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February 28, 2012

## **Water allotment set for TID growers**

*Irrigation season to begin March 8*

TURLOCK – The 2012 water year is shaping up to be the driest year on record. Even if conditions change, resulting in average rainfall from this point forward, this year would be the fourth driest year on record. In response, the TID Board of Directors set the 2012 Irrigation Allotment at 24 inches with an additional six inches available above the allotment for a total cap of 30 inches.

Growers will receive the allotment at the basic water charge of \$26 per acre. The additional six inches of water can be purchased above the allotment at \$15 per acre-foot.

Dry weather conditions in December and early January prompted the District to make irrigation water available through an early 10-day irrigation period in late-January. Since that time, continued dry conditions coupled with temperatures warming into the 70s resulted in starting the 2012 Irrigation Season on Thursday, March 8. The season is set to conclude October 10.

In drier years, the District has practiced reserving the carryover storage in Don Pedro Reservoir for future use by implementing a combination of measures aimed at optimizing water supplies. Measures have included reducing surface water releases, increasing rented and drainage pumping to supplement surface water supplies, minimizing operational spills, and reducing the length of the irrigation season.

Growers will be able to begin placing water orders on Wednesday, March 7 by calling the TID Irrigation Call Center at 883-8456. Outstanding water charges and assessment balances must be paid in order to receive irrigation water.

TID is hosting five meetings for growers to provide information regarding the current water year and the upcoming irrigation season, in addition to an update on state laws and legislation.

**Tuesday, February 28** · 7 p.m. · **Hilmar**  
Hilmar Community Center · 20079 Falke St.

**Wednesday, February 29** · 7 p.m. · **Turlock**  
Chatom School · 7201 Clayton Rd.

**Thursday, March 1** · 7 p.m. · **Hughson**  
Hughson Community Center · 2307 4th St.

**Monday, March 5** · 7 p.m. · **Turlock**  
Turlock Irrigation District Boardroom · 333 E. Canal Dr.

**Wednesday, March 7** · 7 p.m. · **Westport**  
Westport Fire Station · 5160 S. Carpenter Rd.

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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.*