

MEDIA STATEMENT

Pioneer Irrigation District

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Regarding the Breach of the Phyllis Canal

For Immediate Use
Caldwell, Idaho – April 12, 2011

For Media Information Contact:
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First, let us say that the Pioneer Irrigation District sincerely regrets any damage or inconvenience caused to the public by the rupture of the Phyllis Canal today. Pioneer is most grateful there appears to have been no injuries to individuals caused by the event.

The Phyllis Canal, the primary canal of Pioneer Irrigation District, ruptured its North bank to the north of Easy Street and east of Dorman in Caldwell. Pioneer was notified at approximately 7:00 a.m. and immediately mobilized its entire work force to meet the situation. The City of Caldwell also offered its assistance, and Pioneer was happy to accept their offer and thank them for their assistance.

The District immediately took action to lower water levels in the canal by diverting water into smaller lateral canals and drains and hauling in truckloads of dirt to plug the rupture. The situation was brought under control and the breach in the bank sealed by 9:00 a.m.

As of now, we are doing a full investigation to determine what caused the breach. There are many different factors that can cause a situation like this. For example, we know that rodents can penetrate canal banks and cause these types of situations but we do not know if that is the cause at this time.

We have also dispatched ditchriders to check every section of our 350 miles of canals to ensure that the rest of our water delivery system is sound.

We are asking people with damage to contact the District office at 459-3617 so that we can begin to work on any claims. We will also keep the District office open until 6 p.m. through Friday, April 15 to help people deal with claim situations.

Again, Pioneer sincerely regrets today's situation and is committed to working with the public to make sure any damages or other conditions are resolved.

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