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NID *WaterWays*

A Newsletter to the Customers
of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 26 • Number 2 • Summer, 2005

Fun in the Sun at NID Lakes

It's the summer of a great water year and business has been brisk at NID recreation areas at Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs. Among the finest in the Sierra foothills, the two reservoirs offer camping, day use, picnicking, swimming, fishing, boating, sailing, water skiing and much more.

Rollins Reservoir

Rollins Lake is located at the 2100-foot elevation, off Highway 174 between Grass Valley and Colfax. It features four separate campgrounds - Long Ravine, Greenhorn, Orchard Springs and Peninsula - offering 250 campsites, boat launching, picnic areas and other amenities. The recreation area encompasses 2200 acres, including the 825-acre reservoir, with a 26-mile shoreline.

Scotts Flat Reservoir

Scotts Flat, located at the 3100-foot elevation nine miles east of Nevada City, has two wooded campgrounds, with 180 campsites, day use area



Summer Breeze at Scotts Flat
Sailors prepare to launch during this year's Gold Country Yacht Club Regatta held June 5 at Scotts Flat Reservoir.

and marina. Across from the main recreation area is the Cascade Shores day use area, which is popular with local Nevada City residents. The reservoir has a 750-acre surface area with a nine-mile shoreline.

Both resorts are open all year. Camping and use rates vary. For information, contact Scotts Flat Lake Recreation at

265-5302, Long Ravine Campground at 346-6166, Greenhorn Campground at 272-6100, Orchard Springs Campground at 346-2212 or Peninsula Campground at 477-9413.

**NID Receives Grants for
Scotts Flat Recreation**
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General Manager's Report

Strategic Planning: A Roadmap to the Future

By Ron Nelson



Over the past two years, NID's elected Board of Directors, the district staff and management team have put their heads together to develop and refine a new strategic business plan - a roadmap to the future.

Why do we need a strategic plan? Every organization needs to look carefully at where it is, where it wants to be, and how it should get there. This, in a nutshell, is what we have been doing.

Changing Business Climate

At NID, we find ourselves in a business climate that is changing more rapidly than ever before. Legislative activity is directly affecting our budgeting processes. Regulatory activity is changing long-standing water industry practices. Here in the district, changing land uses are changing the services that our customers want and need.

For the customers who rely on NID for water service, the district is working to maximize the quality of service we provide. We want to be smarter, better and faster in the ways we conduct the public's business.

A mission statement reflects what an organization wants to accomplish:

NID's Mission Statement

"The district will provide a dependable, quality water supply, strive to be good stewards of the watersheds and conserve the available resources."

The mission is supported by strategic goals that have been developed in eight key areas. They are Asset Management, Communication & Technology, Finance & Strategic Planning, Hydro Power, Personnel, Public Relations, Recreation, and Water Management & Operations.

Through this planning process, we have encouraged consensus within the district on the direction of the district. In this way, we are able to direct our attention and resources to the issues most important to the district.

From Baby Boomer retirements to the federal relicensing of the multi-million-dollar NID Hydroelectric System, and changing demand for water service in the growing Lincoln area, NID will be involved in many issues over the coming decade. We are confident that our strategic planning efforts will help us in representing the best interests of the public we serve.

Metered Customers Only Monthly Billing Begins in August

After planning for several months and conducting successful trial runs in June and July, NID will convert to a monthly billing cycle beginning in August.

Customers who receive metered treated water will receive the monthly billings. Irrigation water customers will continue to receive seasonal or bimonthly billings.

NID Finance Manager Tess Andrews said customers on some billing cycles will receive pro-rated billings on the first monthly cycle. Water usage and dates will be shown on the billings, she noted.

Andrews said the move to monthly billing conforms to industry standards. She said it may help customers plan their monthly budgets and should help streamline the district's cash flow.

District Obtains Recreation Grants

NID has obtained grants from the state Department of Boating & Waterways to fund recreation improvements at Scotts Flat Reservoir.

In a \$621,000 project being completed this summer, the Cascade Shores day use area has been upgraded with a new boat ramp, new restrooms, beach and picnic area and parking and gate improvements.

The district has been awarded a \$125,000 grant to improve the day use area at the main campground off Scotts Flat Road. Restrooms, a platform fishing ramp, picnic tables and parking improvements are planned. Construction is anticipated this fall.

Rainfall Season Ends With Near Record May

If the 2004-05 rainfall season seemed a bit longer than usual, it's probably because the month of May was very wet. In fact, it was the second wettest May in 119 years of NID weather records.

May, 2005 brought 13.62 inches of precipitation to NID's Bowman Reservoir (elev. 5,650 ft). This equals 390 percent of the 3.5-inch May average.

The wettest May on record? That was 55 years ago when May, 1950 produced 16.69 inches of precipitation.

This year, the wet May was offset by a dry February, which brought only 3.05 inches or 37 percent of average precipitation.

73.99-inch Season Total

The 12-month 2004-05 rainfall season (July 1-June 30) ended with a total 73.99 inches of precipitation - 107 percent of average - measured at Bowman Reservoir.

The season brought an early and deep snowpack that stored good levels of water through the winter. Snow surveys conducted May 1 showed a water content at 137 percent of average. May runoff was nearly 200 percent of average.

Good Water Supply

What all of this means is a bountiful water supply. NID's reservoirs filled and spilled and remained at near capacity levels in early July.

By July 1, NID water storage stood at 248,000 acre-feet, which is 99 percent of capacity and 113 percent of the historic average for this time of year.

NID Goes Solar in North Auburn



This is one of three solar panel arrays now generating electricity at NID's North Auburn Water Treatment Plant

NID is now generating solar electricity to meet some of the energy needs of the North Auburn Water Treatment Plant and Placer County Customer Service Office.

The solar system, installed by Alternative Power Systems of Grass Valley, includes 552 165-watt solar panels in three separate arrays at the NID site.

In operation since May, the system can generate 80 kilowatts of electricity and is expected to reduce site electricity costs by about 15 percent.

Half of the \$538,000 installation is being paid through a self generation incentive grant that NID received from PG&E.

Based on performance of the new system, NID may consider additional solar installations in the years to come.

You're the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

As stormwater runs over city streets, rural roads, driveways, sidewalks and other parts of the landscape, it can pick up dirt, chemicals and other pollutants.

Wider public awareness of stormwater runoff can help in keeping these materials out of the water we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking.

Did you know that stormwater runoff in many Sierra foothill communities is drained directly into local creeks and rivers?

Use of home and garden products, vehicle fluids, septic system operation, car washing, even pet care, can affect water runoff.

The Placer County Department of Public Works has initiated an active stormwater quality program. To learn how you can help, call (530) 889-7500 or email stormwater@placer.ca.gov.



Water Art

A double rainbow rises from the mist at the base of NID's Van Giesen Dam in this painting by Nevada City artist Marilyn Rose.

Built in 1928 to hold back the waters of Combie Reservoir, Van Giesen Dam is the oldest dam in NID's Lower Division. The oldest dam in the district is at French Reservoir in the Mountain Division, constructed in 1858-59.

Rose, who works part-time in NID's Drafting Section, gave this painting to NID earlier this year. It presently hangs in the NID Administration Office.



• NID NEWS BRIEFS •

Browning Retires.

Longtime NID maintenance superintendent and lifelong area resident **Howard Browning**, right, retired on June 3. Browning joined NID in 1972, left to work in private industry and then returned to the district in 1986. He retires with 23 years of district service. He and his wife, Luauna, live in Grass Valley and are the parents of two sons.



Placer Office Hours Change.

The NID Placer County Customer Service Office on Locksley Lane in North Auburn is now open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays only, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed 1-2 for lunch). A drop box is located outside the front gate for customers who wish to drop off water payments.

Saving Money Through Refinancing.

The district is moving forward with a plan to refinance the repayment of \$8.1 million in outstanding certificates of participation (COPs). It is estimated the district will save \$350,000 by taking advantage of today's more favorable interest rates in retiring the COPs, which were issued in 1997 to finance the Upper Cascade Flume Replacement Project.

NID at the County Fair.

NID will be among the exhibitors at the 2005 Nevada County Fair, which runs Aug. 10-14. Numerous district employees will take turns staffing the booth, which will be located in the Main Exhibit Hall. Stop by for a visit.

Summer Activities at the NID Demonstration Garden

Would you like to learn more about composting, mulching or native plants?

These are among the subjects covered in workshops offered by the Nevada County Master Gardeners at the NID Demonstration garden.

Here are some of the upcoming activities at the garden, which is located off West Main Street next to the NID Business Center in Grass Valley. For information, call (530) 273-0919.

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| July 16 | Composting: Working with Worms |
| Aug. 27 | California Native Plants |
| Sept. 10 | Community Open House at the Garden |
| Oct. 8 | Fall Fest & Plant Sale |
| Nov. 5 | Designing with Native Grasses |

How to Contact Your Elected Board

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