



**Subject: Water Quality Issues and Regulation Compliance**

Dear Grower:

The Merced Irrigation District continues to face stringent water quality regulations by the State of California to protect surface and groundwater supplies from potential pollutants. Regulations in the form of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne) set limits to control water quality in water supplies.

This letter is official notice that the Merced Irrigation District intends to use aquatic herbicides in the District's canals. If you have any questions about the District's use of aquatic herbicides please contact Weed Control Supervisor at 722-2719, extension 2917.

Water quality is currently being monitored in the San Joaquin River watershed area including the Merced River. The District asks that growers not place any type of tank containing agricultural fertilizers, chemicals or fuel on District canal banks. If these tanks were to leak into the District's irrigation system there is a potential for an expensive and time consuming clean-up with possible downstream crop damage. Prior to placement of any such tanks near District facilities, please contact the MID Engineering Department at 209-722-5761.

The District also asks that growers using "chemigation" and "fertigation" injection/applications not inject/drip pesticides and fertilizers directly into District facilities. When applied through private irrigation systems in water supplied by the District, growers must comply with all label regulations for backflow prevention. Agricultural chemicals and fertilizers applied by these methods can be a source of backflow contamination into surface and groundwater supplies if improperly applied. The District will closely monitor for any potential sources of contamination that could pollute surface and groundwater. The District is currently required to monitor surface water quality and file reports with the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to keep the District in compliance with the current water quality regulations. Your cooperation will assist us in controlling operating costs and keeping irrigation water affordable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BK', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bryan Kelly  
Deputy General Manager, Water Resources