



Challenging Irrigation Season Begins March 11

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MERCED, CA - Merced Irrigation District will begin irrigation operations this week.

Orders will be taken beginning 7 a.m. Wednesday, March 6. Water will flow into the system Friday with the first on-field deliveries expected Monday, March 11.

As a result of a second consecutive dry year, Class I growers will be allocated 2.4 acre feet of surface water per acre. Class II growers will be allocated 1.2 acre feet per acre. The cost will be of \$23.25 per acre foot.

Class I growers may also subscribe to a Supplemental Water Supply Pool Program for additional supplies at \$73.25 per acre foot. That pool will be made available with conjunctive groundwater pumping. Subscriptions are due by Tuesday March 12. (For more information please click [here.](#))

MID Irrigation Operations will commence diversions to the system through the Main Canal and North Side Canal on Friday, March 8, to fill the District's 800 miles of canals, pipelines, Lake Yosemite and other waterways.

"Last year we warned that dry years historically come in pairs. Unfortunately, that's exactly what happened and we are in year two," said MID General Manager John Sweigard. "The District will do everything possible to work with our growers with the understanding that we have a finite, limited supply of water this year."

MID's Customer Services Department requests that all crop applications and owner/tenant agreements be completed and returned as soon as possible. In addition to MID beginning to accept water orders on Wednesday, March 6, Distribution System Operators will be in their respective operating areas at that time.

MID's office is located at 744 W. 20th Street, Merced, CA 95340. As in previous years, irrigation orders may be placed 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the irrigation season by calling (209) 722-2720 or toll-free at (800) 750-2720. Customers may also use MID's automated water ordering system at (866) 825-2475 or place orders online at www.mercedid.org. For more information, please contact Bryan Kelly, Deputy General Manager-Water Resources, at (209) 722-5761,

For more information about the District and its services, please visit www.mercedid.org.

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