



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2017

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Big Water Year Extends Fresno Irrigation District's Water Deliveries to November 12th

FRESNO, CA: After a near record year, Fresno Irrigation District's (FID) water deliveries for the 2017 season will extend into November this year, officially concluding water service and beginning the annual winter system shutdown on November 12th.

By the time the annual winter system shutdown begins, FID will have delivered approximately 575,000 acre-feet of water for the 2017 water year, which officially began on March 1, 2017.

"We were originally leaning towards running water through October 31, but since we have had such a large water supply this year for District users, the FID Board of Directors made the decision to extend the season into November," explained Bill Stretch, FID's assistant general manager. "After the historic five-year drought, farmers and urban residents within the district's boundaries have really benefited this year, and we've been able to store surplus water to replenish groundwater aquifers and prepare for future droughts."

"Many growers took advantage of FID's large water supply this fall to make post-harvest irrigations," stated Stretch. "Looking forward, these wet-year fall irrigations will be very important to recharge the aquifers and achieve groundwater sustainability."

The water conditions resulted from the heavy storms received between December 2016 and February 2017, which boosted the Kings River's natural run-off to approximately 4.1 million acre-feet for the 2016-2017 water accounting year, according to Stretch.

"That is 220-percent of the Kings River's average annual run-off, ranking this year as the third largest water year on record, dating back to the 1890s," he explained.

District crews will use the off-season shutdown to conduct maintenance, repair, and construction projects that will enhance the water system's infrastructure for the 2018 season. District water users are encouraged to contact their water system operator to coordinate their next irrigation.

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