



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Merced Irrigation District Announces Water Purchase Through Brokerage Agreement with Stevinson Water District**

**MERCED, Calif. (Aug. 22, 2008)** — In order to ease the water supply hardships experienced this year by MID growers due to water reductions resulting from two consecutive critically dry years, MID has secured 2,400 Acre-Feet (AF) of water from Stevinson Water District. The water will be sold through a brokerage agreement administered by MID.

“Under this agreement, we are able to supply much-needed water to a limited number of growers who have already exhausted their 2008 water supply from MID,” said Ted Selb, MID deputy general manager. “We trust this will alleviate at least some of the strain our growers are experiencing.”

Distribution of the water will be based on a number of qualifications. Water will only be available to MID growers who claim hardship, and requests will only be considered for growers who have met or exceeded their maximum 2008 water allotment at the time of application. Water is only available for distribution to trees, vines, permanent pasture and alfalfa. Water will be distributed only to growers who do not have a private well connected to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) or MID grid, or is not connected to a combustion engine.

The first day for receiving applications will be **Tuesday, August 26, 2008** at the MID office at 744 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street Merced, CA 95340. Upon approval of the application, the grower will sign the brokerage agreement and make the appropriate advanced payment at \$56 per AF. The one-time maximum amount of water available is 20 AF per entity. Growers are able to register their desired amount and order their water at a later date. Applications will be processed on a first come first served basis until all water is committed.

For more information, contact MID Water Resources at (209) 722-5761.

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