



REAL ESTATE DIVISION – PLANNING

Information Sheet Red Mountain South LID

- **Water Right Status-** The District has made obtaining a new water right for South Red Mountain a top priority. The KID Board President is now personally managing the project and has dedicated two full time professional-level staff to it. The application process is exceptionally detailed due to the involvement of two federal agencies (Yakama Nation and USBR), and two state agencies (Ecology and Washington Fish & Wildlife). Major progress has been made in the past 180 days, and the application documents have been prepared for review by the State Department of Ecology.
- **Cost Estimates-** In January a consultant estimated the cost to be approximately \$8.7 million to serve 2,000 acres at Red Mountain South, 525 acres at Red Mountain North and 600 acres in West Richland for a total of 3,125 wet acres.

Two subsequent studies in 2008 estimated the cost of the entire system at \$18-22 million, depending on several variables.

- **New Alternatives-** KID has obtained a \$95,000 grant from the state to examine the alternatives for delivering water to Red Mountain. The grant has also been used to perform a peer review of the prior Kiona pump station work that was done and to reconcile the differences in estimated costs and also to examine the costs of delivering water above 1,060 feet in elevation.

An alternative being studied includes a new pumping station in the McNary Pool near Duportail Street connected to the Badger East canal, and extension westward to a new reservoir near the Tri-City Raceway to serve Red Mountain.

KID is examining the cost efficiencies that would result from irrigating all 3,125 acres at Red Mountain South rather than the 2,000 originally planned and not providing water to Red Mountain North and West Richland.

The District is also using the grant to examine ways to get water from the McNary pool to about 70% of the District in Kennewick and Finley.

- **Electrical Power for Pumping-** Federal law requires the US Bureau of Reclamation to pay Bonneville Power Administration for the costs of electrifying the pumps which deliver water to the District's facilities. This law may include the pumping for the Red Mountain South LID. KID has been working with the BPA in recent weeks to determine the precise federal power obligations.
- **Environmental Review-** Issuance of the water right by the State Department of Ecology triggers review under the State's environmental laws. Four species of concern in the LID area include: blacktailed jackrabbits, Ferruginous hawks, Townsend's ground squirrels and burrowing owls. KID and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have been working on a mitigation system that would be triggered by the conversion of shrub-steppe habitat to agricultural or other land uses. The system may involve payment of mitigation fees or donation of mitigation lands.

WDFW has expressed a preference for long term preservation of the affected species in viable large tracts which may be off site in other parts of Benton County, rather than preserving many isolated populations that do not have long term viability.

KID has also been meeting with various environmental interest groups to explain the impacts before the permit application is submitted.

- **LID Schedule-** The LID is expected to be formed within the next 60 days. As required by statute, a public hearing on the LID will be scheduled at a future date that has yet to be determined. A separate notice will be issued prior to holding that public hearing.

If you submitted an LID petition, it is important to be aware that the cost to investigate formation of the LID are required to be paid by the LID petitioners even if the LID is not formed. If the LID is formed, anyone who later joins in is treated as if they were in from the start. A summary of costs incurred to date will be available on December 9th.

- **Construction Schedule-**From the time the water permit is issued and the LID is formed, the system could be designed, permitted and built in about 36 months.

There is additional information available on the Red Mountain link on the "projects" tab on the District's website at www.kid.org.