



**NID Produces
New Water
Quality Report**
Story on Page 3

**A New Look for
Your NID
Water Bill**
See Page 2

**Water Supply
Outlook for 2002
is Good**
See Page 4

NID WaterWays

A Newsletter to the Customers
of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 23 Number 1 Spring, 2002

Enjoying the Outdoors at NID Reservoirs

Each year, nearly a half-million people enjoy the recreational attractions of NID reservoirs.

Visitors might never realize so many people have discovered these local waters. The reservoirs are known for their peace, serenity and beautiful mountain settings.

NID offers public recreation at Rollins and Scotts Flat in the foothills and at Jackson Meadows and Faucherie in the high country.

Camping, fishing, boating, swimming and picnicking are among the many attractions.

In recent years, the district has obtained a number of state grants to upgrade its beaches, boat ramps and campgrounds.

This year alone, visitors will see new boat ramps, restrooms and parking at the Long



A Day at the Beach

Visitors enjoy a day along the shores of Scotts Flat Reservoir near Nevada City. NID's beaches and campgrounds provide outdoor fun for local residents and visitors alike.

Ravine and Orchard Springs campgrounds at Rollins. Similar improvements were completed last year at the Peninsula and Greenhorn campgrounds.

At Scotts Flat, two restroom replacements will be completed this year and a project to build a new boat ramp

and restrooms at Cascade Shores is slated for this fall.

In the mountains, NID maintains and improves its facilities in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service.

Last year, 489,026 day use and overnight visitors were counted at the district's beaches and campgrounds.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



NID Welcomes Public Dialogue

By Jim Chatigny

Much has been said and written about the district's modernization plans for the Lower Cascade water system.

This dialogue will likely continue in the months ahead. As we have tried to do since the very earliest stages of our studies, NID will continue to welcome public input.

We do want to hear from property owners who feel their properties may be impacted in some way by a potential water system improvement project.

At the same time, we welcome comments from property owners who anticipate the opportunity to bring a public water supply to their properties for the first time.

As our communities grow and change, it often becomes more difficult to improve our systems. With the Lower Cascade studies, we have undertaken the most complex, detailed and complete planning process we have ever conducted. We want every voice to be heard.

Citizen involvement is the cornerstone of public service. This involvement has been very helpful to us as we strive to move forward in a logical and efficient manner.

A major water system improvement will probably bring traffic, construction and some inconvenience. No one likes this, but we must remember that we have responsibilities to provide water within the district. We must always seek to provide the greatest public good with the least private injury.

We have moved slowly and deliberately on the Lower Cascade modernization and your elected Board of Directors will be prepared with all of the needed information for them to make informed decisions on how to proceed.

I want to assure the community that NID staff will proceed with the utmost care and professionalism in this important project.

Water Bills Have New Look; Improved Software in Use

NID has installed new computer systems and has activated a new customer billing program. A visible result is a new appearance of water bills, beginning this Spring.

Finance Manager Tess Andrews said the conversion of customer billing is the final step in the district's three-year systematic change-over to the Pentamation software system, which is used widely in the water industry.

Smooth Conversion

Before the change, district personnel ran five parallel tests with the old and new systems to make sure the conversion would be smooth.

"It is working well," said Andrews. "We've had a few small glitches but we have been able to resolve them."

The new system went online in March with the first billings to irrigation water users. The first of the new billings to metered, treated water users were scheduled for mid-April.

The new bills are 8 1/2 x 11 in size and include a tear-off payment stub on the top third. The bills also include bar coding to speed processing. The district is using slightly larger envelopes to accommodate the change.

Color-Coded

Billings are color-coded to identify the type of water service. Treated water bills are white with a blue wash and black ink, seasonal irrigation bills are white with green ink and year-around irrigation water bills are on buff-colored paper with black ink.

The conversion of customer billing was complicated by the district's use of the miners-inch - a historic water measurement that dates to the Gold Rush -- and installment payments for irrigation water sales. While metered water billings are fairly standard, special formulations were needed for irrigation water billings.

NID Looks at Online Payment Option

The district's next customer billing improvement could involve the online payment of water bills. Andrews said an increasing number of customers is requesting this service and that it is now under study.

New Water Quality Report Being Mailed to Customers

The annual NID water quality report to treated water customers is now being produced separately from the *NID WaterWays* customer newsletter.

The Consumer Confidence Report is designed as a self-mailer and is being distributed to treated water customers this Spring. The report includes results of monitoring programs on seven treated water systems in Nevada and Placer counties.

The 2001 summary report includes results of test-

ing programs mandated by the state and federal governments as well as other non-



mandated programs of interest to NID water users.

New Format

The Consumer Confidence Report marks a change in the way NID has distributed water quality information to customers. Since 1994, the district has reported on water quality in the Spring editions of *WaterWays* and has prepared a second Spring newsletter for irrigation water customers. With the change, the district will prepare four customer newsletters per year, plus the annual water quality report.

State Orders Enforcement on In-Home Canal Water Use

Under an order from the state Department of Health Services, up to 80 of NID's canal water customers face termination of water service in June.

The Mar. 18 compliance letter orders NID to enforce a public health provision of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act that prohibits use of canal water for drinking, cooking and oral hygiene.

Canal water customers with no other source can avoid having their water turned off by signing up for a bottled water distribution program under which they must purchase at least 5 gallons per month from an approved distributor.

Over the past few years, NID has worked with water

users and determined that 80 or fewer of more than 1,100 customers originally surveyed have not yet complied.

Difficult Problem

Meanwhile, the district has used grants and loans to help finance extensions of treated water supplies to some areas where customers used canal water. It is a difficult problem because some rural canal water users live in remote areas where costs of supplying piped water could be prohibitive.

Under a board-approved plan, NID is contacting the remaining noncompliant customers and notifying them that their canal water service will be terminated Jun. 1 if they do not comply with the law.

NID Statistics, 2002

Number of Customers
22,700

Number of Employees
165

2002 Budget
\$33.5 million

Years of Service
81 years, Since 1921

Geographic Size
287,000 acres

Mountain Watershed
70,000 acres

Reservoirs
10

Storage Capacity
250,280 acre-feet

Water Treatment Plants
8

Hydroelectric Power Plants
7

Canals
425 miles

Pipelines
300 miles

Avg. Annual Precipitation
69.5 inches
(Bowman Reservoir,
elev. 5,650 ft.)

How Irrigation Water is Used by NID Customers

Of NID's total 22,700 customers, about 4,500 customers use irrigation water. How do they use this water? What crops are they raising?

Here is a profile of NID water use taken from 2001 crop reports submitted by irrigation water customers.

Irrigated Pasture Leads the Way

In the leading irrigated pasture category, 2,218 customers reported irrigation of 18,282 acres. In number-two family gardens, 2,865 customers irrigated 4,175 acres. The third highest-used category, golf courses/parks, showed 16 customers irrigating 1,064 acres.

Here are the 10 leading uses of irrigation water within the district, based on the number of irrigated acres.

Top 10 Use Categories

Crop	Customers	Acres
1. Irrigated Pasture	2,218	18,282
2. Family Gardens	2,865	4,175
3. Golf Course/Parks	16	1,064
4. Hay & Alfalfa	38	527
5. Nurseries	144	494
6. *Grapes	137	316
7. Apples	218	202
8. Corn	26	177
9. Pears	91	121
10. Peaches	106	89

Throughout the district, 4,559 irrigation water customers irrigated 25,847 acres during 2001. This is an increase of 221 irrigated acres over the 2000 total.

* Biggest increase from 2000

Go Online to Learn More About NID Public Services

For information about NID services, contacts, organization, policies, statistics, history, development, water and power systems, water quality testing programs, recreation opportunities, current projects, employment opportunities and more, please see the NID Web site at www.nid.dst.ca.us.



Water Flow Controls

With completion of the Cascade Flume replacement project, NID is able to control water flows in the Upper Cascade system electronically, as John Jackson, above, demonstrates.

NID Water Supplies Good for 2002 Irrigation Season

All 10 of NID's reservoirs are expected to fill or nearly fill this year, the district plans to make full deliveries to customers and to sell some surplus water at the lower elevations.

The positive outlook for the 2002 irrigation season is based on a mountain snowpack that was measured at 112 percent of average on Apr. 1. Water content in the snow showed an average 38 inches, which compares to an Apr. 1 average of 34 inches.

By early April, NID reservoirs held 167,845 acre-feet of water and runoff from the snowpack was expected to continue into summer. NID storage capacity is 250,280 acre-feet.

As of Mar. 28, seasonal precipitation at Bowman Reservoir (elev. 5,650 ft.), had reached 59 inches, which equals 102 percent of the 115-year average for Apr. 1.

Contacting NID

Main Office: (530) 273-6185 • Toll-free: (800)-222-4102
AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY

Nevada County: (530) 273-3346

From Placer County (all hours): (800) 222-4102

Main Office Fax (530) 477-2646

Placer Co. Customer Service Office: (530) 823-2466

Web Site: www.nid.dst.ca.us