



# the **switch**

Merced Irrigation District Electric Services Update  
Winter 2005

## | Current News

### **New Program Builds Expertise**

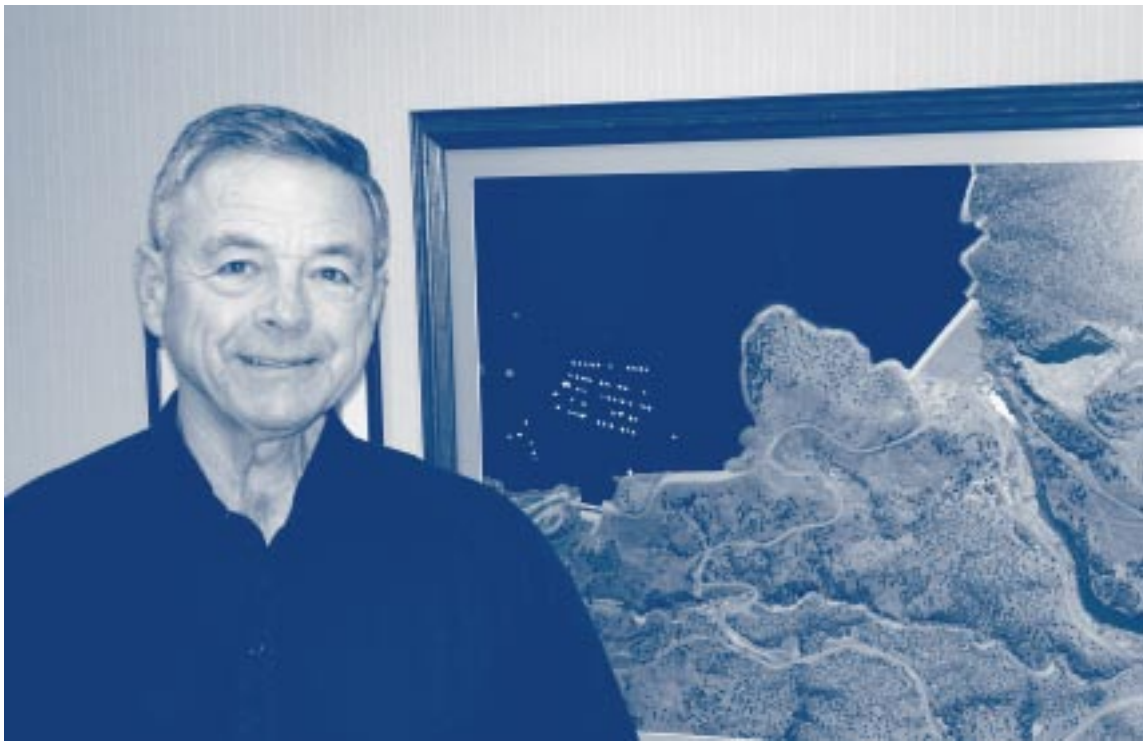
In January 2002, the Electric Services Department established an apprentice program designed to give new linemen the expertise needed to better serve the community. By training in the classroom and in real-work environments, apprentices acquire critical knowledge and skills that will be used throughout their careers.

The apprenticeship is a three-year program consisting of multiple steps. The classroom training is offered by the Modesto Irrigation District and is concurrent with its own apprenticeship program. The subjects include transformer connections, GO 95, GO 128,

pole climbing, equipment training, rigging and electrical theory. The program also entails three years of field training in overhead and underground distribution construction and maintenance.

To date, four District linemen have entered the program and four have graduated, doubling the District's journeyman linemen staff. We'd like to congratulate Shawn Reel, David Haubrich, Van Rush and James Osterli on their fine accomplishment. Their expertise will allow the District to better serve the needs of its customers. |

| Find out how to save money on your electric bill by visiting the Energy Resources section on the District's Web site ([www.mercedid.org](http://www.mercedid.org)). |



BOBBY MOONEYHAM WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING THE PLANT'S SAFETY PROGRAM.

## A Job Well Done: Bobby Mooneyham Retires

After eight years of dedicated service, Hydroelectric Project Manager Bobby Mooneyham retired on Dec. 31, 2004. The Merced Irrigation District has been fortunate to have great leaders in key positions over its history, and Bobby was certainly one of them.

Before joining the District in February 1997, Bobby served as the Superintendent of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Helms Pumped Storage Powerhouse for nine years where he supervised personnel responsible for protection and communication equipment for 15 powerhouses.

As the District's Hydroelectric Project Manager, Bobby was headquartered at New Exchequer Dam on the waters of Lake McClure where he led a 10-member crew in the daily operations and maintenance of the hydroelectric plant. The plant operates year-round to provide wholesale hydroelectric power to Pacific Gas & Electric Company for its customers in Northern California. The District's contract with Pacific Gas & Electric expires in 2014. At that time, the low-cost hydropower generated will be used to serve the District's electric service customers.

During his tenure, Bobby was instrumental in the plant's various upgrades and modernization of its equipment. When asked about his greatest accomplishment, Bobby felt most proud of his role in developing the facility's safety program. He worked diligently to ensure the safety of the plant's crew and to improve the communications between local agencies for the protection of the general public in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Bobby also said that his time with the Merced Irrigation District was the highlight of his career. The opportunity to work and live in the mountains initially drew him to the District, but his co-workers and the relationships he developed turned out to be the best part of his job. Fondly reflecting on his time with the District, "They're really a great bunch of people to work for," said Bobby.

Bobby Mooneyham was an excellent leader and a great friend. His presence will be sorely missed, but everyone at the District wishes him well on his retirement. |

# District Shows Impressive Numbers

New businesses play an essential role in the Merced community by creating employment opportunities, stimulating the local economy and providing a growth opportunity for the District's Electric Services Department.

The Electric Services Department was established in 1996. Since then, the Electric Services Department has obtained contracts with substantial commercial projects like the Merced Marketplace, Skyview Industrial Park, the restored Mondo Building and Merced's South Airport Industrial Park. In the residential sector, notable developers, such as Crosswinds Communities, Pacific Union Homes and Heritage Homes, have signed on for the District's electric services.

The Electric Services Department has experienced tremendous success and the numbers point to continued growth in the future:

The District has seen an average annual growth of 25 percent in new commercial contracts. In 2003, the District held 50 commercial contracts. That number jumped to 75 in 2004 and is estimated to reach 100 in 2005.

The District has experienced similar success with new residential contracts showing an average annual growth of

20 percent. In 2003, the District held 4,140 residential contracts. That number increased to 5,790 in 2004 and to 7,440 in 2005. The District estimates a continued increase of 1,650 contracts in 2006.

In 2003, the District had 700 electric meters set. That number ballooned to 2,200 in 2004 and is scheduled to reach 3,700 in 2005.

Currently, the Electric Services Department has 2,665 residential electric customers and is under contract to provide service to 9,540 residential lots/units.

A major project on the horizon is providing electric service to the Merced County Housing Authority's new facilities in South Merced on Childs Avenue. The new facilities include a 36,000-square-foot administrative building and a 10,000-square-foot surplus storage building. The project is expected to be completed in August 2005 and will extend the Electric Services Department's current service area to South Merced. The contract will position the District to service other new developments entering the area. |

ARTIST'S RENDERING OF THE MERCED MARKETPLACE.



### **Close drapes and blinds**

*to retain heat at night or during unoccupied periods.*

### **Set the thermostat as low**

*as comfortably possible.*

## **Winter** Energy-Saving Tips

*Use these energy-saving steps to save money on your electric bill.*

### **Reverse the ceiling fan motor**

*to push warmer air back down the sides of the room.*

### **Make sure all heating vents**

*are clean and free from obstruction.*

## **Employee of the Quarter**



*THE DISTRICT APPRECIATES CINDY'S  
HARD WORK AND DEDICATION.*

Cindy LaCava has been a dedicated and hardworking employee of the District since September 2001. She was hired as a Customer Account Representative and has progressed to her current position as a Meter Reader/ Warehouse Person. Cindy's excellent organizational and communication skills have been invaluable to her present responsibilities. She does an admirable job of keeping our line crews' paperwork accurate and up to date while maintaining inventory levels and reading all of the District's electric meters.

Cindy's team-building skills and knowledge of the District's customers were instrumental in the implementation of the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) project. She worked diligently with Finance staff and field personnel to help guarantee the project's success. Cindy's friendly demeanor makes her popular with customers and fellow employees. |

## **Contact us at the Merced I.D.!**

*This newsletter is produced by the Merced Irrigation District Electric Services Department, the real choice for our communities' futures.*

*We can be reached as noted below:*

### **Merced Irrigation District Electric Services Department**

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

744 West 20th Street | Merced, CA 95340

Phone: 209.722.5761 | Web: [www.mercedid.org](http://www.mercedid.org)

Email: [electricmercedid@mercedid.org](mailto:electricmercedid@mercedid.org)



# Big Payoffs

## From Rebate Program

The Electric Services Department's Energy-Efficiency Rebate Program (EERP) was instrumental in helping both commercial/industrial and residential customers conserve energy over the past year. The EERP gives designated cash rebates to customers when they take specific actions to conserve energy. Energy conservation is essential to California's electric industry. Customers contribute to conserving energy by installing ENERGY STAR® appliances. The District offers the following rebates:

- Receive a \$100 cash rebate for installing an ENERGY STAR® refrigerator
- Receive a \$75 cash rebate for installing an ENERGY STAR® clothes washer and/or dryer
- Receive up to a \$16 cash rebate for installing ENERGY STAR® compact fluorescent light bulbs
- Receive a \$1 cash rebate (per square foot) for installing high performance dual-pane replacement windows
- Receive up to an \$800 cash rebate for installing a two-ton or larger air conditioning unit with a Seasonal Energy Efficient Ratio (SEER) of 13 or greater
- Receive a \$100 cash rebate for permanently installing a whole house fan that moves at least 1,000 cubic feet of air per minute (CFM)

In 2004, residential customers were very active in the EERP. In total, customers installed 398 energy-saving products, resulting in the EERP paying \$37,092.50 in cash rebates!

Commercial/industrial customers also benefited greatly from the EERP in 2004. Over the year, customers completed 15 lighting and mechanical retrofits, resulting in \$302,484.44 in rebates. However, the highlight of the year was presenting the City of Merced with the District's largest rebate ever. By replacing eight less-efficient mechanical aerators and two surface aerators at the City's wastewater treatment facilities, the City was awarded a \$125,000 rebate. In total, commercial/industrial customers received \$428,034.44 in rebates, producing a total energy savings of 10,490,939 kilowatt-hours!

To request an Energy-Efficiency Rebate Application by mail, call the Merced I.D. office at (209) 722-5761 or download one from [www.mercedid.org](http://www.mercedid.org) in the Energy Resources section.

For more information on ENERGY STAR® appliances, visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). |

