

## **Press Release**

**Date:** May 14, 2018  
**Media contact:** Melissa Williams, 209.526.7390, cell 209.652.5383  
Samantha Wookey, 209.526-7454, cell 209.404.0124

# **MID approves 2018 Groundwater Replenishment Program**

*2018 program to benefit groundwater sustainability in Modesto Sub-basin*

At the May 8 Board meeting, the Modesto Irrigation District (MID) Board of Directors voted to establish a 2018 Groundwater Replenishment Program (GRP).

The GRP is a voluntary program limited to the 2018 irrigation season that allows MID to deliver surface water to any farmer with already developed agricultural land who is solely reliant upon groundwater within the Modesto Sub-basin and within MID's existing sphere of influence. This surface water is for agricultural use only and the participants must demonstrate that the water received is put to beneficial uses at all times.

"Innovative solutions like the Groundwater Replenishment Program will assist MID and the Modesto Sub-basin as a whole in our efforts to achieve continued sustainability," said John Davids, Assistant General Manager, Water Operations.

The GRP was constructed following unexpected precipitation this spring. As of May 8, Don Pedro Reservoir is at 93 percent of total capacity and 125 percent of historical average.

Eligible landowners outside of MID's irrigation boundaries can receive available surface water at \$60 per acre-foot.

"Groundwater sustainability also has and always will be a main priority for MID," said MID Board President Nick Blom. "This program demonstrates our leadership within the Modesto Sub-basin,"

At the May 8 meeting, the MID Board also unanimously approved a 42 inch allocation with additional groundwater replenishment water available for all of MID's existing customers – agricultural and urban – for the 2018 irrigation season.

##



1231 Eleventh Street  
P.O. Box 4060  
Modesto, CA 95352  
(209) 526-7373

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

- Public agency established 1887 under California Water Code by vote of the people.
- Governed by five-member, locally elected Board of Directors.
- Not-for-profit operation.
- Water and electric rates based on cost of providing service.
- Primary water source Tuolumne River.

**About MID services**

- **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 a year of reliable, safe drinking water delivered to City of Modesto for its retail customers, slightly more than half of the City's water supply.

###