

THE MAIN CANAL

JANUARY 2002

VOLUME 12 NO. 1

New Director is a Familiar Face to MID



Tom Reta Fills Division 1 Seat

Merced Irrigation District's newest Director is no stranger to the District. In fact, he earned the honor of serving MID longer than any other employee. With approximately 55% of the vote for the Division 1 seat, Thomas Reta won the election in November 2001.

Mr. Reta is a lifelong resident of Merced County and had been employed by the District for 45 years. He worked in various capacities within the District's Engineering Department and served as Chief Engineer for ___ years and then served as Chief Engineer/Manager from 1985 to 1990.

Reta's accomplishments include: the Lake Yosemite Dam repair and renovation, the Double-Barrel LeGrand Flume Replacement Project, and obtaining state water rights licenses for Lake McClure.

2002 a Year of Challenges and Opportunities

As we move into a brand new year we look forward to new challenges and opportunities at the District. Our immediate challenge is to be fully prepared for the upcoming irrigation season. It could start within 60 days depending upon our always unpredictable weather.

We're continuing our usual winter maintenance activities, cleaning and repairing canals and pipelines. We're continuing our facilities improvement program, constructing new diversion structures, head gates, measuring devices, etc. with automatic control features where appropriate.

We were also able to refinance our 1993 Certificate of Participation (COP) which made possible a number of new District water system facilities and improvements. By refinancing we saved \$140,000 and received a AAA rating on the refinancing from Moody's, a rare accomplishment these days.

The Board of Directors adopted our 2002 budget recently with no water rate or standby fee increases.

Challenge: Continue aggressive protection of District's water rights to ensure long-term water supply.



From the General Manager's Desk by Ross Rogers

Challenge: We are working with other irrigation districts to obtain our NPDES permit to use aquatic herbicides to control weeds. Without the ability to use these safe materials water deliveries could be negatively impacted.

Challenge: Regulatory agencies are becoming increasingly aggressive and attempting to exert more authority over irrigation districts.

Opportunity: Continue our conservation practices to develop water to meet the District's obligation for environmental enhancements.

Opportunity: Continue to modernize our older facilities to continue to deliver the best possible service to our members.

Opportunity: Continue our groundwater studies to develop recharge facilities for storage and supplement water sources for drought periods.

Opportunity: Continue to improve our Parks and & Recreational facilities at Lakes McSwain and McClure.

It's still too early to tell what kind of water year it's going to be. Hopefully, we'll have an above normal year. Stay tuned.

Here We Grow Again!

MID's Energy Resources Division recently won the contract to power the new Walgreen's complex at Bellevue and Shaffer roads in Atwater. MID's quick response to the developer's needs and the ability to meet construction deadlines to keep the development of the new shopping

on time made it the clear choice. MID's Energy Resources Division is continuing to grow rapidly in both residential and commercial venues. Serving Eastern Merced County with reliable and low-cost power has been a hallmark of the Division since its inception in 1996.



How To Contact Us

THE MAIN CANAL

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Governed by MID Board of Directors

Tom Reta Division 1
Tim Pellissier Division 2
Jack Hooper Division 3
Stan Morimoto Division 4
Billy Pimentel Division 5

MID's 2002 Supervisor & Employee of the Year

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



BILL LATRONICA

has worked with the Merced Irrigation District for over 30 years, primarily as a Park Ranger at Lakes McClure and McSwain. Since 1991, Bill has been the Senior

Ranger for the Parks Department. He supervises a staff of 12 permanent employees and 13 part-time employees and is responsible for park operations and maintenance at our five recreation areas around the lakes, which accommodates some 700,000 visitors annually.

"We can always count on Bill to be out there on the front line helping our Park Rangers take care of the many day to day problems that arise when operating a complex operation of this magnitude," said Mike Bermingham, Parks Manager. "Bill's many years of experience allow him to make a significant contribution toward the smooth operation of the Parks Department."

Say What?

At MID your feedback is important to us. We invite you to provide us with suggestions that you would like to read about in the upcoming issues of the Main Canal. Or, send us your comments on past stories

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



LINDA SALLES began her work for the District as a billing clerk in 1974 responsible for typing over 33,000 assessment bills per year. She later became the District's first computer clerk, entering data for

everything from billing to payroll and developed her computer skills to a high degree.

"Linda is conscientious, accurate and always willing to answer employee questions," said Bob Blum, Director of Administrative Services. "She can break down many complicated aspects of payroll in a way that an employee can easily understand."

Linda's positive attitude and leadership qualities have inspired many in the District and have fostered a team spirit throughout the office. In addition to her own responsibilities, Linda has been a mentor to new employees and a problem-solver for many areas within the office.

that you have read in the Main Canal. At MID, we're here to serve you and would enjoy hearing what you have to say. Please feel free to write us at: **P.O. Box 2288, Merced, CA 95344-0288** or e-mail your comments to **preinero@mercedid.org**.



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