



NID

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Waterways

A NEWSLETTER TO THE CUSTOMERS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT



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Farms, Ranches Rely on NID Irrigation Service

About 90 percent of the water supplied by NID each year flows through the canal system to irrigation water users.

About 4600 irrigation water customers are being supplied by NID in 2009. Most purchase seasonal water for the April-October irrigation season; some buy irrigation water all year.

How Water is Used

Leading uses of NID irrigation water, according to 2008 crop report information, were family gardens, orchards and yards (3500 customers) and irrigated pasture (2300 customers). Irrigated pasture accounted for 16,630 acres while the family garden category included 5100 acres.

Irrigation water is used to grow pasture for cattle, sheep, horses and even more exotic animals such as llamas, emus and buffalo.

Irrigation water is used in gardens, nurseries, orchards and vineyards for both commercial and home production. Grapes, apples, peaches, nuts, berries, corn, rice, wheat and oats *(Please see Irrigation, Page 4)*



Green Acres

Senior Water Distribution Operator Joe Pitts is pictured along the Tarr Canal at the Robinson Ranch in Penn Valley.

Recreation Update Good Year at the Lakes

High water levels and nice weather have combined for a good early summer recreation season at Scotts Flat and Rollins reservoirs, with increased numbers of campers reported over last year.

At Scotts Flat, NID's second annual "No Motor Day" in April attracted a great turnout of eager sailors and kayakers. On this day each year, the lake is open only to non-motorized watercraft.

At both Rollins and Scotts Flat, NID teamed up with campground operators and *The Union* newspaper to sponsor the 2009 Fishing Derby. NID Recreation Manager Peggy Davidson said the fishing derby proved to be very popular and is being planned again for next year.



R. Paul Williams

Longest Serving Director in NID History Steps Down After 27 Years on the Board

After 27 years and nearly seven elected terms in office, R.

Paul Williams has retired as the Division IV representative on the NID Board of Directors.

Director Williams left office on Apr. 23 as the longest serving elected official in the 88-year history of the Nevada Irrigation District.

“Paul is an extraordinary individual,” said NID General Manager Ron Nelson. “He’s always kept the best interests of the district and its ratepayers at heart. He has dedicated a big part of his life to the people of the district.”

Williams, 83, is a longtime Lincoln area resident who represented the large Placer County Division IV, which extends westward from North Auburn and Highway 49 to the Lincoln area and Highway 65.

Voice for Agriculture

Since taking his first oath of office on Dec. 28, 1981, Williams remained a strong voice for agricultural water use in his mostly rural area. At the same time, he recognized Lincoln’s growth, changing land use patterns and NID’s responsibility to supply water to its constituents.

Reflecting on his years of public service, Williams, a former six-term NID board president, said he has seen the district mature and become more professional in its operations. The district has moved from a singular focus on water delivery to a much more involved role in the community and steward of the watershed.

“We really didn’t have much money when I came into office,” he recalls. “We were trying to keep our customers happy but we weren’t doing a lot of the other things that have become necessary over the years.”

Importantly, Director Williams helped lead a long-term effort to build financial security and put the district on solid financial footing. He helped shepherd the district through a time when some in the community thought its financial resources were too large to a more recent time when the value of a solvent and financially-strong district is more widely recognized.

Williams is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel who served during WW II, Korea and Vietnam. He spent time as a gunner, navigator, bombardier and as a pilot who

flew an F86-D faster than the speed of sound. He retired in 1971 from a 28-year military career.

With Norma, his bride of 60 years, Williams lives on a small ranch seven miles northeast of Lincoln where they settled 43 years ago. The couple has two children and two grandchildren.

In retirement, Williams plans to spend more time with family, on the ranch, and continuing his longtime volunteer work with the Mt. Pleasant Community Hall and the Hospice Thrift Store in Roseville.

NID Elected Service

With 27 years of public service, R. Paul Williams is the longest serving elected official in district history. Among the 59 men and women who have served on the NID board through the years, these 10 have served longest:

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. | R. Paul Williams | 27 years | (1981-2009) |
| 2. | Theodore Schwartz Jr. | 26 years | (1921-47) |
| 3. | Ernie Bierwagen | 25 years | (1977-2002) |
| 4. | Thomas Mulcahy | 21 years | (1928-49) |
| 5. | Vernon Vineyard | 16 years | (1961-78) |
| 6. | William G. Ullrich | 16 years | (1921-37) |
| 7. | George Leipzig | 15 years | (1992-2008) |
| 8. | Dave Southern | 13 years | (1985-98) |
| 9. | Melvin Brown | 12 years | (1960-72) |
| 10. | Ross McBurney | 12 years | (1957-69) |



Paul Williams at his Lincoln ranch

Bachman Appointed to Board

Jim Bachman, a lifelong Lincoln area rancher and NID customer, was appointed June 10 to serve the remaining 17 months in the unexpired term of retired director R. Paul Williams.

2009 NID Board of Directors

Division I	Nancy Weber, Nevada City
Division II	John H. Drew, Chicago Park (2009 Board President)
Division III	Scott Miller, M.D., South Nevada County
Division IV	Jim Bachman, Lincoln
Division V	Nick Wilcox, Penn Valley

Combie North Powerhouse Redux

NID's involvement in small hydroelectric energy production grew from a new awareness that emerged in Northern California during the years following the Arab Oil Embargo of 1973.

By the late 70s and early 80s, private developers were eyeing the potential for additional hydroelectric development on the western slope of the Sierra. Public/private partnerships resulted in several "turn-key" small hydro developments.

Three of these partnerships proved fruitful to NID, which today operates two small hydroelectric power plants below Combie Reservoir and one at Scotts Flat (These are among a total of seven power plants operated by the district).

The small plants were built by private investors who during the early years shared in their financial returns. Today, all have come under district ownership and operation.

The smallest of the small hydro plants, Combie North, was rated at 300 kilowatts (0.3 megawatts) when it began operating in 1984. Over the years, the plant began to wear out and NID staff began planning for replacement.

In a \$3 million project scheduled for completion this summer, NID has replaced the original unit at Combie North with a modern 500-kilowatt generator (0.5 megawatts) that can produce enough energy to power nearly 700 homes.

Statewide Campaign Promotes Water Education, Conservation

A statewide public education program has been launched by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Titled "Save Our Water," the campaign is a partnership between state and local agencies. It seeks to reduce water use and remind the public about water's critical importance in our daily lives.

The effort is intended to support Gov. Schwarzenegger's call for a statewide program with a uniform water conservation message. The "Save Our Water" message encourages Californians to reduce everyday water use. A key element is an educational focus on water shortages and necessary long-term solutions to the state's water problems. A recent statewide survey indicated that 61 percent of Californians ranked "having sufficient water supplies" as a top concern.

To learn more, please see www.saveourh2o.org, which includes information on the state's water supply shortage and practical tips for consumers on how to save water indoors and outdoors.



The new 500-kilowatt Combie North power plant is nearing completion.

Output from the plant is marketed to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. It is estimated it will take 9-10 years for NID to recoup its investment in the plant.

Project engineer Doug Roderick said the plant is expected to produce revenues through an estimated life span of 50 years or more.

As part of the powerhouse project, NID added new control gates and a new spillway from the Combie Ophir Phase I Canal to the Bear River. Depending upon downstream demand, water that once spilled over the dam during winter can now be run through the power plant and then channeled back into the Bear River.

The district ordered the new powerhouse equipment from the manufacturer and contracted with T&S Construction of Sacramento for installation.

2008/09 Rainfall Season: NID at 98% of Average

The 2008/09 rainfall year came to an end on June 30 with 98 percent of average precipitation measured on NID mountain watershed.

Meanwhile, reservoir storage levels were recorded at 107 percent of average for this time of year.

NID measures seasonal precipitation at Bowman Reservoir (elev. 5650 ft.) where 67.88 inches was measured during the 12-months ending June 30.

Wet Month of May

The month of May was the surprise month of the year. It produced a total 9.45 inches of precipitation for the month, or 266 percent of the 3.55-inch May average.

"The rain in early May was tremendously helpful in providing runoff into our reservoirs," said NID Operations Supv. Sue Sindt. "The runoff was a combination of runoff directly from the rain and also runoff from rain melting the snowpack."

As of June 30, NID reservoirs held 237,300 acre-feet of water, which equals 107 percent of average storage for the date.

District Moving Forward on Major Water Projects

Several major water projects are now in planning, design or construction. Here's an update:

E. George Water Treatment Plant. A current expansion at the Elizabeth L. George Water Treatment Plant near Nevada City will add efficiency to the water treatment process and boost plant capacity from 8 to 16 million gallons per day. The \$14.7 million upgrade began in October 2008 and is slated for completion by late 2010. Contractor on the job is Western Water Constructors, Inc. of Santa Rosa.

Regional Water Treatment Plant. In cooperation with the City of Lincoln, NID is planning a new water treatment plant within district boundaries near Lincoln. Environmental studies are expected to begin this fall and take 18-24 months. Construction of the plant depends on growth and demand for treated water in the Lincoln area. It is currently estimated the plant will be needed by 2015.

Alta Sierra/Dog Bar Pipeline. Under a \$1.6 million NID construction contract, Hansen Brothers Enterprises of Grass Valley is installing nearly 9000 feet of new 16-inch pipeline along Dog Bar Road, Alta Sierra Drive, Francis Drive and Gary Way. The project is designed to improve reliability and water pressure in portions of Alta Sierra. Work began June 15 and is expected to be complete by fall.

Banner Cascade Pipeline. Design is being completed on this multi-million-dollar project to divert some of the water from the Lower Cascade Canal through a buried pipeline across the southern flank of Banner Mountain. The district has circulated a Request for Qualifications to potential contractors and expects to go to bid this fall. Construction may begin this year and be complete by late 2011.

D-S Flume Replacement. Environmental studies are being completed on this project to replace the last eight of 31 original flumes on the D-S Canal dating to the 1920s. The project is designed to add safety and reliability to the raw water delivery system. Construction could begin this fall and last about two years.

Highway 49 Transmission Line. This project is designed to improve fire flows in the North Auburn area. It includes about a mile of new 16-inch pipeline along Highway 49 between Locksley Lane and Cottage Drive. Design work is complete, construction is planned this fall.

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are among the many crops grown with NID water. District water irrigates nine golf courses.

Irrigation water fills ponds and reservoirs for stock watering, fire suppression and recreation. Availability of irrigation water is an important factor in the preservation of open space, greenbelt areas in Nevada and Placer counties.

Freeze on New Service

As landowners plan new crops and agricultural land uses, demand for irrigation water has been increasing. However, NID has had to impose a freeze on new irrigation water services in several areas because of bottlenecks in the water delivery system.



Sailors' Choice

The Scotts Flat-based Gold Country Yacht Club has recognized NID for its support of club activities. Presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to NID Recreation Manager Peggy Davidson are Vice Commodore Chris Buti, left, and Commodore Joe Day.

NID NEWS BRIEFS

Water Quality Reports Delivered. NID has distributed its annual water quality report to treated water customers. The report, published in May, summarizes the district's 2008 water quality testing program. Customers who may not have received the report may review it at www.nidwater.com, or call the district office for a copy.

Public Art at NID. The work of Grass Valley photographer Connie Petty will be displayed in the NID Business Center lobby from mid-August through mid-November. When she isn't taking pictures, Connie, a "Best of Show" winner at the Nevada County Fair, works as an administrative assistant in NID's Engineering Dept.

Tank Painting at Wildwood. The NID Board of Directors on June 24 awarded a \$159,000 contract to Olympus & Associates of Reno, the low bidder on a project to repaint two large water storage tanks on the Lake Wildwood water system.

In Nevada County, a freeze on new and larger services remains in effect for areas supplied through the Cascade, D-S and Newtown Canals. The district hopes to remedy this situation with completion of the long-planned Cascade and D-S Canal improvement projects over the coming two years.

In Placer County, a new service freeze remains in effect on the Combie-Ophir IV Canal system, which supplies a majority of irrigation water customers in the Placer County service area.

www.nidwater.com