

Fresno Irrigation District to deliver farm water

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A late season Sierra Nevada storm has given growers in the Fresno Irrigation District an unexpected water delivery.

Last month, the district announced for the first time in its history that it would be unable to make regular water deliveries because of the state's historic drought. But above-average precipitation across the Kings River's watershed increased the district's entitlement, allowing FID to begin making water deliveries within the 250,000-acre district.

"We now expect each of our growers to receive one irrigation turn," said Gary Serrato, FID general manager. "It's not a lot but it is certainly welcomed, given the record drought we are experiencing."

187%

May's precipitation above average across the Kings River watershed

FID began its seasonal water run June 1 but only for groundwater recharge and limited deliveries of hardship water.

Kings River deliveries have been continued to surface water treatment plants in Fresno and Clovis. May's precipitation across the Kings watershed was 187% of average as a result of an early May storm that also produced a little snow in the highest elevations.

Serrato recommended that each grower contact their water system operator to begin scheduling their irrigation. Additional information can also be viewed on the district's website at www.fresnoirrigation.com.

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