

Press Release

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MID finalizes 2017 Groundwater Replenishment Program details

*2017 irrigation season program to benefit
groundwater sustainability in Modesto Sub-basin*

Following program development discussion at the May 9 Board meeting, the MID Board of Directors finalized the 2017 Groundwater Replenishment Program (GRP) details, including the GRP pricing and participation application.

The GRP is a voluntary program limited to the 2017 irrigation season that allows MID to deliver surplus 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.

"This program is something different and out-of-the-box for MID and it supports California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's intention to empower local agencies to solve local problems with local resources," said John Davids, Assistant General Manager, Water Operations.

The GRP was constructed following an abundance of precipitation this season. There has been over 70 inches of precipitation in the watershed and approximately 200% of average precipitation to date. All of MID's existing customers – agricultural and urban customers – can utilize an uncapped water allocation this season as well. At the May 9 Board meeting, the MID Board declared 2017 to be a surplus water year.

"Sharing our surplus surface water supply this year with our neighbors that solely rely on groundwater will have a positive impact on groundwater resources within the Modesto Sub-basin," said MID Board President Nick Blom. "The GRP is just one of the innovative ways we continue our long-standing history of efficient and beneficial water use."

Eligible landowners outside of MID's irrigation boundaries can receive available surplus surface water at \$60 per acre-foot. The GRP application and additional details can be found at www.mid.org/water/groundwater.

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***** 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 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, California.
- **Treated drinking water since 1994** – 30 million gallons per day (average) 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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