reservoir on lands owned by WRID.



WRID Drains

- Along with owning and operating Bridgeport and Topaz Reservoirs the District owns approximately 200 miles of drains.
- The series of drains in Smith and Mason Valleys were created in the 1920's under the Local districts.
- Local 1 Colony Drain (Smith Valley)
- Local 2 East & Main Drains (Mason Valley)
- Local 3 West & Wabuska Drains (Mason Valley)



Surface Water Rights

There are a few different types of surface water rights in the Walker River System.

Decree (Natural Flow) water

Flood water

Storage water
(Supplemental & Newlands)

WRID Certificate water



Storage Allocations

- Allocations are set during the regular meeting of the WRID Board of Directors on or around the 7th day of March each Year.
- The period of storing in the reservoirs begins on November 1st and continues until March 1st.
- Additionally, WRID can store, consistent with their rights, as long as the decree [natural flow] is set at full. (Topaz and Bridgeport Reservoirs until or around Mid July).



Nevada Water Rights

- Permit Water certificate rights on the West Walker River from a period of May 1st to July 31st.
- Permit Water certificate rights on the East and Main Walker Rivers from a period of May 1st to July 31st.
- WRID owns an underground well Certificate 8861 which has a full duty of 3269.63 AFA. The District well is available to water right holders in the district.



Current Litigation Over Water

C-125 B Case

C-125 C Case

80700 Case

WRID Storage Leasing
Program Case



2012-2015 Drought

During the period of 2012-2015 WRID was hit with a severe drought.

2015 was the worst water year on record since 1919 for WRID.

The Main Stem of the Walker River completely dried up.

In 2015 the Main Stem sediment was cleaned due to the dry river channel.

Subsequent curtailment orders occurred during this period.



2017 Flood

2017 was the highest flood year recorded during the irrigation season.

WRID was above flood stage for more than a month.

The largest flood event occurred in 1997 with the West Walker above 4000 CFS for 4 days. In 2017 the West Walker was above 4000 CFS for 14 days.

The water sent through all stretches that reached Walker River brought Walker Lake up 12.32 vertical feet which was approximately 347700 AF stored.



Current Projects

Since 2011 WRID has been working on the Modernization Project throughout the District.

Currently we have several sites that have been automated. As well we have updated several other gates and measuring devices throughout the District. If funding is found or available we will continue to improve all structures or devices in the District to improve water conveyance and accuracy.

Routine maintenance and upgrades are incorporated whenever possible.

