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## **TID Board Approves Water Sales Agreement with Cities**

*SRWA would need to concur, but decades of talks on drinking water project closer than ever*

TURLOCK – The Turlock Irrigation District Board of Directors voted unanimously Tuesday morning to approve a Water Sales Agreement that, if also approved by the Stanislaus Regional Water Authority (SRWA), would mark a significant milestone in the decades-long effort to provide Tuolumne River water for domestic use to Turlock, Ceres and South Modesto.

The vote authorized TID staff to present the Agreement to SRWA for its consideration. Any final agreement would still need to be formally approved by the TID and SRWA boards.

“This Agreement shows the full measure of TID’s resolve in seeing this project through,” said TID Board President Ron Macedo. “The project provides numerous benefits to the region while still maintaining the integrity of agriculture within our District. We are hopeful SRWA sees the Agreement as a positive step forward.”

The key concept of the Agreement involves TID selling/transferring Tuolumne River surface water (“Transfer Water”) to SRWA. In less than normal irrigation water years, SRWA would provide “Offset Water” to TID, which would be a mix of recycled water and non-potable well water. This Offset Water is to balance the reduced Tuolumne River water available to TID irrigators that comes as a result of the surface water transfer to SRWA.

The Agreement has a 50-year term, is limited to a maximum of 30,000 acre-feet of Transfer Water to SRWA per year, and will be priced at TID’s Tier 4 Irrigation Water rate.

Negotiations between TID and SRWA (consisting of the cities of Turlock, Ceres and Modesto) have been intermittent since a drinking water project was envisioned by TID almost 30 years ago. In 2001, TID constructed an infiltration gallery on the Tuolumne River downstream of the Geer Road Bridge to divert river water to a future water treatment plant. In 2011, SRWA was formed to negotiate a water supply agreement with TID.

An executed Agreement would set forth several actions that would ultimately lead to SRWA constructing and operating a water treatment plant to service the three cities with domestic water.

The overall project would provide benefits across a variety of water users and beneficial uses, including:

- Assisting SRWA cities to better meet their water demand
- Providing in-lieu groundwater recharge for agriculture and urban users
- Providing additional fishery and aquatic benefits to the Tuolumne River
- Allowing for TID (obtaining access to recycled water) and SRWA cities (access to surface water) to diversify their water supply portfolios

### **Additional Resources**

[TID Staff Presentation on Water Sales Agreement](#), as presented to TID Board 7/14/15

[Water Sales Agreement](#), dated 7/14/15

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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.*