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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MID Electric Services Energizes Second Livingston School Construction of Power Link to Castle Well Under Way

MERCED, Calif. – Merced Irrigation District Electric Services energized a second Livingston school on Sunday, making another step forward in steady progress toward serving more and more customers in eastern Merced County and giving them a real choice in electric providers.

Selma Herndon Middle School made the switch to MID low-cost power, joining Yamato Colony School. Livingston High School has signed up to become the third school to receive MID electricity, and is expected to be energized when reached later this year by MID's expanding electric distribution system in Livingston.

"Public power for public schools makes sense," said Garith Krause, MID's Assistant General Manager, Finance and Electric Services. "MID is a community organization that likes to serve the community. A great way to do this is by delivering reliable electricity to our schools and helping them save money on energy costs."

In another step forward for MID Electric Services, construction crews are now stringing power line on recently erected metal and wooden poles that will form the first phase of MID's 115-kilovolt power transmission loop for eastern Merced County. This first phase -- expected to be completed by summer's end -- will reach from the Pioneer Substation in Livingston to the Castle Airport Aviation and Development Center.

MID's 33-mile electric transmission loop is designed to deliver reliable, low-cost power to parts of Atwater, Winton, Merced and the entire Castle Center. Scores of customers in areas that will be served by MID have signed up for electric service at rates 20 to 30 percent below what they're paying today.

Currently receiving MID low-cost power in Livingston are stores in the Sam's Food City shopping center, Paul's Exxon Station, two City of Livingston water wells and Foster Poultry Farms. Due to be served later this year are almond processors Cal-Almond and Livingston Farmer's Association.

Cesar Ancheta, Manager of Business Development for MID, said working with Livingston customers has been rewarding. "The community support has been wonderful," said Ancheta.