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NID

WaterWays

A Newsletter to the Customers
of the Nevada Irrigation District

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NID May Lose \$6 Million to State Budget Process

Along with cities and counties, special districts such as NID are facing significant revenue reductions as part of the continuing process to balance the state budget.

As this newsletter went to press, it appeared the Governor's current budget proposal would bring a loss to NID of \$3 million per year for two years. The money would be transferred to the state's Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF).

The transferred revenues represent 40 percent of the local property tax revenues allocated to the district. This has been an important revenue source to NID.

General Manager Ron Nelson said NID has joined with other water agencies across the state to support the temporary reduction. "It's



Bill Winkle and Cory Chapman check a culvert on the Allison Ranch Canal at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. NID will have a booth at this year's county fair, Aug. 11-15.

probably the best option available to us," he said.

A Two-Year Loss

The transfer would be limited to the two-year period after which current levels would be restored. Nelson said a key part of the agreement is that the Governor's office has pledged to place no further unfunded mandates

on local government.

At this time, the district is studying various options to make up for the anticipated losses. Some system maintenance and repair work could be deferred, other cost-cutting programs may be implemented and the district could tap into its reserve funds.

Paddle Markers

What Are They? Why Are They Needed?

You've seen them, the 8x24-inch metal signs placed by NID to mark underground water facilities. Hundreds of paddle markers are located around the district.

The standardized and coded markers are used as

reference points for district employees to locate underground pipes, valves and other infrastructure, says Asst. Water Supt. Larry Markey. The paddle markers are necessary, and are especially helpful in water emergencies, he explained.

As the district has grown, there has been some resistance to the use of paddle markers. Markey said some customers regard them as unsightly.

While there are no plans to change the paddle markers, the increased use of global positioning (GPS) in water systems could someday make them unnecessary, Markey noted.

Larry Markey shows a paddle marker in Grass Valley.



NID Offers New Electronic Bill Payment Service

The district has begun a new electronic fund transfer service that allows customers to have their banks pay their water bills.

The free service saves time and postage and eliminates check writing and concern about paying bills on time.

Participating customers will continue to receive water bills and will have 10 days to contact NID if they have a question. Banks are then authorized to pay the bill 14 days after the billing date.

To learn more and join the program, contact NID Customer Service for a brochure and application form. Call (530) 273-6185 or (800) 222-4102.

NID Growth Continues: Nearly 24,000 Customers

An increasing number of local residents depend on NID to supply treated water to their homes and businesses and irrigation water to their farms and ranches.

As of May 31, the district maintained accounts for 23,809 water services. This total includes 17,924 treated water users and 5,885 irrigation water users.

The statistics presented here demonstrate steadily increasing demand for domestic water service. Since 1975, the number of treated water users has more than tripled while the number of irrigation water users has grown by 55 percent.

Much of the recent growth has been centered in the North Auburn area in

Placer County and in areas served by the E. George Water Treatment Plant on Banner Mountain in Nevada County.

Here's a look at how the district has expanded over the past 29 years:

Year	Metered Customers	Irrigation Customers	Total Customers
1975	5,710	3,263	8,973
1980	9,480	4,204	13,684
1985	11,341	4,208	15,549
1990	13,883	4,669	18,552
1995	15,125	4,571	19,696
2000	16,504	4,940	21,444
5-31-04	17,924	5,885	23,809

Building a Better Water System

EIR Expected This Year on Cascade Improvement Project

A major water project to improve supplies to two water treatment plants as well as irrigation water users in south Nevada County is continuing to move forward.

A draft environmental impact report has been prepared for the Lower Cascade Canal/Banner Cascade Pipeline Project. The overall report includes a 600-page draft EIR with 1,000 pages of appendices and a 91-page executive summary. The 60-day public comment period on the draft ends in mid-July and a final EIR is expected later this year.

The project is a major system improvement that would carry some of the water in the Cascade delivery system through a new pipeline across the southern flank of Banner Mountain, while retaining some water in the Lower Cascade and Upper Grass Valley canals.

For information, look under Current Projects on the NID Web site at www.nid.dst.ca.us.

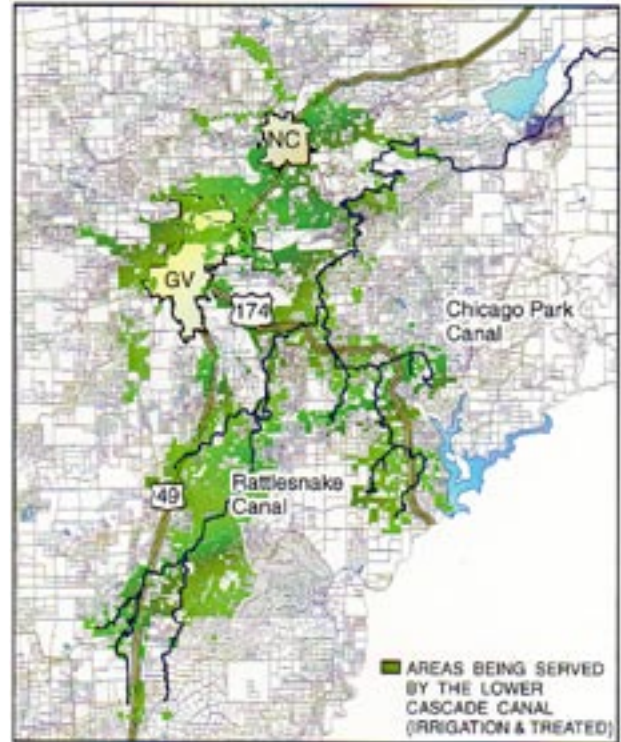
Below Average Rain, Average Water Storage

Although the 2003-04 rainfall year produced less than average precipitation, NID expects to provide full deliveries this year and have average levels of carryover storage for next year.

Rainfall is measured each year from July 1 through June 30. As this season drew to a close (June 28), NID had received 51.8 inches of precipitation, or 75 percent of average, at Bowman Reservoir (elev. 5,650 ft.). The season started wet but ended dry. With 1.34 inches of precipitation, the month of March was the fifth driest on record.

Seasonal water runoff was earlier than usual and came in at 68 percent of average. Water storage reached 237,800 acre-feet in mid-June, which equals 95 percent of capacity and 108 percent of average for that date.

Cascade Service Areas



New Rules for Water Runoff From Ag Land

The Placer County Farm Bureau is taking the lead in helping local farmers and ranchers comply with new water runoff regulations established by the Central Valley Regional Water Control Board.

The regulations cover runoff from agricultural land that may carry residues from pesticides or other chemicals into public waters.

Three Choices

Growers are being asked to take one of three compliance actions: 1) join a watershed coalition group and apply for a group waiver, 2) apply for an individual discharge waiver, or 3) submit a complete application for a water discharge permit.

For more information, contact Lane Therrell, assistant director of the Placer County Farm Bureau, at (916) 663-2929 or pcf@jps.net.

• NID NEWS BRIEFS •

Wight Heads Water Operations. Donald J. “Don” Wight has been appointed as NID’s new Water Operations Manager. He succeeds longtime manager Terry Mayfield, who plans an October retirement. Wight has been with NID for 23 years, most recently serving as Treated Water Superintendent.



Don Wight



J.W. Paul

Paul Heads Information Services.

J.W. Paul joined the district May 3 in the new position of Information Services Manager. He has worked in the computer industry for 21 years, in both the public and private sectors. He has held management positions with both the City of Yuba City and Yuba City Unified School District.

NID Goes Solar.

The NID Board of Directors in June approved a project to add a solar energy system at the North Auburn Water Treatment Plant. The system is estimated at \$600,000, half of which will be paid through a PG&E incentive grant. The solar system will produce an estimated 15 percent of the site’s total energy needs.

NID’s New Mailing Address. Customers may notice that NID has begun to phase in the use of a new post office box number. The Grass Valley Post Office requested the change because of the district’s volume of mail. The new address is P.O. Box 459003, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

See NID at the County Fair. Customers are invited to stop by the NID booth in the Main Exhibit Hall at the 2004 Nevada County Fair. This year’s fair runs Aug. 11-15 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley.

Inside Story



Have you ever stood inside a 1-million-gallon water storage tank? NID Senior Water Plant Operator Chip Close has. He is pictured here at the Osborne Hill tank site in Grass Valley, where two large tanks received a recent paint job. Chip sprayed a special disinfectant solution to the tank’s interior as part of a several-week project to return the tank to normal service.

How to Contact Your Elected Directors

DIVISION I - *Nevada City Area*
Nancy Weber, (530) 265-0424

DIVISION II - *Grass Valley-Chicago Park*
John Drew, (530) 272-5257

DIVISION III - *Lake of the Pines-Alta Sierra*
Scott Miller, Call NID (530) 273-6185, ext. 222

DIVISION IV - *Lincoln-North Auburn*
R. Paul Williams (916) 645-8507

DIVISION V - *Penn Valley-Lake Wildwood*
George Leipzig (530) 432-2492

www.nid.dst.ca.us