



FROM THE HEADGATE: MID GENERAL MANAGER JOHN SWEIGARD

CONSTRUCTION SEASON BEGINS, DISTRICT KEEPS EYE ON THE WEATHER

MID Main Office

744 W. 20th Street.
Merced, CA. 95340
(209)722-5761

Customer Service

Water: (209)722-2720
Electric: (209)722-3041

Automated Water

(866)825-2475

Board of Directors

Div 1: Tim Pellissier
Div 2: Gino Pedretti
Div 3: Dave Long
Div 4: Suzy Hultgren-
(President)
Div 5: Wil Hunter-
(Vice President)

Board Meetings

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

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

Mailing Address

PO Box 2288
Merced, CA 95344

Websites

www.mercedid.org
www.lakemcclure.com

With another irrigation season behind us, Merced Irrigation District has a steady eye on the horizon. We are closely watching the weather and turning our attention to numerous construction and repair projects throughout the District. Our coming winter work is aimed at improving our aging infrastructure and conserving up to 10,000 acre feet of water per year. In addition to canal system improvements, MID will also be busy rolling out a new website and new online communication tools to make it

even easier for our water and electric customers to stay informed and communicate with MID.

It remains to be seen how the weather will turn out this winter, dictating next year's water supply. However, this year we faced the prospect of having the driest year in 108 years and were spared difficult allocation decisions by a series of late-season storms just as the irrigation season began.

CONSTRUCTION

During the winter months, we will return to work on the Garibaldi Lateral Water Conservation Project, due west and southwest of Livingston. The project includes the construc-



MID is working to complete several projects this winter that will help maintain more water in its system for growers' benefit.

tion of some 13,000 feet of pipeline, together with several reinforced concrete pressure delivery boxes that connect the Garibaldi Lateral to the McCoy Lateral. The project will conserve approximately 5,600 acre feet of irrigation water annually. In addition to the pipeline construction, the project includes relining approximately 14,000 linear feet of the McCoy Lateral, replacing more than 50-year old dilapidated lining and allowing increased flows in the system.

Last year, MID completed approximately 70 percent of the project. The District expects to complete the remaining 30 percent of the work before the 2013 irrigation season. The total cost is estimated

See "The Headgate" Back Page

Continued From Front: "The Headgate"

at \$3.7 million. Of that, \$1 million is funded by a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grant.

Other work planned for the winter construction and maintenance months include major improvements to the Arena Canal and Howard Lateral system located southwest of Bell Drive and Robin Avenue, south of Livingston. At an estimated cost of \$2.9 million, MID is seeking to conserve approximately 5,000 acre feet of water per year. The project includes replacing 11,000 feet of dilapidated concrete-lined canal and installing pipeline in a 4,000-foot stretch of the canal located north of Sunset Avenue.

Similar to the McCoy project, MID will reconstruct the existing canal and ensure properly compacted soil using the most modern construction equipment and technology possible. The existing section has not seen significant maintenance or repair in more than 50 years in many places. Additionally, rodent activity over the years has compromised the structural integrity of the bank and contributed to several canal failures. When completed, the project will also include the construction of 1,300 feet of a pipeline connecting the McConnel Lateral, north of Livingston, and redirecting flows to the Hammett Lateral rather than spilling into the Merced River.

Additional highlights of this winter's construction work include:

- Replacing a rundown portion of the Plainsburg Lateral pipeine located northwest of Le Grand.
- Dedication of \$70,000 to bolster facility security and deter copper theft activities occurring throughout the Valley.
- Installation of remote sensor units and local measuring points as part of the District Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) in furthering its conservation program and water accounting.

EYE TOWARD THE WEATHER

We were pleased to see the dusting of snow in the Sierra in late October and hope there will be plenty more to come dur-

ing the winter months, providing the vital water we need for irrigation in 2013.

Lake McClure was projected to hold approximately 380,000 acre feet, or 38 percent of its total capacity, at the end of the irrigation season. That is in part due to the pumping of 17,000 acre feet of groundwater in the early 2012 season and much-appreciated cooperation from MID growers. The overall increased cost of the groundwater pumping is initially approximated at \$600,000. That additional cost will be covered through the pumping reserve maintained by MID and \$395,000 raised with the dedicated fee of \$5 per acre foot of usage beyond 2.5 acre feet per acre, as approved by the Board this year.

A weak El Nino is still lingering in the tropical Pacific Ocean and it is expected to peak around March or April. The National Weather Service is taking a neutral position on forecasting for Central California suggesting equal chances of above and below average precipitation.

INCREASED COMMUNICATIONS

In the coming months, MID will be making further improvements to the District's outreach and education. We will continue to do all we can to keep you informed of important news through newsletters like The Current, which was revamped this past year. At the same time, we will soon be unveiling a new website that we believe will increase communication between MID and those we serve.

No changes will be made in the processes for ordering water or paying bills on our website. However, we believe it will provide you with significant opportunity to learn more about what MID does for you and increase our general communications effort. We are also working toward an entire host of online media efforts to increase communications.

At the same time, I want to assure you that MID will continue to keep a strong focus on one of the most important ways to communicate with us: by picking up the phone or walking through the front door. MID is here to serve you and you can always count on talking with a "real person" at MID.



GO GREEN ... AND KEEP MORE OF YOUR \$GREEN\$

The Merced Irrigation District is dedicated to helping its residential customers keep their electric bills low. In addition to purchasing ENERGY STAR appliances, here are some easy things you can do to reduce your energy bill:

Lighting

- Use task lighting. Only use light where needed instead of illuminating an entire room.
- Consider three-way lamps. Using softer lighting levels when bright light isn't needed uses less energy.

Laundry

- Wash full loads. It takes about the same amount of energy to wash small loads as large ones, so get the most for your money.
- Clean the lint from the clothes dryer after each load. The dryer's efficiency decreases when lint builds up

Refrigeration

- Adjust refrigerator temperature settings. Optimum refrigerator range is 37 to 40 degrees Fahrenheit and optimum freezer range is 0 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Clean refrigerator coils at least twice a year. Accumulated dirt and dust reduce refrigerator efficiency. Cleaning the coils can also extend the life of your refrigerator.

Cooking

- Cook with a full oven. If cooking multiple dishes, set oven to average cooking temperature of the dishes and cook dishes simultaneously.
- Don't peek. Opening and closing the oven door lengthens the cooking time, using more energy.