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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Flowing Once Again

**Water will again flow through Tule Lake Tunnel into Lower Klamath NWR,
benefiting refuges, wildlife, and restoration.**

KLAMATH BASIN - Tulelake Irrigation District (TID), in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, will turn on Pumping Plant “D” on Monday, March 25, 2024. This action will send water from Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to Lower Klamath NWR through the 6,600-foot-long Tule Lake Tunnel for the first time in four years.

Completed in 1941, Pumping Plant D operated continuously every year for nearly 70 years as the primary water source for Lower Klamath NWR. Over the last two decades, regulatory restrictions on water availability for the Klamath Project, including the refuges, have prevented water from pumping through the tunnel.

Today, water is available to flow through Pumping Plant D due to the efforts of TID, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to refill Tule Lake NWR this past winter. Since November, TID has gradually been refilling the main portion of the refuge with water from Lost River.

Additionally, on Thursday, March 21, TID agreed to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s (Reclamation) request to divert water from the Klamath River, helping manage the risk of potential flooding. Reclamation is trying to manage flows in the Klamath River to ensure the safe and timely removal of the remaining portions of three former hydroelectric dams by the Klamath River Renewal Corporation.

The water sent to Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge through Pumping Plant D will provide habitat for local wildlife, migratory birds, and endangered fish.

Additionally, this process will help recharge groundwater, decrease dust, and provide relief from a grasshopper outbreak – using localized natural control of the devastating pests.

Running the plant will also help manage water levels in Tule Lake, which is surrounded by levees that have not held water for more than three years.

Turning on Pumping Plant D represents an exciting milestone for TID, Ducks Unlimited, the Klamath Basin National Refuge Complex, and local wildlife and bird enthusiasts—helping restore both Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges.

“Pumping Plant D is the heart of the Klamath Basin,” according to Brad Kirby, manager of TID. “When water is flowing from Tule Lake to Lower Klamath, it means the Klamath Project and the refuges have a pulse.”

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About Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA)

Since 1953, the KWUA is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation representing the interests of Klamath Project farmers and ranchers. KWUA members include rural and suburban irrigation districts, public agencies, and private individuals who operate on both sides of the California/Oregon border. These entities and individuals typically hold water delivery contracts with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The Project is home to over 1,200 family farms and ranches; KWUA's member districts deliver irrigation water to over 170,000 acres of some of the most incredibly productive farmland in the Western United States.

KWUA's mission is to preserve and enhance the viability of irrigated agriculture for our membership in the Klamath Basin for the benefit of current and future generations.

KWUA is governed by an eleven-member Board of Directors representing Project districts. The Association employs an Executive Director and staff to execute policy decisions.