

News Release

Pioneer Irrigation District

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Final Payment Date Nears **For 2009 Pioneer Irrigation Tax Bills**

For Immediate Use
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The final payment date for the 2009 irrigation district tax assessments for patrons of the Pioneer Irrigation District is next Monday (June 21), District officials announced today.

Payment is actually due June 20th, however, that is a Sunday so Pioneer will accept payments as current through 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 21, 2010. Payments postmarked by June 21 also will be considered current, according to Dawn Fowler, Pioneer Secretary treasurer.

“We know the current tough economic times have made things difficult for our patrons this year; however, it is very important that their water assessments be paid to prevent a lien from being placed on their property,” Fowler said. There are approximately 1,500 patrons who have not yet paid their second half of the 2009 assessment.

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 that may change due to a rising delinquency rate driven by the sharp economic downturn that has plagued the area, Fowler added.

Pioneer's 2009 assessment rates were unchanged from 2008. The District mailed the 2009 tax notices to its approximately 6,500 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.

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