

2022 Irrigation Season Water Management Implementation Plan

This Water Management Implementation Plan (Plan) provides a framework for managing and accounting for water deliveries, and to provide MID growers flexibility regarding the use of MID water supplies while helping to ensure that the following water management objectives are achieved:

1. Maintain equitable service to MID growers
2. Consider MID's reservoir carryover storage goal at the end of the season (as applicable)
3. Control and properly account for all water conveyed and delivered through MID facilities
4. Compliance with MID Rules and Regulations Governing Distribution of Water

To achieve these objectives, guidelines have been developed that will govern the following practices:

1. General Guidelines
2. Account Setup
3. Surface Water Allocation Management
4. Conjunctive Supplemental Water Supply Pool Program (SWSPP)
5. Private Groundwater Wheeling
6. Private Groundwater Exchanges

General Guidelines

1. The Deputy General Manager of Water Resources and/or his designee shall make all necessary determinations regarding compliance with this Plan.
2. Requests to implement any activity that varies from this Plan may be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. Water orders and deliveries shall be made according to the established MID Rules and Regulations Governing Distribution of Water, except where provisions in this Plan may differ.
4. Tail water may not be discharged into MID's water conveyance system.

Account Setup:

1. Water Accounts consist of portions of one or more parcels that are farmed as a unit.
2. Customer Accounts (Customer ID's or Billable Accounts) consist of one or more Water Accounts owned or leased by the same entity.
3. Growers may establish a Master ID, which would consist of two or more Customer Accounts. Prior to establishing a Master ID, an authorized representative from each Customer Account must sign the required Master ID Setup Form.

Surface Water Allocation and SWSPP Subscription Management

1. All surface water allocations and SWSPP subscriptions are at the parcel(s) level, which are managed by a Water Account, and are based on County assessed parcel acreage within the MID Boundary.
2. The Merced Irrigation District Board of Directors has authorized the SWSPP to Class I water users through conjunctive groundwater pumping.
 - a. This program makes available a supplemental water supply pool to Class I water users through conjunctive groundwater pumping.
 - b. This is a voluntary, subscription-based program.
 - c. Customers cannot subscribe to SWSPP water if any Water Account contained in their Customer ID or Master ID has re-allocated surface water to another grower.
 - d. SWSPP water cannot be reallocated.
 - e. See the Supplemental Water Supply Pool Program Description for further information and rules governing the SWSPP.
3. A grower's total water allocation for the season will consist of MID's surface water allocation and any SWSPP water subscribed to.
 - a. Once a grower has subscribed to a certain volume of SWSPP water, this "allocation" will be added to their surface water allocation for the 2022 irrigation season.
 - b. From this point forward, each Water Account will have a total allocation consisting of both the surface water allocation **and** the SWSPP water allocation. For example, if the available surface water allocation is 1.1 AF/AC and the grower subscribed to 1.0 AF/AC of SWSPP water, the total allocation for that Water Account for the season will be 2.1 AF/AC.
4. Total allocations will be managed at the Customer ID or Master ID level.
5. Growers may reallocate all or a portion of their surface water allocation to another grower.
 - a. Growers that want to reallocate all or a portion of their surface water allocation to another MID grower must complete the appropriate form and turn it in to Customer Service.
 - b. Water reallocations amongst and between growers will be at the Water Account level. In other words, both parties to the transaction must identify the individual water account(s) associated with their Customer ID that water will be reallocated from and to.
 - c. There are no additional District charges for water reallocations.
 - d. No water can be reallocated to lands outside of MID.
 - e. Water cannot be reallocated from a Water Account that has not received MID surface water or groundwater sufficient to grow a crop within the three previous irrigation seasons (2019, 2020 and 2021), as determined by MID.
 - f. Water cannot be reallocated if any Water Account contained in a Customer ID or Master ID has subscribed to SWSPP water or implemented a Water Exchange.

Private Groundwater Wheeling and Private Groundwater Exchange Management

1. Definitions:
 - a. Private Groundwater Wheeling: The act of conveying private well groundwater discharged from an upstream contributing parcel through an identified portion of the MID conveyance system to a downstream receiving parcel.
 - b. Private Groundwater Exchange: The exchange of MID canal water at a receiving parcel with discharged private well water into District facilities from a contributing parcel. (e.g., downstream contributing parcel exchanging water with an upstream

receiving parcel, or a West Division receiving parcel exchanging with an East Division contributing parcel).

2. General Guidelines:

- a. Growers must complete the Groundwater Wheeling/Groundwater Exchange (wheeling/exchange) Request Form to be considered for wheeling/exchange. After review and approval of the request by MID, wheeling may be allowed between in-District parcels to in-District parcels only and out-of-District to out-of-District parcels only; exchange may be allowed between in-District parcels only. Approval of the request is subject to the guidelines discussed below.
- b. There are no additional District charges for private groundwater wheeling or exchanges.
- c. The District retains complete control over use of its distribution system and facilities. Restrictions limiting the wheeling/exchange of water will be imposed at the District's sole discretion when it deems necessary in order to meet its water management objectives for the season.
- d. All private wells discharging into MID conveyance facilities must be equipped with a properly installed and calibrated flow meter prior to the date of wheeling/exchange:
 - i. There are no exceptions to this requirement.
 - ii. The meter must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations (instantaneous flow rate and totalizer required).
 - iii. MID reserves the right to require submittal of a flow meter calibration statements prior to, during, or after any water wheeling/exchange event. Calibration statements shall be obtained from an outside contractor acceptable to MID.
 - iv. If it is determined by MID that the flow meter is installed in such a way as to affect the accuracy of the meter, wheeling/exchange will not be allowed unless and until the installation configuration is modified and a meter is properly installed and calibrated.
 - v. MID, in its sole discretion, will determine the appropriate location for the meter. For example, depending on the length of private well pipeline, the number of connections to the pipeline or its condition, MID may require a meter be installed at the downstream end of the well discharge pipeline right before it discharges to the MID canal, rather than having the meter installed at the well.
- e. All receiving parcel delivery locations shall be equipped with a water measuring device satisfactory to MID.
- f. Any temporary modifications to the District canal system or facilities, for wheeling/exchange purposes will be paid for by the applicant and will be subject to complete control and approval by the District. Such modifications will be installed and/or removed by a District approved licensed contractor.
- g. The applicant must make prior arrangements with the appropriate Distribution System Operator (DSO) before any water is wheeled/exchanged in the District's distribution system.
- h. Private well discharges to MID facilities may only be started or stopped with specific authorization from MID Irrigation Operations. Water discharged to MID facilities without such authorization shall not be recognized or credited.
- i. All private well pump/motor assemblies shall be safely accessible to District employees.
- j. MID shall have the right to test the water quality for any private well. MID retains the right to terminate groundwater wheeling operations if the private well discharge quality is deemed by MID to be detrimental to MID operations, canal water quality or

operational discharges. Any testing costs shall be solely borne by the applicant.

Private Groundwater Wheeling Management

1. A 2% per mile loss shall be applied for the distance between the private well discharge location and the intake at the receiving parcel location up to a maximum of 20%.

Private Groundwater Exchange Management

1. All water exchanges shall be subject to a 20% loss of the volume at the private well location regardless of its geographic location with respect to the receiving parcel.
2. The receiving parcel shall be required to use the exchanged volume by August 31. After August 31st, MID does not warrant delivery and the exchangers shall forfeit their contributed water with no compensation.