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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Modesto Irrigation District continues to defend its rates in court** *MID Board disagrees with judge's ruling in Hobbs vs. MID lawsuit*

MODESTO, Calif. – The Modesto Irrigation District (MID) Board of Directors unanimously agreed to move forward with the next phase of litigation in the Hobbs vs. MID lawsuit regarding the District's electric rates. This decision was announced in the MID Board meeting on Tuesday, January 14.

Last month, a Stanislaus Superior Court judge ruled against MID in a challenge to the District's electric rates. The plaintiffs – Andrew Hobbs and David Thomas, et al. – argued that MID imposed higher rates on its electric customers to maintain low irrigation rates. MID countered with a solid and robust record of evidence that its rates appropriately recover the cost of its services.

“The MID Board has full rate-making authority and in the spirit of transparency and openness, the District engaged with independent, third-party industry experts to review our rate making practices,” said MID General Manager Scott Furgerson. “While we're disappointed with the judge's ruling, this is just one step in a lengthy court proceeding to defend our electric rates – which are among the lowest in California.”

MID's third-party, [independent review](#) provided extensive analysis including more than 100 pages of reports, spreadsheets and background to validate existing rates. As a result, the MID Board re-adopted current electric rates in December 2018.

The current court proceeding will shift focus to litigating the remedies phase and analysis on any applicable next steps.

“We're a publicly owned utility and our Board is elected by the customers we serve,” said MID Board President Paul Campbell. “Rates shouldn't be dictated by attorneys and judges. We will fight to preserve fair, balanced and local control of our rates.”

MID hasn't raised electric rates since 2012. While not raising electric rates, the District has steadily improved its financial stability and has paid down \$240 million in debt. MID has invested heavily in a capital improvement plan resulting in one of the highest service reliability records in the region. Rates, budgets and audited financial statements are all available at [mid.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 more than 2,300 agricultural accounts irrigating close to 60,000 acres and electricity to more than 128,000 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) or follow MID on Facebook ([@modestoirrigationdistrict](https://www.facebook.com/modestoirrigationdistrict)) and Twitter ([@mod\\_irrigation](https://twitter.com/mod_irrigation)).