

THE *Main* CANAL

MID's Monthly Newsletter

July 2011



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
Div 5: Wil Hunter—President

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

The first and third Tuesday
of every month at 9:00 am

Mailing Address
PO Box 2288
Merced, CA 95344

Websites
www.mercedid.org
www.lakemcclure.com



FROM THE HEADGATE: MID GENERAL MANAGER JOHN SWEIGARD

Irrigation season is now in full swing and the district has an ample water supply for our customers this year. In fact, we have had so much water this year that we have already released 1 million acre feet out of storage – essentially all of Lake McClure – to make room for the large amount of melting snow. Boaters, fishermen, campers and growers can all expect a great year from the district's water resources.

As you may know, we are continuing to seek support for federal legislation, H.R.



MID General Manager John Sweigard discusses the District's operation during a recent tour with Merced County Supervisors and Farm Bureau.

869, which allows federal consideration of raising the spillways on Lake McClure. This could lead to temporary storage of up to 70,000 acre feet of additional water during wet years like we've just had. In June, the District's Director of Regulatory Affairs, Bryan Kelly, testified on the importance of the additional water storage before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands.

We are hopeful H.R. 869 will quickly move through Congress. Meanwhile, MID staff is continuing to engage the community and garner support. I recently had the pleasure of taking Merced County Supervisors Hub Walsh and Linn Davis, and Merced Farm Bureau Executive Director Amanda Carvajal and Farm News Editor Sarah Bell, to see the location of the spillways and our proposed project. The County Board of Supervisors and the Merced County Farm Bureau have both offered their support. Both the Merced Sun-Star and Modesto Bee also offered support in editorials that

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MID's New Managers Part of District's Future

In recent months, MID has appointed a new Director of Parks and Recreation, a Director of Finance, a new Water Operations Manager, and a new Risk Management Specialist to help ensure safe operations at MID. The District has also created the new position for a Public Affairs Coordinator.

"I am proud that MID has recruited such a talented group of people to help ensure we are making wise decisions during

these challenging times. I am especially proud that each of these individuals has expressed a sincere interest in community service." Said John Sweigard, MID General Manager.

In January, the district hired Mr. Jon Parnell for the position of Manager of Water Operations. His extensive experience in water operations,



Jon Parnell

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 **Summer Is Here!**
Save on your energy costs by setting your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher.

Continued From Front : New Managers

maintenance, construction, project management, planning, administration and finance is serving MID and its ratepayers well. Mr. Parnell oversees the delivery of water to MID's agricultural customers, the maintenance of water delivery and flood control.

Also this spring, MID appointed Mr. Brian Stubbert as Director of Finance. He is a Certified Public Accountant, a Modesto native and has more than 15 years financial experience in accounting and budgeting. The majority of his financial expertise was developed during his tenure within the San Joaquin Valley and its diverse agriculture industry. Mr. Stubbert is responsible for planning and directing all of MID's financial activities, including budgeting, payroll and billing.



Brian Stubbert

In February, MID appointed Mr. Daniel Aguilar the District's new Risk Management Specialist. He brings to MID and its customers more than 30 years

experience in construction safety management and personnel development. In addition to his many years of work in civilian safety management, Mr. Aguilar is a retired Master Chief of the U.S. Navy and served with the Seabees Construction Battalions. At MID, he is responsible for managing and developing programs to create a workplace free of injury and illness. He will additionally oversee MID's compliance with the rules and regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).



Dan Aguilar

In addition to providing irrigation water to 2,200 growers and 7,300 electric customers, MID also provides water recreation on Lakes McClure and McSwain, just a short drive from anywhere in Merced County. In January, MID appointed James "J" Mills as its new Director of Parks and



"J" Mills

Recreation, bringing more than two decades of marina and professional recreation experience to our community. Mr. Mills has an extensive background in the management, maintenance and promotion of marina and outdoor recreation that will be of significant benefit to MID, its ratepayers and those using the district's recreation facilities.

Helping to round out the management team is Mike Jensen who was hired in January to serve as the District's Public Affairs Coordinator. Mr. Jensen developed his communications, public relations and government affairs expertise during his tenure on Congressman Dennis Cardoza's staff as well as his editorial experience with California newspaper publications. Mr. Jensen is responsible for planning and conducting MID public relations programs to ensure public education and community involvement.



Mike Jensen



Energy Saving Tips

- **Replace old appliances with ENERGY STAR® labeled energy-efficient models.**
- **Weather strip around windows and doors to keep the heat out.**
- **Clean or replace air-conditioner filters regularly.**
- **Keep your thermostat set to 78 degrees or higher during warm months.**
- **Use compact fluorescent or LED lighting.**

Continued From Front: HEADGATE

were published in June. For more information, please visit: mercedid.org/spillwayproject

Also in June, MID was extremely pleased to have been a sponsor of the Merced County Fair. In doing so, we were able to reach significant numbers of those we serve. We answered questions, took comments and provided information about energy rebates and efficiency programs as well as water safety. We are now looking forward to helping support the family oriented Pedal Merced bicycle event. Speaking of our families, MID worked with local cities and the County of Merced to establish

May as Water and Canal Safety Month. Our staff then spoke directly to elementary school students and other residents about the dangers of playing in and around canals. We reached thousands of children in doing so. Canals are not the only dangerous waterways in our community. Please keep in mind that the Merced and other rivers are running extremely high due to the late snow melt.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to provide your irrigation water, electricity and recreation services. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and MID remains a committed partner in our community. As we hope you know, our doors are always open.



Your water, your power – our way of life!