

June 11, 1997
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robert Blum,
Director of Administrative
Services
(209) 722-5761

MID Announces Winners of Canal Safety Art Contest

MERCED, Calif. – Seventeen-year-old Chang Vang of Merced has been named the Grand Prize Winner in the Merced Irrigation District's Canal Safety Poster Art Contest.

Winners were also selected in three age groups. They are:

Ages 7 & Under: Yang Her, 7, of Livingston.

Ages 8-12: Christopher Schlener, 11, of Winton.

Ages 13-18: Alyssa Meik, 14, of Merced.

Chang Vang will be awarded \$150 for his drawing, which depicts a turtle and chick planning to swim but stopping and looking up at the Canal Safety Program theme of "Stay Smart, Stay Safe, Canals are Not for Play!"

MID will also award the winners in each age group \$75 apiece.

The art contest is just one of a number of activities the District has planned for this summer to help teach children about the potential dangers of playing near or swimming in irrigation canals.

MID received more than 325 entries in the art contest from youths throughout Merced County.

"We were very impressed with the creativity displayed by the children who submitted entries," said Bob Blum, MID Director of Administrative Services. "It wasn't easy choosing the winners."

Winning entries will be used in the 1997 Canal Safety Program poster, and other informational materials.

"Canal safety is a very important issue to MID," Blum said. "We are glad to see so many young people taking the time to show us through their artwork that they understand the dangers associated with irrigation canals. We want to thank everyone for participating in the contest."