

October 2013

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Governor Inslee visits Red Mountain Pump Station Site



On September 26, 2013 Governor Jay Inslee, along with his wife Trudy and staff stopped by the Kiona Pump Station site to see the progress of construction and to meet with KID staff and members of the Board. The projects lead contractors, RH2 Engineering and Pacific Crest Construction were on site to explain the developments of the pump station that is scheduled to deliver irrigation water from the Yakima river to the Red Mountain South LID area mid-year 2014 for testing, and for the 1st full growing season in 2015.

Afterwards, Governor Inslee, along with WA Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River Director Derek Sandison, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project's (YRBWEP) Urban Everhart and KID Planning Manager Seth DeFoe joined the Yakima Basin Joint Board members, Red Mountain property owners and grape growers at the Kiona Vineyards Winery to give brief presentations and to talk on the importance of the wine and grape industry in the state of Washington.

Pictured Left to Right; Patrick McGuire, Board Vice President; Penny Hermanson, Board Member; Governor Jay Inslee; Gene Huffman, Board President; Kirk Rathbun, Board Member; David McKenzie, Board Member



A message from Board President Gene Huffman

Another irrigation season has come to an end for KID customers and while the water is out of the canal system, winter work including capitol projects to maintain and improve our facilities and projects providing water conservation and energy efficiencies are already underway.

Canal Lining work will continue during the 2013/2014 winter season. Locations targeted for completion are the canal areas between S. Ely and Olympia Streets in Kennewick and Queensgate to Westcliffe Blvd. in South Richland. Canal Lining is planned for the next several years and funding is being provided by the capitol improvements portion of your KID assessment and with matching grant dollars acquired from the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and Ecology. Some other major projects for this winter include a regional pump station and pond facility in Southeast Kennewick and a regional pump station near the Clodfelter Road area of West Kennewick.

As we plan for the future, like other businesses, costs are on the rise. After four years without increases in assessment rates, 2014 will bring a 3.5% increase to the irrigation operating portion of your assessment. All other portions of KID assessments will remain unchanged. Increased fuel and electrical costs, along with liability and employee health insurance premium increases are the main justifications for this needed rate increase. For an average residential customer with a quarter acre lot, this could mean about an \$11 increase per year. For larger acreage customers (over 8 acres) it would translate to an additional \$2.80 per acre for non-pressurized irrigation and \$3.50 per acre for pressurized irrigation. The exact figures will be available when the final budget and assessment rolls have been set for 2014.

KID staff has researched projected future expenses and performed comparison studies to provide to the board before making the difficult decision to have a rate increase. KID is committed to our rate payers and every effort has been made to stay transparent and accountable to you.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our KID customers for a another successful irrigation year and invite you to attend our bi-monthly board meetings held the first and third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM at the KID administration offices located at 12 West Kennewick Avenue in historic downtown Kennewick.

HELPING HANDS PROGRAM AT KID

The Kennewick Irrigation District's **Helping Hands** program is designed to assist seniors and low income customers in a time of financial need. This year, thanks to our customer donations and allocated KID funds (from late fee revenue), we were able to help over sixty customers pay a portion of their KID assessment bill. A majority of our **Helping Hands** applicants are seniors on a fixed income. For example, because of this program, we were able to reach out to several seniors that had recently lost their spouse, and were struggling to stay on top of their bills.

We are proud to be one of the only irrigation water utilities that administers a program offering financial assistance to its customers. We understand the need for assistance and are grateful that we have the customer base we have to be able to do that. If you are interested in donating to the **Helping Hands** program please visit our web site for more information. There is also the option to donate on your payment coupon.

Every dollar donated will go to a customer in need!



Winterizing Your Irrigation System & Riser

This is the time of year to winterize. We like to run this article every fall to remind you of the steps to take for winterization of your irrigation system and riser. Each spring, the most common irrigation service problem for KID customers is a leaky or broken valve due to improper winterization. To help prevent the KID valve and riser in your yard from freezing during the winter months, here are a few winterization steps to follow. Taking a few moments to follow these steps now will help keep maintenance costs down and will help to prevent a leaky or broken valve or possible flood next spring.

Follow these steps for winterization:

- 1) Locate the KID riser on your property.
- 2) Drain the KID riser and valve (see picture showing different types of valves). Ensure that your water delivery has ended for the season (mid October). Drain times will vary from home to home so please be patient and wait for the water to stop flowing from the riser completely.
- 3) Once the water flow has stopped completely, you are ready to winterize your irrigation system. Consult with a professional to determine the proper winterization procedure for your irrigation system. ***Warning: Personal injury and/or property loss can and will occur if winterization is done improperly or incompletely!***
- 4) Ensure your entire irrigation system and all lines have been completely drained and/or professionally blown out and completely free of water. Open and close the KID valve several times to ensure that water is not trapped inside the valve or riser.
- 5) Finally, close the KID valve completely and leave it closed over the winter. If your valve is above ground, it is more susceptible to the elements and it may be a good idea to open and close the valve a few times during the winter season to allow any trapped water to escape.



Before next spring irrigation start up :

Make sure the gate valve or ball valve on your irrigation riser is completely closed before the irrigation water is turned on to avoid a surprise flood. In order to receive water again in the spring you must open your valve up again. To help avoid flooding make sure the water is on and you are at home before turning it back on.

Visually check your entire irrigation system for leaks, cracks or breaks. Make any necessary repairs on your irrigation system or lines to avoid flooding on your property when start up occurs.

If you find a leak, crack or break in the KID riser, valve or solenoid, call the KID office to schedule a service call.

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EXPANDED OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE PROVIDES IMPROVED CUSTOMER SERVICE

During the 2013 water on season, the operations and maintenance department implemented an expanded weekend and after hours schedule to better cover emergency and service calls 24/7. This has proven to greatly reduce the morning “flood” of service request calls (especially over weekends) which has allowed our staff to handle your emergencies more quickly and efficiently. The added benefit to the rotating 7-day schedule was a substantial savings in overtime! We want to send out a special “Thank You” to the members of our crew and customer service department for going the extra mile to make sure our KID customers received prompt service around the clock!



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

On December 10, 2013, the Kennewick Irrigation District will hold an election for Positions 1 and 4 on the Board of Directors. These are three-year terms beginning in January 2014.

Petitions of Nomination are due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 4th and candidates will be announced at the 9:00 a.m. KID Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 5th. Following that Board meeting, candidate names and information on voting in person or obtaining an absentee ballot will be posted on www.kid.org.

