

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2373

Introduced by Assembly Member Gray

February 18, 2016

An act relating to the Merced Irrigation District and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2373, as introduced, Gray. Merced Irrigation District

The Irrigation District Law provides for the formation of irrigation districts with prescribed powers, including acting to put to any beneficial use any water under the district's control.

This bill would appropriate \$45,000 from the General Fund to the Merced Irrigation District for implementing irrigation and water use efficiency strategies for small communal farms in the County of Merced.

This bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute for the County of Merced.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the
- 2 implementation of irrigation and water use efficiency by farms
- 3 benefits the public as a whole, reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- 4 in the production of food and reducing the production costs of
- 5 food, helping to keep food prices affordable for all Californians.
- 6 SEC. 2. There is hereby appropriated forty-five thousand dollars
- 7 (\$45,000) from the General Fund to the Merced Irrigation District

1 for implementing irrigation and water use efficiency strategies for
2 small communal farms in the County of Merced. For purposes of
3 this appropriation, small communal farms may include a farm that
4 is operated through an informal agreement by one or more families.
5 SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law
6 is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable
7 within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California
8 Constitution because many communal farms in the County of
9 Merced lack adequate economic opportunities as the county is
10 home to a disproportionate number of disadvantaged communities
11 with traditionally high levels of unemployment and poverty.

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