

MID Presents \$119,170 Check to Mercy Medical Center Merced



Catholic Healthcare West's, Mercy Medical Center completed a savings by design project and was presented with a check in the amount of \$119,170 from MID. MID's Savings by Design Rebate Program rewards electric customers for exceeding California Title 24 energy efficiency building requirements by at least 10 percent.

"Catholic Healthcare West built a hospital that is 13.4 percent more efficient than required by the state of California under Title 24. It's like taking one-hundred cars off the road each year, and we are very pleased to reward them for their conservation," said Kyle Ford, MID Business Development Representative.

MID, which provides power to the new hospital, completed an audit on the

structure and found that it will save almost 900,000-kilowatt hours (kWh) per year. The hospital will conserve energy using motion sensors, light dimmers, highly efficient windows, and premium efficiency motors.

The rebate benefits the hospital, MID and the community it serves. When buildings, such as Mercy Medical Center Merced become more energy efficient, it allows MID to reduce power purchase requirements, in return maintaining low rates.

MID is committed to "going green" and will continue to conduct energy audits in an effort to reduce carbon footprint. MID will continue to offer rebate checks to those who surpass California Title 24 requirements.

MID Welcomes New Board of Director for Division 3

MID is very excited to introduce Dave Long as our new Board of Director for Division 3. Mr. Long is President and Co-founder of Hilltop Ranch, Inc. Mr. Long is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area, who came to the almond industry with a background in construction and engineering. An almond handler and grower since the early 1980's, he served for six years as an elected director of the Almond Board of California, and filled terms as chairman of the Administration

and Finance Committee, the Reserve Committee, and the Quality Control Committee. He is also a member of the Farm Bureau, Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce and the Merced County Chamber of Commerce. Currently, he serves on the County of Merced Workforce Investment Board and was first elected Director of the Eastside Water District in 1996. He holds an active Class A Engineering License issued by the State of California.



Looking for a great summer vacation or weekend get-away spot?

- Lake McClure and Lake McSwain are right in your backyard
- Fishing, camping, water sports, houseboats
- Just a short drive into our scenic Sierra foothills

Book your reservation now:
Call **800.468.8889** or visit
www.lakemcclure.com



P.O. Box 2288
Merced, CA 95344-0288

Return Service Requested

Powering Eastern
Merced County

THE MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT



MID Welcomes New General Manager

MID is pleased to introduce John Sweigard as its new General Manager. Mr. Sweigard joined MID in January and immediately began putting his knowledge and experience to work. Prior to joining MID, Mr. Sweigard served for almost 13 years as General Manager for the Patterson Irrigation District (PID). Mr. Sweigard's career has primarily been focused on resource and public agency management; he has consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence and perseverance throughout his career. At the '2009 Mid-Pacific Region Water Users Conference' Mr. Sweigard was recognized for his career accomplishments with the 'F. Gordon Johnson Memorial Achievement Award' for "Excellence in Operations and Maintenance." In addition, Mr. Sweigard holds a solid track record in the vital areas of Board relations, public relations, local, state and federal agency interaction, fishery and endangered species, public agency finance and administration, energy and power, engineering, construction, operations and resource conservation.

Mr. Sweigard graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural engineering and is an active member of the U.S. Committee on Irrigation and Drainage and

was recently nominated by their Board of Directors to run for a board position. Mr. Sweigard also has local community ties: he spent his teen years on his grandfather's cattle operation in the Winton area and graduated from Livingston High School.

"It is an exciting time for the District. Although we face a number of challenges that will require extraordinary team efforts," says Mr. Sweigard, "I am very confident that we will continue to provide the solutions our customers and the region need. I am honored to be part of this great organization and its rich history of service to the community."

The Board of Directors and staff at MID are excited about the leadership and expertise that Mr. Sweigard brings to every aspect of the district.



John Sweigard - New General Manager

Find out more about MID at www.mercedid.org

Locally Owned Utilities Sue to Disqualify Proposition 16, PG&E's Misleading Bid to Lock In Its Monopoly

On March 18, 2010, Merced Irrigation District (MID) along with a coalition of locally owned public utilities from throughout California filed suit in Sacramento County Superior Court to disqualify Proposition 16 from the June 8 statewide ballot for being false and misleading, and for concealing its true nature and purpose from voters. Proposition 16 is PG&E's attempt to lock in its monopoly in its existing territories. Even though PG&E spent millions of dollars to qualify the initiative and has committed to spending tens of millions more on the Proposition 16 campaign, the lawsuit points out that PG&E carefully omitted any mention of its name in the measure, and concealed that the true nature, purpose and effect of the initiative would be to protect PG&E from the competition of public electric service providers.

Proposition 16 would make it virtually impossible for public agencies to provide any energy services to new customers because it would require supermajority approval (two-thirds of the voters) instead of the current simple majority votes. If passed, this proposition is also likely to prevent cities that have public power agencies from extending their distribution systems to newly built neighborhoods—or even to one new customer in the future without going through the expense of seeking authorization from a two-thirds supermajority of voters.

Citing the combination of misrepresentations and concealment in the text of the PG&E sponsored initiative that “misled the citizens who were induced to sign the petition to qualify it and will mislead the voters who are asked to adopt it,” the lawsuit was filed by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, San Francisco Local Agency Formation Commission, City and County of San Francisco, City of Moreno Valley, the City of Redding, the California Municipal Utilities Association, the San Joaquin Valley Power Authority, the Modesto Irrigation District, and the Merced Irrigation District.

The lawsuit focuses on the false and misleading language in both the initiative and the petition used to qualify it for the statewide ballot. Among the misinformation cited in the lawsuit:

- The intent of Proposition 16 is to protect PG&E's monopoly over its existing service area, but the initiative misrepresents that its purpose is to control taxes, borrowing, and spending.
- Proposition 16 conceals the fact that the sole beneficiaries of the initiative would be the investor-owned utilities such as PG&E and that the targets of the initiative are any public competitors of these investor-owned utilities.
- The self-entitled “Taxpayers Right to Vote Act” misrepresents Proposition 16 as a measure to control taxes and public spending, but the creation or expansion of public utilities do not have anything to do with taxes. The initiative is really just an attempt to impose a two-thirds vote requirement for the creation or expansion of a public utility.
- The initiative misrepresents that Proposition 16 is a measure to control local government borrowing, which is already controlled by California law, including a two-thirds voting requirement.
- The initiative fails to disclose that Proposition 16 would effectively eliminate local governments' ability to develop alternatives to investor-owned utilities, as well as eliminate the ability of citizens to choose how they receive electricity.

“The so-called ‘Taxpayers Right to Vote Act’ doesn't help taxpayers, and doesn't empower voters—in fact it does the exact opposite. It's anti-competitive, anti-democratic, and misleading in its entirety,” said San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera. “State law enables courts to remove initiatives that misrepresent and conceal their true nature and purpose. If our elections laws are to mean anything, the court must strike this deceptive amendment from the ballot.”

The full text of the lawsuit is available online at www.sfcityattorney.org.

MID Community Events MERCOCO Bike Race

MERCOCO Cycling Classic is a fun-filled day of dynamic bicycle races that draws hundreds of spectators to witness world class cyclists all right here in our home town of Merced. All of the race proceeds went to the United Way Merced Community Fund—programs that better our local community in the areas of health, education and financial stability. MID is proud to have sponsored the MID Time Trial Race and support our local community.



Residential Rebates

Compact Fluorescent Lights – up to \$16 cash rebate

Purchase and install ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent light bulbs to receive a cash rebate of \$1 to \$16 per lamp. ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent light bulbs last up to 10 times longer and use two-thirds less energy than standard incandescent light bulbs.*

Central Air Conditioner – up to \$800 cash rebate

Install a two-ton or larger central air conditioning unit with a Seasonal Energy Efficient Ratio (SEER)** of 14 or greater in a new home to receive a cash rebate up to \$800. A copy of the city or county building inspection permit and receipt is required to qualify. Or, replace your less-efficient central air conditioning unit in an existing home to receive a cash rebate up to \$800.

Whole House Fan – \$100 cash rebate

Purchase and install a whole house fan and receive a \$100 rebate. A whole house fan is more economical and energy-saving than a conventional central air conditioner. A qualifying unit must move at least 1,000 cubic feet of air per minute (CFM) and be permanently installed.

* Statistics courtesy of ENERGY STAR®.

** SEER is based on precise test conditions of A.C. units conducted by the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute (A.R.I.). The greater the SEER, the more efficient the model.

Merced River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2179) Relicensing Update

MID is approximately two years into the relicensing of our hydroelectric facilities with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). We've begun implementing our field studies to analyze project effects on the environment in a number of areas. This process requires studies and analysis in a number of diverse areas including: water/aquatic resources, wildlife, botany, wetlands, threatened, endangered and fully protected species, recreation, aesthetic resources, cultural and tribal resources.

MID has consulted with many federal and state regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, Native American groups, and the general public, to give all a chance to review and comment on our proposed studies.

MID filed its Revised Study Plan for approval by the FERC, which approved the plan with few modifications in a Final Study Plan Determination on September 14, 2009.

Some of the Agencies with mandatory conditioning authority: the State Water Resources Control Board, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, filed formal Study Disputes and requested that a special Dispute Panel be held to decide whether MID should be ordered by the FERC to do the contested studies they had proposed. The Dispute Panel was conducted on October 16, 2009. The Director of

FERC's Office of Energy Projects (OEP) issued his formal Study Dispute Resolution Determination on December 22, 2009 substantially supporting MID's Study Plan – rejecting eight of the additional proposed studies, extending the geographic range of two studies, and ordering two additional studies: a Channel Armoring Study and an Instream Flow Study. MID consulted with the above agencies on these two additional studies, revised the studies based on comments received, and filed its proposed study plans for approval by the FERC.

MID will next file an Initial Study Report later this year. All relicensing participants will then have the opportunity to review this initial report and recommend additional study plans for the analysis of environmental effects and for determining potential protection, enhancement, and mitigation measures to be included in a new FERC license. A new FERC license may be issued after the existing license expires on February 28, 2014.

There are still many meetings, studies, reports, analyses, consultations and application documents to be completed before the new license is received. If you would like to participate in, or follow the relicensing process, you are welcome to visit the hydro pages of MID's website www.mercedid.org/hydro where the relicensing updates are posted. Keep reading future editions of *The Switch* for updates.

2009 Champion of Energy Efficiency Award Winners

MID congratulates the following commercial customers for their outstanding efforts to reduce total energy consumption through the installation of energy-efficient equipment, light and appliances, the completion of energy-efficient building retrofits or new construction projects:

Catholic Health Care West
Central California Tomato Growers
City of Merced – WWTP
Foster Farms
House of Furniture

Hughson Nut Company
Livingston Farmers Association
Merced College
Merced County Office of Education
St. Patrick's Church
Weaver Union School District
Yosemite Wholesale/Savemart

Together their efforts to reduce total energy consumption saved a total of 1,949,282 kWh per year. It's equivalent to taking 200 cars off the road for an entire year.