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**FOCUS ON
WATER QUALITY**
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NID *WaterWays*

A Newsletter to the Customers
of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 26 • Number 3 • Fall, 2005

A Matter of Taste

NID Drinking Water is Tasty and Healthy

It tastes good. NID drinking water is fresh, cool, straight from the mountain snowpack. It doesn't carry the trace tastes or odors sometimes found in downstream water supplies.

A clear, tasty and healthy water supply depends, of course, on more than geography. NID's dedicated staff and state-of-the-art water treatment technology assure customers that the water they receive meets and exceeds all state and federal public health standards.

From the Top

It all begins on 70,000 acres of mountain watershed, where melting snows fill district reservoirs. Canals and pipelines that carry water to



Water Treatment Plant

The Loma Rica plant, above is one of six modern water treatment plants operated by NID in Nevada and Placer counties. The district also operates the small 44-customer Smartville plant in Yuba County.

the foothills are relatively safe from industrial pollutants than can affect raw water.

"We're first in line on the watershed; we have excellent source water," says NID Treated Water Supt. Chip Close, who heads a team of nine state-licensed water treatment specialists responsible for operating seven water treatment plants.

This higher quality source water allows NID to fine-tune and use fewer chemicals in its water treatment. "Our goal is to produce the best, most pristine water that we can," Close says.

NID treatment plants use a full, five-phase water treatment process that includes initial disinfection, floccula-

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tion, sedimentation, filtration and final disinfection. The network employs modern SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) technology that allows remote real time system monitoring.

The district operates a state-certified water laboratory at the North Auburn Water Treatment Plant where samples from throughout the system are tested on a continuing basis.

When water is pumped from the treatment plants, water quality within the distribution system is maintained through an ongoing system flushing program. In addition, NID's backflow prevention program is designed to protect the public water system from any possible reverse flows of water.

For many years, following its 1921 formation, NID supplied only irrigation water. But in the 1960s and 70s, in response to a changing community, the district expanded into treated water service. Today, four out of five NID customers use treated drinking water.



Chip Close
is NID's
Treated Water
Superintendent

NID Water Treatment Plants include Loma Rica (Grass Valley), Elizabeth L. George (Banner Mountain), Lake Wildwood, Lake of the Pines, North Auburn, Cascade Shores and Smartville.

A Brief History of Drinking Water

Some of the earliest evidence of water treatment comes from the 13th and 15th centuries BC when Egyptian paintings depicted sedimentation apparatus and wick siphons with drinking water.

Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, invented the "Hippocrates Sleeve," a cloth bag to strain rainwater, in the 5th century BC.



The first water facility delivering water to an entire town was in Paisley, Scotland in 1804. In 1806, a large water treatment plant began operating in Paris. Its filters were made of sand and charcoal and its pumps were driven by horses working in three shifts.

In the years following the Civil War, the U.S. became a leader in water treatment technology. In 1908, Jersey City Water Works became the first utility to use sodium hyperchlorite for disinfection and that same year the Bubbly Creek plant in Chicago instituted regular chlorine disinfection.

In 1914, the U.S. Department of The Treasury promulgated the country's first drinking water bacteriological standard, a maximum level of 2 coliforms per 100 mL. By the 1920s, the use of filtration and chlorination had virtually eliminated epidemics of major waterborne diseases from the American landscape.

(Source: American Water Works Association)

Water: Quality at a Bargain Price

When compared to other products we use in our lives, water is definitely a bargain. Here are some price comparisons prepared by *The Denver Post*, *Business Week* and Denver Water:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Price Per Gallon</u>
Chanel No. 5 Parfum	\$45,056.
Revlon Nail Enamel	\$983.04
Visine Advanced Eye Drops	\$741.12
Vicks 44D Cough Syrup	\$96.67
Coppertone SPF 45 sun-block lotion	\$90.11
Pepto-Bismol	\$58.52
Evian bottled water	\$21.19
Mocha at Peaberry coffee (tax included)	\$22.28
Corona beer	\$12.89
Snapple	\$10.32
Tide liquid detergent	\$8.39
Coca-Cola	\$2.64
TAP WATER, DENVER WATER	.00186 cent

(11,000 gallons or less per month, including monthly service charge)

Q&A

Should I Drink Bottled Water?

For health reasons, it is not necessary to buy bottled water. The drinking water supplied by NID meets all state and federal public health standards. In fact, says NID Water Operations Manager Don Wight, it has only been in recent years that bottled water companies have had to meet the same stringent health standards as public water suppliers.

If you want a drink with a different taste, bottled water is a good option, although it can cost up to 1000 times more than municipal drinking water. Bottled drinking water may be considered by consumers who rely on irrigation canals or wells. In addition, bottled water can be a vital source of drinking water during emergency conditions that can impact public water systems.

Lincoln Site Studied for New NID Water Plant

A preferred site has been selected in the cooperative effort by NID and the City of Lincoln to locate and build a new NID water treatment plant for the Lincoln area.

The new plant, which could be built in three to five years, would serve parts of the greater Lincoln area that are within NID boundaries, including some portions of the city that overlap district boundaries.



It is estimated the new water treatment plant could be built in three to five years at an initial cost of about \$80 million.

An ad hoc committee comprised of district and city representatives studied a dozen different sites and is recommending the plant be built at the NID Valley View site, located about five miles northeast of Lincoln. The district now operates a small irrigation water reservoir on the site.

At press time, public workshops on the proposed site were being planned in Lincoln and at NID. For current information, see the NID website at www.nid.dst.ca.us.

Cascade Project Back on Track

New environmental studies have begun for the Lower Cascade Canal/Banner Pipeline Project, which is designed to increase the reliability and capacity of a primary water source for western Nevada County.

The proposed project is the second phase of a multiyear effort to improve the Cascade Canal delivery system. In 2002, NID completed the \$18 million Upper Cascade Flume Replacement Project.

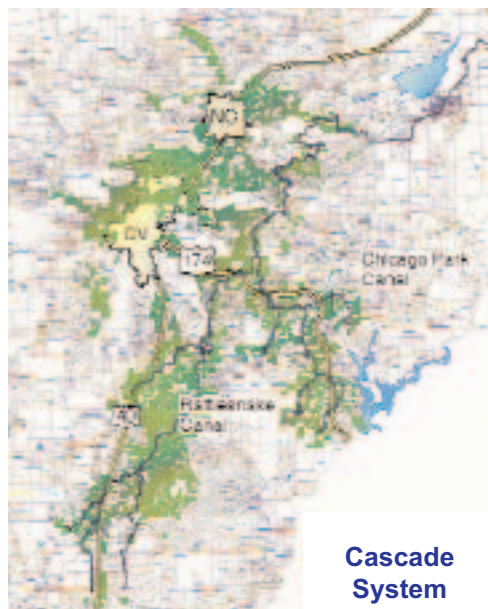
The Cascade Canal supplies two water treatment plants and numerous irrigation water customers. About 20,000 people rely on water supplies delivered through the Cascade system and NID is seeing increased demand for water, especially in south Nevada County.

The project would divert most of the water from the Lower Cascade Canal into a buried pipeline across the southern flank of Banner Mountain. The Lower Cascade Canal, which is running at capacity, would remain in operation as a service lateral.

The current project has been on hold through much of this year after questions were raised about earlier environmental studies. The NID Board of Directors in July voted to move forward with new studies. Two Sacramento-based consulting firms, Brown & Caldwell and Jones & Stokes, are assisting NID on the new studies.

A draft environmental impact report (EIR) is anticipated in early 2006, followed by an extended 60-day public review period and two public workshops.

Citizens may obtain information about the project by looking under Current Projects on the NID website, www.nid.dst.ca.us, or by calling the NID Engineering Dept.



The areas of Nevada County supplied through the aging Cascade Canal system are shown in green.

Assessment Rate Stays at Quarter-Cent

The NID Board in August approved a 2005-2006 assessment rate of just over one quarter of one cent per \$100 of assessed valuation. The \$0.0028 rate is up slightly from the 2004-05 rate of \$0.0023.

The assessments are based on land values only; homes and other improvements are not included. The assessments are collected as part of the property tax in Nevada and Placer counties and are used solely to repay NID's voter-approved debt.

The assessments are planned to raise \$84,859, the amount needed for next year's debt service on a low-interest state loan that is scheduled to be paid in full in five years.

• NID NEWS BRIEFS •

Two Longtime Managers Retire



Andrews



McCall

Two key members of the NID management team are retiring this Fall. Chief Engineer **Tim McCall**, of Grass Valley, who has spent 33 years with the NID Engineering Dept., is retiring on Nov. 28. Finance Manager **Tess Andrews**, also a Grass Valley resident, retires Dec. 1 from a 29-year NID career.

PLACER OFFICE HOURS. The NID Placer County Customer Service Office on Locksley Lane in North Auburn is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8-5 (Closed 1-2 for lunch). For customers making payments, a drop box is located outside the front gate at the office. Telephone inquiries may be directed to NID's main office in Grass Valley at (530) 273-6185 or (800) 222-4102.

DEDICATION PLANNED AT SCOTTS FLAT. The new boat ramp and recreation upgrade at the Cascade Shores day use area at Scotts Flat has been completed. A dedication ceremony for the David E. Southern Recreation Facility is being planned for Spring, 2006. The late Dave Southern was a Cascade Shores resident who served on the NID Board of Directors for 13 years, from 1985-98.



Dave
Southern

PENN VALLEY FLUME REPLACEMENT. NID Directors in August approved a plan to replace the old Hogeland Flume on the Tarr Canal in Penn Valley. The work is planned for this Fall. The old steel pipe flume is undersized and has been leaking. It is being replaced with a supported 36-inch pipeline with new concrete inlet and outlet structures.

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*

Dr. 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

A Good Year for Water Storage

NID is heading into the 2005-06 rainfall season with water storage that is well above average.

As of Sept. 25, the district's 10 reservoirs held 189,500 acre-feet of water, or 117 percent of average for this time of year.

Operations Supv. Sue Sindt said the carry-over storage will serve as an important buffer in case the coming season turns out to be dry.

The last 12-month rainfall year ended June 30 with 73.94 inches, or 107 percent of average precipitation, at Bowman Reservoir. The 2004-05 season was near-average with a very wet May that produced 13.62 inches - or 380 percent of the average May - precipitation. The month boosted April-July runoff on NID mountain watershed to 149 percent of average.

The Year Ahead

What kind of winter can we expect this year?

The National Weather Service outlook for October, November and December in the Sacramento area is for near-normal precipitation with above normal temperatures.

The 2006 *Old Farmer's Almanac* sees a milder than normal winter in the Pacific Northwest, with above normal rainfall and below normal snowfall. For the Pacific Southwest, the Almanac predicts a warmer than normal winter in most of the region, with near normal rainfall in the northern sections.



Permit Needed

Are You Building Near Canals, Pipelines?

To protect the public water system from private activities that could impact water deliveries, NID follows an encroachment policy and permit process.

Anyone planning construction of any kind that crosses a district canal, pipeline, other facility or easement should call the district first to apply for a permit. All construction must be cleared with the district before work begins.

Examples of projects that must be permitted include road, water line and sewer crossings, culverts, foot bridges and underground electrical crossings. (Fences and gates are not covered by the permit process but advance field meetings must be scheduled with the NID Operations Dept.)

NID offers encroachment permits at no charge to the applicant and turnaround time is at least two weeks. Your project will be reviewed for safety, design and location.

For information or an encroachment permit application, please contact the NID Right-of-Way Section at (530) 273-6185 or (800) 222-4102.