



MID Main Office

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Div 1: Tim Pellissier, President
Div 2: Scott Koehn
Div 3: Dave Long, Vice President
Div 4: Kevin Gonzalves
Div 5: Billy Pimentel

Board Meetings

Merced Civic Center
678 W. 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

The first and third Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am.

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Websites

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Independence Celebrated on Lake McClure with MID

Hundreds of spectators took to the water and shoreline of Lake McClure last month to watch the first-ever fireworks show over Lake McClure in honor of our nation's Independence Celebration.

"It was an absolutely terrific event for everyone," said MID Parks and Recreation Director James "J" Mills. "We could not have been happier with the turnout and the number of families who joined MID for this incredible show. We have already had a number of families reserve campsites for next year's Fourth of July weekend."

In recent years, MID has been working to significantly improve the facilities, marinas and services on Lakes McClure and McSwain. The fireworks show was the latest event in the ongoing effort to improve services and facilities.



Hundreds of boaters and onlookers from the shore looked on with awe as fireworks were set off from Lakes McClure on the evening of July 5

"Our goal is to have the best family outdoor recreation destination in Central California," said Parks Director J Mills. "We are following through on a plan to improve and develop the recreation facilities and offerings facilities to allow a family to spend a week with us and have a different adventure every day."

MID is proposing vast improvements and

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'Fight for Water' Film Comes to Merced

MID is proud to help sponsor a showing this month of the documentary film 'The Fight for Water: A Farm Worker Struggle'

It will be shown to the public for free at UC Merced on Aug. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Following the screening of the film, a panel will discuss

local water issues. The showing will be at UC Merced's Lakireddy Auditorium (COB 102), 5200 North Lake Road, The special screening of "Fight for our Water" is being co-sponsored by MID, UC Merced, the California

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Farm Water Coalition, the Merced County Farm Bureau Federation and Yosemite Farm Credit. Admission is free. We invite you to join us to understand how drastic cuts to farm water supplies can do to farming communities and its citizens.

The film, by Juan Carlos Oseguera, portrays the impacts to farm workers and their communities on the Westside of the San Joaquin Valley in 2009 and 2010, when farmers experienced drastic cuts to their water supplies from the Bureau of Reclamation due to federal rulings regarding the Delta smelt, a small fish in the Bay-Delta.

"We have a completely different set of challenges, and different plumbing on the eastside of the Valley," said MID General Manager John Sweigard. "Nevertheless, the outcome of current regulatory process involving fish and water supply could be devastatingly similar to our economy and community. In fact, they could be worse when we consider groundwater supply impacts."

Unlike the irrigation districts and farmers on the Valley's Westside, MID is not dependent on water allocations from the federal government or the Central Valley Project, which receives its allocation of water from the San Joaquin Delta. The District receives its available water each season from snowmelt and winter rain in the Merced River watershed, stored in Lake McClure.

The State Water Resources Control Board is currently considering plans to increase flows from the Merced River, as well as other east-side rivers, with the intent of improving habitat in the Bay-Delta for fish. MID and others have raised concerns about the impacts to local water supplies including groundwater while questioning the actual benefit to Delta smelt or any other fish.

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enhancements to its lakes facilities and recreation opportunities through its federally required hydro project relicensing effort, said MID's Deputy General Manager of Water Resources Bryan Kelly. The feds are very interested in improved and enhanced recreation as part of their relicensing processes. Among the facility and recreation enhancements being proposed as an integral part of MID's relicensing effort include:

- A 14 mile loop hiking and biking trail is proposed for construction along the north side of Lake McSwain. The trail will stretch along the shore of the lake from the McSwain Marina to approximately ½ mile from the base of New Exchequer Dam. It will then loop back around and follow Lake McClure Road back to the McSwain recreation area. This will provide a safe route away from vehicle traffic.
- For the more adventurous, MID is planning a mountain-bike terrain park and considering a zip-line facility between McClure Point and Barrett Cove.
- Swim platforms with slides and other water features are being pursued at Lake McSwain and Barrett Cove and McClure Point on Lake McClure. Improvements will also be made to all existing day use park swim areas.

"We are extremely excited with all that is happening at Lakes McClure and McSwain," said Parks Director Mills. "These investments will benefit our recreation visitors and benefit revenue for the District. MID's Parks facilities have an extremely bright future – nowhere was that more evident than in July with our First Annual Independence Celebration Fireworks Show."

MID currently maintains 600 RV sites and campsites, in five parks and campground locations, as well as three full-



Family fun out on the lake during the Independence weekend.

service marinas and six boat launch ramps. Many renovations are already underway including access to high speed wireless internet connections in campgrounds at Lake McSwain, McClure Point and Barrett Cove.

MID is incorporating a vision of "Camping for all." A host of overnight accommodations already exist for visitors and campers and are being added to. Among the plans are new large community group campsites, additional "park models" – a mini cabin in the campgrounds with all the modern amenities, primitive walk-in camping at Mac Island and additional modern RV sites with full services.

The marina facilities have been under the new management of Twin Lakes Management Co. for two years and offer a host of watercraft for rental on Lakes McClure and McSwain such as pontoon boats, fishing skiffs, paddle boards, kayaks, ski boats, personal water craft and a houseboat.

For more information on all Lakes McClure and McSwain have to offer, please visit www.lakemcclure.com