

October 2014

Dear Landowners & Irrigators:

What a difference a year makes. 2013 was a short water supply year with its many challenges, including the need to borrow water from the Kendrick Project through the Bureau of Reclamation. At the end of Water Year 2013, the District was faced with a great deal of uncertainty for the 2014 season. With very little water in carryover and the requirement to repay the water borrowed from the Kendrick Project the next year, the District and its water users were facing a very difficult situation. But as it often happens things changed quickly; September and October were very wet in the mountains and inflows into the reservoirs were well above normal and remained high through the winter months. The early moisture in the mountains also benefited soil moisture which once snow started accumulating reduced the losses into the soil and improved the spring runoff, which was above average. As it worked out the District was able to repay the borrowed water and still have more than enough storage water for a full irrigation season. Things still look extremely good for next year with the 2014 end of season carry over in Pathfinder ownership exceeding 500,000 acre-feet.

From a maintenance standpoint, things went very well with the dredge work at Lake Minatare on the outlet works, having the work completed before the end of October and the cost came in well under budget. The District continued its underground pipe program installing at least one project on each of the 3 divisions.

From a cost standpoint the District is pleased to announce that the Operation and Maintenance fees for 2015 will remain the same with no increase (\$29/acre). The District will continue to collect the \$1/acre special assessment for the work on the North Spillway Gate at Guernsey Dam scheduled to begin in the fall and winter of 2015-16. The District will be negotiating a repayment contract this fall with the Bureau of Reclamation for the balance of the costs not covered by the funds collected to date by the Special Assessment.

Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the District's Policy Concerning Center Pivot Irrigation Systems, which was modified by the Board of Directors on October 7, 2014. Section number 3., highlighted in yellow was added to address issues concerning the application of water to the Districts' access roadways and banks.

- Center pivots applying water to the District's access roadways are making them impossible to use due to the saturation of the roadway. The District will be working to apply gravel to these affected areas to improve our ability to use our roadways, the cost of gravel including, loading, hauling and placing will be billed to the landowner.
- Landowners/irrigators whose operation of their center pivot applies water to District facilities will be responsible for controlling the weed and grass growth on the banks and roadways within the pivot area. This continual application of water results in a significant weed and grass growth creating additional maintenance and cost in these areas. Failure to control the weed growth could result in the District Board revoking the landowner's permission to cross the lateral.

Landowners/irrigators using center pivot irrigation systems are also reminded that they are required to (1) when notified, remove any pivot crossing bridges on district facilities to allow for maintenance; (2) turn off their pivot end-guns to avoid applying water to ditch banks and access roads.

The District's policies, landowner letters, news releases and other information are available on the District's website at [www.pathfinderirrigation.com](http://www.pathfinderirrigation.com). Please visit the site and let us know if you have suggestions as to how we can improve the site to better fit the needs of our water users.

Finally we encourage our irrigators to work with District staff to improve communications when ordering water on and off. Advanced notice is necessary in order for the District to meet your water needs and avoid wasting water and or damaging District facilities and downstream irrigators.

In closing we want to wish you a safe and prosperous harvest and look forward to serving you in 2015.

Sincerely,  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF