



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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Serving The Treasure Valley Since 1904

Properties With Unpaid Irrigation Tax Bills Face Pennies on the Dollar Sale At Public Auction

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A total of 19 Ada and Canyon county properties worth a total assessed value of more than \$3 Million face the possibility of being sold at public auction for pennies on the dollar because their owners have failed to pay delinquent 2014 irrigation taxes, NMID officials advised today.

For example, one Meridian property with an assessed value of \$328,900 could be sold for only \$260.37 in taxes, interest and fees and administrative fees and costs.

The total tax, penalty and administrative fees owing on the properties is \$6,800.00 while the total assessed value according to Ada and Canyon counties assessor records is \$3,021,000. The delinquent 2014 irrigation taxes on the properties represents 2 tenths of 1 percent of the total assessed value of the homes and land.

There are 11 properties in Meridian, 4 in Boise and 4 in Nampa. Individual taxes owed by the property owners range from \$246 to \$1,103.

The State requires irrigation districts to initiate the tax deed action if the property owners have failed to pay their irrigation taxes for the past three years. In this instance the unpaid taxes are for 2014, according to Daren Coon, NMID Secretary Treasurer.

NMID mailed certified letters in August to all delinquent property owners officially notifying them that unless action is taken by the last day of December 2017 their properties will be put up for sale at public auction. The 19 property owners are those who did not accept the certified letters.

The District is also publishing the names and address of the 20 property owners four different times in local newspapers. In addition, a final warning will go out later this month.

“Tax deed action is the most distressing action we are required to take against land owned by our patrons. It represents a last ditch measure the District goes to great length to prevent but which state law demands if the taxes are not paid,” Coon explained. “Fortunately these properties represent just a tiny percentage of our 38,000 property owners in the District.”

The property owners have until December 31 to pay at least their delinquent 2014 tax bill. Otherwise the properties could be sold at auction in August 2018 for the taxes owing, plus additional legal and administrative fees. Most property owners pay up prior to that but each year some properties do end up being sold at auction, Coon added.

Coon noted the problem sometimes grows out of a mistaken belief that property owners do not need to pay the annual assessment because they do not receive or use irrigation water. In other cases, property owners assume the irrigation tax payment is part of their escrow tax payment being made by the mortgage company but it is not.

The taxes pay for operation and maintenance of the canals, laterals, drains and dams that make up the District's water delivery system. Levies also are assessed against individual subdivision parcels using pressurized irrigation systems in subdivisions around the valley.

NMID officials stress that individuals who own property inside the District and have questions about their tax assessments should call the District office at 466-7861

The Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District is a water storage, conveyance and distribution system founded in 1904. NMID supplies irrigation water to some 69,000 acres of farmland, residential and commercial lands including pressurized irrigation for more than 16,000 individual parcels of land in Ada and Canyon counties.

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