

# WATERWORKS

TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY



SUMMER EDITION  
July 2025



## Washington D.C.

From Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> through Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, TCCA Chairman Zach Dennis, Directors Halbert Charter, Darin Titus, and General Manager Vanderwaal joined Garrett Durst of Natural Resource Results in meeting with members of Congress and federal staff. We met with senior staff for Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA), senior staff for Senator Padilla (D-CA), the Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation Mat Maucieri, Congressman La Malfa (R-CA) and his senior staff, and finally Annick Miller the Staff Director for the House Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries which is part of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Your delegation briefed them on who the TCCA was, if they were not familiar with us, and then also shared proposed projects to be funded by the 2025 Reconciliation Bill (President Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill", aka BBB).

The BBB initially included \$2.0 billion of "storage" funds for the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and \$500 million for BOR "conveyance" when it was passed by the House of Representatives. [Continued on Page 4](#)



## Meet the TCCA Family



Shandon, David and their son, Callan

**Shandon Smith** is a lifelong resident of the Sacramento Valley with deep roots in California agriculture. She attended Saint Mary's College before working in the State Assembly as a legislative aide, gaining firsthand experience in public policy and governance. Shandon later returned home to join her family farm, where she focused on the handling and exporting side of the business - continuing a proud legacy of farming that spans five generations.

Shandon has served as a director on the Tehama Colusa Canal Authority, representing the Colusa County Water District for the past four years and has been an active board member of Family Water Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting farmer's water resources, for over a decade. Shandon lives in Arbuckle with her husband and young son. When not in a water-related meeting she offers office and marketing support to her husband David who owns and operates a trucking company as well as a mobile fire training business. Shandon enjoys hosting friends and family for meals at home and traveling both near and far when time allows.

Shandon is a nominee for the ACWA Region 2 Board. Elections close on September 19th. Please join the TCCA in supporting her by casting your vote in her favor.

### Upcoming Meetings for the TCCA

Maintenance/Equipment Committee - July 22<sup>nd</sup> 10am

District Managers Meeting - July 24<sup>th</sup> 9 am at the Glide-Kanawha WD Office

Budget Committee Meeting - July 30<sup>th</sup> 9:30am

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting - August 6<sup>th</sup> 9am



# Summer work around the TCCA



Raising the water level at Check 23



Fixing a bad antenna



Tightening cables

Summer is a busy time at the TCCA. In Red Bluff we've recoated fuel tanks and added new labels, graded the roads, tightened up fish screen cleaner cables on sections 2 and 4, and repaired a bad antenna connection on check 12 of the Corning Canal. Closer to Willows we've performed bathtub and erosion repair, added drains in the Dunnigan Water District area, and added boards to check 23 to raise the water level. We also performed copper treatments for algae control. Then came the PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoff, with no electricity for two days staff members had to operate several check structures manually.



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Bill and Zach in the office of the Speaker of the House.

The “BBB” then went to the Senate where initially, the \$2.0 billion was removed but the conveyance funds were left. Then, as of this writing, had been re-expanded and combined into \$1.0 billion for “conveyance and storage”. The intent behind the storage was to raise Shasta Dam and conveyance to fix Friant Canal and the Delta-Mendota Canal, however, any BOR owned canal is eligible for the funds. The TCCA is proposing \$15.2 million for three distinct

projects: two new pumps to complete the main pumping plant in Red Bluff, modernizing the Corning Canal Pumping Plant, and automated trash screens on 9-10 turnouts along the main TC Canal.



The TCCA Delegation with Representative Doug LaMalfa, in his office

We also proposed two sections of legislation to be considered. One of them was included in the original WIIN Act (Water Infrastructure & Improvements Nationwide Act) but sunset in 2021 that provided certain allocation protections to the Service Contractors in the Sacramento Valley. The other is a modification to the law that restricts water transfers from the Orland Unit Project to the Central Valley Project (CVP) to drought years only. The proposal would allow transfers in any water year type and whenever Orland Unit has surplus water.

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## Meet the TCCA Family



**Lisa Dicharry** - TCCA Administrative Officer. Lisa worked for Tri-Counties bank for 12 years as a teller, Assistant branch manager and Operations and Administration auditor. She began working at TCCA in November of 2004 as an Administrative Assistant. Lisa has lived in Willows her whole life and has raised her children, Courtney (31 in Willows) and Greg (29 in Texas). Lisa has been with her partner Lance for 9 years and they both enjoy traveling to pitch horseshoes, hunting, and fishing.

Continued from Page 4. The proposed projects were well received. It was enticing to the parties that they could be completed within a year of receiving the funds, as well as not being outlandish requests during a fiscally conservative congress. The legislation, in particular the Orland Unit transfer legislation, was described by several parties as a “no brainer.” Congressional Staff indicated that they would like to include this legislation in the upcoming September docket.

Our final meeting was a breakfast with the Delta-Mendota Water Authority contingent who happened to be in DC that week also. We were able to share our perspectives on water issues and hear their positions. They are very determined to raise Shasta Dam and believe that now is a unique point in time to accomplish that. Following the breakfast our delegation returned to California to begin working on the Orland Unit transfer legislation.





## ***Tom Charter In Memoriam***

Thomas "Tom" Edward Charter, 67, passed away peacefully at his home in Maxwell, CA, on June 2, 2025.

He was a beloved husband, father, stepfather, grandfather, brother, uncle, business partner, community member and loyal friend.

Tom was born August 2, 1957, to Richard and Eileen Charter, the youngest boy of six children. He was raised in Arbuckle, CA, and attended Pierce High School.

In his 1975 yearbook, he wrote that he wanted to "farm the entire Sacramento Valley" and went straight to work after graduation, partnering with his brother, Perry, to establish T&P Farms in 1976, a name decided by a coin toss at Hangman's tree in Arbuckle. Over 49 years they built the largest farm in the Northern Sacramento Valley. Tom was also one of the founding members of Myers & Charter Rice Drying in 1982, followed by California Family Foods rice mill in 1995.

Tom played a major role in his community as a baseball coach and a Board Member of the Maxwell School District and Colusa County Water District. From the creation of the Maxwell Little League baseball field and the renovation of the Maxwell Town Pool, to the support of the Colusa County Fair Junior Livestock Auction, supporting family, friends, and coworkers through countless personal hardships, Tom was a problem solver whose generosity touched many lives.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Eileen; brother, Jim; sister, Liz; son, Jed; and granddaughter, Erin. Tom is survived by his loving wife, of 29 years, Patricia Charter; his children, Brad, Tom Jr. (Krystin), Sarah (Sam), Jeff (Sara), Wyatt, and Crystal (Jed's life partner); a combined total of 16 grandchildren; brothers, Daniel and Perry; sister, Laura; ex-wife, Candice; and many nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Tom served as a TCCA Director, representing the Davis Water District beginning in May of 1997 and continued serving in that position for the remainder of his life. In Tom's memory the TCCA is sponsoring 2 children in the Maxwell Little League.

The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of 17 Central Valley Project water contractors. The service area spans four counties (Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, and Yolo) along the west side of the Sacramento Valley, providing irrigation water to farmers growing a variety of permanent and annual crops. TCCA operates and maintains the 140 mile Tehama-Colusa and Corning canals irrigation water supply system. The service area is approximately 150,000 acres, contributing \$1 billion to the regional economy annually.

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