



GM Newsletter

September 2026

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

Water For Life

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Division II
President



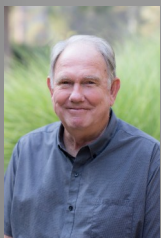
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Message from the General Manager

This month, I want to begin with an important request. NID is seeking state grant funding for the Scotts Flat Spillway Reconstruction Project, and letters of support from our community will strengthen the application. Your voice truly helps us compete for these dollars — please take a moment to submit a letter. [See Page 2](#) for the link.

We also have several updates across the District. Monthly billing began September 1 for winter raw water customers, and all raw water services will move to monthly billing on January 1, 2027. [See Page 4.](#)

Financially, NID has reduced the 2026 budget by more than half a million dollars and continues reviewing the 2027 Capital Improvement Program to ensure responsible, reliable investment in the system.

Thank you for staying engaged as we move these efforts forward.



Farmers, Ranchers Join NID's New Water Efficiency Committee

Local ag water users will provide input on emerging challenges and offer recommendations to NID. Story on [Page 3.](#)

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Help Back NID's Scotts Flat Spillway Grant Request

NID is applying for state grant funding to help pay for the Scotts Flat Reservoir Spillway Restoration Project, and we need your help to strengthen our application.

Under Proposition 4, the Climate Bond approved by voters in 2024, the State of California is offering billions of dollars for projects that improve water systems, forest health, and wildfire resilience.

A letter of support from community members helps show the state that this project matters locally and deserves funding. This is not a request for donations, rate increases, or any financial commitment. It's simply a short letter that says you support NID bringing grant dollars into our community to help repair critical infrastructure.

How to Help

We're asking residents, organizations, and partners to fill out a short [Letter of Support](#). Just open the PDF, fill it out, and NID will submit the completed letter directly to the state as part of our grant package.

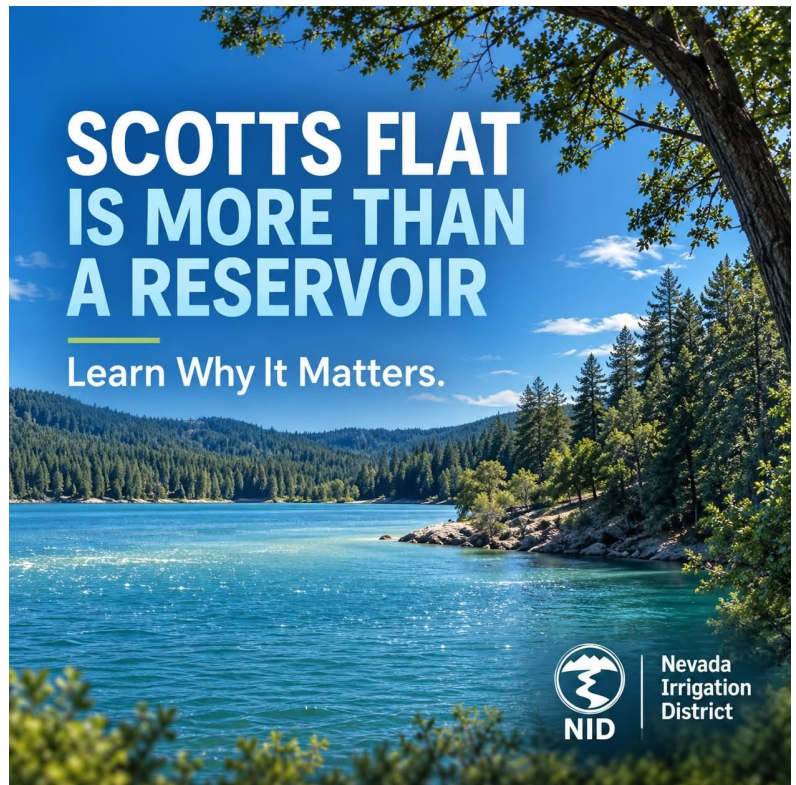
Why Scotts Flat Matters

Scotts Flat Reservoir is a key water source for homes, farms, businesses, recreation, and habitat throughout western Nevada County. It also generates clean hydropower. But the spillway, originally built in 1949 and later modified and raised in 1964, has serious structural problems made worse by past flood events. Both the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) have determined that the spillway must be replaced for public safety.

Your letter helps show state officials why restoring this critical facility is so important for water reliability, environmental health, and long-term community resilience.

Thank you for taking a moment to support this important project.

To participate, fill out the PDF form online and submit it.



[Sign the Support Letter Here](#)

NID forms Ag Water Efficiency Committee, strong turnout

The Nevada Irrigation District's (NID) Agriculture Water Efficiency Committee held its second meeting this week, drawing strong participation from growers, ranchers and community stakeholders. The discussion highlighted promising opportunities to reduce water use while supporting on-farm and ranch productivity across the foothills.

The meeting's tone was positive and collaborative, with members expressing strong support for working toward a shared set of goals and practical solutions.

A deliverable discussed was the committee's endorsement of a water-use survey. The survey aims to better understand how irrigation water is used, the impediments to infrastructure improvements, crops it supports and producers' greatest opportunities to increase water-use efficiencies in operations. The survey once developed will be sent to NID raw water customers in the region.

Agriculture uses significant irrigation water in the Sierra foothills, and water often represents a major overhead cost for producers. Crop choices are shaped by soil, climate, markets and operational limitations. The Committee will help provide an objective look at current water use and inform future educational efforts, local decision-making and policy development.

More information will be shared as the committee's work continues.



Members of NID's Ag Water Efficiency Committee

Ensuring reliability while managing costs

The Sept. 9 public workshop on Nevada Irrigation District's proposed 2027 Capital Improvement Program focused on a central challenge: maintaining long-term system reliability while keeping customer rates affordable.

Earlier this year, the Board delayed the start of new water rates by six months and reduced the 2027 increase under its adopted rate-setting guidelines. Together, those decisions lower customer revenue over the five-year period, creating significant pressure on funding for aging infrastructure.

To respond, NID trimmed more than \$13 million from its original 2027 capital budget. Staff reviewed hundreds of projects and prioritized only essential needs. Even with reductions, two major efforts must move forward: the Scotts Flat Spillway Reconstruction Project and replacement of the Lake Wildwood Treatment Plant.

This is an effort to balance affordability with long-term responsibility. Critical infrastructure remain a focus, and the proposed CIP reflects that balance.

Monthly billing update for raw water customers:

Starting September 2026, winter raw water services are now billed monthly. Winter water is available on limited canals and is delivered on/about October 15 through April 14 each year. Monthly billing helps ensure customers receive bills that align with when water is actually provided.

Beginning January 1, 2027, all raw water will transition to monthly. Here's what customers can expect:

- Summer-only customers will receive six bills, with payments due throughout the irrigation season (April 15–October 14).
- Customers with fall water will receive one additional bill.
- Customers who receive winter water will receive twelve bills each year.

The goal is simple: clearer billing, better alignment with service periods, and improved consistency for customers.

[Learn more about raw water billing changes](#)

The graphic features the NID logo at the top left with the tagline "RELIABLE WATER. STRONGER COMMUNITIES." To the right, a mailbox is shown with a letter labeled "NID" being inserted. The main text reads "WINTER WATER MONTHLY BILLS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT!". Below this, a message states: "If you receive winter irrigation water service, your first monthly bill is in the mail now." At the bottom, three icons represent "Monthly Billing" (calendar), "Aligned with Water Delivery" (water drop), and "Supporting Water Sustainability" (leaf). The footer includes "Questions?" with a question mark icon, "Contact NID Customer Service 530-273-6185 | nidwater.com", and "We're here to help!" with a speech bubble icon.

NID partners with Nevada Union High School Ranch

NID is excited to team up with the Nevada Union Joint High School District to support hands-on agricultural education at the School Ranch in south Nevada County.

The 86-acre ranch gives students real experience in animal science, ag business, ag mechanics and horticulture. Because water is essential to the farm's success, NID and school staff have been meeting to explore how our expertise can support classroom learning and on-farm projects.



This month, the NID Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding that creates a framework for working together. The partnership will include educational programs, demonstrations, workshops and community events focused on water conservation, sustainable agriculture and smart irrigation practices. The farm may also serve as a demonstration site for water-efficient tools and techniques.

This collaboration reflects NID's commitment to supporting local agriculture and helping develop the next generation of water and land stewards.

More updates to come as joint activities begin.

Bowman Reservoir

NID has been keeping precipitation records for Bowman Reservoir (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

The 69.2-inch annual average of rain and snow at Bowman compares to an annual average of 56 inches at 2,700 feet near Nevada City and 52 inches at 2,400 feet in Grass Valley.

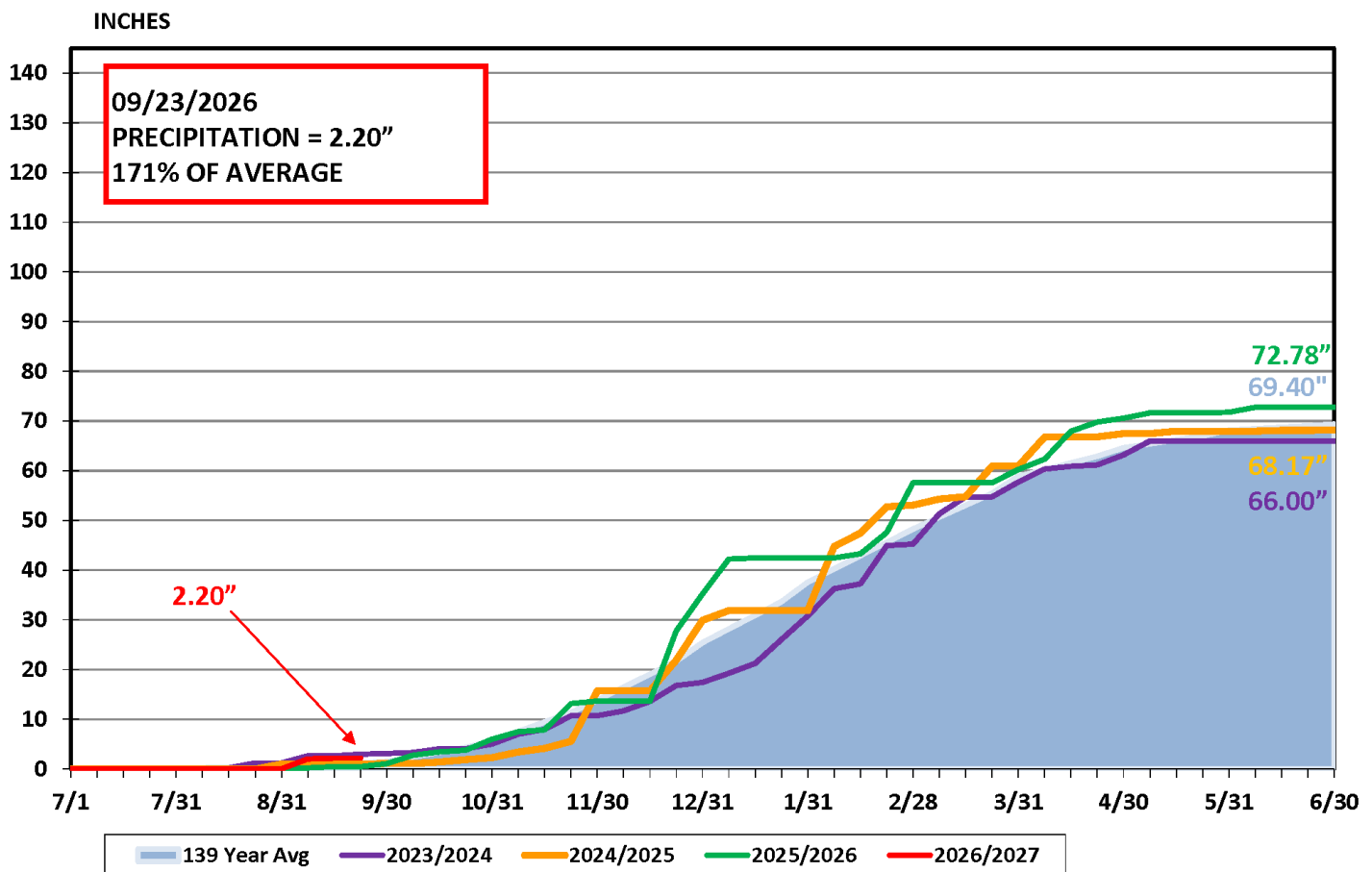
A new water year began July 1. Hydrologists track precipitation from July 1 through June 30 because it aligns with the Sierra's natural dry season before the next winter's rain and snow begin.

As of Sept. 23, 2.20 inches had fallen.



Bowman Reservoir

BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



NID's total reservoir storage is 72% of capacity

Total NID reservoir storage is 194,512 acre-feet as of Sept. 23, 2026. That is 72 percent of capacity and 107 percent of a 12-year average.

Reservoirs in this measurement include: Jackson Meadows, Jackson, French, Faucherie, Sawmill, Bowman, and Canyon Creek, as well as Scotts Flat and Rollins.

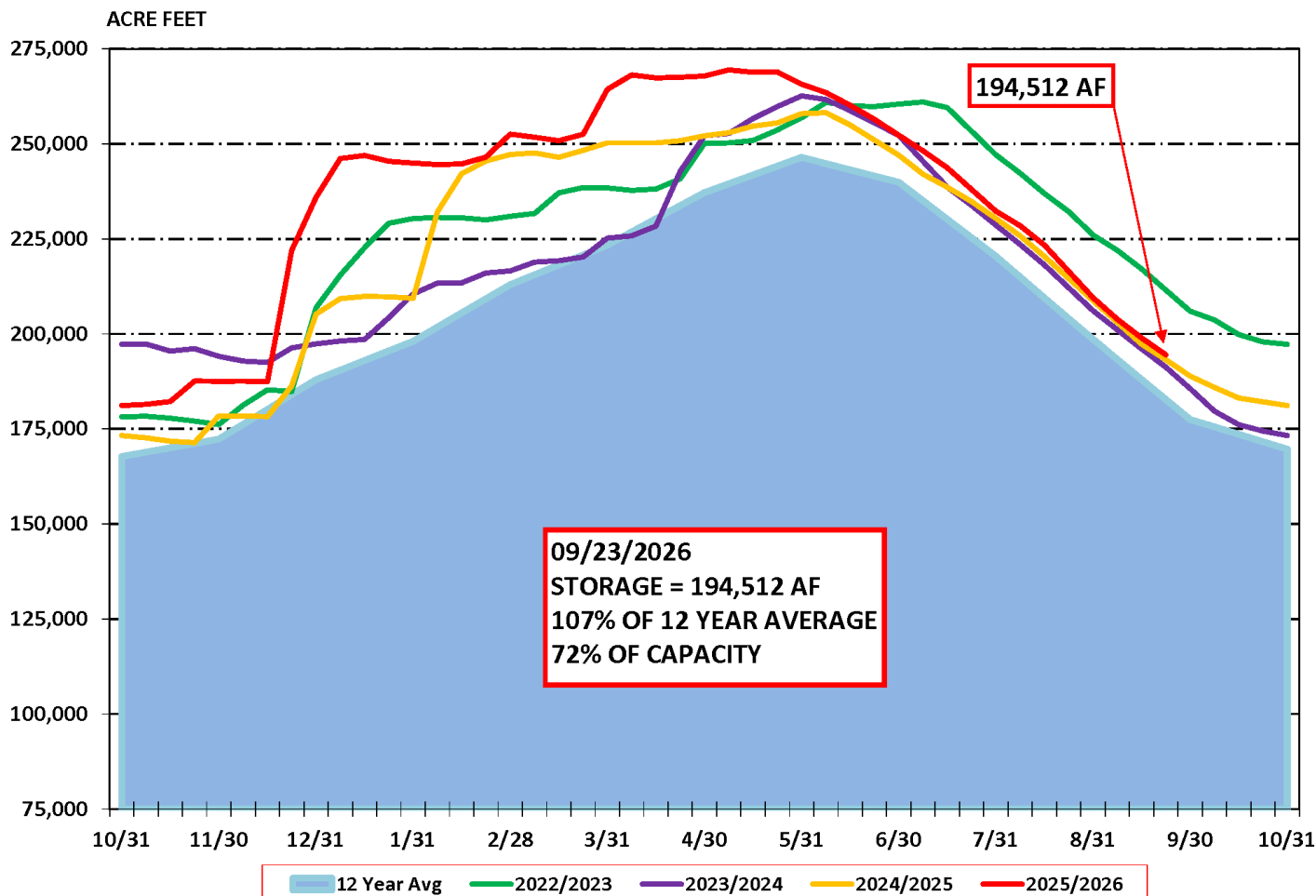
NID's water managers regularly post updates of reservoir levels. You can see how water levels fluctuate in easy-to-read charts.



Rollins Reservoir

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

NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



Meetings & Events



Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026

NID Main Office

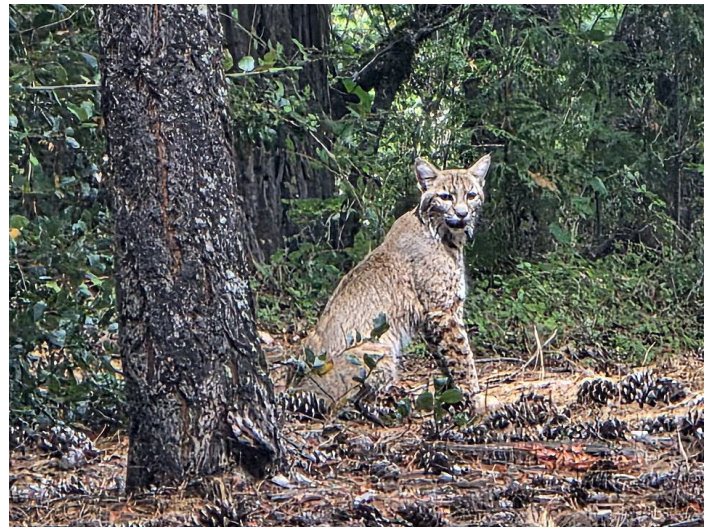
1036 W. Main Street,
Grass Valley

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street,
Grass Valley



An NID park ranger snapped this photo of a bobcat at Scotts Flat. It's a wonderful reminder that wildlife is always part of our landscape.

*** Dates and times subject to change.
Please check nidwater.com for updates*

