

# MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## *CONSERVATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES*

AUGUST 2015



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## **INTRODUCTION**

### Background

The Modesto Irrigation District (MID or District) Conservation Program (Program) provides partial funding to qualifying MID landowners for projects that conserve water and improve water management after the eligible project is completed. Projects must meet certain eligibility criteria and be pre-approved by MID. These guidelines provide information on eligible projects, applicant eligibility, available funding, the application process, project ranking criteria, contractual obligations, and the anticipated annual schedule. The Program will be an annual program that is subject to funding and approval by the Board of Directors (Board) on an annual basis.

### Objectives

The objective of the Program is to encourage landowners, through financial incentives, to invest in physical improvements and management practices that conserve water and improve water management. The long-term goal of the Conservation Program is to improve water management within the District.

### Role of Modesto Irrigation District

The role of MID in the Program includes, but isn't limited to:

- Review of applications for conformance with guidelines
- Ranking of applications and selection of projects for funding
- Review adequacy of project designs
- Recommendation and approval of contractors, consultants and equipment suppliers
- Monitoring during construction
- Performing final inspection
- Making reimbursement payment in accordance with funding agreement after completion of work and approval by MID
- Verification of project performance one-year after construction

If you have any questions about the Program please contact the MID Irrigation Operations office at (209) 526-7373.

## **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS**

### Physical Improvements

Physical improvements that are eligible for funding include:

- New pipelines, sidegates, control gates and control boxes from District conveyance system to pump intake of private landowner facilities (components related to conversion from flood irrigation to pressurized irrigation system)

- Replacement of leaky cast-in-place concrete pipelines
- Conversion of canals to pipelines
- Flow measurement
- Land leveling for improved flood irrigation
- Unlined regulating reservoirs in areas where groundwater recharge is desired and practical

### Management Practices

Management practices that are eligible for funding include:

- Scientific irrigation scheduling (using approved consultant)
- Soil moisture monitoring (using approved equipment manufacturer)

### Landowner Proposed Projects

Landowners may propose other conservation measures that are not listed above. These conservation measures must have quantifiable benefit in terms of water conservation or water management. MID will review applications for other proposed conservation measures and determine eligibility for funding on a case-by-case basis.

### Ineligible Projects

Most on-farm irrigation system improvements aren't eligible for District funding as these projects may be funded by other programs such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Projects not eligible for funding under the Program include the following:

- Irrigation system components for drip, micro-spray, sprinkler or flood irrigation. These include, but are not limited to: power source, electrical devices, chemical injection tanks and equipment, on-farm irrigation control valves, prescreening (i.e. trashracks), pumps, pump intake piping, piping after pumps, filters, distribution system, emitters, dripline or drip tape
- Engineering design
- Easements
- Land acquisition
- Deep ripping/tillage
- Components related to a conversion from sprinkler to drip irrigation
- Repairs to, or modification of, existing irrigation system not listed herein or under eligible physical improvements
- Pipe relocations and/or improvements to facilitate development or for more efficient on-farm practices.

## ELIGIBILITY

Applications can be submitted by an individual landowner or a group of landowners (i.e., Improvement District). Applicants must satisfy the following eligibility criteria to be considered for funding:

- Must have control of the land as a landowner (lessees cannot apply)
- Landowner must have an active irrigation account with MID in good standing
- Must be in good standing with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
- Eligible lands must be entirely or partially within MID
- Benefitting land must have irrigation history in at least 2 of the last 5 years

## AVAILABLE FUNDING

The total amount of funding available for the Program will vary each year based on MID’s approved budget. The table below shows the anticipated project funding that may be available annually.

**Table 1 – Available Funding**

Fundable Projects	Percent Funded	Maximum Funding <sup>1</sup>
Physical Improvements	50%	\$60,000
Management Practices	50%	\$5,000

<sup>1</sup> Maximum funding may vary based on Board approval

If a project serves property that is only partially located within MID’s irrigation boundary, then project funding will be proportionate to the acreage within MID’s irrigation boundaries. For example, if 80% of the acreage, as determined by MID, is within MID’s irrigation boundary, then only 80% of the total project cost would be eligible for 50% funding.

## APPLICATION PROCESS AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES

The application and payment procedures are summarized as follows:

1. Landowner submits application package for review (including attached application form, design plans and information, cost estimate, contractor/consultant/manufacture information, 5 year average water use per acre, and estimate of water savings and operational benefits)
2. MID considers project for funding based on ranking all submitted applications that year

3. MID prepares reimbursement agreement if project is approved
4. Landowner executes agreement
5. MID monitors during construction
6. Landowner completes project
7. MID performs final inspection
8. Landowner submits final pay request, record drawings, and itemized invoices for qualifying project expenses
9. MID makes reimbursement payment in accordance with agreement
10. MID may perform post-project monitoring 1 year after construction to verify performance as intended

## **PROJECT RANKING CRITERIA**

MID Irrigation Operations staff will rank projects based on the information submitted and projects will be funded up to the amount allocated by the Board for that year. Selection won't be on a first come – first served basis. Rather, all projects submitted by the annual deadline will be considered. Preference will be given to projects that meet the following criteria:

1. High water conservation value relative to the project cost (cost/acre-foot conserved)
2. Projects benefitting multiple landowners versus a single landowner
3. Applicants that have historically high water use as determined by MID
4. Applicants that haven't participated before in the Program
5. Replacement of existing infrastructure versus installation of new infrastructure
6. Lands entirely within versus partially within MID's irrigation boundary

## **CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS**

### General Obligations

- Landowner must agree to maintain an active irrigation account for at least 5 years following project completion
- Minimum field size of 10 acres for overall project (smaller fields considered on a case-by-case basis)
- MID must pre-approve consultants, contractors and equipment manufacturers
- Project design shall be reviewed by MID prior to construction, and when relevant, prepared by a California Registered Civil Engineer or certified by an Irrigation Association Certified Irrigation Designer
- All projects shall adhere to the attached Conservation Program Design Requirements as applicable.
- Design and construction must meet applicable District standards in accordance with current MID Irrigation Rules and Regulations (Section 2.6)

- MID shall inspect project during construction to ensure conformance with current MID Irrigation Rules and Regulations

Flow Measurement Requirements

- Flow measurement is required for all conveyance projects
- Flowmeters must be Seametrics AG2000 Irrigation Magmeter or McCrometer Mag 3000. Meter with 4-20mA output is required.
- Landowner agrees to provide District permanent access to flow measurement device
- MID shall have the right to install telemetry in the future, if desired
- Landowner agrees to repair, modify, calibrate or replace flow measurement device to ensure accuracy in accordance with MID Irrigation Rules and Regulation then in effect as required by the District. District shall also have the right to repair, modify, calibrate or replace flow measurement device at landowners expense.

**ANTICIPATED ANNUAL SCHEDULE**

The anticipated annual schedule for implementing the Program is shown below. The schedule may vary from year to year based on available funding and the availability of District staff to administer the Program.

**Table 2 – Anticipated Annual Schedule**

Description	Date
Applications Released	May 1
Applications Due	August 1
Project Rankings Released	September 1
Deadline for Submitting for Reimbursement	March 1 of following year

*ATTACHMENT A*

SUGGESTED DESIGN REQUIREMENTS



# **MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT CONSERVATION PROGRAM SUGGESTED DESIGN REQUIREMENTS**

*FOR USE BY SYSTEM DESIGNERS OR ENGINEERS*

## **A. General Project Requirements**

1. See Design and Construction of Private and Improvement District Facilities (Section 2.6) of MID Rules and Regulations Governing the Distribution of Irrigation Water with the MID.

## **B. Project Drawing Requirements**

1. Scalable drawing with a scale not to exceed 1" = 60'.
2. General project vicinity map, north arrow, and legend.
3. Minimum paper size of 11" X 17" for irrigation projects having a pipe length greater than 500 feet.
4. Plan view depicting existing roads, property lines, MID irrigation facilities, and Improvement District facilities, as each facility is known by the public or District.
5. All proposed project facilities to be labeled based on type, size, and distances from existing facilities if applicable.
6. Legible copies of MID original standard engineering details related to project shall be incorporated into plan view drawing or additional drawing pages as needed. MID engineering standard detail number to be referenced on plan view drawing(s) at all locations where the MID engineering standard detail is utilized.
7. For irrigation pipelines having a length greater than 500 feet the project designer must provide a profile drawing view of pipeline and related irrigation facilities.

## **C. Project Design Requirements (To be provided on drawing)**

1. Water elevation datum with respect to existing District irrigation facility as determined by project designer.
2. Total required flow (15 cfs minimum required for flood irrigation systems only).
3. For pressurized systems determine maximum flow, time, duration, and frequency of irrigation events during maximum crop evapotranspiration.
4. Provide minimum pipeline cover of two (2) feet at all times
5. Minimum Polyvinyl chloride pipe rating of 100 psi.
6. For all pipelines having a length greater than 500 feet, the project design shall graphically show the static water line from the existing District distribution facility, as determined by the designer.
7. For all pipelines having a length greater than 500 feet, the project designer shall graphically show the hydraulic grade line based on the maximum required design flow with respect to the water elevation datum from the existing District distribution facility, as determined by the designer.

*ATTACHMENT B*

LANDOWNER APPLICATION FOR  
CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDING



For District Use Only  
Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

## LANDOWNER APPLICATION FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDING

(applications due by August 1 of each year)

### Instructions

The Modesto Irrigation District (MID) Conservation Program provides partial funding to MID landowners for projects that conserve water and improve water management after the eligible project is completed. Projects must meet certain eligibility criteria and be pre-approved by MID. Please carefully read the MID Conservation Program Guidelines before submitting an application. Application must be submitted by the deadline to be considered for funding. All applications will be reviewed and ranked by MID. Funding is not guaranteed for all applications. If you have any questions about the Conservation Program please contact the MID Irrigation Operations office at (209) 526-7373.

### General Information

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (APN): \_\_\_\_\_

Design Engineer: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

MID Delivery Location (Lateral, Sidegate or Turnout No., Improvement District, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_

MID Customer ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Parcel Size (acres): \_\_\_\_\_

Crop: \_\_\_\_\_

Future Design Flow: \_\_\_\_\_

Future Irrigation Schedule: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received MID Conservation Program Funding for any projects in the past 5 years?

Yes     No

Have you applied for funding for these conservation measures, or a portion of related conservation measures, under any other program, such as NRCS EQIP?

Yes     No

If yes, what portion of project? \_\_\_\_\_

### Eligibility

- Must have control of the land as a landowner (lessees cannot apply)
- Must have an active irrigation account with MID in good standing

- Must be in good standing with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
- Eligible lands must be entirely or partially within MID
- Benefitting land must have irrigation history in at least 2 of the last 5 years
- Minimum field size of 10 acres for overall project (smaller fields considered on a case-by-case basis)
- Project must be on approved list of eligible project types (see Conservation Program Guidelines)

**Proposed Physical Improvements (Check all that apply)**

- New pipeline, sidegate, control gates and/or control boxes from District conveyance system to pump intake of private landowner facilities (components related to conversion from flood irrigation to pressurized irrigation system)
  - Conversion from flood to drip/micro system
  - Replacement of leaky cast-in-place concrete pipeline
  - Conversion of canal to pipeline
  - Flow measurement
  - Land leveling for improved flood irrigation
  - Unlined regulation reservoir
  - Other (provide brief description below, see section titled "Other Conservation Measures")
- 

**Proposed Management Improvements (Check all that apply)**

- Scientific irrigation scheduling
  - Soil moisture monitoring
  - Other (provide brief description below, see section titled "Other Conservation Measures")
- 

**Other Conservation Measures**

Modesto Irrigation District will consider other conservation measures that can result in water conservation or improved water management. If you are proposing a conservation measure that isn't listed above then please attach the following:

1. Description of conservation measures to be implemented, including physical changes to the field and/or irrigation management changes
2. Sketch showing field and project location, and physical changes to the field
3. Description of how the proposed conservation measure will result in water conservation or better water management

**Other Relevant Notes Regarding Project** (please add any other relevant information below)

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**5-Year Avg. Water Use:** \_\_\_\_\_ AF/AC

**Estimated Water Savings:** \_\_\_\_\_ AF/AC

**Identified Operational Benefits:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Requested Funding<sup>1</sup>**

Total Project Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Requested Funding \$ \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>MID will fund up to 50% of project costs with normal maximum funding of \$60,000 for physical improvements and \$5,000 for water management practices

**Attachments**

Please attach the following to your application:

1. Design drawings (for physical improvements)
2. Cost estimate (be sure to separate eligible and ineligible costs)
3. Calculation of estimated water savings and operational benefits
4. Information on proposed irrigation consultant (scientific irrigation scheduling)
5. Information on proposed contractors
6. Information on equipment manufacturer (flowmeters and soil moisture monitoring)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please Submit Application to:

Modesto Irrigation District  
Irrigation Operations Division  
P.O. Box 4060  
Modesto, CA 95352-4060

*FOR OFFICE USE ONLY*

Received by Civil Engineering Dept.	Initials: _____	Date: _____
Application Deemed Complete:	Initials: _____	Date: _____
Approved by Irrigation Field Services Manager:	Initials: _____	Date: _____
Approved by Irrigation Operations Manager:	Initials: _____	Date: _____