

## 2018 NOTICE TO IRRIGATORS/LANDOWNERS

At its February 20, 2018 meeting, the Board of Directors for the Merced Irrigation District determined that the District's available surface water supply is sufficient to meet the District's Class I and Class II projected grower's surface water needs for the 2018 Irrigation Season. The surface water will be priced at \$40 per acre-foot. The District will not offer its Supplemental Water Supply Pool Program this year. Private groundwater wheeling may be permitted on a case by case basis, depending on system capacity and District resource availability. The District has prioritized delivery of surface water and is encouraging growers to save groundwater supplies for future dry years.

MID Customer Service is currently accepting water orders and will begin charging the conveyance system around March 1<sup>st</sup>. Water deliveries will begin shortly thereafter, depending on demand, with availability subject to your location within the conveyance system. For further information regarding fulfillment of a pending water order, please contact your Distribution System Operator.

Enclosed is important information regarding 2018 water deliveries, including the 2018 Water Management Implementation Plan (2018 WMIP), which supplements the MID Rules and Regulations Governing Distribution of Water. Please take the necessary time to review all of the inserts carefully. If you have any questions, please contact MID Customer Service at (209) 722-2720.

### **SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR GROWERS**

As you may know, Governor Jerry Brown signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act into law in September of 2014. The new law requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to provide the State of California with a 20-year Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by January of 2020, to bring groundwater consumption to sustainable levels by the year 2040, at a minimum. The Department of Water Resources of the State of California designated the Merced Groundwater Basin as a critically overdrafted basin (the basin is generally located east of the San Joaquin River and South of the Merced River). It is expected that groundwater pumpers, except for single rural houses, will have to reduce their average groundwater pumping in the near future to maintain sustainable groundwater levels and groundwater quality. The law took effect on January 1, 2015. As such all positive activities taken since that date, such as using surface water when available, will be beneficial to the amount of groundwater an individual pumper may be allowed to pump in the future once the GSP is implemented. Conversely, if you do not take advantage of surface water available and reduce or temporarily cease your groundwater pumping, you will see negative effects to your groundwater availability.

Merced Irrigation District encourages all water users who have access to surface water to maximize surface water usage in years when surface water is available, saving groundwater for use in years when surface water is less available. In accordance with the new law, surface water used should be measured and verified to account for future groundwater availability for the subject parcel of land.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Water Payments** – Water will be charged as used with payment due upon receipt of the District's monthly statement. Prior year account balances must be paid in order to receive 2018 water deliveries.

**Landowner/Tenant Agreements** – Landowner-Tenant Agreements on file from the prior year will be honored unless notice of revocation is received by the District from the owner or tenant.

**Water Orders and Deliveries** – Water orders and deliveries shall be initiated according to established MID Rules and Regulations Governing Distribution of Water, except where provisions in the attached 2018 WMIP is plan may differ.

**Tail water may not be discharged into any MID water conveyance system.**

**MID WATER CUSTOMER SERVICE: (209) 722-2720**

**PLEASE SEE BACK OF THIS PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR LANDOWNER**

**1. STANDBY FEES:**

- a. **PURPOSE OF STANDBY FEES:** Standby fee revenues are used to support the districts fixed expenses. Payment of standby fees is not payment for delivery of irrigation water. Standby fees must be paid on lands in the District, including acreage that is not irrigated and on acreage which will be irrigated from privately owned wells.
- b. **IRRIGATION DISTRICT STANDBY FEES:** The District's standby fee is computed by multiplying the number of acres of your property, as described by the Assessor's Parcel Number, by the per-acre standby fee. The \$24 per acre standby fee was adopted by the MID Board of Directors at its February 20, 2018 meeting.
- c. **PAYMENT OF 2018 IRRIGATION DISTRICT STANDBY FEES:** Standby fees will be billed in full in April, but may be paid in installments. The first installment is considered delinquent if not paid by May 15, 2018. The second installment will become delinquent if not paid by June 30, 2018. **WHEN EITHER OF THESE DATES FALL ON SATURDAY, SUNDAY, OR A LEGAL HOLIDAY, DELINQUENCY OCCURS AT THE END OF THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY.** You may make payments by mail or at the Merced Irrigation District office. To pay by mail, please return the bottom portion of the statement with your payment in the return envelope. Please make checks and money orders payable to Merced Irrigation District and write your customer and statement number on your check (the numbers appear above the customer name). **THIS WILL BE THE ONLY BILL FOR STANDBY FEES THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE. STANDBY FEES WILL NO LONGER APPEAR ON YOUR WATER BILLS TO AVOID DUE DATE CONFUSION.** A 1% penalty will apply to amounts unpaid or received after the due date, and monthly thereafter. A \$25.00 fee per parcel will apply if the fees are sent for collection. Any delinquency may cause denial of delivery of irrigation water (See item 3 below).

**2. RESPONSIBILITY OF LANDOWNER:** The landowner is responsible for the payment of standby fees and water usage charges. Any private agreements between tenants or sub-tenants for use of the land do not relieve the landowner of the responsibility of paying standby fees or water usage fees on his or her land(s) when they become due and payable.

**3. DENIAL OF WATER SERVICE DUE TO DELINQUENCIES:** If an account is delinquent or overdue, no delivery of irrigation water will be made until arrangements for payment of the delinquent amount have been made. Current installments past due must be paid prior to any delivery of water and before the delinquent dates to avoid denial of water service. **INTEREST AND PENALTIES WILL BE ADDED TO DELINQUENT STANDBY FEE AMOUNTS. THE AMOUNT OF UNPAID WATER AND STANDBY FEES SHALL CONSTITUTE A LIEN ON THE PROPERTY AND MAY BE PLACED FOR COLLECTION WITH THE COUNTY TAX COLLECTOR.**

**4. BILLING DISPUTE:** Any dispute regarding a billed irrigation must be filed with the District within 15 days of receipt of the billing. Your prompt notification will ensure timely, accurate dispute resolution.

**5. IDENTIFICATION OF PROPERTY:** The primary identification of property is the Assessor's Parcel Number (APN). Examine your bill carefully before paying. Be certain it references your property and confirm that the Water Account is associated with the parcels receiving the water. If you have other property for which you have not received a bill, please contact the Merced Irrigation District office. If you have sold the property, please return the bill to this office with the new owner's name, address, and the transaction date of sale.

**6. AUTHORIZATION:** Standby fees and water usage charges are established in accordance with applicable sections of California law, including but not necessarily limited to Water Code §22280.

Payments can be made by mail to the Merced Irrigation District at P.O. Box 2288, Merced, CA 95344, in person at the Administration Office located at 744 W. 20<sup>th</sup> Street, by logging into your water account at mercedid.org, or by phone at (209) 722-2720.