



# Minidoka Irrigation District

## Project Spotlight

### New Headgates

**Project Overview:** As part of ongoing efforts to improve system reliability and prevent infrastructure failures, MID replaces headgates annually throughout the system. During each maintenance season, typically running from mid-October through the end of March, MID installs and replaces approximately 25–30 headgates of various sizes and configurations.

These headgates play a critical role in controlling and delivering water to laterals and water users. By proactively replacing aging and worn structures, MID ensures continued operation and reduces the risk of unexpected failures during the irrigation season.

#### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

**Location:** District-Wide

**Structures Replaced:** 25–30 Annually

**Sizes:** Various (Multiple Configurations)

**Construction:** In-House (Pre-Cast and Cast-in-Place)

**Cost:** Varies based on size of gate and size of the waterway,  
\$8,500–\$60,173



*Maintenance crew replaces headgate 415-2,  
Photo credit: Wayne Sherbeck, January 2026*

**Challenges Faced:** Historically, headgates were often replaced only after failure, leading to emergency repairs, service disruptions, and reduced reliability for water users. Aging structures are susceptible to wear from constant water exposure, corrosion, and operational strain, increasing the likelihood of failure over time.

Unplanned failures can impact water delivery, require urgent repairs during peak demand, and create inefficiencies throughout the system. Addressing these issues proactively has become a key focus for the District.



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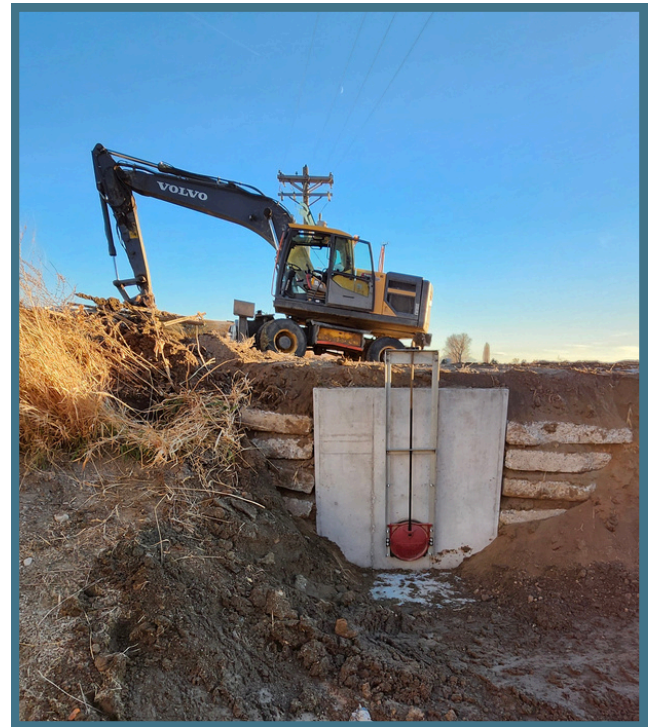
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**The Solution:** To improve long-term performance and reliability, MID implemented a proactive headgate replacement program. Each year, crews identify and prioritize structures showing signs of wear or reduced functionality and replace them before failure occurs.

Replacement structures are selected based on site conditions and size requirements, with a combination of pre-cast (offsite) and cast-in-place installations used to ensure durability and efficiency. This approach allows MID to standardize improvements while maintaining flexibility across the system.

**Construction:** Headgate replacement work is completed in-house by MID crews during the annual maintenance season, when the system is dewatered. Work begins with removal of the existing structure, followed by excavation and site preparation to ensure proper alignment and grade.

Depending on the structure, crews either install pre-cast headgates or construct new cast-in-place concrete structures on site. Final steps include installation of gates, backfilling, and site restoration, ensuring each location is returned to proper working condition before the irrigation season begins.



*Newly replaced headgate B-2/2-4,  
Photo credit: Wayne Sherbeck, November 2025*

**Project Benefits:** The annual headgate replacement program provides consistent and measurable benefits to the District and its water users. By replacing structures before failure, MID significantly reduces emergency repairs and improves overall system reliability.

Proactive replacement ensures more consistent water delivery, minimizes disruptions during peak demand, and extends the lifespan of system infrastructure. This approach supports efficient water management and reinforces the District's commitment to dependable service and long-term system performance.