

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 22, 2021

MID and TID issue statement on recent FERC action

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ruled on Tuesday, January 19 against the Districts and in favor of the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) in the relicensing and licensing of the Don Pedro and La Grange projects (Projects). Despite the SWRCB's use of a regulatory delay tactic, FERC found that the SWRCB didn't waive their authority to place crippling conditions upon the Projects.

We're disappointed in FERC's decision, but it only strengthens our resolve and determination to secure a license that balances water supply reliability for our community with scientifically based enhancements to the ecosystem. The State Water Board has continued to stall this process to circumvent its legal obligation and impose extreme requirements having nothing to do with water quality of the releases from Don Pedro and La Grange. We will take any and all legal action necessary to challenge FERC's decision and the SWRCB's final water quality certification.

FERC's action on Tuesday in no way changes the Districts' commitment to the voluntary agreement process. The Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement – the same science-based, comprehensive plan recommended by FERC in their Final Environmental Impact Statement – was part of a package of voluntary agreements submitted to the SWRCB as an alternative to the unimpaired flows paradigm adopted by the SWRCB in December 2018. The Districts strongly believe that, rather than spending years in litigation, it is in the best interest of all parties involved to come to an agreement that can be implemented immediately to improve river conditions and to support thriving fisheries and thriving communities.

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Media Contacts:

For MID, contact Melissa Williams | melissa.williams@mid.org | 209.526.7390

For TID, contact Josh Weimer | jmweimer@tid.org | 209.883.8361

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 2,300 agricultural customers 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 approximately 67,000 acre-feet of drinking water per year to the City of Modesto. For more information about MID visit 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 102,000 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.org and follow @TurlockID on Twitter.