Madera Irrigation District (MID or District) continues to deliver water from its supplies in Millerton Lake (Friant Dam) and Hensley Lake (Hidden Dam) in this remarkable water year. The District has been running continuously since January of 2017 and plans to continue delivering surface water well into the fall. It is anticipated that this could be the longest MID irrigation season in decades, with 1982, another extraordinarily wet year, being the next closest duration. MID currently plans to continue delivering surface water as long as operationally feasible with no scheduled shut-off date at this time.

In addition to lengthening the season, the District elected to reduce the cost of water to its District growers beginning September 1, 2017. As of September 1, 2017, the Original District rate was dropped to $65 per acre foot and the Subordinate rate was lowered to $130 per acre foot. Again, it is imperative that MID growers maximize their use of surface water for the remainder of this year to allow our groundwater aquifer an opportunity to recover from over five years of almost exclusive use and overdraft.

Madera Irrigation District will continue accepting Crop Water Applications and water orders can be coordinated through MID’s Operations Department. If you have any questions related to Crop Water Applications or 2017 operations, please contact the District at 559-673-3514.
Madera Irrigation District, in cooperation with Sustainable Conservation, is researching the option of On-Farm Recharge (OFR). OFR – using floodwater to recharge groundwater on active cropland – is potentially an affordable and practical water management tool that can move groundwater basins, including the Madera Sub-basin, toward a sustainable balance, but this option needs grower participation and further research.

The purpose of this Request for Participation (RFP) is to identify growers within Madera Irrigation District interested in participating in OFR on a portion of their vineyard or tree block. Researchers will conduct an on-farm water quantity analysis measuring the potential of this form of recharge. The grower will have control of how much and how long water is applied to their field/the demonstration site. However, a critical factor in selecting participating growers is that surface water must be applied in excess of ETc to fulfill the objective of this program to recharge the underlying aquifer.

**Reasons for Growers to Participate**

Growers who have implemented OFR for decades cite a variety of agricultural production and water quantity and quality benefits. Some of these benefits include: flushing salts below the root zone, improving well water quality by percolating surface water into their underlying basin, reducing lift/pumping costs, and keeping their wells from collapsing. For more information, visit www.madera-id.org.

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**Madera Irrigation District Landowners Are Enjoying The Benefit Of The 2015 And 2016 Bond Refundings**

In 2015 and 2016 Madera Irrigation District (MID or District) refunded two sets of bonds for the benefit of MID landowners and, as of 2017, MID landowners are experiencing those benefits.

The 2016 Bond Refunding provided an annual savings to the District of almost $1.0 million, this savings has allowed the District to reduce its water rates in 2017, with a significant drop in rates occurring September 1, 2017. The 2015 Bond Refunding is on track to reduce the District landowners’ Proposition 218 (9(d)) assessment payments by thirteen (13) years, with a likely end date of 2027 as opposed to the original 2040 end date for those assessments.

Through efforts of the MID Board and Management in 2015 and 2016, the District was able to reduce its outstanding bond debt by over $34 million, allowing for sound financial management into the future.

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**Madera Irrigation District 2018 Assessments and 2017 Standby Charges**

Madera Irrigation District (MID or District) 2018 assessments and 2017 standby charges will be included on the County of Madera’s (County) property tax bill, which will be mailed by the County in mid-October. The District’s assessments and standby charges will be reflected on the County tax bill as a one-line item direct charge and will be subject to the December 10 and April 10 due dates and penalties set by the County. While the District no longer mails invoices for assessments and standby charges, the District still continues to bill directly for water usage. Also, 2016 and prior years’ delinquent assessments will continue to be paid to MID.

The County accepts a variety of payment options. If you have any questions regarding your bill, please contact Madera Irrigation District at (559) 673-3514.

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**Be Sure to Visit The Madera Irrigation District Booth at the Madera District Fair September 7-10, 2017**

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**The District Continues To Accept Crop Water Applications.**

To Order Water, Contact Your Canal Operator or the Operations Department At (559) 673-9241.

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**Request For Grower Participation For On-Farm Recharge Research & Demonstration Program**

Madera Irrigation District, in cooperation with Sustainable Conservation, is researching the option of On-Farm Recharge (OFR). OFR – using floodwater to recharge groundwater on active cropland – is potentially an affordable and practical water management tool that can move groundwater basins, including the Madera Sub-basin, toward a sustainable balance, but this option needs grower participation and further research.

The purpose of this Request for Participation (RFP) is to identify growers within Madera Irrigation District interested in participating in OFR on a portion of their vineyard or tree block. Researchers will conduct an on-farm water quantity analysis measuring the potential of this form of recharge. The grower will have control of how much and how long water is applied to their field/the demonstration site. However, a critical factor in selecting participating growers is that surface water must be applied in excess of ETc to fulfill the objective of this program to recharge the underlying aquifer.

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**Key Dates**

- Mid-October: County Tax Bills Mailed
- December 10, 2017: 1st Installment Due
- April 10, 2018: 2nd Installment Due

The one-line item direct charge on the property tax bill will include MID assessments and standby charges, if applicable.