

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 25, 2014

## **Turlock Irrigation District proclaims drought conditions and sets Irrigation Season**

TURLOCK – At its regular meeting today, the Turlock Irrigation District Board of Directors approved a resolution proclaiming TID to be in a state of drought condition due to several factors including; three consecutive dry years, the full natural flow of the Tuolumne River being at less than 10 percent of historical average and the negative impact to the Districts hydroelectric generation capabilities as well as recreation operations at Don Pedro Recreation Area.

Also at today's meeting, the Board adopted a resolution setting the 2014 irrigation season to run March 27 to October 8 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 Irrigation Season resolution, the amount of available water for irrigation customers was set at a 20-inch cap, which is among the lowest amounts set by the District.

The drought resolution along with the low irrigation releases are a result of effects from the three driest water years on record at TID. The current low reservoir levels combined with record low snowpack and precipitation led the Board to enact these measures. Both resolutions passed on a 5-0 vote.

The TID staff was also instructed by the Board to strictly enforce the Irrigation Rules. Irrigation customers are responsible for knowing and complying with the Irrigation Rules and TID will assist them with any questions regarding interpretation.

The Board also directed TID staff to inform and assist irrigation customers to the best of staff's ability and to attempt to be as flexible as possible, while fully acknowledging the constraints of the drought.

TID asks that our growers continue to make every effort to conserve and use water as efficiently as they can.

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