



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

IRRIGATION CANAL FLOWS TO END OCTOBER 4

For Immediate Release

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Water managers with the Treasure Valley's largest irrigation district will close off Boise River water flows to the District's 500 miles of canals on Thursday (Oct. 4), marking the end of the 2012 irrigation season, officials with the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District announced today.

For the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District, the water cut off marks the end of the 2012 surface water irrigation season for the 69,000 acres of farmland and 343 residential subdivisions in the valley with pressurized urban irrigation systems served by the District.

Officials say water levels in the historic Ridenbaugh Canal will begin to decline quickly after the canal headgates are closed at the District's Boise River diversion just upstream from Barber Park. But it could take two days before water levels drop in the furthest reaches of the NMID system. The entire canal system should be nearly empty in four to five days after the water is shut off. NMID will then launch its annual canal maintenance and repair program.

The canal water cutoff means residential water users using pressurized urban irrigation systems managed by the District will need to switch to another water source such as a municipal system if they want to continue to irrigate lawns and landscaping.

Despite the unusually hot summer the District has been able to essentially provide full irrigation supplies since canal flows began last April, according to Greg Curtis, NMID Water Superintendent. Last year water was turned off on October 6th.

Effective water conservation efforts by District water users and an abundant snowpack last spring resulted in NMID ending the irrigation season with water left in storage in Boise River reservoirs as carryover for the 2013 irrigation season, Curtis noted. But it will be some time until the actual amount of carryover water is calculated.

Whatever carryover there is will go towards next year's irrigation. Carryover water helps the District cope with irrigation demands when snowpack levels are below normal.

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, residential and commercial lands, including pressurized irrigation for more than 15,000 individual parcels of land in Ada and Canyon counties.

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