



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Garith Krause 209-722-5761

MID Board Names Gino Pedretti as New Director

Succeeds Tim Pellissier who resigned in January

Merced, California. March 11, 2005. The Merced Irrigation District's Board of Directors has appointed Gino Pedretti, a long-time Merced/El Nido area farmer and resident, to its Board to fulfill the unexpired term of Tim Pellissier, who resigned in January. Mr. Pellissier tendered his resignation as Director of Division 2 of the District as a result of a residential move. Mr. Pellissier, owner of Pellissier Farms, and his wife, Linda, recently built a new house close to the center of his farming operation. The new location fell outside his current division boundaries, triggering the need for his resignation. State law requires that directors of public agencies reside within the district that they represent. The current term for Division 2 expires at the end of 2007.

Tom Reta, MID Board President, said, "Mr. Pedretti's experience and background in ranching, farming, knowledge of irrigation operations, business, and current related events made him an ideal choice among the applications the Board received for the post. With the impending consolidation of the 10,000 acre El Nido Irrigation District to the Merced Irrigation District, Mr. Pedretti's knowledge of that district should prove invaluable."

Mr. Pedretti and his family own and operate Pedretti Ranches in Merced County. Mr. Pedretti and his spouse, Mona, reside in the El Nido area and have 3 children, all of whom are involved in family ranching operations. Mr. Pedretti has served 38 years as a director of the El Nido Irrigation District. Mr. Pedretti said, "I am honored to be appointed as a Director of the District and look forward to representing my constituents in Division 2."

###