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Turlock Irrigation District Aids River Cleanup

TURLOCK – Last Friday, the Turlock Irrigation District helped a volunteer group remove over two tons of trash and old tires from the Tuolumne River.

Unfortunately, the river and surrounding habitat have become a dumping ground for old tires, shopping carts, mattresses, plastic bags, scrap metal and debris. Over the course of the past six months, a group of river enthusiasts and concerned Stanislaus County residents known as “Operation 9-2-99” has taken it upon themselves to clean up the mess others have left behind and TID has joined in the effort.

Last week’s project began in the morning under the 9th Street Bridge in Modesto and covered the area between 9th Street and the Highway 99 overcrossing. Within five hours, over two tons of garbage was collected and removed from the river. The trash was floated downriver in canoes and boats where it was offloaded onto the shore and picked up by TID using a dump truck then hauled away. Several of the canoes were supplied by Tuolumne River Trust; a regular contributor to river cleanup efforts on the Tuolumne.

Chris Guptill, a teacher at Davis High School has been coordinating the Operation 9-2-99 monthly cleanup effort on the Tuolumne River for a year and a half. Chris and a team of volunteers including Phil McKay, a Warden with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Darin Jesberg, Captain with the Modesto Fire Department and Pat Maloney, Aquatic Biologist with TID conducted last Fridays cleanup effort.

The Tuolumne River begins in Yosemite National Park and snakes through the mountains and foothills and into the Valley where it passes through Modesto before ultimately emptying into the San Joaquin River. It’s a source of drinking water for the City of Modesto as well as irrigation water for Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts. It’s also habitat to native fish such as salmon and rainbow trout.

The next cleanup effort is scheduled for Saturday August 15 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. The group will be meeting under the 7th Street Bridge on the south bank of the Tuolumne River. Volunteers are encouraged to visit <http://tinyurl.com/operation9-2-99> where they will find volunteer waivers and more information about the ongoing cleanup effort.

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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 98,000 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 and follow [@TurlockID](https://twitter.com/TurlockID) on Twitter.