

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2373

Introduced by Assembly Member Gray

February 18, 2016

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2373, as amended, 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. *The bill would require, on or before April 30, 2018, the Merced Irrigation District to report to the Legislature how the appropriated funds were spent, how the funds resulted in improvement to irrigation efficiency, and how the funds reduced energy, fuel, and water usage. The bill would additionally require the report, to the greatest extent possible, to evaluate the effectiveness of expanding the program to assistance on small farms statewide.*

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. (a) There is hereby appropriated forty-five thousand
7 dollars (\$45,000) from the General Fund to the Merced Irrigation
8 District for implementing irrigation and water use efficiency
9 strategies for small communal farms in the County of Merced. For
10 purposes of this appropriation, small communal farms may include
11 a farm that is operated through an informal agreement by one or
12 more families.

13 (b) (1) *For purposes of determining the effectiveness of the*
14 *appropriation in subdivision (a) on small communal farms, and*
15 *the cumulative impact on the County of Merced as a whole, on or*
16 *before April 30, 2018, the Merced Irrigation District shall report,*
17 *at a minimum, to the Legislature all of the following:*

18 (A) *How the appropriated funds were spent.*

19 (B) *How the funds resulted in improvement to irrigation*
20 *efficiency.*

21 (C) *How the funds reduced energy, fuel, and water usage.*

22 (2) *To the greatest extent possible, the report shall evaluate the*
23 *effectiveness of expanding the program to assistance on small*
24 *farms statewide.*

25 (3) *A report to be submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall*
26 *be submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government*
27 *Code.*

28 SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that a special law
29 is necessary and that a general law cannot be made applicable
30 within the meaning of Section 16 of Article IV of the California
31 Constitution because many communal farms in the County of
32 Merced lack adequate economic opportunities as the county is
33 home to a disproportionate number of disadvantaged communities
34 with traditionally high levels of unemployment and poverty.

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