



Brooke Gutierrez

Director of Parks and Recreation, Merced Irrigation District

An open letter to our Lakes McClure and McSwain recreation community

March 18, 2020

Let me first state that MID's intent is to re-open at least some parts of recreation – if not all recreation – as quickly as possible, while doing our part to help contain the spread of COVID19. At this time, we are currently continuing to assess our operations at Lakes McClure and McSwain. However, we want to emphasize: ***our intent is to open at least some of our facilities for recreation.*** With your support and patience we will be able to accomplish this goal more quickly.

As the current MID Director of Parks, a long-term parks superintendent and former peace officer, I understand that the ongoing response to the coronavirus is causing numerous challenges for all of you and your families.

For those tasked with public service, this is creating a significant strain on our resources. Our entire nation is in a time full of uncertainty. The decisions we make today will potentially carry consequences for all of us – including possibly compromising the health of our most vulnerable residents and parks visitors. This includes the elderly and at risk populations.

Among the factors we are taking into consideration are multiple health and safety guidelines: these include local, state and federal operating mandates, as well as new directives from the Governor of California.

We understand the tremendous strain we are all under, especially you, and the desire to return to the outdoors and our natural resources.

Please be assured that we are examining ways to provide at least some minimal access to our recreation facilities, such as fishing, and will continue to provide you with the most current updates possible.

In the meantime, in the time of uncertainty, we request you respect our guidelines, assessments and directives to support your recreation needs while balancing our responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and will provide you the most current updates possible.

Sincerely,

Brooke Gutierrez

MID Director of Parks and Recreation