



# New Director of Parks and Recreation appointed at MID

*Brooke Gutierrez brings years of experience to Lakes McClure and McSwain*

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MERCED, CA – Merced Irrigation District has announced the appointment of Ms. Brooke Gutierrez as MID’s new Director of Parks & Recreation. Ms. Gutierrez brings an extensive background in the management, maintenance and promotion of parks and recreational areas that will be of significant benefit to MID, its ratepayers and those using MID’s recreation facilities.

“It is with great pleasure that we announce Ms. Gutierrez will fill this crucial management position for MID. Her experience and expertise will strongly benefit MID and our recreation enthusiasts at Lakes McClure and McSwain,” said MID General Manager John Sweigard.

In addition to providing electricity and irrigation water to Merced residents, MID operates extensive recreation facilities on Lakes McClure and McSwain. This includes multiple recreation areas providing more than 600 campsites, fishing, boating, swimming, hiking and bicycling. Among the facilities are six boat launches and several floating marinas. The Parks Department has 18 full-time employees, 11 seasonal employees and has a current fiscal-year budget of approximately \$3.5 million.

Under the direction of MID General Manager Sweigard, Ms. Gutierrez will perform a variety of tasks relating to the overall planning, budgeting, marketing, operation and maintenance of the Parks Department.

Ms. Gutierrez brings a wealth of experience in parks and recreation management spanning nearly two decades. The vast majority of her expertise was developed during a lengthy tenure with the California

Department of Parks and Recreation. Most recently, she served as a Manager of Recreation in the Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo Region. She oversaw such parks facilities as Montana de Oro and Hearst Castle, managing up to 115 full-time employees, 100 seasonal employees and 300 volunteers. She oversaw a \$16 million annual budget, including \$5 million for capital improvement projects.

Ms. Gutierrez began her career as a peace officer with the State Parks Department in 1999.

She holds a bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from Southern New Hampshire University.

She enjoys spending time with her family, hiking and traveling.

"I am extremely excited to be joining the MID team," said Gutierrez. "I welcome the exciting challenges and new opportunities that come with this position."

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