



NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Nevada Irrigation District
**NOTICE OF INTENT/NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
FOR THE
SCOTTS FLAT SPILLWAY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

Project Title: Scotts Flat Spillway Improvements Project ("Project")

Project Location: Dam Rd., Nevada City, CA 95959

Lead Agency: Nevada Irrigation District

Project Description:

The Proposed Project involves the replacement of the existing Scotts Flat Spillway trapezoidal chute with a rectangular chute (i.e., new chute floor with vertical side walls) and a new subdrain system along with a flip bucket terminal structure. The upper plunge pool would be removed and replaced, the lower plunge pool would be excavated, and new rock armoring would be installed, all to meet the updated PMF flow of up to 23,990 cfs and help with erosion and scour protection. During construction of the Proposed Project, there would be no changes to existing reservoir level or stream releases. This is because construction would occur during the dry season when only the unimpaired low level outlet is in use, not the spillway. During construction, prior to each rainy season, the construction site would be stabilized, and repairs paused such that the spillway can pass flooding flows should it be necessary. Additionally, post-construction operations would be the same as current reservoir, release, and hydropower operations; no changes are proposed. For public safety during active construction, public access and recreation activities would not be permitted in the Proposed Project area but could resume at the end of each construction season when the site is stabilized. NID public noticing to the community for such construction-related closures began in 2025 and has continued through 2026.

The new spillway chute, upper plunge pool, and lower plunge pool improvements would be located within the same approximate footprint as the existing facility. The total footprint for the Proposed Project (which includes the work areas and all staging/access) occupies approximately 31 acres.

The Proposed Project start date is currently anticipated to be fall of 2027; however, this is contingent upon Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the State Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) design and regulatory approval timing as well as the timing of other federal and state regulatory agency approvals.

The start date is also dependent on funding availability.

Review Period:

The review period for the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration starts on **October 6, 2026, and ends on November 5, 2026**. Comments will be accepted on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration **until 5:00 p.m. on November 5, 2026**, and should be mailed to 1036 W. Main Street Grass Valley, CA 95945, attention Kris Stepanian, or by email: stepiank@nidwater.com.

Public Meeting:

In accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, the District will consider the adoption of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact for the Project at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting on the date, time, and location provided below.

Location: District Boardroom

Address: 1036 West Main Street

Grass Valley, CA 95945

Date: December 9, 2026

Time: 9:00 am or soon thereafter

Documents Available for Review:

The IS/MND and supporting documents are available at the address listed above, at the Nevada County Clerk's office at 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 210, Nevada City, CA 95959, and at the Grass Valley Library at 207 Mill Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945. An electronic copy of the IS/MND is also available online at: <https://www.nidwater.com/scotts-flat-spillway-environmental-compliance-documents>.

Notice Date: October 6, 2026