



MID reminds growers of flexible options in critically dry year

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MERCED, CA – Merced Irrigation District is informing growers that a limited number of options are available to assist them in the current dry year.

“Most Growers have planned and managed their water supplies in such a way that they will survive this challenging year,” said Bryan Kelly, MID Deputy General Manager of Water Resources. “However, based on grower inquiries, it is apparent that some growers have reached, or are approaching, their MID allocation limit for the current season.”

To assist these growers, MID is allowing the transfer of un-used allocated water from one MID grower to another. MID is also allowing private groundwater wheeling and exchanges between in-District growers.

Additionally, an extremely limited supply of water from the Supplemental Water Supply Program (Supplemental Program) is available. The Supplemental Program was established this spring. It provided a pool of 60,000 acre feet of supplemental water supply available on a voluntary subscription basis. This was in addition to the allocated water growers received.

Although the Supplemental Program subscription period ended on June 30, some growers have since canceled or reduced the amount of their subscription to the Supplemental Program. This has resulted in small and limited amount of water from the Program being available for re-allocation to other growers. It will be issued to growers on a first-come, first-served basis.

MID does not expect the limited supply of Supplemental Program water to be sufficient to meet all anticipated demands.

“We are strongly encouraging growers to work with their neighbors to pursue the reallocation, wheeling and exchange options,” said Kelly.

Growers interested in the limited supply of reallocated Supplemental Program water should immediately contact MID Customer Service at 722-2720 for more information.

“We have had an unbelievable amount of team work as we all try to get through this difficult year. That includes growers, MID Distribution System Operators and our Customer Service Representatives,” said Kelly. “This has been crucial as we have endured two of the driest years on record.”

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