

News Release

Pioneer Irrigation District

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PID 2009-2

Pioneer To Turn Water In Canals April 8; **Precipitation Levels Signal Possible Reduced Supply**

For Immediate Use
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Water will start to flow in the canals of the Pioneer Irrigation District on April 8, water managers with the District announced today. That means water should be available for irrigation use in most places throughout the District by April 13.

But Pioneer officials also warned that irrigation water **may** not be delivered to users who have not paid at least half of their 2008 tax assessment. There are currently 1887 Pioneer water users in that category.

Assessment notices were sent to approx. 6400 patrons last October, with the first half payment being due by December 20, 2008. People with questions about their assessments should call Pioneer's office at 459-3617

The 2009 irrigation season outlook is still somewhat unclear but is trending towards a water delivery season about 20 percent below a normal year, according to Pioneer water superintendent Jeff Scott. All current precipitation levels are below normal.

“That could change if we get a very wet spring, along with a cool start to the summer, which would reduce initial demand. We are hopeful that if that happens we might be able to make a full season. But we are completely dependent upon the weather,” Scott said.

Pioneer water users should check with their respective ditchriders to determine exactly when irrigation water will be delivered. A complete list of ditchrider contact numbers will be available starting April 6 on the Pioneer web site: www.pioneerirrigation.com.

“The approaching irrigation season also means parents need to remember that irrigation canals can be deadly for children. Now is the time to make sure their children get the message that they must stay completely away from canals,” Scott added.

Pioneer Irrigation District has provided irrigation and agricultural drainage services to Ada and Canyon County land owners for more than a century. The District currently maintains about 6,400 accounts providing irrigation water to approximately 34,000 acres of residential and farmland in Canyon and Ada Counties

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