

Merced Irrigation District Announces New General Manager

Dan Pope to Assume Leadership of District

Merced, California. June 3, 2008. The Merced Irrigation District's (MID) Board of Directors announced the appointment of Dan Pope as its new General Manager effective July 1, 2008. For the last three years, Mr. Pope served the District as its Hydroelectric Project Manager at the New Exchequer Dam power facilities. Mr. Pope succeeds Garith Krause who served as the General Manager of the District for the past four years. Mr. Krause had previously announced his intention to retire this year.

"I am very pleased to have been selected by the District's Board of Directors as its new General Manager," said Mr. Pope. "The District has a longstanding history for being a good steward of the resources it manages and the excellent customer service it provides its growers and electric customers. I look forward to working with the District's employees and Board to continue on in that heritage. The District faces a number of challenges on its horizon with the largest being to obtain a new FERC license to continue operating its hydroelectric project on the Merced River."

Prior to joining the District, Mr. Pope was with PG&E for 26 years. He served as the chief civil engineer for Helms and hydroelectric superintendent for its Kings River/Crane Valley system and OM&C Southern Division. Recently he was the electric and gas T&D superintendent in Yosemite before becoming a senior account manager in the Merced area for PG&E. Mr. Pope is a member of the ASCE and represents the District as member of The National Hydropower Association.

"The Board conducted a national search and interviewed more than a dozen qualified candidates from all over the US," said Tim Pellissier, president of the Board. "Dan is focused on representing the interests of the whole District including our growers and ranchers." Mr. Pellissier stated that Mr. Pope's broad experience and tenure with the District will help him as the District moves ahead with the Federal re-licensing of its hydroelectric facilities.

“Dan stood out to the Board and we look forward to working with him,” said Mr. Pellissier. “Not only because of his extensive hydroelectric experience, but because he understand the District and our community as well.”

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission re-licensing is among the most important issues facing the District in next six years. This District owns and operates both Lake McSwain and Lake McClure as part of the hydroelectric project on the Merced River.

“Dan is the perfect fit because he is thoroughly familiar with the District’s water and hydroelectric operations, said MID General Counsel Ken Robbins. “He has extensive experience in both retail electric and hydroelectric projects, which is invaluable to the District.”

Mr. Krause, who will remain in the Merced area for present, intends to retire to work with his family’s farming interests in eastern Washington. “I am happy for Dan,” said Mr. Krause. “I know I am leaving the District in good hands and he will make a great General Manager. I want to thank all of the staff members at the District who have supported and worked hard these past four years. I know they will give Dan the same loyal support they gave me.”

###