



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

USE OF PRESSURIZED IRRIGATION SYSTEMS SURGED IN TREASURE VALLEY OVER PAST 16 YEARS

For Immediate Release
Nampa, Idaho – Jan. 18, 2016

For Media Information Contact:
Daren Coon – 466-7861

A strong push over the past 16 years to use inexpensive canal water to irrigate lawns, gardens and landscaping rather than pumping precious ground water from the valley's aquifer has powered a significant growth in pressurized irrigation systems managed by the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District, officials with the District say.

In April 2000, just 47 residential subdivisions were using NMID pressurized urban irrigation systems. Today that number is 418 subdivisions, almost nine times the figure 16 years ago.

In April 2000 there were 5,200 individual parcels of land, including residential homes, parks, schools and commercial properties, irrigated by NMID pressurized systems. Today, the number is three times that – 15,745 individual parcels.

“We knew the demand for pressurized irrigation had really surged over the past decade. But when we reviewed the actual numbers late last year we were quite surprised at just how strong the demand has really been. The total acreage involved is now two and a half times what it was in 2000,” noted NMID Secretary Treasurer Daren Coon.

In 2000, approximately 3 square miles of land (2,000 acres) was irrigated by pressurized systems. Today, the figure is almost 3 times that – 8.98 square miles (5,745 acres)

“The District has always held the view that we have an obligation to do all we can to conserve our valley's pristine groundwater aquifers. Using canal water from the Boise River to irrigate lawns, gardens and landscaping rather than pumping it out of the aquifer that supplies the majority of the valley's drinking water is an effective way to do it,” Coon added. Canal water is non-potable and cannot be used for drinking water.

When NMID had 379 pressurized urban irrigation systems in operation several years ago, water managers calculated the systems saved annually about 5 Billion gallons of municipal drinking water that would have been needed to meet irrigation needs met by pressurized systems..

NMID managers now estimate that the additional systems have increased the annual savings to about 5.5 Billion gallons a year. That translates to approximately 16,800 acre feet of water; an acre foot is enough water to cover one acre of land with water a foot deep.

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 available on its website: www.nmid.org.

-end-end-