



GM Newsletter

September 2022

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

Water For Life

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Message from the General Manager

Overwhelmingly, the community says keeping the water flowing should continue to be NID's No.1 priority going into the future, according to a recent District survey of the community.

When it comes to the most important objective of the District, 73 percent of NID customers and local residents said water supply reliability should be NID's most important objective; 26 percent said protection of the environment; and 18.5 percent said low water rates.



Respondents also shared what they think are the greatest challenges regarding water. Increasing demand on supply, not enough water, and climate change impacts were the top three answers. See [Page 2](#) for all of the results.

The information from the survey will aid NID's Plan for Water process, which includes working together with the public to determine the best ways to meet the community's demand for water over the coming decades.

The Plan for Water process is currently focusing on an update of the District's Strategic Plan. The next workshop is on Sept. 13. See [Page 3](#) for details.

It is wonderful and helpful to have such an engaged community providing input so that NID can continue to be your trusted water district and prepare to meet challenges in the future.



NID Community Survey—a snapshot of water views

NID wanted to understand how our customers and local residents view water and water issues, so we asked. The online survey was meant to take a snapshot of what’s on residents’ and customers’ minds. By design, it was short -- six questions – and simple. The survey drew 682 responses, and 348 people left comments.

Here are the responses:

What is the most important objective that NID should focus on in the future? Seventy-three percent of the respondents chose water supply reliability and sustainability; 26 percent said protection of the environment and watershed, and 18.5 percent said low water rates.

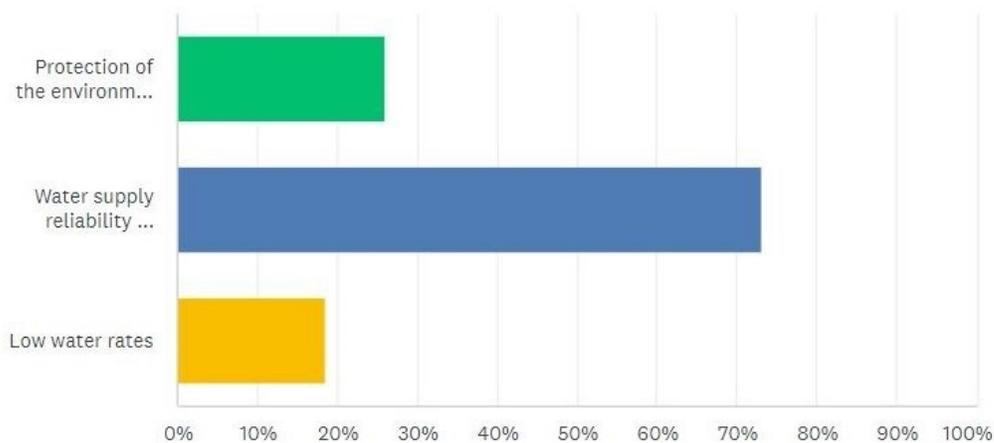
Water is a finite resource; supply is limited. To you, what are the most important uses of water? Domestic (drinking and household) 90.28%, Agricultural 64.06% and the Environment (24.74%) were the top three.

What are the three greatest challenges regarding water? The top three answers were: increasing demand on supply, not enough water, and climate change impacts.

When asked about **satisfaction with NID services**, respondents indicated the District provides a reliable water service, keeps the water system in good condition through timely repairs and maintenance, and protects the water supply from contaminations and pollutants.

When the survey asked questions about **water rates**, people said they believed the amount they pay for water is “just about right.” Also, they said the water is a “good value.”

See the results of the survey, [click here](#).



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Protection of the environment and watershed	25.96% 175
Water supply reliability and sustainability	73.15% 493
Low water rates	18.55% 125

Read the comments about water and NID, [click here](#).



Plan for Water

Invitation to get involved



Above: Great minds think alike. In an Aug. 23 exercise to identify important opportunities for NID, a local rancher and NID maintenance supervisor jockey to place emphasis “long-term planning (infrastructure, financial, etc.)”

The Plan for Water process is now focusing on strategic planning. The Aug. 23 workshop included a discussion on NID’s strategic goals progress.

What’s a Mission Statement? A Mission Statement defines NID’s business, its objectives and its approach to reach those objectives. This statement will serve as the foundation of strategic goals, annual budget, and daily operations.

What’s a Vision Statement? A Vision Statement describes the desired future position of the company.

Paired with together, the vision and mission statements serve as the bookends for developing strategic priorities.

In 2019, NID was involved in a strategic planning effort including the community. However, COVID-19 outbreak put that work on the shelf, and the Board of Directors did not adopt.

Here’s the proposal from 2019:

Mission Statement: The District will provide a dependable, safe, sustainable and resilient water supply; while being good stewards of the watershed.

Vision Statement: Promote healthy watersheds and reliable infrastructure that support our environment, treated and raw water customers, power reliability and recreation to sustain our quality of life; now and in the future.

Next Workshop: Strategic Planning

September 13, 2022: Stage 5

Time: 2-6 pm Gold Miners Inn in Grass Valley

This stage will focus on the development of NID’s updated Strategic Plan, developing new and/or revised Mission, Vision, Strategic Priorities and Goals of the District.

Water resources and forest health stewardship opportunities

NID seeks applicants for CivicSpark program



Two exciting opportunities exist with NID to take on water resources, forest health, and watershed management challenges. The District is seeking candidates to fill year-long positions through the CivicSpark program.

What is CivicSpark?

CivicSpark is a Governor's Initiative AmeriCorps program that coordinates with local public agencies to address community issues such as climate change and water resource management. Each year, CivicSpark recruits Fellows on a service year of 11 months. During that time, they are involved with projects that have a benefit in the here-and-now, and also will be sustained into the future.

NID is especially interested in Fellows who are familiar with the headwaters region, and the local ecosystem. They will work as part of NID's Sierra Nevada Headwaters Environmental Planning & Monitoring Project.

The work will involve different components:

- The Fellows will get out into the field to assess and document conditions on District forested lands. In addition, they will collect, compile and analyze field data, then develop reports to track projects that have been completed. This information will also help prioritize future projects
- Other specific duties will be to research and develop a Burn Plan to bring prescribed fire into NID's plans for fuels management.
- Fellows also will build a summer watershed education program for 2023 and beyond.

Interested?

Read more about these opportunities and learn how to apply, [click here](#).



Fire fuel treatment makes Scotts Flat Reservoir and homes safer

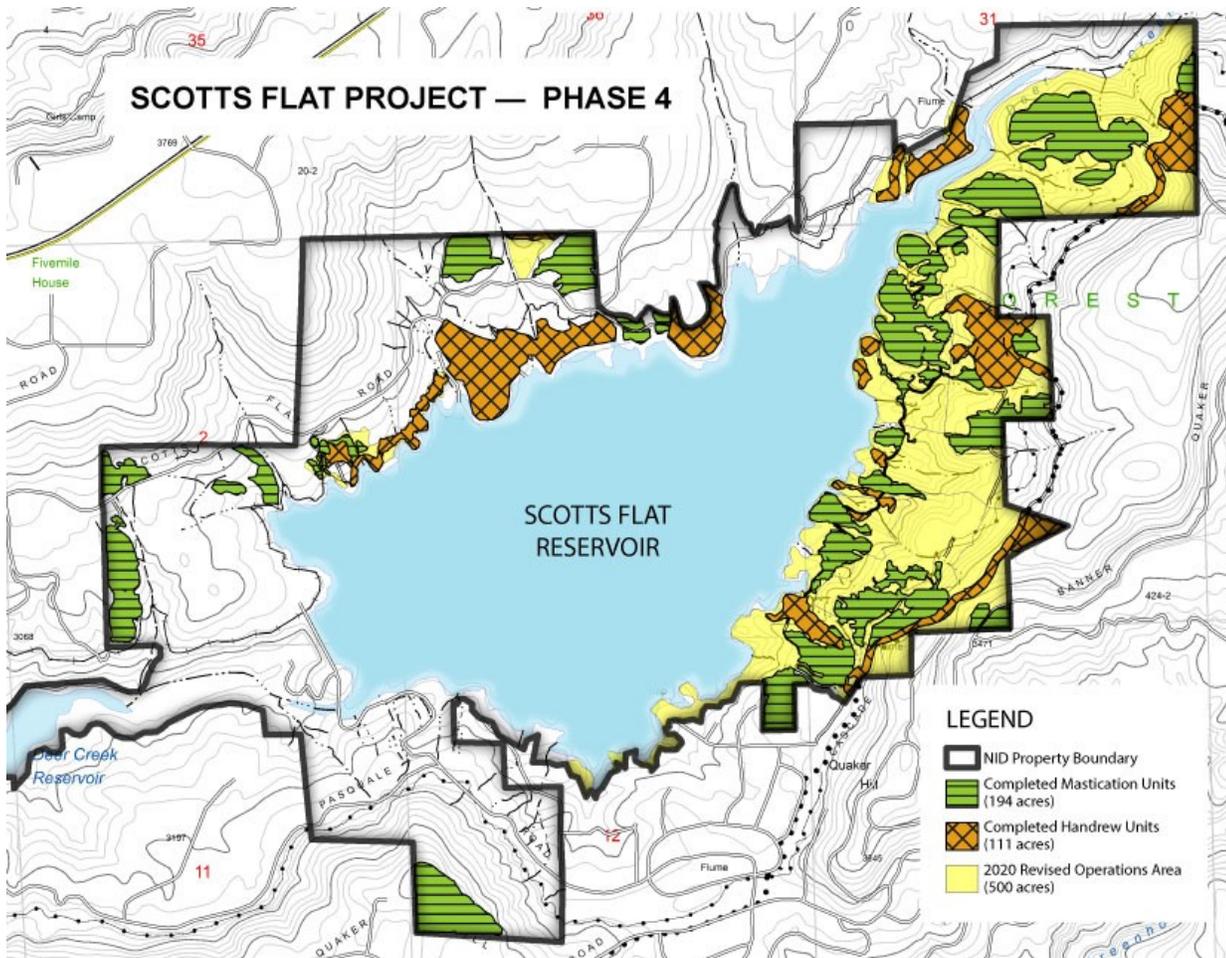
Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant funds the project; watch the video

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has provided nearly \$1 million in grant support for NID fire fuel treatment projects. A focus has been on mitigating the threat of wildfire on NID lands around the Scotts Flat reservoir.

The Scotts Flat Fuels Reduction Project Phase 4 has reduced dense forest on 300 acres adjacent to Scotts Flat Reservoir. The project work consisted of mechanical mastication on 190 acres, hand thinning on 48 acres, and a combination of both on an additional 62 acres of NID land. The District plans on maintaining the treatments and continuing to improve forest health and wildfire resilience.



The SNC has released a short video about the Scotts Flat Fuels Reduction Project. The District's Environmental Resource Administrator Neysa King is featured. [Click here to see the video.](#)



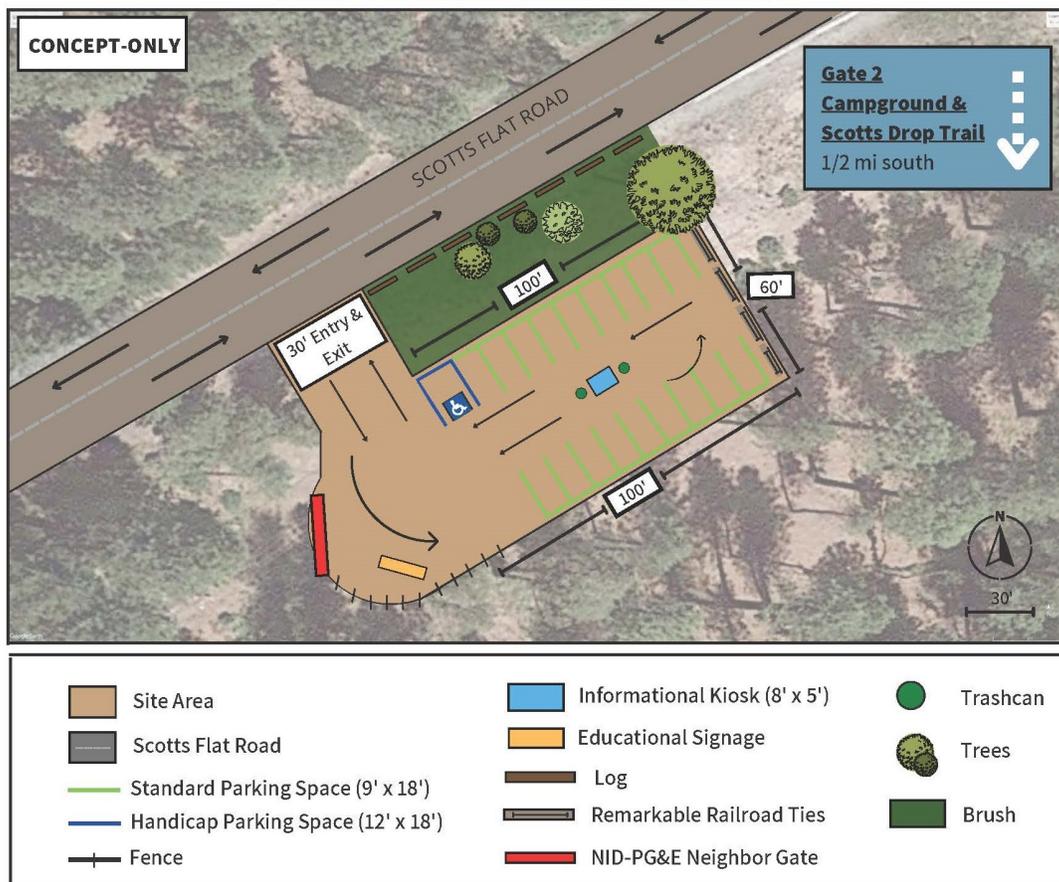
NID receives grant to build parking site near Scotts Flat Reservoir

Nevada County has awarded NID an \$18,000 grant to construct a new parking site near Scotts Flat Reservoir. The parking lot will be conveniently located for cyclists near the Gate 2 entrance and the end of Scott's Drop Trail.

The county grant is part of their Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund for community organizations, which is funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), also known as the COVID-19 Stimulus Package.

The program is designed to respond to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 through promoting public health and safety at highly impacted outdoor recreation destinations.

SCOTTS FLAT LAKE PROPOSED PARKING SITE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT



Annual Water Quality Report available

NID drinking water continues to meet and exceed state and federal public health standards.

The District has released its Annual Water Quality Report (also known as the Consumer Confidence Report), which summarizes water quality monitoring and testing programs for the 2021 calendar year.



Read the details, [click here](#)

In the Field

**Reliable ...
Expert ...**

NID crews are available around the clock to ensure the District's water can be delivered to customers.

(Right) The construction crew replaces a culvert on Wolf Canal.



An NID crew making repairs on the East Bennett main line.

In the Field

**Reliable ...
Expert ...**

The construction crew replaced the raw water valve at Lake of the Pines Treatment Plant.



The construction crew replaces the Tarr canal culvert on the Maidu Trail.



Maintenance crews completed final asphalt repairs at one of the busiest intersections in Grass Valley: Ridge Road and Sierra College Drive.



Bowman Lake

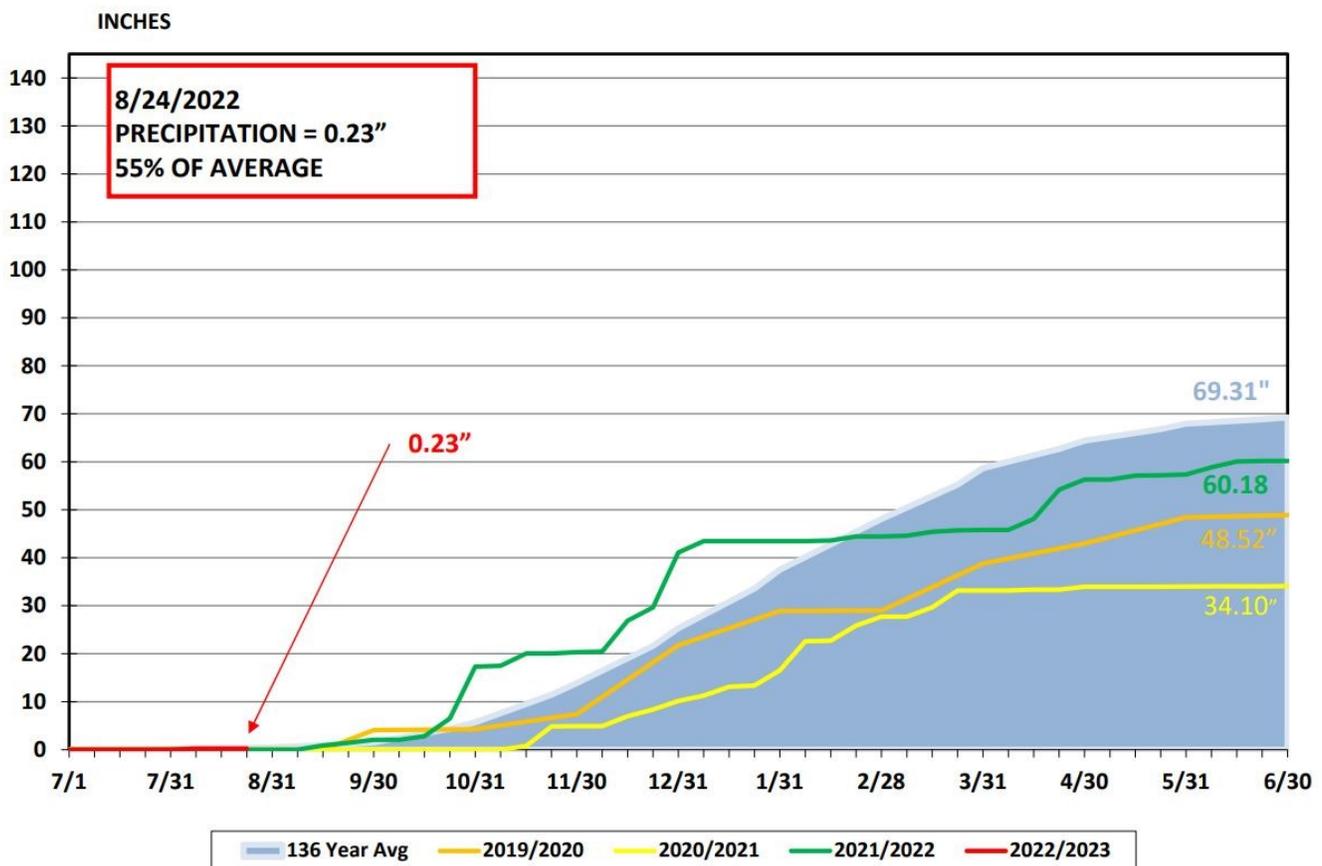
NID has been keeping weather records for Bowman Reservoir (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

The 69.2-inch annual average precipitation 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.

Precipitation is measured for the 12-month period beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

The new water year began on July 1. Less than one-quarter of an inch of rain has fallen since then. That is 55 percent of average.

BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



Reservoir storage is above average

Reservoir storage is 217,212 acre-feet as of Aug. 24. That is 111 percent of average and 80 percent of capacity.

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

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

Know before you go ...

Check out reservoir level information before you head out to enjoy the water. NID provides the latest on capacity and elevation of higher Sierra- and foothill reservoirs.

Deer Creek Watershed:

* [Scotts Flat Lake](#)

Jackson Creek Watershed:

* [Jackson Lake](#)

Bear River Watershed:

* [Rollins Lake](#)

* [Bear River below Rollins](#)

Canyon Creek Watershed:

* [French Lake](#)

* [Faucherie Lake](#)

Middle Yuba River Watershed:

* [Jackson Meadows](#)

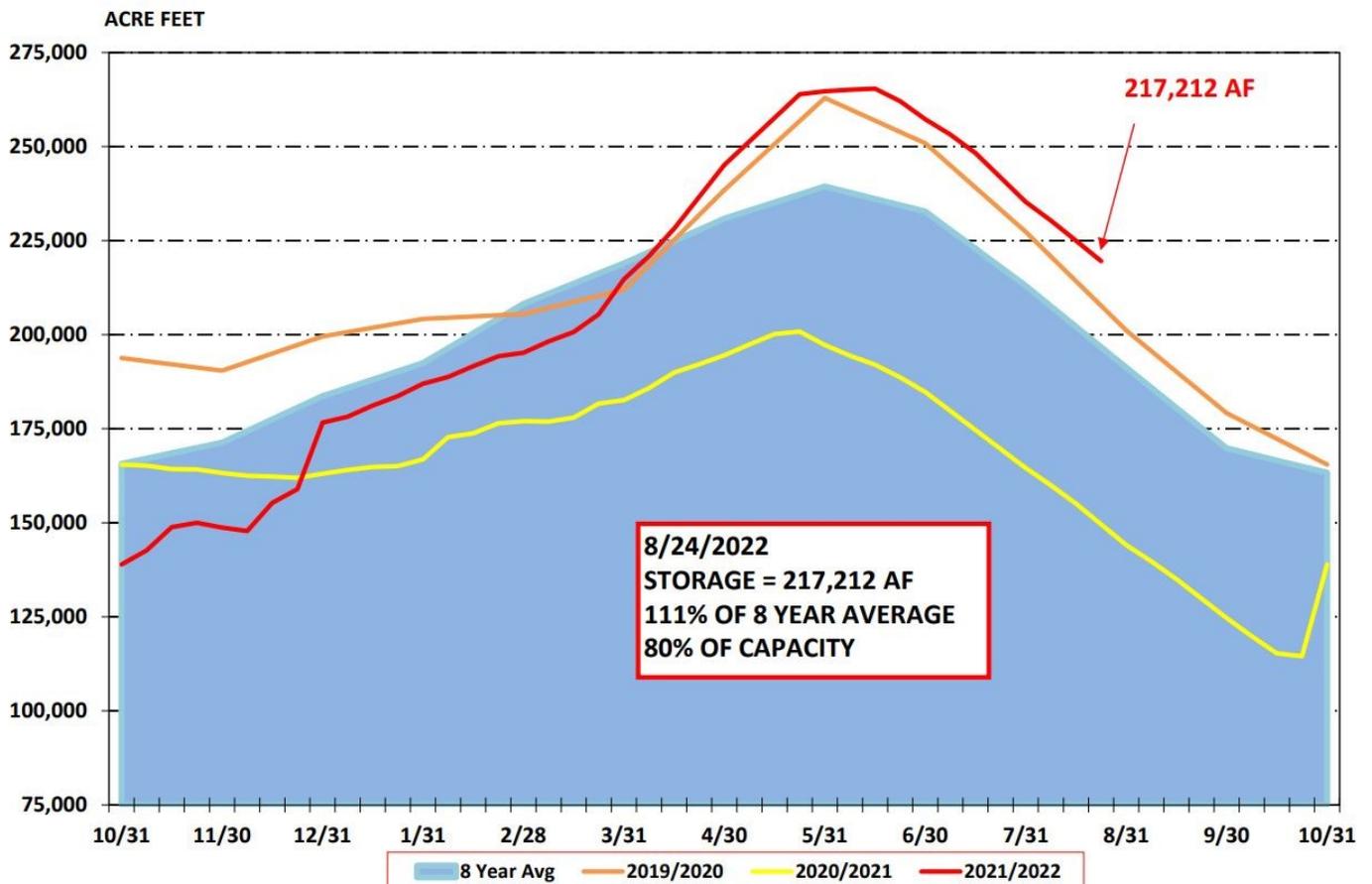
* [Middle Yuba River below Milton](#)

* [Sawmill Lake](#)

* [Bowman Lake](#)

* [Canyon Creek below Bowman](#)

NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



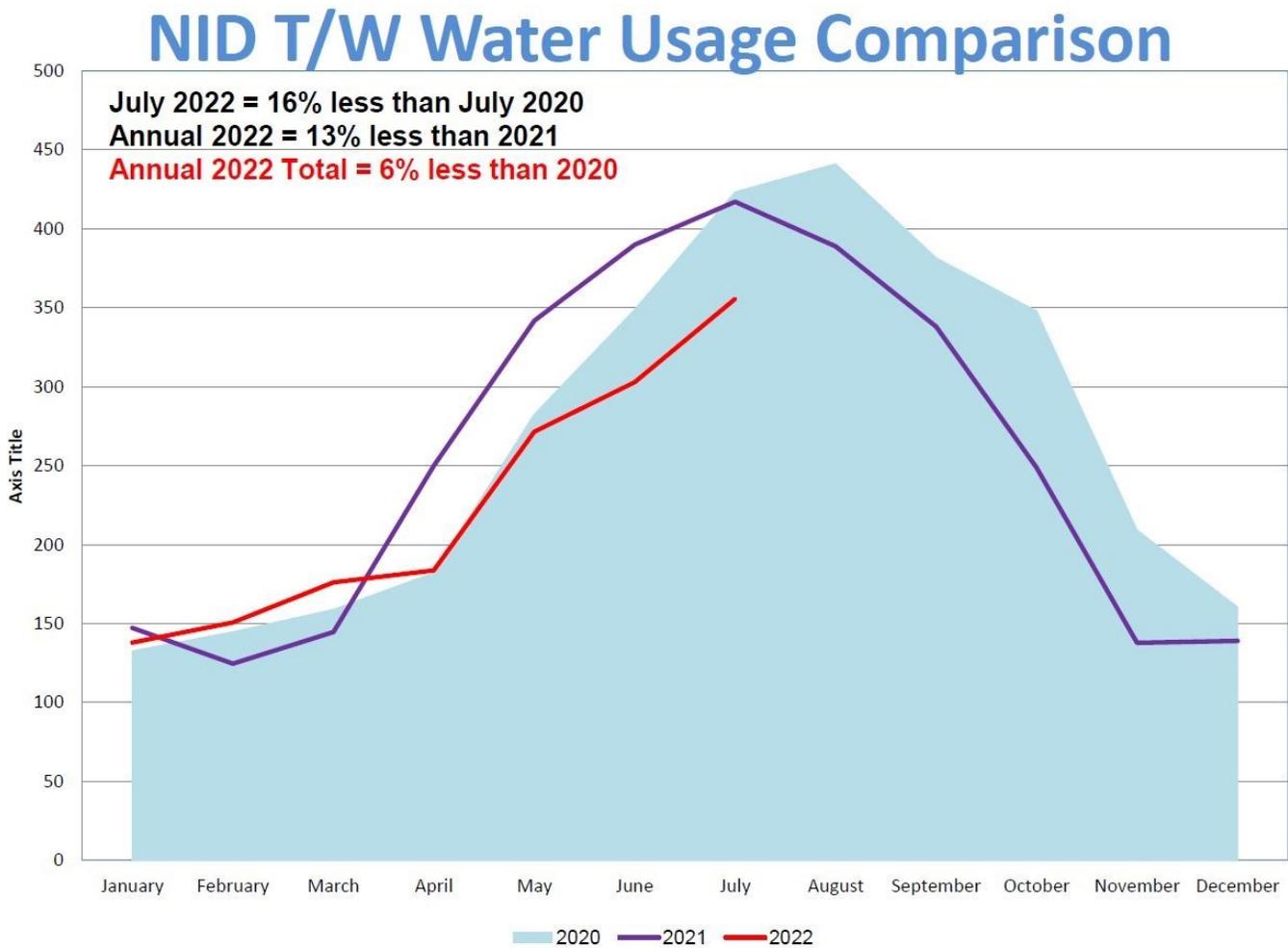
Water conservation improves — water use down 16%

In July, treated water usage was down 16 percent, compared to July 2020. For 2022, total treated water usage is 6 percent less than in 2020.

The challenge for us all is to continue to use water efficiently and boost our conservation numbers. A reduction of 20% is our goal

Let's continue the good efforts. Do you how much water what you use?

[Measure Your Water Use Calculator](#)



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

Project Updates—Engineering and Hydropower

The NID Engineering Department has a number of projects in various phases of construction. Read about the projects on our website, and sign up for email alerts for news about a specific project.

Updated Project Status Reports are now available on the [District's Projects webpage](#). This report provides project information, planner information, and a brief project description.

[Engineering Department Project Status Report \(as of Aug. 15, 2022\)](#)

[Hydroelectric Department Project Status Report \(as of Aug. 15, 2022\)](#)



[Alta Sierra Reservoir Replacement Project](#)

The project involves removing the existing liner, grading the interior of the reservoir to raise the bottom elevation 6 feet, and constructing a 3 MG concrete tank that is centered in the existing reservoir. Learn more, click on the [Project Description](#).



[Hemphill Diversion Fish Passage Project](#)

The project will remove the existing diversion structure and construct a roughen-rock ramp fish passage in its place. Improvements to the Hemphill Canal will include a fish screen to prevent fish entrapment while maintaining water deliveries to NID raw water customers. Learn more, click on the [Project Description](#).



[English Meadow Floodplain Restoration & Enhancement Project](#)

The project includes floodplain restoration and forest management activities on 380 acres within the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Yuba River (Middle Yuba River) in Nevada and Sierra Counties, California. The activities will take place about 1 mile upstream of Jackson Meadows. Learn more, click on the [Project Description](#).

If you would like to receive notifications when updates to the [NID Projects Underway](#) page are made, go to the [webpage](#) and click on the Join Our Mailing List tab at the bottom of the page and select the notifications you would like to receive.

Hydropower Generation Report

The total megawatt-hours (MWh) generated per powerhouse for July

Generation at most powerhouses was below average due to ongoing dry conditions.

Powerhouse	Average Generation	Current Generation
Chicago Park	11,382	10,243
Dutch Flat #2	5,490	2,212
Rollins	5,552	4,411
Bowman	1,788	2,014
Combie North	183	183
Combie South	197	50
Scotts Flat	592	600
Total	25,184	19,713

Hydropower Availability Report

The total percentage of time a powerhouse is available to generate during the given month

Powerhouse	Budgeted Availability	Actual Availability
Chicago Park	93.9%	100%
Dutch Flat #2	94.9%	100%
Rollins	93.8%	100%
Bowman	93.0%	99.9%

Hydropower Outage Report

A list of each time a powerhouse has an outage caused by something other than a lack of water or a planned extended outage

Unit reliability was extremely high for the month.

Powerhouse	Date and Time Out	Duration (HH:MM)	Cause
Bowman	7/13/22 10:02	0:45	PLC Programming
Rollins	7/29/22 06:47	8:59	PG&E Line Outage
		9:44	Total



[Click here: Hydroelectric Project Status Report](#)

Left: Bowman South Arch Dam

Right: Dutch Flat #2 Powerhouse

September 1963: Work on Scotts Flat “raises spillway dam to the crest”

The Yuba-Bear River Project, completed from 1963-66, remains a very important milestone in NID history. It brought not only power generation capability, but new reservoirs and canal systems and, most importantly, created an additional 145,000 acre-feet of water storage for District residents.

During construction, crews ranging from 300 to 1,000 people worked up and down the project, which stretched nearly 50 miles from its headwaters above Jackson Meadows near the Sierra crest to Scotts Flat and Rollins reservoirs in the Sierra foothills.

Ebasco Services, the engineers and construction managers, issued quarterly reports to NID throughout the work. After the first year of construction, the September 30, 1963 report by Ebasco’s Engineer in Charge Cecil Pearce noted, “substantial progress during the period ending September 30 was made on the Yuba-Bear River Development.”

Significantly, the report noted that the Scotts Flat development was the farthest along of all the projects.

The work focused on efforts to double the water storage capacity of the existing reservoir. “The main embankment of the enlarged dam was raised to its final elevation, and during the past three months all effort has been placed on raising the spillway dam to its crest. A bridge is being constructed over the spillway dam making year-round passage possible for the first time.”



In 1963, NID General Manager Ed Koster “rides the ‘cat’ at Scotts Flat Dam with his old friend.”



Final Stages of Construction, Scotts Flat 1963

SCOTTS FLAT 11-30-63 FINAL RIPRAP ON UPSTR. FACE OF DAM

Meetings & Events

The District's Board room will open to a limited number of public for Regular Board of Directors' Meetings. The public may also participate in Board and Committee meetings remotely via Zoom. Note: Plan for Water workshops (Special Board of Directors meetings) will continue to be only tele-conferenced on Zoom.

Zoom information will be provided on the meeting agenda and accessible at www.nidwater.com.

Plan for Water Workshop

Tuesday Sept. 13, 2022
Gold Miner's Inn, Grass Valley
2-6 PM.

NID Regular Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022
9:00 AM

NID Regular Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022
9:00 AM

**Meetings
& Events**

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