



NID

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Waterways

A NEWSLETTER TO THE CUSTOMERS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**Board OKs Rate
Increases for 2009**
....Page 2

**Old Flumes
Being Replaced**
....Page 3



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Reservoir Storage Near Average

NID Encourages Efficient Water Use

While water storage levels remain down through much of California,

NID has received near average precipitation and snowpack this year and is planning to make normal deliveries to all customers. District leaders were pleased

ABOVE, Scotts Flat had almost filled by April 1.

with the February and March storms that boosted local water storage into the average range but remain mindful of Gov. Schwarzenegger's Feb. 27 statewide drought emergency proclamation. *(See Sidebar)*

"It's always important for us to make efficient water use a part of our daily lives," said NID General Manager Ron Nelson. "It's even more important at times like this when our downstream friends are facing shortages." *(Please see Water Storage, P. 3)*

Governor's Drought Declaration

"Even with the recent rainfall, California faces its third consecutive year of drought and we must prepare for the worst -- a fourth, fifth or even sixth year of drought. Last year we experienced the driest spring and summer on record and storage in the state's reservoir system is near historic lows.

"This is a crisis just as severe as an earthquake or raging wildfire, and we must treat it with the same urgency by upgrading California's water infrastructure to ensure a clean and reliable water supply for our growing state."

-- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Feb. 27, 2009

Snowstorms Bring Water, Sometimes Lots of Work

The storms of early February brought low snow levels to the Grass Valley-Nevada City area.

Here, members of NID's Maintenance Department break ice and snow to keep water flowing through the Cascade Canal system.

Pictured with Assistant Maintenance Supt. Jeff Brady (on bank), are John Foppiano, Gus Gramm and Chris Ribble.



NID Positioning For Federal Economic Stimulus Funds

With a number of "shovel-ready" projects on the drawing boards, NID General Manager Ron Nelson is hopeful the district will be eligible for economic stimulus funding through the federal government.

"We hope the district will be able to bring some potential jobs to the community as we strive to complete some of our major water projects," Nelson said.

The district has been in communication with the offices of elected officials in Washington, DC in an effort to be positioned for the funding. "We're making an aggressive, robust effort, but it can be difficult when you're competing against the big cities," Nelson said.

The Banner Cascade Pipeline Project, DS Flume Replacement Project and Cement Hill Community Facilities District are planned projects that could benefit through an infusion of federal funding.

Rate Increases for Most Customers

Typical Family Pays \$1.50 More Per Month; 4-5 Percent Increases for Irrigation Water

Most NID customers are seeing water rate increases of about 5 percent under a 2009 rate schedule adopted in February by the NID Board of Directors.

A typical family of four with a 5/8-inch metered treated water connection will pay about \$1.50 more per month under the new rates. Customers who conserve and use smaller amounts of water will see increases of less than \$1 per month.

Irrigation water rates will increase between 4 and 5.45 percent for NID's smallest and largest irrigation water customers. A majority in the 1.5 to 10 miner's inch range will see no increases as the district continues to realign its raw water rates. Irrigation water service for a 1 miner's inch customer will increase by \$20.81 to \$483.29 for the six-month irrigation season.

The 2009 rate adjustments are part of a five-year financial plan that calls for an average 5 percent annual increase over the coming five years. Any future rate adjustments under the five-year plan will first be reviewed by the NID board.

Rates Still Supplemented By Other Revenues

The district's costs of providing water service will not be totally covered through the five-year plan. Currently, NID treated water customers are paying just 55 percent of the costs involved in supplying their water. Raw water customers are paying 45 percent. It is expected the district will continue to supplement rates with reserve funds and property tax revenues.

The new rates took effect Mar. 1, 2009.

Building a Better Public Water System

NID is moving forward with several projects that will improve the safety, capacity and reliability of the public water system.

Banner Cascade Pipeline

In planning for several years, this project will divert some of the water from the Lower Cascade Canal through a buried pipeline across the southern flank of Banner Mountain, supplying two water treatment plants and downstream irrigation water users. Construction is anticipated later this year with completion in 2011 or 2012.

DS Flume Replacement Project

The district plans to replace the last eight of 31 original 1920s era flumes on the DS Canal. These are located near Nevada City between Red Dog and Banner Lava Cap roads. The overall project is estimated at \$6.5 million. Construction is expected later this year following completion and approval of environmental studies.

Alta Sierra/Dog Bar Pipeline

Construction is planned from May into October on a new 16-inch main line along Dog Bar Road, Alta Sierra Drive, Gary Way and Francis Way. The project is designed to improve reliability and water pressure in a portion of Alta Sierra.

Highway 49 Transmission Line Project

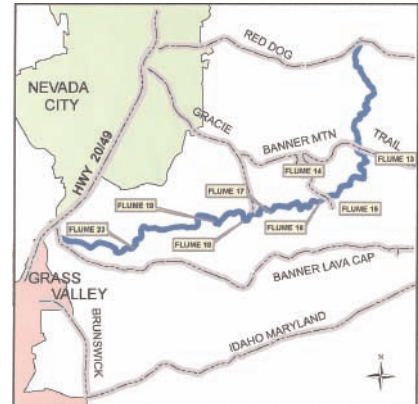
Construction is anticipated this spring and summer on a new 14-inch to 18-inch mainline along Highway 49 in the North Auburn area. The overall \$2.2 million project will increase capacity and fire flows from NID's North Auburn Water Treatment Plant off Locksley Lane.

Expansion of E. George Treatment Plant

A major \$14.9 million improvement at the Elizabeth L. George Water Treatment Plant on Banner Mountain near Nevada City is now in progress. Plant capacity is being increased from 9 to 24 million gallons per day and four new filters and new settling basins are being added. Work began in November 2008 and is expected to be complete in late 2010.



DS Flume No. 14



Old flumes being replaced

Water Storage

Continued from Page 1

NID's April 1 snow survey showed 95 percent of average water content in the snowpack on NID mountain watershed in the areas around Bowman and Jackson Meadows reservoirs.

The official April 1 snow survey is generally regarded as the best indicator of water availability for the coming year. NID conducts official snow surveys in February, March and April each year and more often in some years.

District snow surveyors measured an average 32.2-inch water content on five mountain division snow courses at elevations of 5650 to 7800 feet. The Apr. 1 average is 33.9 inches.

By Mar. 27, annual precipitation at Bowman Reservoir (elev. 5650 ft.) had reached 55.12 inches, or 96 percent of the Apr. 1 average. At the same time, NID reservoirs held about 184,800 acre-feet of water, which is 74 percent of capacity and 104 percent of the April 1 average level. Continuing spring snowmelt was expected to increase storage levels.

NID NEWS BRIEFS

Just For Kids

A new section on the NID website is designed especially for the younger set. "Just for Kids" includes activities including puzzles and counting and coloring exercises. It's located at nidwater.com. Click on the *Just for Kids* headline.

Installment Billing

The NID board in March authorized installment billing for seasonal irrigation water users beginning in 2010. Irrigation customers are now billed at the beginning of each season.

Enjoy the Outdoors With NID

Discover some of the region's best camping and water recreation at nearby NID reservoirs.

Scotts Flat

Located at the 3100-foot elevation, with two fully developed campgrounds and a day use area, Scotts Flat offers woodsy lake-side camping, a marina, store and many other attractions. For details, see www.scottsflatlake.net. For reservations, call 265-5302.



Summer at Scotts Flat

Rollins

Four campgrounds, Greenhorn (530-272-6100), Long Ravine (www.longravineresort.com - 530-346-6166), Orchard Springs (www.osresort.net - 530-346-2212) and Peninsula (www.penresort.com - 530-477-9413), feature camping and complete services along the shores of Rollins Reservoir (elev. 2100 ft.).

Links to NID camping areas along with forecasted lake levels are posted in the Recreation section at www.nidwater.com.

Boater Support Needed in Mussel Prevention Program

NID and other reservoir operators in the region are teaming up to prevent potential infestations of non-native Quagga and zebra mussels.

Boaters entering Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs will be asked to complete a survey on where their boats have been. Boat inspections will be conducted as deemed necessary.

Quagga and zebra mussels have been sighted at 19 locations in Southern California (Orange County and south) and one location in Central California; San Justo Reservoir in San Benito County. Most sightings were reported in 2007/08, with one so far in 2009.

Water industry and Fish & Game officials are determined to limit the spread of the mussels because they upset ecosystems and can seriously impact the operation of water storage and distribution facilities.



Quagga Mussel

All About NID

NID is a unique public service agency with a rich history and wide variety of roles and activities in the community.

You can learn more about NID's mission and operations by browsing our website at:

www.nidwater.com

NID Helps Growers Reduce Water Use

NID has initiated new water efficiency programs to help irrigation water customers save water and save money.

This spring, the district contracted with local agricultural consultant Keith Crabtree to present four workshops on effective irrigation. The free workshops proved popular and filled quickly.

The district is also continuing sponsorship of a program that helps vineyard and orchard operators maximize effectiveness of their irrigation. The program uses in-ground sensors to measure soil moisture and then combines that and local weather data to provide growers with customized irrigation schedules. The program proved very popular in 2008 and has been extended to this year. Forty-seven measurement sites at 18 vineyards and orchards are part of this year's program.

For helpful consumer information on water efficiency in the home and on the farm, see NID's website at www.nidwater.com. The Water Efficiency pages are in the Water Services section.

Art in Public Places Watercolor Art Featured in NID Lobby

Members of the public are welcome to see the local art exhibits in the lobby of the NID Business Center in Grass Valley.

Featured artist through May 15 is landscape watercolorist **Wanda Avery**. The Grass Valley artist is a member of the California Watercolor Association and a member of Gallery II in Grass Valley.

Beginning May 15, the district will feature the local watercolor paintings of Grass Valley artist **Denise Wey**.