

NAMPA & MERIDIAN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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CHECK OUT NMID'S WEBSITE: www.nmid.org

ONLINE PAYMENTS NOW AVAILABLE
FOR CURRENT TAXES ONLY
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“115 Years of Irrigation in the Treasure Valley”

NMID: VITAL TO TREASURE VALLEY HISTORY

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District (NMID) has played a crucial role in the Treasure Valley economy for over a century. NMID was formed in 1904 to acquire and operate the Ridenbaugh Canal system in order to deliver water to irrigate land south of the Boise River. NMID also owns and operates a drainage system to balance irrigation and drainage needs. Learn more about NMID at www.nmid.org.

NMID MANAGEMENT AND ELECTIONS

NMID is operated by a professional staff under the supervision of a three-member Board of Directors that usually meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at its offices located at 1503 1st Street South in Nampa. You can find board meeting dates and agendas at: [www.nmid.org/Board Meeting Agendas.html](http://www.nmid.org/Board_Meeting_Agendas.html). Each Director is elected from one of NMID's three precincts to serve for three years. Elections are held the Tuesday following the first Monday in November. Precinct 1 votes at Horizon Elementary School, 730 N. Mitchell, Boise; Precinct 2 votes at Meridian Middle School, 1507 West 8th Street, Meridian; and Precinct 3 votes at Nampa City Hall, 411 3rd Street S., Nampa. Find more election information at www.nmid.org/elections.html.

YOUR WATER SUPPLY AND WATER RIGHT

The Boise River is the primary source of the water NMID delivers to land owners within its boundaries. NMID owns water rights that allow it to divert water directly from the river, plus receive water stored in Arrowrock and Anderson Ranch Reservoirs. NMID's water rights have early priority dates which secure our water supply in times of shortage. These water rights enable NMID to deliver water during the irrigation season (generally April through September) to irrigate lands within its boundaries. A portion of NMID's water rights is dedicated to your land in NMID.

HOW NMID DELIVERS WATER

While the Boise River water supply lasts, NMID diverts enough water to fulfill the delivery requests its land owners submit to its ditch riders. NMID transports Boise River water through its extensive network of canals, laterals and drains to designated delivery points where water is delivered to privately owned and operated ditches or to pump stations that are operated by NMID to provide pressurized irrigation to subdivisions.

DRAINAGE OF NMID LAND

NMID owns, operates and maintains a large system of drains to prevent land within its boundaries from becoming inundated or “waterlogged” by seepage from canals and irrigated fields. Drainage maintains the usefulness of land in NMID for farming, residential and other uses.

PRIVATE DITCH USERS & ASSOCIATIONS

NMID does not operate or maintain the private ditches that carry water from NMID delivery points to land owners. Under Idaho law, those who receive water from private ditches are responsible for the operation and maintenance of those ditches. Three or more land owners who receive water from the same private ditch constitute a lateral ditch water users association. Idaho law calls upon these associations to organize and appoint a lateral manager whose duties include ordering water from NMID and acting as the lateral association's point of contact for NMID staff. Lateral associations may adopt their own rules and assess their members to pay for the operation and maintenance of their lateral ditches. An association's rules may include rotating members' use of water so that all users are able to receive the water they need during specified time periods.

ASSESSMENTS

NMID assesses land within its boundaries to pay for the operation, maintenance and protection of its water storage, delivery and drainage systems and water rights. Under Idaho law, paying assessments is a legal obligation of the land and, therefore, the responsibility of the land owner. NMID receives revenue from the Lucky Peak hydroelectric plant to help pay its expenses and so is able to reduce assessments to its landowners. NMID's assessments for your land are itemized in the enclosed Tax Notice.

Water right assessments: Land entitled to a portion of NMID's water rights is assessed for that entitlement.

Pressurized urban irrigation system assessment: Lots that receive water from a pressurized urban irrigation system are assessed for system construction, operation and maintenance. These assessments vary based on the costs associated with each system.

Drainage assessments: All NMID land is assessed for the operation and maintenance of its drainage system.

Notify us when land ownership changes: NMID tax notices are sent to the name and address of the last known land owner. It is the land owners' responsibility to notify NMID of changes in land ownership. NMID requires a copy of a recorded deed in order to change the deeded owner's name. Do not depend on someone else to take care of this. Make certain your tax payment is for the correct land and please return the payment stub with your payment. If you have purchased a new property, please update your bill pay online.

Pay the Exact Assessment Amount by the Due Date: NMID may not be able to receipt your payment if you have missed the due date, and/or your payment is not for the exact amount. Your notice may be mailed back to you for additional fees/costs that have accrued. **Partial payments cannot be accepted.** Interest is calculated daily on delinquent taxes.

NMID ASSESSES LAND WITH WATER RIGHTS EVEN IF THERE IS NO PRIVATE DELIVERY

Some land that once received NMID water was developed into subdivision lots without including a system to deliver water from a NMID delivery point to the subdivision lots. If NMID water rights were not removed from the lots through exclusion, the lot owners continue to be obligated to pay assessments for the retained water rights. Land owners who wish to remove their NMID water rights and assessment obligation should contact the office to learn more. Exclusion should be given careful consideration because removing NMID water rights may reduce the value of your land.

PRESSURE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

When you purchase a new home be certain to ask about the availability of irrigation water. Idaho laws authorize NMID to enter contracts with developers to construct pressure urban irrigation systems for subdivisions. Boise, Caldwell, Meridian, Kuna and Nampa have ordinances that require these systems in new subdivisions. Only the subdivision lots served by the system are assessed to pay for the system. After construction, NMID owns, operates and maintains the system and all the water lines that bring water to the delivery valve at each individual lot.

NMID does not operate or maintain private sprinkler systems in lawns and gardens. Irrigation water can be scheduled for intermittent use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week depending upon need and supply. **By spreading the usage across a 24 hour period, the pump station and use of irrigation water is more efficient.**

RESTORING WATER DELIVERY & RIGHTS LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Delivery of water to subdivision lots that retain NMID water rights but don't have a private delivery system can be restored by creating a Local Improvement District that enables NMID to construct, own, operate and maintain a pressurized urban irrigation system for the subdivision. Water rights, if available, can be reapportioned to land from which they have been excluded through reinstatement or annexation. Contact NMID's office to learn more about these procedures.

WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CANALS AND DITCHES IN URBAN AND SUBURBAN AREAS?

Southern Idaho has an arid climate. Early settlers discovered that water could be diverted from rivers and streams and applied to fields to grow crops that were impossible to grow in the Treasure Valley without water. Canals and ditches were constructed to convey the water from the Boise River to the fields.

Many of the towns and cities in the Treasure Valley are growing and expanding into the areas that originally were irrigated cropland. Homes are built next to the irrigation facilities as a result of this expansion. The canals and ditches must remain to convey water to the lands which are entitled to its use.

WHO OWNS THE CANALS AND DITCHES?

The Ridenbaugh Canal, laterals, ditches, and drains are owned by NMID. A strip of land along the sides of the canal is also a part of the right-of-way established for that canal or lateral. This strip of land is used by NMID to operate and maintain the canal or lateral. **No encroachment or impact to NMID facilities is allowed without a legal agreement.**

WHO OWNS THE WATER IN THE CANALS AND DITCHES?

The water in the canal has been appropriated by NMID from the State for use by its landowners, just like the drinking water supplied by a city. NMID can assist in determining which land has a valid water right and the designated point of delivery for the water. The water right held in trust by NMID is for use on the lands for which the water is designated **and is for irrigation only.** Pumping from NMID facilities is not allowed.

IRRIGATION DITCHES AND DRAINS ARE UNSAFE FOR RECREATION

Canals, ditches, and drains are unsafe and no one,--especially children--should play in or near them! Recreational use of NMID's delivery and drainage facilities is an unauthorized trespass. NMID personnel are the only users of these facilities.

WHY NMID REMOVES TREES AND BRUSH ALONG NMID CANALS, DITCHES AND DRAINS

Uncontrolled growth of vegetation along NMID's canals, ditches, and drains can interfere with water flows and with NMID's ability to access, maintain and operate these canals, ditches and drains. Plant roots draw water from the system. Fallen trees and excessive growth block water flow and may cause flooding of adjacent property. For these reasons, NMID controls vegetation along canals by burning, spraying, trimming and removing growth as necessary. NMID does not, claim ownership of such vegetation or control its growth for the benefit, or at the request of, adjacent land owners.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

Please feel free to call us during business hours with your questions. Our Office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Our telephone number is: 208-466-7861

Or visit our website at www.nmid.org

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T PAY THE IRRIGATION TAX?

NMID levies against all lands in the District in the fall of each year. Payment of the 1st half tax is due by 20 December of the year of assessment, and payment of the 2nd half is due by 20 June of the subsequent year.

It is very important for you to understand Idaho State Law requires you to pay irrigation taxes just as you are required to pay property taxes.

If you do not pay your assessment, Idaho State Law requires NMID to file a lien on your property. If the costs are not paid within three years after recording the delinquency at the county, Idaho State Law 43-716 requires the Treasurer of NMID to issue to NMID a tax deed to the property. To avoid the potential loss of title to the property through Tax Deed Sale, the land owner must pay all unpaid liens or assessments.

The purchaser of a tax deed at a Tax Deed Sale holds all rights and title that the irrigation district acquired through assessment and delinquency proceedings. Once the sale is made and a deed of sale is delivered to the purchaser, any further action is between the land owner and the purchaser, not the land owner and the irrigation district.