



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2016

# Districts ask community to rally against harmful flow proposal

*MID, TID unveil 'Worth Your Fight' campaign to inform region about threat of Bay-Delta Plan*

Today, the State Water Resources Control Board released the revised Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) in support of Phase 1 of its Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. The state proposes to take a significant amount of water from our communities for the alleged benefit of salmon.

MID and TID continue to be disheartened that the State Water Board is doubling down on this uncompromising, misguided plan that sparked an outcry when the proposal was first released in late 2012. What's worse is that the State Water Board ignored [our community's recurring pleas](#) to minimize the impacts of its 2012 proposal, and instead increased its desired amount of water to be taken – moving from 35 percent to 40 percent of unimpaired flows. And as a result, we'll all be facing sizeable impacts with no evidence that this additional water will get to where it needs to go or achieve the plan's stated goals.

If this proposal's objectives were in effect in 2015, our region would've suffered \$1.6 billion in economic loss and 6,576 jobs would've been lost<sup>1</sup>, and this is *in addition to* existing drought impacts.

In response to the state's proposal, the Modesto and Turlock irrigation districts launched *Worth Your Fight*, an awareness campaign to help our customers and our region further understand the significance of the State Water Board's attempt to steal their livelihoods. MID and TID request that community members take some time to explore [WorthYourFight.org](#) and learn more about the potential impacts of the state's proposal. Additionally, the site can help equip community members with ways to advocate against this blatant reapportioning of water that's been beneficially used in our communities for more than a century.

Our community has never faced a threat of this proportion. MID and TID have continued to fight for the water resource that was entrusted to us 129 years ago. But this isn't a threat we can confront alone. Everyone – agricultural water, urban water and electric customers – will be affected. This water grab will impact our region's way of life. Don't you think it's [Worth Your Fight](#)?

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<sup>1</sup> Using the MID/TID 2014 Socioeconomic Model to run a 40 percent unimpaired flow scenario as proposed under the SWRCB's Draft SED.

Check out *Worth Your Fight* on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#), or view our social media feeds on [WorthYourFight.org](#).

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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 117,000 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 40 million gallons of drinking water per day to the City of Modesto. For more information about MID visit [www.mid.org](http://www.mid.org) and follow @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 98,000 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 on Twitter.*