

PANOCHÉ DRAINAGE DISTRICT

44,000 ACRES

COMPRISED OF PANOCHÉ WATER DISTRICT, EAGLE FIELD WATER DISTRICT, ORO LOMA WATER DISTRICT, AND MERCY SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT.

The Drainage District was formed in the late 1950's in order to transport sub-surface drainage water as well as tailwater from District lands. Over the years, these drains moved not only seepage water created from the deep channels, but also developed tile water from irrigated land.

These tile systems consist of perforated plastic lines, or in the case of the older systems, perforated ceramic tiles, that are installed at an average depth of eight feet deep. These perforated lines gravitationally move the water into interceptor lines at the end of each field that transports it to a sump hole located nearby. These sumps are concrete, with an average depth of 20 ft. and a circumference of eight ft. An electric pump then lifts the water out of the sump and into a nearby drain.

There are currently 58 metered tile sumps located within District boundaries. There are also tile systems that work completely by gravity and flow directly into District drains without the aid of a sump pump. We do not have the ability to meter gravity sumps. All of Panoche's tile water is measured and tested for quality at a site designated as PE-14 before it leaves the district.

Historically, Panoche has been able to drain their tile water through the Grasslands Water District sloughs and duck clubs, and then into the San Joaquin River. The San Joaquin river meanders North. The Grasslands Water District has used the water to flood up their duck clubs for recreational hunting. Until recently, they did not have a firm water supply, therefore they used our drain water for such purposes. There are now tight regulations for selenium loading into refuge supply channels. Along with these regulations, the Grasslands area has now received a dedicated water supply for their facilities through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, which was passed by Congress in 1992.

These two factors lead to Grasslands requiring Panoche to remove their drainage water from the Grassland Channels and convey the water through the existing San Luis Drain and into the San Joaquin River at the same point.

As a signature of this agreement, Panoche is complying to meet requirements for selenium loading into the San Joaquin River. Therefore, all the actions that we take in the immediate future are based on meeting these agreed upon loads.