

MID Board Report

Modesto Irrigation District (MID) Board Meeting of Tues., Jan. 13, 2009

Media contact: MID Public Affairs Department, Melissa Williams, 209 526-7390

The next MID Board meetings will be Tues., Jan. 20, Feb. 10 and 17.

A Public Hearing on the proposed 2009 Water Allocation and Irrigation Water Rates will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 9 a.m. in the MID Board Room, 1231 11th Street, Modesto. Details of the proposal are available at the Office of the Board Secretary, 1231 11th Street, Modesto, telephone 209 526-7360, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding holidays, or online at www.mid.org. Affected landowners will receive written notice by mail per Article XIII D, California State Constitution (Prop 218).

The MID Board Report is a summary of highlights of meetings of the MID Board of Directors and not a complete or official record of proceedings. Official records of proceedings of the MID Board of Directors are contained in the Minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors. For information about the Minutes, please contact the Office of the Board Secretary, 1231 Eleventh Street, Modesto, telephone 209 526-7360, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday – Friday, excluding holidays, or email Board@mid.org.

Board begins process for setting 2009 water allocation and water rates

By unanimous vote, the MID Board directed staff to issue a Notice of Proposed Irrigation Water Rates for 2009 and set March, 10, 2009 as the date of a public hearing on an 8.5 percent water rate increase proposed by staff. A water rate increase is needed to help cover costs of protecting water rights, operating and maintaining the canal system, delivering water to growers, engineering design support, regulatory compliance and administrative/general expenses.

If the proposal is approved, the active irrigation account charge will be \$25.50 per acre including a 30-inch base tier water allocation and a 12-inch additional tier. Surface water delivery will be capped at 42 inches per active irrigation account. The facility maintenance charge will be \$12.75 per acre. (Landowners pay either the active irrigation charge or the facility maintenance charge, not both.) The MID Board will determine the final 2009 water allocation later this spring.

Staff reports

Water Report

Walt Ward, Assistant General Manager for Water Operations, reported that it looks like we could be experiencing a third consecutive dry year. Rainfall totals to date are lower than the long-term average and 60 percent of where they would normally be. Don Pedro Reservoir is at 735 feet, tracking 22 feet lower than the long-term average. Dry conditions could yield an off year for the Vernalis Adaptive Management Program (VAMP), juvenile fish monitoring program.

Don Pedro Board of Control Report

Director Cecil Hensley reported that approximately 45 bass fishing tournaments have been scheduled to date at Don Pedro Reservoir with the number expected to increase through the year. The Audubon Society has scheduled an eagle count on January 17 (weather permitting). In addition, Director Hensley noted a letter from the Department of Water Resources commending the reservoir's high quality recreational facilities.

Approved by unanimous vote

Resolutions approving, adopting and/or authorizing:

- General Manager to execute the contract for pole inspection treatment services between MID and Osmose Utilities Services, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,627,000.
- MID's participation in the Long-Term Layoff Agreement (LTLA) between the Transmission Agency of Northern California (TANC), the City of Palo Alto, City of Roseville, MID, TID and SMUD and authorizing the General Manager to take all necessary action to effect MID's participation in the LTLA.