



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

NOT PAYING YOUR IRRIGATION DISTRICT TAX BILLS CAN RESULT IN LOSS OF YOUR PROPERTY

For Immediate Release
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For Media Information Contact:
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A total of 301 Treasure Valley properties with a combined value in the millions of dollars could eventually be sold at public auction for literally pennies on the dollar because of unpaid 2007 irrigation tax assessments averaging just \$48.32, officials with the valley's largest irrigation district announced today.

The properties, 279 in Ada County and 22 in Canyon County, face tax deed action because the property owners have failed to pay Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District taxes since 2007. State law requires irrigation districts to begin the tax deed action against the properties when taxes have gone unpaid for three years. The unpaid 2007 irrigation tax assessments for all 301 properties amount to \$14,642.45.

To halt the tax deed action property owners have until the close of business on December 31 to pay at the very least their delinquent 2007 taxes. However, paying just the 2007 taxes will amount to little more than a temporary one-year fix for those property owners who also owe taxes for 2008 – 2010. Unless they clear up their back unpaid taxes, the tax deed action simply would be initiated again in 2011, according to Daren Coon, NMID Secretary Treasurer.

“Obviously, the best course of action, if at all possible, is to pay the all the taxes still owing and eliminate the problem completely, especially considering the relatively small amount of money involved compared to the value of the property,” Coon said.

The delinquent taxes typically involve just a few hundred dollars in back taxes plus the notification fees; the average total amount of unpaid taxes in this most recent group of 301 delinquencies is \$364 per property. But by failing to pay the taxes, the property owner triggers a mandatory legal process that can end up with the property being sold at auction for a fraction of its actual value.

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NMID sent certified letters to the 301 registered property owners in October warning them of the impending tax deed action. However, 31 of the notices, 25 in Ada County and 6 in Canyon County, have not been acknowledged.

People who have questions about their assessment payment or the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District should call the District office at 466-7861. More information about the District is also available on its Internet web site: www.nmid.org.

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 approximately 15,000 individual parcels of land in Ada and Canyon counties.

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