

## ***Press Release***

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## **Colored dye used in canals for water flow monitoring** ***Dye is harmless and safe***

Periodically throughout the irrigation season, MID applies Rhodamine WT, a harmless dye, to our canals to aid with water flow monitoring. As a result of the Rhodamine WT application, the water in the canals could be red, green, yellow or blue in color.

The dye is harmless to humans, animals and vegetation and is soluble in water.

Rhodamine WT is often used as a water tracer to determine rate and direction of water flow. Other irrigation districts also use this dye to aid in their water monitoring activities.

During irrigation season (typically March through October), MID also reminds our community of four canal safety rules – stay away from canals, learn to swim, swim and play in safe places, always swim with an adult.

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### **\*\*\* ABOUT MID \*\*\***

- **Irrigation water since 1904** – 3,100 agricultural customers irrigating close to 60,000 acres of almonds, walnuts, peaches, pasture, other crops.
- **Electric service since 1923** – More than 122,000 residential, commercial and agricultural accounts in Modesto, Empire, Salida, Waterford and Mountain House as well as parts of Escalon, Oakdale, Ripon and Riverbank, California.
- **Treated drinking water since 1994** – Approximately 67,000 acre feet of reliable, safe drinking water delivered to City of Modesto for its retail customers, slightly more than half of the City's water supply.

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