

## SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS PROVIDED DURING THE JANUARY 11, 2022 PLAN FOR WATER WORKSHOP #3

### **Anonymous Attendee 04:22 PM**

Q: There is a standard of practice for professional consulting contracting for State Agencies?

R: Jennifer Hanson: yes; that is a correct statement.

### **Stewart Feldman 04:27 PM**

Q: Will the chat (Q & A) be saved in the public record of the meeting?

R: Jennifer Hanson: the chat itself is not saved, but the comments are included in the chat are recorded and then responded to in the meeting notes. And they are posted on the website

### **Stewart Feldman 04:34 PM**

Q: How many (as a %) of the treated water customers are metered? What % of each sub-system do the treated water customers consume?

R: Jennifer Hanson and Chip Close: all treated water customers are metered. That is a state requirement.

### **Stewart Feldman 04:34 PM**

What % of each sub-system do the treated water customers consume?

R: Chip Close: I don't know off the top of my head, but you'll be able to see the numbers as we walk through here and you'll see it's a very low number in relation to all water usage

(1:53:28 Chip Close): the District uses roughly 150,000 acre-feet of water every year. Our treated water usage is really only about 9,000 to 10,000 acre-feet every year. So in the grand scheme of things, our treated water use is very small in relation to the rest of what our usage is.

### **Anonymous Attendee 04:40 PM**

Q: Would the cost of Summer water go up if there was no Winter Water offered?

R: Jennifer Hanson: yes only from the perspective that any of the water rates that were set to recover strictly overhead costs would be distributed amongst a lower number of customers, and so that would mean each customer's fair share portion of those overhead costs would be increased.

### **Stewart Feldman 04:43 PM**

Is there an environmental benefit from small volume canal flows, like leaks and other habitat opportunities?

R: Chip Close: whenever we partake in an encasement or piping of a canal system that's one of the things that we look at and have to analyze as part of our CEQA documents, the effects of encasing a canal and if it is truly supporting the environment

### **Stewart Feldman 04:56 PM**

(Clarification) Small users of summer capacity

R: Jennifer Hanson: I guess it depends on your perspective of what the natural environment is whether the canal the constructed conveyance or is it the natural drainage channel.

**Anonymous Attendee 05:04 PM**

Q: Is there a minimum flow for Squirrel Creek down stream of China Union Canal?

R: Jennifer Hanson: there is not.

**Otis 05:09 PM**

Q: Measuring tailwater at the end of canals where water is not re-captured downstream is critical. It was stated that there were "measuring stations" at the end of some of these canals. Could you clarify what is a "measuring station"--- is it telemetry connected into the SCADA system? Or, is it a wier observed by a canal operator periodically? What is the status of NID's capacity to accurately measure tailwater in real time?

R: Chip Close: good question and it's a mixture of both. We do have some stations that are automated and report in real time back to the District headquarters. We have other stations that are manual; distribution operators go out and record results on an Excel spreadsheet daily. We're actively trying to get most of these automated; however, the costs are rather high and some of them are very small. (131:39)

This came up in our urban and ag water management plans, and the last two or three years we've been budgeting for more of these automated stations so we can get a better handle on how much water is incoming and leaving in real time.

**Carol McMillan 05:13 PM** 134:57

Q: What are you seeing about the impact of the Rise Gold proposal on Wolf Creek?

R: Jennifer Hanson: we will be bringing forward to the board at the next board meeting, which is January 26<sup>th</sup>, the water supply assessment for rise mines. We will review all that data and with the Board at that time.

**Anonymous Attendee 05:16 PM**

Q: Would you clarify automation and SCADA versus just telemetry for measurements? NID's ability to control a valve or other control appurtenance remotely?

R: Jennifer Hanson: essentially are we using data for measurements or data to operate the canals?

R: Chip Close: data is basically receiving the information and populating it in a computer system. It's not automatically adjusting the flows of the canal in real time. That's done under our distribution plan.

R: For the general public, SCADA is a is a referencing and remote operating system that can be used or measured as a reporting system that can be utilized in a number of different types of infrastructure whether it be sewers or water treatment plants or hydropower facilities. So in this particular situation, when you're referencing schemas for the canals itself, it's more of a reporting component.

**Bruce Herring 05:39 PM**

Q: What is the rationale for using 2019 as a basis for flows?

R: Chip Close: we started this slide show last year, which was not all that long ago, but we didn't have full validation of all of our flows for 2020 yet. And 2019 was fully validated and submitted to the state. So we used those numbers because we had them; plus it was a more-or-less average year whereas 2020 was a very dry year. We have the data for all the other years, and we can supply it.

R: Jennifer Hanson: When we do modeling in the Plan for Water, we'll use a longer-term average as opposed to a single year. This is just for illustration purposes.

**John Meeker 05:39 PM**

Q: How can an individual customer tell if they have a cellular meter and log on to obtain their daily usage?

R: Chip Close: we hope to have the majority of our system converted over by the end of this year -- be patient. If you need to know right now, call into our customer service department and they'll be able to assist.

**Peter Burnes 05:40 PM**

Q: For future reference, before posting the slide deck to the website, could you please annotate the tables with '2019 Average Flows' and 'Length in Miles'? Thank you.

R: Chip Close: yes

**Anonymous Attendee 05:42 PM**

Q: Is there a demand management potential to reduce the summer volume of water at NID and what is a relative guess as to what the potential is?

R: Jennifer Hanson: there is there's a couple of things that are going on right now. The state is coming forward with more and more landscape requirements for the approval of new landscaping. Inherently those new requirements do reduce summer water use. But that's also a policy decision. So that's something that will get tackled by the Board as we move through the Plan for Water process.

**John Meeker 05:49 PM**

Q: If you are redoing the maps of the systems, is it possible to add arrows that indicate the direction of the flow?

R: we can do that.

**Anonymous Attendee 05:51 PM**

Q: Watershed Boundaries on the map please.

R: Jennifer Hanson: we will look into that. I'm not sure how these maps are made. It will be basically pulling in from GIS.

**Carlyle Miller (she/her) 05:52 PM**

Q: Thanks for helping us to better understand the NID system. An impressive asset in our region, and one that contributes much to the well-being of Nevada County residents with the food production that it enables! According to the Nevada County Crop & Livestock Report, \$19.7 million of Ag products were grown in the county in 2020. Farmers and ranchers are producing meat, eggs, fruits, vegetables, honey, and more for our local residents. Many of these producers are winter water customers as year-round farming opportunities increase. Looking forward to a Plan for Water that continues to support our farmers and ranchers who feed our community.

R: Rich Johansen: Well said.

**Jeff Litton 05:54 PM**

Q: Thanks everyone. Quick question, sorry if you've mentioned it. What percentage of canals have a meter at the end?

R: Jennifer Hanson: I don't think we have a straight percentage. It's something that we could come back with, calculating exactly. We're guesstimating, so we'll get a real answer for you

**Otis Wollan 05:54 PM**

Q: Many of us made very specific comments to the Urban and Ag Water Management Plans early last year. NID's response was that ALL these comments would be addressed in Plan for Water. How does NID propose to include those comments?

R: Jennifer Hanson: it's my understanding that we weren't necessarily to go back and re-respond to comments made back then, but that we were going to address many of the comments through the effort. Our hope was that as we walk through the Plan for Water process, many of those questions and concerns that were brought up will be answered as we walk through the data.

Keep in mind we've only had essentially two workshops that were just meant to be system overview analysis. There's an opportunity as we move through the process to bring up those comments in the context of the Plan for Water and the new information that we're presenting.

**Syd Brown 05:55 PM**

Q: For the re-doing/updating the maps, how about a topographic (shaded relief) base, that would be easy to see and understand the watershed boundaries and the canal flow directions?

R: Jennifer Hanson: we will look into that.

**Stewart Feldman 05:56 PM**

Thank you for an informative and well-presented webinar. I appreciate the level of detail and interaction with folks asking questions. Very good.