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NID WaterWays

A Newsletter to the Customers
of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 24 Number 1 Spring, 2003

It's Irrigation Season

**Canals Carry Water to Local
Gardens, Farms, Ranches**

Springtime means the opening of the irrigation season for local farmers, ranchers, home gardeners and others who rely on the NID canal system for their irrigation needs.

Each year, beginning in April, NID releases water into canals so customers will have water by the traditional Apr. 15 opening of the irrigation season. The six-month season runs through Oct. 14.



Weeks leading up to the irrigation season are busy for NID.

Maintenance crews complete last-minute service box installations and canal cleaning and repair. Water operations specialists release, regulate and

balance flows of water throughout the system.

As the nature of local water use has changed over the years, much of this behind-the-scenes water work is unseen by most NID customers,



Tomorrow's Orchard

Fowler Nurseries, Inc. of Newcastle grows fruit tree stock and sells bare root trees across the nation. Co-owner Richard Fowler and NID's Chris Wood check pear tree stock, above, and the Lincoln Canal, left.

who use treated drinking water piped from water treatment plants. Today, NID serves about 17,500 treated water users and 5,500 seasonal and year-around raw water users.

(Please see Irrigation, page 4)

Annual Water Quality Report is Being Distributed

NID has prepared its annual Consumer Confidence Report for calendar year 2002 and is now distributing it to treated water users.

The report provides a snapshot of last year's water quality. It is based on the results of more than 1800 tests for more than 80 different contaminants.

During 2002, as in previous years, the quality of NID treated drinking met and exceeded federal and state public health standards.

The report includes testing of all seven treated water systems serving customers in Nevada and Placer counties. The small Smartville plant in Yuba County is reported separately.



For information on NID water quality, customers may contact Treated Water Supt. Don Wight at the district office in Grass Valley.

Call (530) 273-6185 or (800) 222-4102.

And the Survey Says... Water in Mountain Snowpack is at 72% of Annual Average

In the April 1 snow survey, NID snow surveyors measured water content in the mountain snowpack at 72 percent of average.

The April snow survey is generally viewed as the best indicator of annual water supplies.

Full Deliveries Planned

"Our water content is below average but our reservoir storage is above average, so NID does have an adequate water supply to make full deliveries to our customers this year," said Operations Supv. Sue Sindt.

"All of the reservoirs should fill, or nearly fill, which should also make this a good year for recreation at district reservoirs."

Storage Update

As of Mar. 31, NID's 10 reservoirs held 206,000 acre-feet of water, which is 82 percent of capacity and 117 percent of average for the date. The district's storage capacity is 250,280 acre-feet (an acre-foot equals one acre covered one foot deep).

Precip. Near Normal

By Mar. 31, seasonal precipitation at Bowman Reservoir (elev. 5,650 ft.) had reached 55.98 inches, or 95 percent of the 116-year average for that date.

Lower Cascade EIR in Progress

Environmental studies are under way on the NID project to install a buried raw water pipeline across the southern flank of Banner Mountain.

The project is designed to deliver more water through the Cascade Canal system, while keeping the Lower Cascade Canal in operation.

As the EIR process takes place through this year, there are opportunities for public input and dialogue. Many people have expressed desire for water service to their neighborhoods while others have voiced concern about construction in their neighborhoods.

Interested citizens can participate in meetings of the EIR Working Group, NID Engineering Committee and NID Board of Directors. In addition, public meetings will be held to facilitate public comment on the draft EIR. These meetings are anticipated for this summer.

A Web site is available to help citizens keep up to date. Go to www.lowercascadecanal.com.

Sanders Retires, Hart is Named as NID Water Superintendent

Longtime Water Supt. Dennis Sanders has retired from NID and Asst. Water Supt. for Placer County Warren Hart has been promoted to the superintendent position.



Sanders



Hart

The water superintendent

is responsible for operation of raw and treated water distribution systems, three small hydroelectric power plants and a staff of 18.

Sanders spent 20 years with the district. Hart, who resides in the Lincoln area, has been part of NID's Placer County Operations team since 1984.

NID's Water System Budget is \$28.8 Million

NID's 2003 operating budgets include the Water System at \$28.8 million, Power System at \$4.1 million and Recreation at \$0.6 million.

A recent independent audit of NID showed the district is fiscally sound, with adequate reserve funds and in a position to respond to any unexpected water system needs or emergencies that may occur.

Here is a 2003 financial overview of the Water System:

Budgeted Income

Water Sales	\$11.1 million
Assessments	\$5.6 million
Connection Fees	\$0.8 million
Interest	\$1.5 million
Other	\$0.6 million
Transfer from Power System	\$1.1 million
Transfer from Reserves	<u>\$8.1 million</u>
	\$28.8 million

Budgeted Expenses

Wages and Benefits	\$10.6 million
Materials and Services	\$10.0 million
Equipment and Construction	\$8.0 million
Contingency	<u>\$0.2 million</u>
	\$28.8 million



Summer Fun

Scotts Flat, pictured, and Rollins reservoirs offer camping, boating, fishing and other water-related public recreation.

Foothill Reservoirs Full, Good Recreation Seen

Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs filled with water in March, pointing toward a good 2003 recreation season at the NID foothill reservoirs.

Campgrounds, beaches, stores and boat launch facilities at the two reservoirs are open to the public and operated by private managers or concessionaires under contract with NID.

There are four campgrounds making up Rollins Lake Resort; Greenhorn, Long Ravine, Orchard Springs and Peninsula. At Scotts Flat, the two campgrounds and Cascade Shores beach are operated as one unit.

Recreational use fees are set within limits established by NID and the California Dept. of Fish & Game. Some minor fee adjustments were approved for this year.

2003 User Fees

Vehicle Entry (up to four people)	
Rollins: \$6.25	Scotts Flat: \$6
Boat Launch:	\$5.75
Walk-in, Extra Person Rate:	
Range:	\$1-\$1.45
Overnight Camping Base Rate:	
Range:	\$19-\$23

• NID NEWS BRIEFS •

Employee Wellness Program

NID encourages the good health of its work force through an employee wellness program. A number of employees use local athletic clubs on their way to and from work. The district has recently amended policy to allow employees who drive district vehicles to stop for workouts without first going home and changing vehicles.

Support for Watershed Group

NID directors on Mar. 26 voted their support for Friends of Wolf Creek, a local watershed group that hopes to improve Peabody Creek in Grass Valley. NID has pledged \$750 toward an interpretive site to be constructed by local schools.

More Storage for Penn Valley

A new 220,000-gallon treated water storage tank is being built in Penn Valley under a contract awarded in early March by the Board of Directors. Resource Development Co., Inc. of Reno is the contractor on the \$227,280 job.

Irrigation

Continued from page 1

Irrigation water customers use about 90 percent of the water supplied annually by the district. It was agricultural use of water that led to the district's formation in 1921 and to the important water rights it obtained and retains today.

By irrigated acreage, pasture, family gardens and golf courses/parks are the three leading uses of NID irrigation water.

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



Water distribution operator Tim Bradley watches water spill this Spring at Lower Scotts Flat Dam.

NID is Updating its Raw Water Master Plan

NID has begun an estimated 15-month project to update its raw water master plan.

The Board of Directors on Mar. 12 hired Kleinschmidt Associates, a Sacramento-based water resources consulting firm, to prepare the update. Kleinschmidt's \$474,000 proposal was one of three reviewed by the district.

The raw water master plan covers operation and development of the district's extensive reservoir and canal system. (Drinking water systems are governed by separate master plans.)

Canal, Reservoir Network

NID operates a network of canals and reservoirs that supply water treatment plants as well as farms, ranches, golf courses and other irrigation water users in its 287,000-acre service area. Approximately 5,500 irrigation water users are supplied through the raw water canal system.

The district adopted a raw water master plan in 1985 and most recently updated it in 1993. Officials said the new plan is needed to guide water resource planning for NID service areas in Nevada, Placer and Yuba counties.

Much of the district's water resource planning is based on land use planning of the counties and cities within its service areas.

District officials anticipate completing the plan by Summer, 2004.