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Voluntary Carbon Offset Retirement Fund for Water & Power Purveyors

Farmers Irrigation District (FID) has established the nation's first-ever Voluntary Carbon Offset Retirement Fund for Water & Power Purveyors. As a result of its operations and maintenance, FID adds an estimated 120 metric tons (or 264,555 pounds) of carbon to the Earth's atmosphere every year. However, because FID produces approximately 24,000 megawatt hours (24,000 MWh, which is the equivalent of 24,000 RECs, which are Renewable Energy Certificates) of green, carbon-neutral, renewable energy every year, we offset an estimated total of 51,810,960 pounds of carbon each year – over 195 times greater than our operational carbon footprint. Even small infrastructure improvements, water delivery efficiency gains, and streamlined operation and maintenance procedures equate to very large reductions in global carbon over time.

Farmers Irrigation District attempts to sell the balance of its annually produced Renewable Energy Certificates (1 REC = 1 MWh) to enhance revenues for water conservation, in-stream flow projects, and to help others offset their carbon footprints each year. But we don't sell our surplus RECs without first setting aside and retiring RECs to make sure that we keep it green here at home. As it turns out, one REC from FID offsets just about one metric ton of carbon. So, FID voluntarily retires enough RECs (about 120 of them) each year to stay completely carbon neutral. Other agencies with such renewable resources can easily make an example of being carbon neutral as well by contributing their share to this fund -- the Voluntary Carbon Offset Retirement Fund for Water & Power Purveyors -- or any other fund of their choice. Once RECs are retired to this voluntary offset fund, they can never be used again. In this way, we keep the carbon offsets authentic.

Certified green renewable hydropower really works for the common good. It neutralizes our carbon footprint, helps pay the bills for irrigated agriculture, creates and maintains local jobs, and supports millions of dollars worth of conservation-based in-stream and water delivery capital improvement projects. The more our efficiencies climb, the healthier our environment becomes, and the more our water patrons benefit.

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