

# GM Newsletter

December 2021

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

*Water For Life*

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## Message from the GM

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

The promise of a new year brings excitement as NID stays committed to our mission of providing a dependable water supply to our community and care for our watersheds.

To our customers and community, a big THANK YOU. We look forward to working with you in 2022, especially as we move forward with the Plan for Water, which is our public collaboration process to determine the best ways to meet the community's demand for water over the coming decades.

It is likely that the upcoming year will present challenges, such how to surmount drought conditions, climate change and wildfire risks. Fortunately, the December snow and rain will help the health of our watersheds, which are the vital components of our water source. Let's hope we continue to have a wet winter. But it's important to realize that we're not out of drought yet. We still need to conserve water and do everything we can to protect this precious resource.

In keeping with the spirit of the season, I reflect on the rich heritage of the District, which was formed by local residents to bring water to their farms and fields. Today, of course, we have expanded our service to include homes and businesses in our communities.

I especially want to express my pride and gratitude to the NID employees – these are the people who make the mission, vision and values of the District a reality day after day.

On behalf of all at NID, I want to wish you and your family a festive holiday season filled with joy, peace and hope for the new year.





# Plan for Water

## Join us for the next workshop on January 11

The next Plan for Water workshop will be on Jan. 11. The meeting will detail the NID's water distribution system in the lower parts of the District.

Earlier, workshops targeted information about the mountain water system, starting with the headwater watershed and moving downstream through reservoirs and waterways. Click [here](#) to review that presentation.

The aim of the Plan for Water process is to determine the best ways to meet the community's demand for water over the coming decades. Key to this is public input and participation.

The Jan. 11 workshop will provide details about NID's water delivery system. A better public understanding of NID today will help better inform future discussion as the Plan for Water process proceeds.

The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. via a Zoom meeting.

Read more about the Plan for Water and sign up for email notifications, click [here](#).  
Read the presentation [here](#).

## Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

It is all about the snow. NID's water supply is virtually 100% snowmelt. A dry winter with meager snowpack and less than freezing temperatures directly impact the amount of water available for storage and NID customers.

Snowpack is one of the most reliable forms of water storage available. It acts like a natural reservoir, holding frozen water once it falls, then releasing the melt when, conveniently, the water demands by customers – both growers and residents -- pick up.

With climate change, the warmer temperatures in the high country, the source of NID's water, produce rain instead of snow. That means the snowpack, upon which we depend, isn't reliably there. Rain causes immediate runoff, and the historic snowpacks that linger into later spring and summer are greatly diminished.

Scotts Flat campground



# Bierwagen to continue as NID President

The NID Board of Directors has unanimously re-appointed Chris Bierwagen to serve as President. Director Karen Hull was appointed Vice President. Both positions run through December 2022.

Director Rich Johansen nominated Bierwagen for a consecutive term, stressing the importance of continuation of leadership and connection with the community: “What it really got down to for me is continuity,” he said. “We’ve started the Plan for Water process and we have a lot of new things going on. I think Chris has done an outstanding job as being president. Let’s keep that continuity going.”

“I’m honored and flattered to do that,” Bierwagen said.

Interestingly, Bierwagen follows in his father’s

footsteps. Ernst Bierwagen served as the Director of Division 2 from 1978-2002, and was president six times during his long tenure.

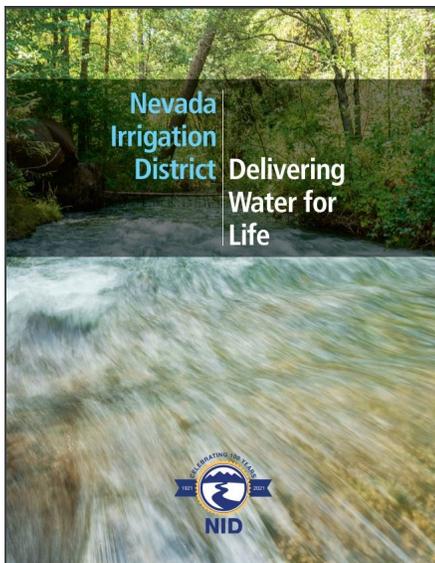
Chris Bierwagen was elected to the Board in 2018. He is a fourth-generation farmer, growing on the same property that his great grandfather purchased in 1902. He has served as a member of the Ag Advisory Committee to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, the Nevada County Resources Conservation District Board, the USDA Farm Service Agency Nevada County Committee, and was a volunteer fireman, fire chief, and Fire District Board Director.

Karen Hull was elected as an NID director in 2020. She spent a large part of her career at University of California, Davis where she served as Associate Vice Chancellor. Her experience includes leading large-scale change across the Davis campus. She is also local flower farmer growing a variety of flowers for the commercial market.



**President Chris Bierwagen and Vice President Karen Hull**

## Get your free NID history book!



NID is thrilled to have reached our 100th anniversary milestone, and we want to celebrate with you.

We are offering a new, full-color digital history book free of charge to our customers and community. This digital book is a gift to you for helping to make the District what it is today.

The 140-page book chronicles NID’s history and the innovative, bold steps it took throughout a century to ensure the communities of the Sierra foothills have been guaranteed a reliable supply of water.

*Delivering Water for Life* includes historic photos, maps and colorful vignettes of people and places.

The digital version is available on the NID website. Read it online, or download it for later enjoyment.

[Click here to get your book](#)

# Meetings & Events

## **Plan for Water Workshop**

Tuesday, January 11, 2022  
4:00 PM

## **NID Regular Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, January 12, 2022  
9:00 AM

## **NID Regular Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, January 26, 2022  
9:00 AM

[Click here to access  
the 2022 calendar](#)

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, and given the state of emergency regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the District's Board room is currently closed to the public.

The public is invited to participate in Board and Committee meetings remotely via Zoom. Information will be provided on the meeting agenda at [www.nidwater.com](http://www.nidwater.com).

## **Current Job Openings**

[Hydro Electrical Machinist I/II - Internal / External Job Posting - Closes Friday, January 7, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.](#)

[Hydroelectric Plant Operator I/II - Internal / External Job Posting - Closes Friday, January 7, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.](#)

## **Working at NID**

Nevada Irrigation District is one of the major employers in Nevada County with about 200 employees in Nevada and Placer counties.

## **Applying for a job**

Applications and resumes for regular positions will only be accepted during a position's posted, active recruitment period. An NID application must be completed and received in order to be considered for an open position by the posted deadline.

Visit [NID's Human Resources webpage](#) for more information

# Keep track of NID reservoir levels

NID's watermaster regularly posts updates of our local reservoir levels. You can see how water levels fluctuate in easy-to-read charts.

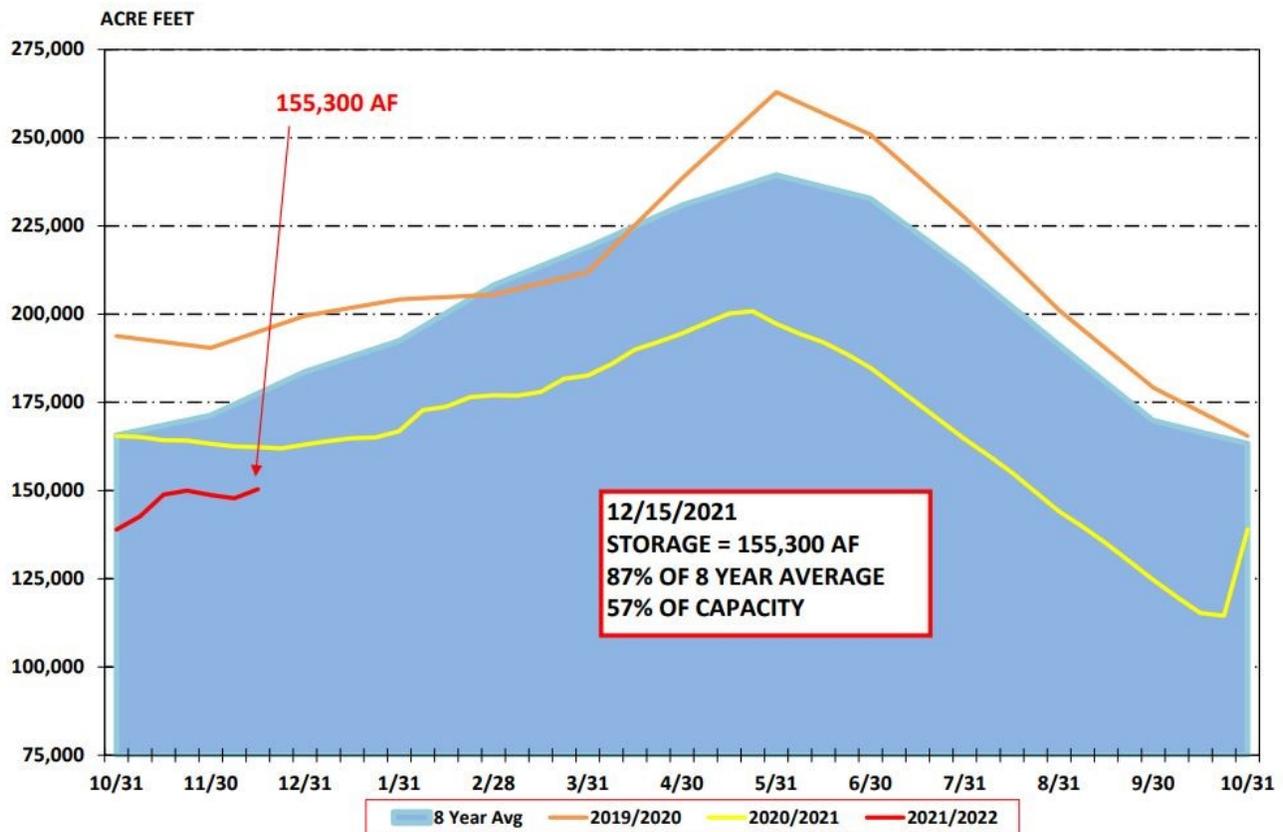
The District's River & Reservoir Data measures both capacity and elevation for different reservoirs, from the High Sierra Canyon Creek watershed (Bowman Lake and others) to the Deer Creek watershed (Scotts Flat Lake) and Bear River watershed (Rollins Lake).



It's all just a click away on the NID website under [River & Reservoir Data](#).

Note: reservoir storage levels are measured in acre feet. An acre foot of water equals about 326,000 gallons, or enough water to cover an acre of land 1-foot deep.

## NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



# Capital Improvement Projects

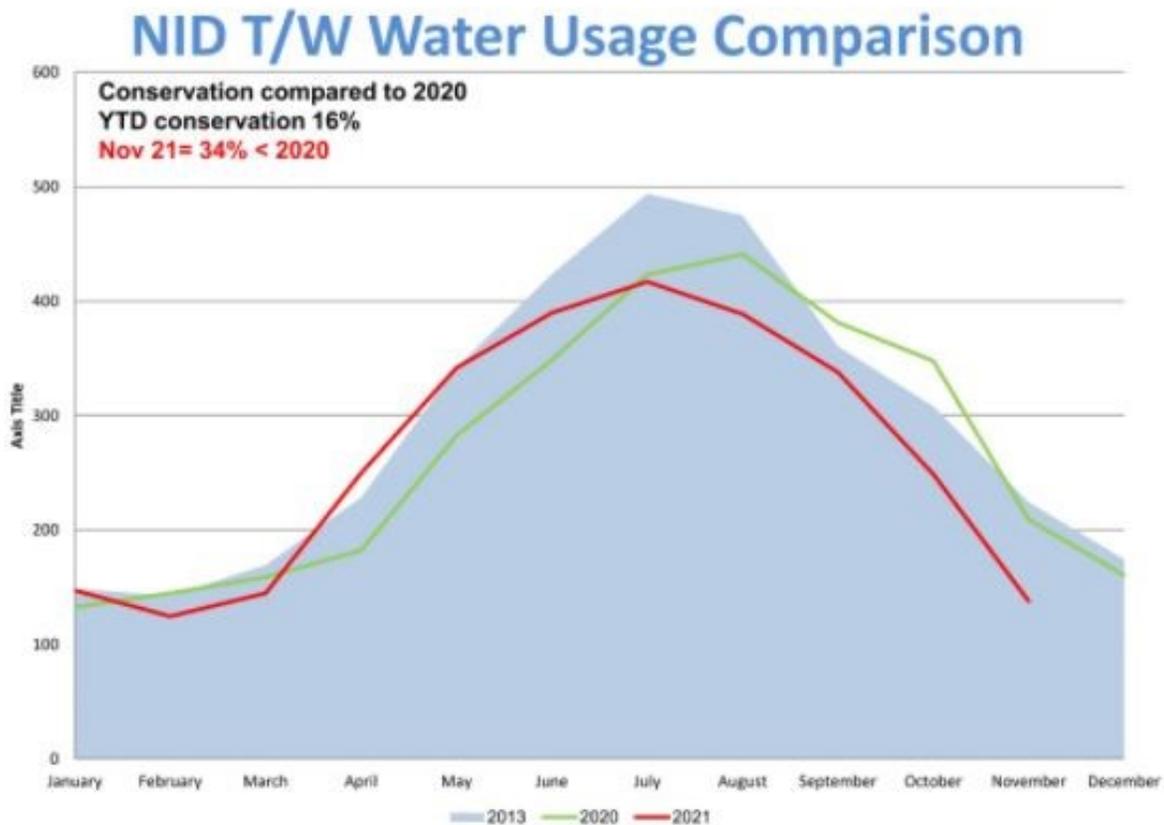
Updated Project Status Reports are now available on the District’s Projects page. This report provides project information, planner information, and a brief project description.

[December 2021 Engineering Department Project Status Report](#)

## Water Conservation

Efficient use of water continues to be important. Since the last major drought in 2013, we’ve become more water efficient. Last month, we saw a 34 percent improvement compared to October 2020.

**Keep up the effort—together we can make a difference**



The above graph shows the overall treated water usage and effectiveness of conservation within the District’s treated water customer base.

# Hydroelectric Update

## December 2021 Hydroelectric Department Project Status Report

Note: Data is preliminary and subject to verification

**Generation Report** presents the total megawatt-hours (MWh) generated per powerhouse for the previous month. Average Generation is based on the monthly generation from the previous five years. Combie North, Combie South, and Scotts Flat Powerhouses create revenue based on MWh produced. Generation from Chicago Park, Dutch Flat #2, Rollins and Bowman Powerhouses is provided for informational purposes.

**The large storm in October led to above average generation at Chicago Park, Combie North and Combie South. Other units were below average due to drought conditions or annual outages.**

| Powerhouse    | Average Generation | Current Generation |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Chicago Park  | 2,769              | 3,269              |
| Dutch Flat #2 | 1,165              | 606                |
| Rollins       | 1,299              | 941                |
| Bowman        | 1,000              | 245                |
| Combie North  | 55                 | 101                |
| Combie South  | 11                 | 45                 |
| Scotts Flat   | 217                | 185                |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>6,517</b>       | <b>5,393</b>       |

**Availability Report** - presents the total percentage of time a powerhouse is available to generate during the given month. Powerhouses Chicago Park, Dutch Flat #2, Rollins, and Bowman produce revenue based on the percentage (%) of time the unit is available to generate. Budgeted availability shown was used to develop revenue forecasts. Actual availability shown is based on the hours the powerhouse ran minus any outages that are not excused by the terms of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and is the basis of payment calculation.

**All powerhouses were above their budgeted availability for the month. Details of outages are shown on the next table.**

| Powerhouse    | Budgeted Availability | Actual Availability |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Chicago Park  | 92.0%                 | 100%                |
| Dutch Flat #2 | 92.1%                 | 100%                |
| Rollins       | 92.1%                 | 98.0%               |
| Bowman        | 92.0%                 | 96.0%               |