

Yuma Area Office Workers Modernize the MODE

The Main Outlet Drain Extension (MODE) – which carries irrigation drainage water from farming operations in the Wellton and South Gila Valleys to the Yuma Desalting Plant – was identified as a high priority project for repair and modernization as much of its infrastructure was built and concrete-lined during its original construction in the mid-1970s.

To address the MODE's critical infrastructure improvement needs - beginning the week of July 14th, 2014 – YAO work crews temporarily closed a portion of the levee road along the Colorado River near the confluence with the Gila River to accommodate repair, relining and re-configuration of a 2,300-foot section of the MODE to the west of the Drain Pump Outlet Channel I (DPOC) diversion site. Throughout the remainder of the summer/fall 2014, YAO maintenance crews will continue with efforts to rebuild the MODE and improve drainage features at this site – with estimated project completion occurring in January, 2015.

Following completion of work at the MODE/DPOC I project site, in late-Fall 2014, contractors will mobilize their equipment a short distance up the road and begin canal channel improvements at the Fortuna Wash project site. Maintenance work to be completed at this location will include creating a bypass for the MODE flows, and replacement of the headwall structures.

When completed, it is expected that these maintenance projects on the MODE and DPOC diversion channels will enable YAO to better regulate the pumping and drainage of irrigation return flows from the Wellton and South Gila Valleys and to maintain a desired minimum water table depth throughout these irrigation service areas.

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