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NID *WaterWays*

A Newsletter to the Customers
of the Nevada Irrigation District

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Full to the Brim

***Nevada County
Canals Flowing at
Peak Levels, District
Plans Improvements***

The main canal and flume systems that carry water into the Grass Valley-Nevada City area are running at or beyond maximum safety levels and must be improved.

The Cascade Canal and the D-S Canal are the main arteries on NID's Deer Creek Water System, carrying water from the mountains into western Nevada County. Lack of freeboard, aging and undersized flumes and pipelines, and safety issues are causing bottlenecks and delivery limitations on both canals.

Safety Issues

"The canals are running too high," says NID Water Operations Manager Don Wight. "We've known they've been running high. Last year we began to evaluate our safety levels. We can't exceed safe



Old Flumes Being Replaced

NID engineers Tonia Tabucchi Herrera and John Kirk inspect the No. 16 Flume on the D-S Canal, which dates to 1928. Old flumes are restricting flows in the D-S water delivery system.

operating capacities and this year we hope to determine exactly what those capacities are."

Wight said the district could ask customers for voluntary water conservation and could be forced to impose some water use restrictions if hot weather and high water use push the canals beyond maximum safety levels.

The tight supply situation comes as no surprise to NID. The district has been working for several years to enlarge the Cascade system, but has faced delays in the environmental review process.

Meanwhile, NID has supplemented flows in the Cascade by pumping water up from the D-S Canal, putting
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General Manager's Report

Yuba-Bear Project Serves Our Communities Well

District is Seeking New Federal License for Water and Power Project



By Ron Nelson

It was a great source of pride and accomplishment for the residents of Nevada and Placer counties of the mid-1960s. A reliable, year-around water supply would support their communities for years to come.

NID's Yuba-Bear River Hydroelectric Project has done just that. It brought new reservoirs, water ways, power plants and recreational opportunities. Importantly, it doubled the amount of water storage available to district residents.

It was in 1963 that NID voters passed a local \$65 million bond issue to finance the water and power project. Over a three-year period, construction crews of 300 to 1000 men built roads, dams, canals, tunnels and powerhouses.

What is the Yuba-Bear Project? It includes nine reservoirs ranging from Jackson Meadows on the northeast to Rollins on the southwest, four hydroelectric power plants, various canals, conduits and recreational sites. The project stores 207,865 acre-feet of water and has an electrical generation capacity of 74.8 megawatts.

The Yuba-Bear Project was built and is operated today under a 50-year license granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The original license expires and must be renewed by 2013.

Goal of Relicensing

Relicensing of the project in the public interest is a top NID priority. In coming years, district residents and customers will be hearing much about this effort. Specifically, our goal in relicensing is:

"To obtain a new license with minimal adverse impact to project economics, while helping to foster NID's relationships with the community, resource agencies, and other interested parties. NID desires to obtain a new license of maximum term for the project at a minimum cost (both initially and ongoing) that allows the project to maximize profits from the production of electrical power while also meeting irrigation, environmental, recreational and other non-power requirements and needs."

We are using a new integrated licensing process that encourages involvement of concerned parties and the general public while developing information early in the planning process. For detailed information on the project, please see our website, www.nid.dst.ca.us.

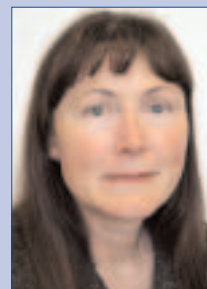
Generations of district residents have been well served by the Yuba-Bear Project. We are determined to ensure the project will continue to serve our communities for generations to come.

Marie Owens is New Finance Manager

Marie Owens joined NID in April as the district's new finance manager. She succeeds longtime manager Tess Andrews, who retired.

Owens comes to the area from Evergreen, Colo. and brings considerable experience in financial management, accounting and auditing, with backgrounds in both the public and private sectors.

She has owned and operated her own financial consulting firm, served as financial manager for the Evergreen Metropolitan District and as senior auditor/accountant and interim director of accounting for Jefferson County, Colo. Prior to joining NID she worked as a temporary comptroller for Nye County, Nevada.



Marie Owens

Owens holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from City University of New York and an MBA from the University of Montana. A licensed certified public accountant (CPA) in both New York and Colorado, she is working to obtain a California license.

The new finance manager assumes a key department head position on NID's management staff. She oversees financial planning and budgeting, accounting, customer service and cashiering.

Water for Nevada County - Continued from Page 1

additional pressure on that system.

Under current timetables, NID intends to resolve the D-S Canal capacity issues through the replacement of seven old flumes in 2006 and 2007, and to complete the planned upgrade of the Cascade Canal by 2009.

The Cascade Canal

The Cascade Canal carries water from Upper Deer Creek and the South Yuba Canal above Scotts Flat Reservoir, across Banner Mountain to the Brunswick Road area. This higher elevation water source allows natural, gravity flow delivery and reduces the need for pumping.

In 2002, NID completed the first phase of an overall Cascade system upgrade, the \$18 million Upper Cascade Project. It increased capacity and reliability of the system generally above Red Dog Road.

Over the past four years, NID has planned and proposed the Lower Cascade Canal/Banner Cascade Pipeline Project that would cover a 3.5-mile stretch from the Red Dog Road area, across Banner Mountain, to the Loma Rica Reservoir near the Nevada County Air Park.

The project includes a buried 48-inch pipeline that would bypass much of the Lower Cascade Canal. The canal would remain open, carrying reduced flows, as a service lateral canal.

In 2004, NID prepared an environmental impact report (EIR). Facing opposition from residents along the proposed pipeline alignment, the district withdrew the EIR. A revised draft EIR was released in March of this year, followed by a 60-day public comment period that closed May 30.

The district received 90 public comments, mainly from nearby residents, and is now reviewing and responding to those comments.

The project, with construction costs now estimated at \$15 million, is expected to be considered again by the NID Board of Directors

Sixth Wettest Year on Record

The 2005-06 rainfall year ended June 30 as the sixth wettest year in 119 years of NID weather records. The season produced 104.96 inches - 152 percent of average - precipitation at Bowman Reservoir (elev. 5,650 ft.).

As of June 30, NID's 10 reservoirs held 247,400 acre-feet of water, which is 99 percent of capacity and 112 percent of average for this time of year.

late this summer with a decision anticipated later this year. A two-year construction period could begin next year, with completion expected in 2009.



The planned D-S flume replacements are shown in this graphic.

The D-S Canal

The D-S (Deer Creek South) Canal dates to 1926-28 and extends from Lower Scotts Flat Reservoir to Wolf Creek in the Glenbrook Basin. Running through steep terrain, the original canal included 31 wood-frame supported metal flumes, eight of which are still standing.

NID has been replacing the flumes over the past two decades and is now stepping up the program, so the final flumes will be replaced this year and next. The largest flume on the system, No. 12 -- at 275 feet long and 50 feet high -- was replaced in 2004-05.

The remaining flumes, located from above Gracie Road down to Pittsburg Road, range from 50-290 feet in length and 8-25 feet in height. The preliminary budget for the work is \$5.1 million

NID engineers are now doing preliminary design work and a consulting firm is preparing an environmental assessment of the work. The project is scheduled for board consideration this summer.

Placer County Canals Okay

The Combie-Ophir IV Canal, a main conduit for NID service areas in Placer County, is not facing the same capacity issues as Nevada County canals.

The Combie-Ophir supplies water from NID's Bear River System. It originates near Bell Road, runs parallel to Hwy. 49, and flows to the Wise Road area, branching into several smaller canals.

District officials say a bottleneck on the canal will be resolved through replacement of the Vernon Siphon. This project, along with general maintenance, should ensure adequate supplies for the foreseeable future.

• NID NEWS BRIEFS •



NID BOTTLED WATER. NID is working with a new bottling plant in Rocklin and will again be distributing bottled drinking water at local community and sporting events. NID bottled water is used for community relations purposes; it is not sold. The district hasn't bottled any water for the past two years due to the lack of a local bottling facility.

COMBIE SHORE MANAGEMENT. NID directors have adopted a new shoreline management plan that aims to control private encroachments on publicly-owned Combie Reservoir. The plan outlines fees and permits for privately-owned docks, and also specifies penalties for violations.

TWO PLACER PAY CENTERS. NID customers in Placer County may drop off water payments at either of two convenient drop boxes, one located outside the gate at the NID North Auburn Water Treatment Plant on Locksley Lane, and the other at the Pak N' Save store, 2550 Bell Road, in Auburn. NID also offers an electronic bill payment program; details are available on the district website, www.nid.dst.ca.us.

SEE NID AT THE FAIR. NID will once again host an exhibit at the Nevada County Fair. This year's fair runs Wednesday through Sunday, Aug. 9-13. Stop by the district's booth in the Main Exhibit Hall.

Board Tests Pilot Policy on Expansion of Water Service

The NID board in April approved a pilot policy that is designed to help finance and install treated water line extensions to existing neighborhoods.

The board also selected a pilot project on Hoskin Lane near Auburn, where seven property owners are seeking NID water connections. Hoskin Lane is among four neighborhoods being considered as pilot projects.

The pilot policy is a part of the NID board's No. 1 strategic plan goal of supplying water to areas of the district where it is not yet available. It allows the district to finance pipeline extensions and then recoup its investment over time from those property owners who receive the benefit.

NID developed the policy as a way to help people gain access to the public water system without placing the costs of system expansion upon existing water ratepayers.



FAMILY AFFAIR: Members of the Southern family were present for the May 15 dedication of the David E. Southern Recreation Facility at Cascade Shores. The late Dave Southern, a longtime Cascade Shores resident, served on the NID Board of Directors from 1985-98.

Enjoy the Great Outdoors at NID Campgrounds

A good water year and several campground and day use area improvements are making 2006 a great year to enjoy outdoor recreation at Scotts Flat and Rollins reservoirs.

At Rollins, visitors will find new rental cabins at the Peninsula Campground along with continued day use area upgrades at the Orchard Springs and Long Ravine campgrounds.

At Scotts Flat, there is a completely redeveloped boat ramp and day use area at Cascade Shores. Across the lake, visitors will find several newly-paved spurs in the campgrounds, a remodeled store and a new Gate 2 day use area.

For more information, see www.nid.dst.ca.us. Camping contacts and lake level forecasts are located on the Recreation page.

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