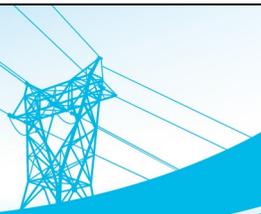


# THE Current



MID's Monthly Newsletter

August 2017



#### MID Main Office

744 W. 20th Street  
Merced, CA. 95340  
(209) 722-5761

#### Customer Service

Water: (209) 722-2720  
Electric: (209) 722-3041

#### Board Meetings

Merced Civic Center  
678 W. 18th Street  
Merced, CA. 95340

The first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am

#### Mailing Address

PO Box 2288  
Merced, CA. 95344

#### Websites

[www.mercedid.org](http://www.mercedid.org)  
[www.lakemcclure.com](http://www.lakemcclure.com)



Did you know that MID is on Facebook and Twitter?

Join hundreds of your friends and neighbors to stay connected.

Like us by visiting [www.facebook.com/MercedIrrigationDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/MercedIrrigationDistrict) or clicking on our Facebook link at the MID website.

## Winter storms refill Lake McClure

Following five-years of drought, Lake McClure has filled this year to near-record levels during the summer of 2017.

The reservoir is currently at 99 percent of capacity. Two years ago, the reservoir had fallen to a historic low of just 6 percent of capacity.

"This goes to show just how challenging water conditions are in California," said MID General Manager John Sweigard. "We do not operate on averages. Generally we see wide fluctuations between wet and dry years, and nowhere is that more clearly illustrated than between the past few years."

The reservoir reached 1,013,695 acre feet on Thursday June 29 and had risen to 865.46 feet above sea level. Lake McClure has a total capacity of 1,024,600 acre feet and



Above, Lake McClure is seen full in July 2017. Below is Bagby Bridge seen both this year and as it appeared in October 2014.



See "Record Levels" Back Page

## MID Bonds get rating upgrade

Municipal bonds used to finance crucial MID electrical infrastructure projects have been upgraded by S&P Global Ratings. The rating is part of MID's ongoing efforts to provide the most affordable electric rates possible.

Specifically, the Merced Irrigation

District's Series 2015 Electric Services bonds were upgraded to "A" from the previous "A-." Further, an "A" rating has been assigned to \$19.6 million in new 2017 electric service bonds.

The rating upgrade will help reduce MID's

See "Bonds" Back Page

**Continued From Front: "Record Levels"**

a maximum operating level of 867 feet.

Lake McClure's average annual inflow is just under 1 million acre feet each year.

The total inflow to Lake McClure for this water year is projected to be about 2.5 million acre feet between Oct. 1, 2016 and Sept. 30, 2017. Of that amount, about 2.4 million acre feet have already been received at the reservoir. Over the coming months, the remaining 0.1 million acre feet of snowmelt will flow into Lake McClure. Approximately 1.7 million acre feet have been released below New Exchequer Dam so far this year.

McClure was last nearly full in 2011, the last wet year on record. In February of 2015, Lake McClure fell to a historic low of just 6 percent of capacity, receiving a mere 160,000 acre feet of inflow for the entire year. January and February this year brought significant storms and helped fill Lake McClure.



MID is a strong supporter and advocate of clean, renewable energy.

MID produces up to 110 megawatts of zero-emission hydroelectric energy.

Additionally, MID holds contracts for wind energy and is proud to be the first public utility to sponsor the University of California Advanced Solar Technologies Institute based at UC Merced.

[www.MIDLightsTheWay.com](http://www.MIDLightsTheWay.com)

**Renewable Energy**

**Continued From Front: "Bonds"**

borrowing costs for funding acquired to construct the South Transmission Project.

"During the next two years, financial margins will remain strong for MID," S&P Global Ratings said in a statement.

"We have worked hard to achieve this improvement and are extremely pleased," said MID Chief Financial Officer Brian Stubbert.

"This is extremely important and reflective of our long-term commitment to both our community and the electric customers we serve," said MID General Manager John Sweigard.

The South Transmission Project will connect the southern part of the district's system to the California Independent Systems Operator (CAISO). It includes construction of the Lyons Substation as well as new underground distribution power lines. Located in the southeast edge of the City of Merced, the project will help maintain reliable electric service for



These historic financing bond certificates were associated with MID's early development, including the original 1920s era Exchequer Dam.

MID's current and potential future customers.

MID began serving as a public utility in 1996. It now provides retail electric service to 8,700 customers in eastern Merced County. Those customers include commercial, industrial and residential electric users in Merced, Atwater and Livingston. Since the founding of the public utility, some 777

commercial and industrial customers have switched from investor-owned electricity to MID public power.

MID is moving ahead with plans to construct the Lyons Substation on Mission Avenue near Miles Road. Design work is now underway and it is scheduled to be online in 2019.