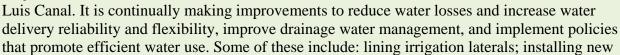
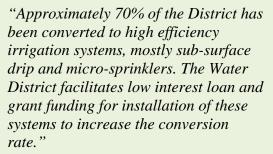
## **Profile of Panoche Water District and Drainage District**

Panoche Water District serves about 38,000 acres and Panoche Drainage District serves approximately 44,000 acres, overlapping Panoche Water District and other nearby lands in and around Firebaugh. Typical crops include almonds, tomatoes, cotton, wheat, asparagus, pistachios and alfalfa.

## **Conservation Improvements**

The District receives water from the Central Valley Project via the Delta Mendota Canal and the San





-Marcos Hedrick, District Water Master

turnouts on the San Luis Canal to increase water delivery flexibility and reduce energy use; creating a tiered water pricing schedule where the price peracre foot of water increases substantially as more water is used; establishing a no-tailwater discharge policy for all growers within the District; and providing loans to help growers improve on-farm irrigation systems.

According to District Water Master, Marcos Hedrick, "The improved water conveyance systems increase the District's responsiveness to growers' water demands allowing water to be regulated and

applied in relation to crop need. These projects have also reduced the volume of subsurface drainage water which must be managed at considerable cost." In addition, the San Joaquin River Improvement Project has greatly reduced subsurface drain water discharges to the San Joaquin River. The project includes 6,000 acres of farmland, of which about 4,300 acres are planted with salt-tolerant crops and irrigated with subsurface drainage water. The salt-tolerant crops uptake and filter the water, the crops are then sold and the

profits are re-invested in the project.

The major challenge faced in implementing these programs has been funding. Portions of most of these programs were funded with assistance from the USBR and California Propositions. Hedrick predicts that future implementation and expansion of these programs will continue to be hindered by funding limitations.

"The tiered water pricing program was implemented to encourage water use efficiency, particularly during the pre-irrigation season."

-Marcos Hedrick