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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2002 Irrigation Season Update

Merced, California. The Merced Irrigation District officially announced the beginning of the 2002 Irrigation Season on Monday, March 18. Irrigation water should be available throughout the distribution system for delivery by Friday, March 22nd.

Water deliveries to in-District growers will not be curtailed in 2002 as their average water use is 3 acre/feet per acre. However, Sphere-of-influence (SOI) growers who, depending on water supply availability, purchase surplus water from MID, will be curtailed this year as early as mid- to late-June, depending on runoff into Lake McClure. SOI growers must have an alternate water source to ensure completing a crop in the 2002 season.

For the ninth consecutive year, in-District water rates remain at \$13.00/acre-foot. Out-of-District water rates remain at \$22.00/acre-foot, plus \$3.00 for each additional boost. 24-hour water orders can be placed beginning 8:00 am, Monday March 18 at (209) 722-2720. For growers in the Livingston or Northside, a toll-free number is available: (800) 750-2720.

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Background

MID is a public agency organized under the Irrigation District Act of the California Water Code. The District provides water services to growers and ranchers, and commercial and retail electrical services in Eastern Merced County. For over 60 years MID conducted business at 2423 Canal Street, Merced. In 1993 it moved its headquarters to the interim site at 720 West 20th Street.