



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 14, 2018

# **State Water Board votes to proceed with water grab**

*Tuolumne River voluntary agreement framework to be considered in coming months by State Water Board*

At the direction of the Governor and State Water Resources Control Board, Modesto Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District and the City and County of San Francisco (CCSF) engaged in good faith voluntary agreement discussions with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). We worked collaboratively to develop a framework for the Tuolumne River that would not only balance the needs of our customers and the environment, but also included the offer of early implementation of flow and non-flow measures.

The intent of the voluntary agreement framework was to develop an alternative comprised of flow and non-flow measures that could be adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board instead of their 40 percent unimpaired flow proposal.

DWR, CDFW, MID, TID, CCSF and several water agencies from the Sacramento Valley urged the State Water Resources Control Board to consider the presented voluntary agreement frameworks for rivers throughout the State. While the State Water Resources Control Board voted on Wednesday, December 12 to move forward with their Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan and Substitute Environmental Document (SED) mandating 40 percent unimpaired flow from the Tuolumne, Stanislaus and Merced rivers, they included language in their approved resolution that directed their staff to further evaluate the Tuolumne River voluntary agreement framework and provide an analysis by March 1, 2019. MID and TID will continue to work with our partners to present a voluntary agreement for the State Water Resources Control Board to consider next year and potentially use to replace their 40 percent unimpaired flow criteria.

“We’re still evaluating the State Water Board’s approved resolution and impacts it will have to our customers,” TID General Manager Casey Hashimoto said. “TID and MID will continue to advocate for a durable solution that can achieve sustainability and reliability for all – our environment, our customers and our communities.”

The Districts have 30 days to challenge the SED. Over the next month, we will analyze the State Water Resources Control Board’s resolution and will take appropriate actions as necessary.

“We’re disappointed by the Board’s action to approve their plan that will have significant and unavoidable impacts to our region,” MID General Manager Scott Furgerson said. “Moving forward we’ll continue to take any and all measures to protect our water supply and the communities we serve.”

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**About the Modesto Irrigation District (MID)**

*The Modesto Irrigation District, established in 1887 is a vertically integrated public utility located in California’s Central Valley. MID provides irrigation water to approximately 3,100 agricultural customers irrigating close to 60,000 acres and electricity to more than 122,000 residential, commercial and agricultural accounts in Modesto, Empire, Salida, Waterford and Mountain House as well as parts of Escalon, Oakdale, Ripon and Riverbank. MID also treats, delivers and wholesales approximately 67,000 acre-feet of drinking water per year to the City of Modesto. For more information about MID visit [www.mid.org](http://www.mid.org) and follow [@mod\\_irrigation](https://twitter.com/mod_irrigation) on Twitter.*

**About the Turlock Irrigation District (TID)**

*The Turlock Irrigation District, located in Turlock CA, is the first publicly owned Irrigation District and is one of only four today that provides irrigation water and power to residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural customers within its service area. TID has been in the retail electric business since 1923. TID provides safe, low-cost, reliable energy to a growing customer base that today exceeds 100,000 home, farm, business, industrial and municipal accounts. TID also serves 5,800 irrigation customers covering approximately 150,000 acres of farmland. For more information about TID visit [www.tid.com](http://www.tid.com) and follow [@TurlockID](https://twitter.com/TurlockID) on Twitter.*