



MID Main Office

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Board of Directors

Div 1: Tim Pellissier,
President
Div 2: Scott Koehn
Div 3: Dave Long, Vice
President
Div 4: Kevin Gonzalves
Div 5: Billy Pimentel

Board Meetings

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

The first and third
Tuesday of every month
at 10:00 am.

Mailing Address

PO Box 2288
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Websites

www.mercedid.org
www.lakemcclure.com

Merced Residents, Growers Take Their Local Water Concerns to Sacramento

Nearly 20 Merced County residents and farmers traveled more than 100 miles by bus, and waited nearly nine hours, to testify before the State Water Board last month.

At issue during the public hearing on March 20 was a State Water Board proposal that would divert more water from Merced County to the San Francisco Bay Delta. The Merced residents joined dozens more from neighboring Valley communities who shared their concerns about a host of issues, including degraded local water quality and economic hardship.

On New Year's Eve, the State Water Board proposed new releases of water down the Merced, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers. The water would be released during peak storage time when spring runoff is captured in foothill reservoirs: between February and June. The State Board's own analysis of the increased river flows has pointed to significant job loss, reductions in hydroelectric power generation and tens of thousands of acres of farmland being fallowed.

Among the most damaging impacts concerning MID and others would be an expected decrease in quality and quantity of the groundwater. The groundwater is shared by rural farmers and the cities of Atwater, Livingston and Merced, among other communities.



Bryan Kelly of Merced Irrigation District explains local impacts to the State Water Resources Control Board as other listen carefully.

"The impacts of this proposal will ripple throughout our community, affecting our economy and our water supply for cities and farmers alike," said MID General Manager John Sweigard. "I want to personally commend and thank all from our community who took the time to be heard. I would like to also thank all those who sent hundreds of letters protesting the proposal to take our water."

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Those present for the two-day hearing included Livingston City Manager Jose Ramirez, Merced Farm Bureau President Jean Okuye, and numerous farmers. The farmers included Joe, Loren and Rick Scoto; Louie Bandoni; Ashley Bandoni; Jeff Marchini; Dan DeWees; Bill Bright; Kenny Miyamoto; Anthony Roggero; Ezio Sansoni and James Fagundes.

Resolutions and letters of support have also been provided by the cities of Atwater, Livingston and Merced; Merced County; the Greater Chamber of Merced; The Hispanic Chamber of Merced, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union and many hundreds of individuals.

Merced's two state legislators, Senator Anthony Cannella and Assemblyman Adam Gray, also spoke out against the Water Board proposal. Rep. Jeff Denham sent an aide to testify on behalf of the Valley and circulated a letter of concern, which was signed by Rep. Jim Costa, who represents Merced County.

"This isn't about farmers versus fish. This decision will pit farmers against their neighbors and municipalities," said Amanda Carvajal, director of the Merced County Farm Bureau. "What's even more frustrating is that even though the scientific evidence doesn't add up, state and federal agencies continue to advocate for

unimpaired flows upwards of 60 percent."

MID and others have pointed out that other significant and meaningful steps could be taken to address wildlife habitat in the Delta. Pollution, loss of spawning habitat, and predation of small salmon by non-native sport fish could all be addressed before demanding more water from the San Joaquin Valley.

No decision was made at the hearing. The State Water Board is expected to take action on the proposal before the end of the year.



Merced Residents sign-in for the State Water Board hearing.



GO GREEN ... AND KEEP MORE OF YOUR \$GREEN\$

The Merced Irrigation District is dedicated to helping its residential customers keep their electric bills low. In addition to purchasing ENERGY STAR appliances, here are some easy things you can do to reduce your energy bill:

Lighting

- Use task lighting. Only use light where needed instead of illuminating an entire room.
- Consider three-way lamps. Using softer lighting levels when bright light isn't needed uses less energy.

Laundry

- Wash full loads. It takes about the same amount of energy to wash small loads as large ones, so get the most for your money.

- Clean the lint from the clothes dryer after each load. The dryer's efficiency decreases when lint builds up over the filter.

Refrigeration

- Adjust refrigerator temperature settings. Optimum refrigerator range is 37 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit and optimum freezer range is 0 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Clean refrigerator coils at least twice a year. Accumulated dirt and dust reduce refrigerator efficiency. Cleaning the coils can also extend the life of your refrigerator.

Cooking

- Cook with a full oven. If cooking multiple dishes, set oven to average cooking temperature of the dishes and cook dishes simultaneously.
- Don't peek. Opening and closing the oven door lengthens the cooking time, using more energy.