



News Release

Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District

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NMID IRRIGATION CANAL FLOWS TO END OCTOBER 6

For Immediate Release

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For Media Information Contact:

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Canal flows with the Treasure Valley’s largest irrigation district will be shut off the morning of October 6th marking the end of a challenging irrigation season, water managers with the Nampa & Meridian Irrigation District announced today.

It will take about two to three days for the 500 miles in the NMID canals to fully drain. The District manages approximately 80 different canals.

Area subdivisions with pressurized irrigation systems owned and operated by NMID and that would like to switch to their backup source need to have their Home Owners Association President contact the District’s Water Superintendent in writing to have their system switched over. City of Nampa residents need to contact the City of Nampa Water Department at 208- 468-5860 to inquire about their shut off date.

“It has been a hectic irrigation season for us. We started with an earthquake the night before we started running water which required an immediate inspection of our entire system. That was followed by all the Covid-19 pandemic twists and turns trying to keep our staff healthy and still meeting the water deliveries needs of our users,” said Greg Curtis, NMID Water Superintendent.

The stay at home restrictions of the pandemic also resulted in a record year for phone calls to the NMID office from property owners along the canals with questions and complaints about people trespassing, recreating and planting gardens and other encroachments in the easements along the Districts canals.

“We ended up installing at the request of property owners along our system more ‘no trespassing’ signs this year than in the last five years combined. It seemed that everyone wanted to plant a garden in our maintenance easement areas which makes it very difficult to maintain the facilities,” Curtis added. Idaho law prohibits any kind of physical encroachment such as gardens, landscaping, sheds, etc. being placed in the easement areas of irrigation canals without the express permission of the irrigation district.

Contractors working to install high speed internet services also damaged parts of the District’s pressurized irrigation systems which had to be repaired. Maintenance crews were also busy remove trees and other debris from canals after substantial windstorms roared through the area.

“We still managed to meet the needs of our water users and end up with a good irrigation season thanks to a good supply of water in the Boise River and from the reservoirs. Still, our ditchriders and maintenance were really busy the entire summer,” Curtis said.

Curtis said NMID ended the year with some carryover for next year but that it will take a good Idaho winter to replenish supplies in the storage reservoirs. NMID maintenance crews will go to work on maintenance and repair projects in the Districts canals once the system is completely drained of water.

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 17,000 individual parcels of land in Ada and Canyon counties. More information is available at the District’s website: www.nmid.org.

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