



ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT IS CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF SERVICE TO LOCAL FARMERS!

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Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (AEWSD) is celebrating 75 years of service to its valued landowners and water users.

Founded in 1942. Local farmers formed AEWSD in 1942 to provide a reliable water supply for over 131,000 acres of agricultural land in Southeast Kern County.

In the 1960s, AEWSD successfully completed its Project to introduce surface water into an area where groundwater levels were dropping, which have since stabilized, and thereby utilizes both sources to meet agricultural needs (a true conjunctive use project). AEWSD also embarked on a multi-decade period of creative water management that included: water banking, exchanges, trades and other agreements that provided a solid and stable water supply. A major water supply advance was accomplished in 1997 with the signing of a 25-year year agreement with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, providing a model for large scale, mutually beneficial agreements with parties outside the Valley.

Supporting Over a Billion Dollars in Agricultural Products. “We’re proud to be a part of the San Joaquin Valley’s great agricultural heritage,” said Edwin Camp, President of AEWSD. “Our area is recognized for having fertile and productive lands, with a unique microclimate that typically makes it possible to deliver fresh

fruits and vegetables to markets sooner than from other areas in the San Joaquin Valley.” AEWSD’s top irrigated crops include: vineyards, almonds, citrus, carrots, potatoes, onions and tomatoes, with an approximate total 2016 value of over \$1.1 billion – representing nearly twenty percent of the Kern County total.

Advanced Water Management to Ensure Reliable Supplies. AEWSD’s only surface water supply originates from the federal Central Valley Project’s Friant Division which is supplied by Millerton Lake near Fresno. However, AEWSD’s federal surface supplies vary widely – very large in wet periods and much smaller in dry periods. Consequently, AEWSD has had to develop and invest in extensive groundwater banking facilities and creative water management programs to ensure reliable supplies for landowners through both wet and dry periods.

During wet periods, AEWSD uses its 1,500 acres of spreading ponds to recharge water and also utilizes storage facilities through partnerships with many other agencies. During below average or dry years, AEWSD extracts the previously stored groundwater from 82 deep wells and/or accepts return of water from its partners to meet its agricultural needs when surface water supplies are deficient.

A Network of Water Facilities. Additional AEWSD facilities to deliver water to landowners include 45 miles of lined canals, over 180 pumps/motors and 170 miles of pipeline. Since 1966, AEWSD has imported nearly 7.9 million acre-feet (AF) of water, including delivery to banking facilities of about 2.3 million AF. Over the same period, AEWSD has delivered over 6.7 million AF from a combination of surface water supplies and previously banked groundwater to its landowners, farmers and water users. An AF of water is the amount that would fill a football field about one foot deep in water.

Already Preparing to Serve Our Customers for the Next 75 Years. AEWSD is proud to share this milestone and celebrate the commitment of our Board, staff, partners, vendors, consultants, friends and the entire water community. “We’ve been meeting the needs of our growers for three-quarters of a century,” said Engineer-Manager Jeevan Muhar. “By continuing our tradition of managing our surface and groundwater supplies, we are already preparing for the next 75 years.”