



# TUOLUMNE RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2017

### DISTRICTS UNVEIL THE ‘TUOLUMNE RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN’

*MID, TID file license applications for the Don Pedro and La Grange Projects*

Today, the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation District Boards of Directors took action authorizing the General Managers to file the Amended Final License Application (AFLA) for the Don Pedro Project (Project) and the Final License Application (FLA) for the La Grange Project with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

The AFLA is the culmination of a multi-year, comprehensive effort by the Districts in consultation with numerous federal and state resource agencies, Indian tribes and members of the public – working under FERC’s Integrated Licensing Process – to identify and assess the effects of ongoing Project operations on environmental resources.

As part of this effort, the Districts worked closely with relicensing participants to compile and review existing information and conduct more than 35 FERC-approved resource studies, including holding 20 consultation workshops with relicensing participants, covering the full range of environmental resources in the Project area. Based on the results of these studies, MID and TID have developed the comprehensive Tuolumne River Management Plan. The Plan describes the Districts’ proposed operations, improvements and resource protection measures under a new FERC license for the Don Pedro Project.

*“The Management Plan submitted by the Districts is a balanced, sustainable and achievable proposal developed using the best site-specific science along the Tuolumne River. These studies and models demonstrate that when put into action together, the measures the Districts are proposing achieve the plans goals,” said TID Board President Joe Alamo.*

The Districts propose, as fully described in the AFLA, a number of measures related to instream flows and flow management, habitat improvements, fish populations and recreation that, in total, are expected to improve targeted fish populations substantially in the lower Tuolumne River, while significantly and effectively protecting the Districts’ water supplies.

*“During the Worth Your Fight campaign, we told everyone how the State Board’s flow-centric proposal would devastate our communities and that a comprehensive proposal based on science was needed to benefit the fishery and secure our water supplies. The Tuolumne River Management Plan is that proposal,” said MID Board President Nick Blom.*

With filing of the Districts' Plan, next steps include FERC's review and issue of a Ready for Environmental Analysis as well as requests for public comments and preliminary conditions from agencies with license conditioning authority. FERC will also begin its own Environmental Impact Study.

Timing for new license issuance is dependent on FERC's review and environmental study process. The initial 50-year license to operate the Don Pedro Project expired on April 30, 2016. Since that time, the Districts have been operating based on the previous license conditions and will continue to do so until FERC issues a new license.

To learn general highlights of the plan, visit [www.tuolumnerivermanagementplan.com](http://www.tuolumnerivermanagementplan.com) and for technical information, please visit [www.donpedro-relicensing.com](http://www.donpedro-relicensing.com) and [www.lagrange-licensing.com](http://www.lagrange-licensing.com). All related Plan documents filed with FERC will be posted by end of day Wednesday, October 11.

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**About the Modesto Irrigation District (MID)**

*The Modesto Irrigation District, established in 1887 is a vertically integrated public utility located in California's Central Valley. MID provides irrigation water to approximately 3,100 agricultural customers irrigating close to 60,000 acres and electricity to more than 121,000 residential, commercial and agricultural accounts in Modesto, Empire, Salida, Waterford and Mountain House as well as parts of Escalon, Oakdale, Ripon and Riverbank. MID also treats, delivers and wholesales up to 67,000 acre-feet of drinking water per year to the City of Modesto. For more information about MID visit [www.mid.org](http://www.mid.org) and follow [@mod\\_irrigation](https://twitter.com/mod_irrigation) on Twitter.*

**About the Turlock Irrigation District (TID)**

*The Turlock Irrigation District, located in Turlock CA, is the first publicly owned Irrigation District and is one of only four today that provides irrigation water and power to residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural customers within its service area. TID has been in the retail electric business since 1923. TID provides safe, low-cost, reliable energy to a growing customer base that today exceeds 100,000 home, farm, business, industrial and municipal accounts. TID also serves 5,800 irrigation customers covering approximately 150,000 acres of farmland. For more information about TID visit [www.tid.com](http://www.tid.com) and follow [@TurlockID](https://twitter.com/TurlockID) on Twitter.*