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Fresno Irrigation District's Water Deliveries to Start on April 16

FRESNO, CA: The Fresno Irrigation District (FID) Board of Directors made the decision at a special meeting held on April 10 to begin water deliveries on Monday, April 16, 2018. Spring storms in March and early April, coupled with 2017 carryover storage, made the early start to the FID water season possible despite the overall dry year. FID anticipates running water for 3 ½ months under current conditions. FID may need to adjust the irrigation run depending on the upcoming hydrology and runoff.

FID plans normal operations, with one exception for growers on a 30-day delivery schedule. According to Stretch, water will be delivered to Growers who are scheduled to receive water on the 16th and continue for the remainder of the month. "We anticipate having enough supply to extend deliveries at the end of the irrigation run for Growers on a 30-day delivery schedule to receive their normal allotment."

FID urges farmers to work with their water system operators for scheduling and conserving as much water as possible. To obtain water system operator information, particularly Growers who irrigate on a canal with a 30-day schedule, contact FID at (559) 233-7161.

"Good water management and conservation helps everyone," said Stretch.

2018 Water Forecast for Kings River and San Joaquin River

As of April 1, 2018, the California Department of Water Resources' forecast for Kings River run-off was 67-percent and expected to increase to the mid-70-percent range after recent April storms. Currently Pine Flat Reservoir is approximately 77-percent full (capacity is 1 million acre-feet). The Kings River Water Association is working with the 28-member units to schedule water deliveries.

San Joaquin River's spring run-off conditions are predicted to be slightly better and recent warm storms have caused Millerton Reservoir to reach its 530,000 acre-feet capacity. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) has encouraged water users to begin diverting larger volumes of water sooner than anticipated. Currently, the USBR has allocated a 100-percent supply to Class 1 contractors, which includes the City of Fresno, while FID manages their water supply. FID is a Class II contractor and to-date, approximately 140,000 acre-feet of water is estimated to be delivered to Class II contractors.

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