



## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
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### **MID Advises Holiday Rivergoers to Exercise Caution**

*Merced, California. May 27, 2005.* The Merced Irrigation District advises holiday rivergoers to exercise caution this weekend while enjoying recreational activities on the Merced River due to the fact that MID will be increasing its precautionary releases to the river because of above average snowpack and abnormally high temperatures.

A Merced River Watershed snowpack 180 percent of average and temperatures 10 degrees above normal for this time of year are requiring MID to increase its precautionary releases downstream from the New Exchequer Dam. Flows downstream of the dam will rise today from 3,300 cubic feet per second to 4,000 cubic feet per second, but well within the river channel capacity of 6,000 cubic feet per second.

MID advises persons wishing to enjoy activities on the river this weekend to be careful and exercise common sense as the river will be swift-moving, deep and ice cold due to the melting snowpack. Children should be monitored very closely, and rivergoers should be alert to the signs of hypothermia, which include uncontrollable shivering, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech and extreme exhaustion.

MID wants the public to enjoy the beauty of the Merced River this holiday but to avoid rushing waters and stay "water safe."

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