



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

1503 First Street South, Nampa, Idaho 83651 ~ Tel: (208) 466-7861
Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

FAILURE TO PAY IRRIGATION DISTRICT TAXES PLACES PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AT RISK OF SALE

For Immediate Release
Nampa, Idaho – Aug. 7, 2009

For Media Information Contact:
Daren Coon - 466-7861

It's time for Daren Coon to make the trip he dislikes more than anything else in his duties as Secretary Treasurer of the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District, the valley's largest irrigation district.

On Wednesday, (August 12,), Coon will visit six Treasure Valley properties in an attempt to personally deliver a final written notice warning the owners that their property is on the verge of being sold at public auction because they have failed to pay their irrigation district taxes for the past four years.

The six are part of a group of eight properties listed in legal notices; however, two property owners have since paid their back taxes. The original group of eight involved nearly \$1 Million in property at risk of being sold at public auction for a total of \$4,679.06 in back taxes literally pennies on the dollar. The property owners facing tax deed auction of their property are those who have failed to pay District irrigation tax assessments for the years 2006 through 2008.

The unpaid taxes on the group of eight properties ranged from \$466.79 to \$1056.77 while the assessed tax value of the properties ranged from \$118,400 to \$203,700, according to Canyon and Ada Counties assessor records. Total assessed value of the eight properties came to \$1,076,900.

“We identified these property owners through an extensive search of public records and have repeatedly notified them about the unpaid taxes but have had little or no response. Hopefully someone will respond when I deliver the final written notice. Tax deed auction is absolutely the last thing the District ever wants to have happen to our property owners, but we have no choice because state law sets down the procedure that must be followed when property owners fail to pay their annual irrigation district assessment,” Coon said

It's the final step in the tax collection process District officials say should never need to happen. Especially considering the relatively small annual amount of taxes involved over the three years.

For example, of the eight, one property in Ada County with an assessed value of \$173,900 had just \$531.19 in unpaid taxes. A Canyon County property with an assessed value of \$159,200 owed \$545.66 in taxes.

The District is currently taking bids on the remaining six properties. The bids will be opened August 18 at its office in Nampa. The affected property owners can halt the process by paying their taxes before the bids are open and most do. Only a couple of properties have ended up being sold over the past several years, Coon noted.

-more-

NMID Unpaid Taxes – Page 2 of 2

Coon said the tax deed auction represents a miniscule percentage of the more than 37,000 property owners who received annual tax assessment notices. NMID officials stress that individuals who own property inside the District and have questions about their tax assessment payment or the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District should call the District office at 466-7861.

Residents also can check to see whether their NMID taxes are paid by visiting the District's web site: www.nmid.org.

The taxes are used to pay for operation and maintenance of the canals, laterals, drains and dams that make up the District's water delivery system. Levies also are assessed against individual subdivision parcels using pressurized irrigation systems in subdivisions around the valley.

The Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District is a water storage, conveyance and distribution system founded in 1904. The District supplies irrigation water to some 69,000 acres of farmland and pressurized irrigation to almost 15,000 individual parcels of land in Ada and Canyon counties. More information about the District is also available on its Internet web site: www.nmid.org.

-end-