



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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MORE TREASURE VALLEY SUBDIVISIONS TO USE CANAL WATER FOR IRRIGATION

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Ten Ada County subdivisions have joined 343 other subdivisions in the ever-expanding collection of pressurized urban irrigation systems managed by the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District, NMID officials announced.

The new systems all will use inexpensive, non-potable canal water to irrigate lawns, gardens and landscaping rather than tapping municipal drinking water system that must be pumped from the aquifer that supplies the Treasure Valley's water, according to Daren Coon, NMID Secretary Treasurer.

By using canal water instead of municipal drinking water, NMID's water managers have calculated that pressurized urban irrigation systems annually reduce by about 5 billion gallons the amount of municipal drinking water that would be need for only for irrigation. That's a savings of approximately 15,300 acre feet of water; an acre foot is one acre of land covered by water a foot deep.

"The population of the Treasure Valley is projected by the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho to be a million residents by about 2040. We believe it is vital that we do everything we can to avoid depleting the Treasure Valley aquifer, the source of nearly all of our area's municipal drinking water. Other parts of the country like Arizona and Nevada, and especially Las Vegas, have shown us just how disastrous it can be when precious municipal water is used in enormous volumes just to keep lawns, shrubbery and landscaping pretty and green. That's where pressurized systems using canal water can be the perfect solution," Coon explained.

The ten subdivisions bring to 353 the number of Treasure Valley subdivisions using NMID pressurized systems covering 6,686 acres of land and representing 15,688 individual parcels of residential and commercial land in Ada and Canyon County.

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

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