



the **SWITCH**

MID Energy Resources Update Newsletter
Summer 2002 Edition

Current News

The future for the Merced Irrigation District's electric system continues to look very bright! On May 13, we will celebrate the sixth year of electric service to retail customers. In that time, the District has expanded its service from one customer, Foster Farms, in Livingston, to over 1,200 customers between Livingston and Merced. These customers represent a connected load of nearly 80 Mega Watts and rank the Merced I.D. as the 25th largest utility in the State of California.

In February of this year the District accomplished another milestone with the issue of \$5,000,000 of bonds for continued development of the electric system infrastructure and customer hookups. We are very proud of the fact

that this issue received a Baa-3 investment grade rating from Moody's Investors Services of New York. This rating also carried forward to \$57,000,000 of unrated bonds the District had outstanding relating to its electric development. This certainly demonstrates a vote of confidence granted by investors all over the country in the District's electric system.

While the energy crisis of 2001 continues to have significant impact on the energy market, prices have fallen back toward a more normal level. Merced entered into short-term power supply commitments during the heat |

Article continues inside

By Garith Krause,
Assistant General Mgr.
Energy Resources





Safety Information:

Beneath our roadways and land are miles of underground pipelines and cables that provide electricity, water, sewer lines and many others.

Underground Service Alert (USA) is a free service that identifies all buried pipelines and cables before any digging. Calling USA at least two working days before digging will help keep you safe from major accidents that can happen if you dig into a gas line or energized cable.

If you come across an underground line or cable use the following color identifiers to help recognize what it might be used for:

Call before you dig! |

- Red:** Electric
- Yellow:** Gas/Oil/Steam/Chemical
- Orange:** Communications/ CATV
- Blue:** Water
- Green:** Sewer/ Storm Drain
- Purple:** Reclaimed Water
- Pink:** Temporary Survey
- White:** Proposed Excavation

For more information, contact USA at 1.800.227.2600 or online at www.usanorth.org. |



Switching Over

Here We Grow Again! Merced Sun-Star switches to Merced I.D. |

Service with a human touch. That's what persuaded Merced Sun-Star to make the switch to Merced Irrigation District's Electric Services Division. Plus, there was an added incentive of savings equaling about 16% per year.

Unlike other electric service utilities, calling the Merced I.D.'s service number puts you directly in touch with a qualified, friendly customer service representative who can help answer questions about your electrical service.

"It was a seamless transition to

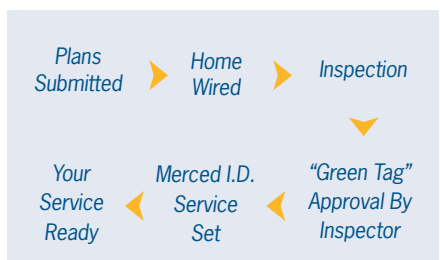
Merced I.D.'s systems. There were no glitches and our ground was repaired even better than it had looked before," said Stephen P. Staloch, Senior Vice President, Pacific-Sierra Publishing Inc., which publishes the Merced Sun-Star. "We are very satisfied with the service."

Roy Price, Merced I.D. Marketing Services Manager said, "Providing electricity to the Merced Sun-Star was a major milestone for the District. We are proud to be serving such an established member of our community." |

Attention New Customers!

Important information on meter sets |

From building to move-in, there is a lengthy process that takes place before the lights come on in your new subdivision. Merced I.D. Electrical Services Division is there every step of the way to assure residents are provided with friendly, reliable service from day one. The following are the steps that each new house must go through before it's ready for you to move-in!



For additional information, please contact our customer service department at 209-722-3041. |

Eliminate Wasted Energy.

Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use. By unplugging the extra refrigerator in the garage, you can save 10-25% on your electric bill.

Use your Pool Filters Less.

Reduce the operating time of your pool filter and cleaning sweep by turning it on for only four or five hours during off-peak hours (8 p.m. and 10 a.m.).

Energy-Saving Tips

By applying these energy saving tips to your home this summer, you can save money on your monthly electric bill and help save electricity!!

Replace Air Conditioner Filter.

By replacing filters monthly, you can save 2% on your electric bill. Dirty filters restrict airflow, causing the system to run longer.

Turn up your Thermostat.

During the summer, keep your thermostat at 78 degrees when home and at 85 degrees when you're away. Every degree you stay above 72, can add up to a savings of 3%.

Current News

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of the crisis to stabilize our pricing that now will provide us opportunities to participate in the lower priced energy markets perhaps faster than the Investor Owned Utilities (IOU's).

In spite of the uncertainty, the District continues to grow. Our new customer growth in 2002 should add almost 13% additional load to our total. This includes commercial and

residential growth. Our customer count will grow by almost 42% in 2002 with a major boost from the residential sector accounting for a large part of the increase.

Our achievements are a reflection of the success of Eastern Merced County and the support the community has given to us. We pledge to continue our efforts to provide excellent and reliable service, lower cost power and be a facilitator for economic development.

\$2 OFF

Recreation

Coupon

**\$2 Off Single Car Admission for
Lake McSwain or Lake McClure**

Offer valid thru September 2002. No Photocopies, one coupon per admission.

Watt's New with Connie Peraino?



Quick Bio:

Employed with MID since 1997.

Married to Richard for 16 years.

Two children, Kara, 15 and Kyle, 11.

Hobbies include: Gardening, walking, biking, softball and golf.

In each edition of The Switch, we will profile an outstanding member of our Energy Resources Team. For this edition we chose Connie Peraino:

Connie began working for the Merced Irrigation District in March of 1997 as a temporary Service Clerk, approximately six months later she was promoted to a full time Service Clerk/Meter Reader and then again promoted in January of 2000 to a Commercial-Residential Account Representative in Electric Services. As an Account Representative, she deals primarily with customers.

On a daily basis Connie formulates and provides information to customers or agents regarding utility activities, electric usage and energy conservation programs. She also performs marketing research to maintain and develop a customer base. She also resolves any

complaints that a Merced Irrigation District customer may have.

According to Roy Price, Marketing Services Manager, "Connie handles many of our key contacts and has excellent customer service skills. She always goes the extra mile for our customers."

Born at Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, Connie grew up in Merced and attended Atwater High. Currently Connie is taking courses toward her Business Degree at Merced Junior College.

Active in community service, Connie volunteers for a wide range of causes ranging from Sober Graduation to Merced County Challenged Children to Highway Patrol Golf Tournaments. She is a volunteer and a Board Member at the Castle Air Museum. |

Contact us at the MID!

This newsletter is produced by the Merced Irrigation District Energy Resources Division, the real choice for our Communities' future. We can be reached as noted below:

Merced Irrigation District

720 West 20th Street, Merced, CA 95344-0288

Phone: 209.722.5761 Web: www.mercedid.org

E-mail: electricmercedid@mercedid.org

Merced Irrigation District
Energy Resources Division
P.O. Box 2288
Merced CA 95344

Powering Eastern
Merced County

