



News Release

Pioneer Irrigation District

3804 Lake Avenue, Caldwell, ID 83605
TEL: (208) 459-3617 -- www.pioneerirrigation.com

Final Payment Date Nears **For 2010 Pioneer Irrigation Tax Bills**

For Immediate Use
Caldwell, Idaho – June 7, 2011

For Media Information Contact:
Dawn Fowler – 459-3617

June 20th is the final date for patrons of the Pioneer Irrigation District to pay in full their 2010 irrigation tax assessments, District officials announced today.

Currently approximately 1,550 property owners have not paid their full 2010 Pioneer tax levy. The majority, 909, are individuals who paid the first half of their tax bill in December and **are not** delinquent. The remaining 643 have paid either less than half of their 2010 taxes or nothing at all. Of those, 184 also owe taxes from previous years.

Pioneer officials also say 2010 tax payments from its patrons appear to be running counter to the expected recessionary delinquency trend. Pioneer has already collected nearly 90 percent of its 2010 tax levy, a significant factor considering Idaho's high unemployment rate and the sharp economic downturn in Idaho's economy, according to Dawn Fowler, PID Secretary Treasurer.

Idaho law requires irrigation districts to file a delinquency list of property owners who have not paid their assessment on time with the County Recorder's Office. This action puts people on notice that a lien for unpaid irrigation assessments has been placed on their property.

State law then mandates that tax deed action be taken against properties whose assessments have not been paid in three years. Tax deed action can eventually lead to the property being sold at auction if the assessments are not paid. Pioneer has not typically sold properties at auction in the past; however, if delinquencies become a significant problem, that could change.

Pioneer has instead chosen to concentrate on working diligently with delinquent property owners to collect back taxes and it has paid off handsomely.

“We have been proactively pursuing collections, and it has paid off both in terms of people understanding that this isn't an optional bill, and by collecting a significant amount of previously uncollected taxes. We have cut delinquencies just about in half over the past two years,” Fowler added.

Pioneer's 2010 assessment rates were unchanged for the third consecutive year. The District mailed 2010 tax notices to its approximately 5,800 patrons last October.

People who have questions about their tax bill should contact the Pioneer office at 459-3617 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. More information about Pioneer Irrigation District is also available at its website: www.pioneerirrigation.com.