

MID Appoints Jon Parnell as Manager of Water Operations

(MERCED, CA) January 21, 2011 – Merced Irrigation District (MID) has selected Mr. Jon Parnell to fill the position of Manager of Water Operations. Mr. Parnell’s extensive experience in water operations, maintenance, construction, project management, planning, administration and finance will serve MID and its ratepayers well. As a graduate of California State University, Bakersfield, with an emphasis in Accounting and Business Administration and thirteen – (13) years of experience as the Manager of Cross Valley Canal Operations for Kern County Water Agency, Mr. Parnell will bring a unique outside perspective combining financial and operational efficiency to MID’s Water Operations Department. Prior to entering the water industry, Mr. Parnell, a California licensed CPA, enjoyed a successful career in public accounting. Mr. Parnell has served Kern County’s civic needs as a former Board member and treasurer for the Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA). Mr. Parnell is married and has four children.

As the Manager of Water Operations, Mr. Parnell will oversee and direct the delivery of water to MID’s agricultural customers, the maintenance of water delivery, flood control and various natural waterways and the management of MID’s vehicle and equipment fleet. “Mr. Parnell brings a unique combination of valuable skills and experience to MID’s Water Operations Department. It’s difficult to find an individual like Jon, with a complete understanding of operations and financial issues combined with the hands on field experience needed for this position. Mr. Parnell will serve MID’s constituents and MID well,” said MID Deputy General Manager, Water Resources Hicham Eltal. General Manager John Sweigard added, “Mr. Parnell will not likely encounter a situation or circumstance he has not had prior experience with, and we are excited to bring him into MID to continue key water facility and fiscal planning to ensure the continued protection and delivery of MID’s valuable water resources. MID water operations and maintenance personnel have an extensive amount of institutional and historical knowledge regarding MID water delivery facilities and they will be key in helping Mr. Parnell continue to improve MID’s service to its water customers.”

Jon Parnell stated, "I am very excited about joining MID's team of water and power professionals. As a lifelong resident of the San Joaquin Valley and as an experienced Water Operations Manager, I understand many of the water-related issues faced by Merced area farmers and ranchers who rely on the availability of water supplies to produce the food and fiber that help feed and clothe the world."

Mr. Parnell will hit the ground running and begin his new position with MID on February 22, 2011. Please join MID in welcoming Mr. Parnell to its staff.

