



Growers Receive Increased Water Supply

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Growers within Merced Irrigation District will receive additional surface water following action taken by the MID Board today.

The increased water supply is the direct result of regulatory relief MID received from the state after months of planning a multi-benefit water management action for the Merced River.

MID growers were most recently expecting just 0.9 acre feet of surface water supply this growing season. However, MID officials noted that increased water supply would be available, and recommended increasing the allocation to 1.1 acre feet of water per acre. Class II growers will receive .55 acre feet after today's MID board action. Deliveries are expected to continue until September 7, 2014.

"This year still remains among the most challenging we have ever seen," said MID General Manager John Sweigard. "Nevertheless, we are extremely pleased there was some surface water supply relief for our growers."

Additionally, the Board voted to decrease the in-season agricultural water rate for growers from \$100.67 per acre foot to \$75 per acre foot. The new rate is retroactive and applicable to all surface-water use for the 2014 irrigation season.

The reduction in the 2014 water rates comes after MID growers recently approved a rate increase to \$100, ensuring the financial health of MID during the drought crisis. Since that time, MID implemented the multi-benefit water-management action for the Merced River after months of planning and receiving final approvals from the state. It involved obtaining 25,000 additional acre feet of water from Lake McClure for growers, and providing 5,000 acre feet of water for a critical-year spring fish-flow in the Merced River. The spring fish-flow water was transferred to other water users after it served its

environmental purpose in the river system. MID received \$5 million in revenue to help the District recover lost revenue associated with the drought. (For more, click [here](#).)

In addition to the surface water supply from Lake McClure, MID is again implementing its Supplemental Water Supply Pool Program. Growers have already elected to receive additional water supply that is made available from conjunctive groundwater pumping. The District expects to provide approximately 28,000 acre feet of water supply through the program this year.

MID began its deliveries on April 21.

Facing a third dry year with unprecedented drought conditions, the Directors earlier this year enacted strict penalties for any water theft this season. For a first offense of unauthorized use, a grower will be fined a \$1,000 penalty and be charged \$500 for each acre-foot used. For a second offense, the grower would receive the same fines and penalties while losing any further access to MID water this year.

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.

Updates and information related to the drought can be found on mercedid.org on MID's [Drought Watch](#) page.

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