

Merced Irrigation District Names Garith Krause New General Manager

Merced, California. January 20, 2004. The Board of Directors of the Merced Irrigation District has named Garith W. Krause as its new General Manager and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Krause, will assume his duties on May 1, 2004, succeeding Ross Rogers, who will retire on April 30.

In making the announcement, Board President, Jack Hooper, noted that Mr. Krause has been serving as Assistant General Manager for Energy Resources since 1996 and was instrumental in creating the Electric Services Department for the District. Mr. Hooper said. "Ross has built an impressive team of exceptionally capable senior staff members. Garith is an excellent choice from this group to succeed Ross. He will provide stability and leadership in areas critical to the District in the coming years. He has a proven track record of leadership and experience."

Mr. Krause joined the District in 1990 serving as its Chief Financial Officer until 2002. Mr. Krause assumed additional responsibilities as head of the Electric Services Department in 1996. Under his leadership, the Electric Services Department has grown to 25 employees, serves approximately 2500 customers, and is now the 25th largest of the 47 electric utilities in the State of California. Previously, Mr. Krause was employed for over 19 years in financial management positions in the private sector, including Financial Manager with Getty Oil Company, and Corporate Planning Manager with Foster Farms. He holds a Bachelors of Arts in Marketing from Washington State University and has a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington.

Assistant General Manager for Water Resources, E.C. "Ted" Selb noted, "Garith is ideal to lead the District at this important time in MID's history. Garith and I have worked closely together for the past 13 years and he was my early favorite candidate for the job. I am pleased the Board of Directors selected him. Garith understands the integration of the District's key operations including water, energy, parks and recreation and how they come together to make the District an important community asset. The District is going to continue to grow and Garith's leadership will be instrumental."

Ross Rogers, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of the District since 1991, stated that he was pleased with Mr. Krause's appointment. "I will be leaving the District's leadership in excellent hands," he said. "Garith is an innovative, creative and forward thinking leader. His hard work and dedication in building the retail electric business for the District into a viable and profitable division is well-known and respected both in the industry and in the community."

Mr. Rogers also noted Mr. Krause has been very active in the community, having served as President of the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce in 2001, President of the Merced Boosters, and was active in the UC Merced Core Planning Committee. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Merced County Economic Development Corporation and the Agricultural Energy Consumers Association.