



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District
1503 First Street South, Nampa, Idaho 83651
TEL: (208) 466-7861 -- FAX: (208) 463-0092
Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

UNPAID IRRIGATION DISTRICT TAX BILLS THREATEN TREASURE VALLEY PROPERTIES

For Immediate Release
Nampa, Idaho - Nov. 19, 2009

For Media Information Contact:
Daren Coon - 466-7861

A total of 167 Treasure Valley properties with a combined value in the millions of dollars, but with unpaid irrigation tax assessments totaling just \$73,264, are now in danger of being sold at public auction for pennies on the dollar, officials with the valley's largest irrigation district announced today.

The properties, 140 in Ada County and 27 in Canyon County, face tax deed action because the property owners have failed to pay Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District taxes since 2006. State law requires irrigation districts to begin the tax deed action against the properties when taxes have gone unpaid for three years.

The owners of the properties have until the close of business on December 31 to pay the delinquent taxes and halt the tax deed action.

Tax deed action, mandated under Idaho law, puts the property owner in a difficult situation. The delinquent taxes typically involve just a couple of hundred dollars in back taxes plus the notification fees; the average amount of unpaid taxes in this group of 167 delinquencies is \$438. But by not acting, the property owner triggers a mandatory legal process that can end up with their property being sold at auction for a fraction of its actual value.

As required under state law, NMID sent certified letters to the 167 registered property owners in October warning them of the impending action. However, 36 of the notices, 26 in Ada County and 10 in Canyon County, have remained unacknowledged.

In these cases Idaho law then requires the names and addresses of the 36 to be published once each week in a large ad in the legal section of the two area daily papers. The ads represent a last-ditch effort to notify people that tax deed action is about to be started against their property. (*Editor's Note: the last two notices will appear Nov. 23 & 30.*)

Copies of the 36 final notices are also available on the NMID web site – www.nmid.org – under the section “Legal Notices.”

-more-

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.

-end-