

***By Russ Pankonin***

***The Imperial Republican***

Sargent Irrigation of Grant submitted the low bid to drill four new 20-inch irrigation wells for the Rock Creek augmentation project.

During a special meeting Oct. 19, the board of the Upper Republican Natural Resources District voted to accept Sargent's bid of \$297,600. The bid carried a completion date of on or before Dec. 31, 2012.

Grosch Irrigation of Imperial also submitted a bid for the project. Their bid came in at \$324,439, with a completion date by April, 2013.

Engineers designed the wells at 20 inches wide to increase capacity in the well field, with the goal of pumping 1,240 gallons-per-minute when operating.

Water pumped from the well field will be piped south towards Rock Creek Reservoir, with discharge ultimately into the Republican River near Parks.

In addition to the four new wells, a well that was re-drilled on the property in 2009 will also be used as part of the well field.

Manager Jasper Fanning said bids are still coming in on the removal of pumps from existing wells that will not be used in the project.

Fanning said the wells will not be abandoned at this time but will be properly capped and remain idle.

He said they are also looking at proposals on removing and selling the pivots on the 4,000-acre tract.