



## MID makes extremely minimal amount of Lake McClure water available under dire circumstances

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MERCED, CA – At a special meeting today, the MID Board of Directors took emergency action to divert the remaining amount of the District’s stored water from Lake McClure to its growers.

Earlier this year, MID had informed its growers that no surface water from Lake McClure would be available. However, faced with the current unprecedented drought conditions, the MID Board took the only action available to it, directing staff to immediately divert approximately 10,000 acre feet of stored water. In a more typical year, MID would divert up to 500,000 acre feet for irrigation.

“MID’s water management actions over the past couple years have resulted in 85,000 acre feet of additional water being stored in the reservoir,” said MID General Manager John Sweigard. “Even this small amount of water would not be available if not for MID’s efforts working with regulators and downstream water-right holders during this drought.”

Today’s decision was made after the MID Board of Directors came together with growers for a special meeting to discuss the dire circumstances throughout the District:

- Rapidly falling groundwater levels.
- Groundwater wells failing.
- Extreme heat and a forecasted extended heat wave.
- Failing crops.

The MID Board authorized a surface water allocation of approximately 0.04 acre-feet per acre – or 1/2 acre-inch per acre – to Class I Growers. Approximately 0.02 acre-feet per acre – or 1/4 acre-inch per acre – will be available to Class II Growers.

Several growers at the meeting recognized the difficult decision before the Board members, but indicated any relief would be welcomed.

Orders will be taken immediately. Deliveries will be available beginning on Wednesday July 1. During the period of surface water diversions, all deliveries will be billed at \$100 per acre-foot delivered. The surface water availability is expected to span approximately two weeks.

MID is urging district-wide cooperation and allowing reallocation of water between growers. The District is also encouraging those with alternative water supplies to consider reallocating their surface water portion to those in the most need of assistance.

“Although the equitable delivery of this small amount of water comes with challenges, MID’s staff is committed to doing everything possible to efficiently deliver this water and provide the most benefit possible to our growers,” said MID Deputy General Manager of Water Resources Bryan Kelly.

Growers are urged to contact Customer Service to place orders and obtain further information at 209-722-2720.

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