



**WATER & POWER**  
Serving Central California since 1887

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 4, 2013

## **TID Board: water theft will not be tolerated**

*Fines increased, canal security beefed up, hotline created to deter unauthorized use of water*

TURLOCK – The statement made by the Turlock Irrigation District Board of Directors on Tuesday was clear: irrigation customers should think twice about stealing water, because the fines are heftier, security has increased, and those who obey the rules are likely to call a newly created water theft hotline to report those who don't.

These immediate changes come following the passage of a resolution at Tuesday's meeting which updates the District's 1994 Unauthorized Water Use policy. The resolution raises the fine for a first unauthorized water use offense to \$1,000, plus three times the highest water rate at the time of the unauthorized use. The resolution also stipulates unauthorized use of water will be charged against the offending parcel's available water for the irrigation season, and the District can withhold irrigation water from all parcels owned or rented by the offending person. A second offense penalty includes forfeiture of water for the irrigation season.

While the vast majority of TID customers comply with the District's Irrigation Rules, these changes are being implemented as another means to further deter unauthorized use.

"We owe it to our customers to aggressively defend this precious resource," said Casey Hashimoto, TID's General Manager.

If the threat of fine and loss of water are not enough, TID also has taken measures to bolster canal security and also to inform customers about a newly-created water theft hotline. Beginning June 11, people can call (209) 883-3440 to report any instances of unauthorized use of water by TID customers. Callers can remain anonymous, and all verifiable reports will be investigated. The District has operated a separate tip line to report energy theft for several years.

Increased patrols could have an ancillary benefit, as the added surveillance may help deter theft and vandalism that could otherwise take place at TID facilities or at customer facilities and homes near canals.

###

Media Contacts:

Michelle Reimers | [mareimers@tid.org](mailto:mareimers@tid.org) | 209.883.8530

Herb Smart | [hssmart@tid.org](mailto:hssmart@tid.org) | 209.883.8448

**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](http://www.tid.com) and follow [@TurlockID](https://twitter.com/TurlockID) on Twitter.*