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February 26, 2013

Irrigation season to begin March 7

Total water available set at 30 inches due to lack of rainfall, snow combined with dry 2012

TURLOCK – At its regular meeting today, the Turlock Irrigation District Board of Directors approved the 2013 irrigation season to run March 7 to October 9 of this year. The Board also authorized TID’s Water Distribution Department Manager to adjust the end of the season as necessary, depending on weather or crop requirements.

As part of the resolution, which was approved 5-0 by the Board, the amount of available water for irrigation customers this year was set at 30-inch cap.

A number of variables were discussed prior to setting the available water amount, including the lackluster rainfall totals in January and February combined with a weather forecast that predicts no significant rainfall for at least the next two weeks. To date, January and February rainfall have totaled less than two inches of precipitation, and the historical average for that period is approximately 12 inches.

In setting the amount of available water for the irrigation season, the District is able to inform growers about this baseline amount today so growers can make necessary preparations to their operations for the coming irrigation season. Additionally, TID is in the process of hosting a series of five meetings for growers so the District can provide customers with information regarding the current water year and the upcoming irrigation season, in addition updates on state laws and other water issues.

Growers can begin placing water orders on Wednesday, March 6 by calling TID’s Irrigation Call Center at 883-8456. Outstanding water charges and assessment balances must be paid in order to receive irrigation water.

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