



GM Newsletter

February 2022

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

Water For Life

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Message from the General Manager

The first two months of 2022 are shaping up to be the driest in California history, after record-setting storms in October and then December. NID's reservoirs are just below average for this time of year.

As we hope for a March Miracle to bring some cold temperatures and precipitation, our focus is on the snowpack in the Sierra. When that snow melts, the runoff flows down to the foothills through the District's infrastructure to your fields and taps.

Monthly snow surveys are taken from February through April at five different locations within District boundaries. Our water managers then use that data to forecast runoff and determine how much water will be available.

During the first snow survey of the year, NID hydrographers found the average water content in the snowpack was 24.7 inches, which is 123.5 percent for this time of year.



NEW! NID Snow Survey Video

Learn how NID hydrographers do their job. It's fascinating, serious work



Senior Hydrographer Ashley Vander Meer takes a snow measurement.



Plan for Water

Invitation to get involved

The Plan for Water process will continue on March 8 with a discussion about NID's water rights. This will include a review of currently held water rights, including locations, year of seniority and usage. As with all workshops, public input and questions are encouraged.

The workshop will be conducted via a teleconference. The link can be found on the agenda and [here](#). The Plan for Water process aims on providing water management options into the future to ensure a high-quality, reliable water system.

Workshops Summary:

Feb. 8, 2022 - Stage 2

The workshop provided an overview of water rights currently held by NID (Parts 1-2).

- [Presentation: Water Rights](#)
- [Meeting video \(starts at 60:04\)](#)
- [Public comment summary](#)

January 11, 2022 - Stage 1

The presentation included an overview of NID's service area, distribution system and operations.

- [Presentation: Service Area](#)
- [Meeting video \(starts at 1:00:22\)](#)

December 7, 2021 - Stage 1

The focus was on NID's mountain water system.

- [Presentation: Mountain Water System](#)
- [Meeting video \(starts at 59:20\)](#)

Recreation summer jobs: recruitment set to begin

Work outdoors at one of NID's beautiful campgrounds and lakes. Recruitment will soon begin for temporary, full-time assignments at various lakes and campgrounds. Interested applicants must be 18 years of age, and may be required to work weekends and/or holidays.

Every summer, 40-50 seasonal employees join the NID Recreation Department's full-time staff to assist the 240,000 annual campers and boaters enjoying their visits to District campgrounds and reservoirs.

NID operates and maintains eight campgrounds, plus dispersed camping sites in the Jackson Meadows – Bowman Lake areas. The Recreation crew also administers the Combie Dock Program.

Contact Hannah Seagraves at Blue Ribbon Personnel Services at (530) 823-0556 for more details.



February Snow Survey: snowpack was above average

Despite a dry January, snow water content remains above average on District snow courses that provide water to raw- and treated water customers.

During the February survey, NID hydrographers found the average water content in the snowpack was 24.7 inches, which is 123.5 percent of the 20 -inch average for this time of year, on the District's five high-elevation snow courses.

The District is continuing to maximize storage efforts while using short- and long- term forecasts to plan for the upcoming irrigation season. Water efficiency and conservation remain at the forefront of the District messaging as we continue to navigate through drought.

Here are the specifics of the recent snow survey: NID's highest course, Webber Peak, at 7,800 feet, had 65.3 inches of snow with a water content of 25.5 inches. The English Mountain snow course (7,100 ft.) had 79.4 inches of snow with a water content of 33.6 inches. Webber Lake (7,000 ft.) had 57.5 inches of snow with a water content of 22.7 inches. Findley Peak (6,500 ft.) had a snowpack of 54.8 inches and a 23.3-inch water content. Bowman Reservoir (5,650 ft.) had 46.7 inches of snow and a 17.5-inch water content.

NID conducts three official snow surveys each year in February, March and April. Results of the snow surveys are used to predict water availability locally and statewide.



How Do They Do It?

Learn how our hydrographers conduct snow surveys.

NEW video (4:09 minutes) follows our team during the survey for February.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)

Bowman Lake: slightly below average

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

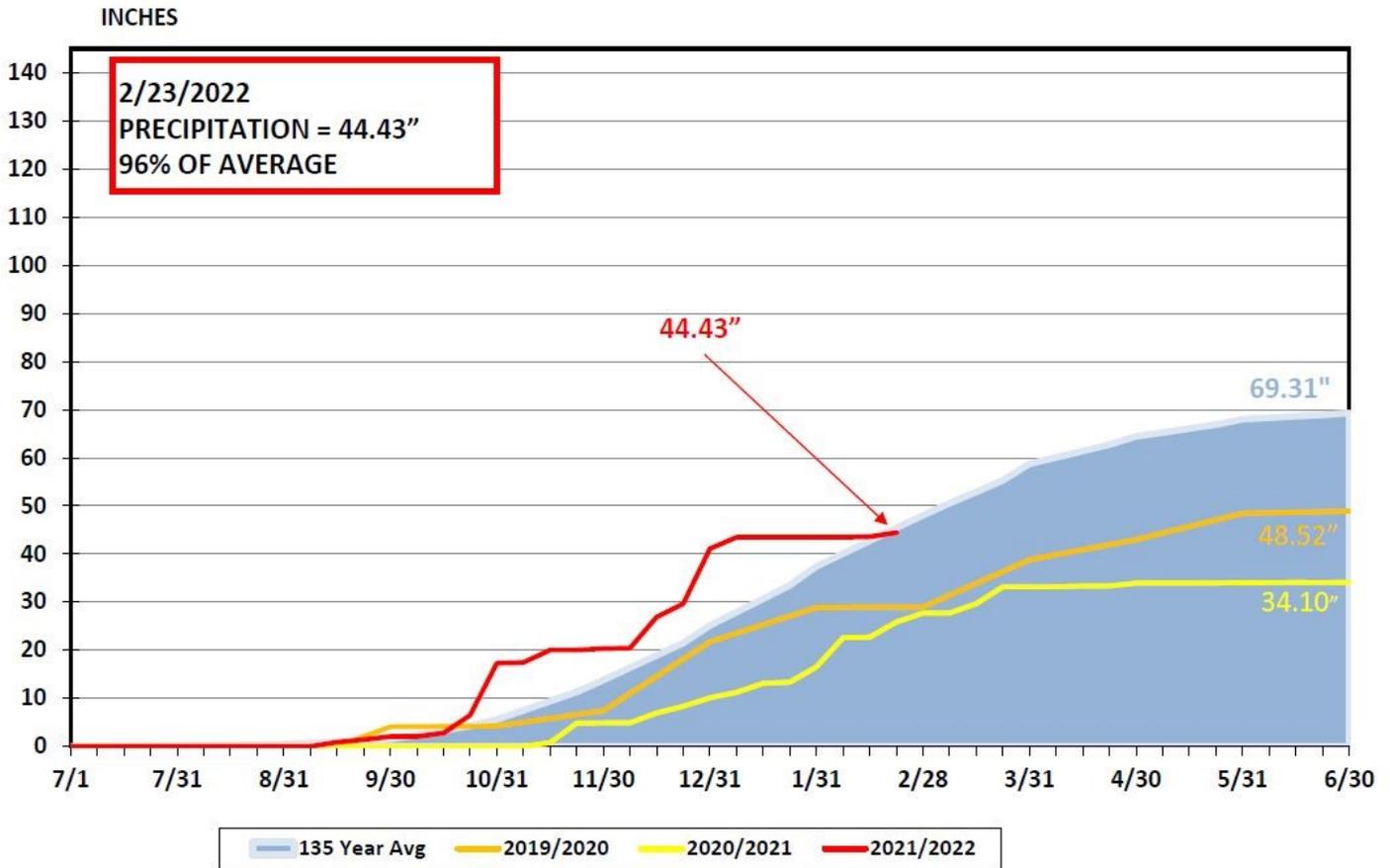
The 69.2-inch annual average precipitation at Bowman compares to an annual average of 56 inches at 2,700 feet near Nevada City and 52 inches at 2,400 feet in Grass Valley.

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

Rain and snow at Bowman Lake has spiked and also dipped dry throughout the winter. As of Feb. 23, 44.43 inches had fallen, which is 96 percent of average.



BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



Keep track of NID reservoir levels

Reservoir storage has improved since last year, but we still are lacking. Storage is 191,261 acre-feet as of Feb. 23. That is 95 percent of average and 72 percent of capacity.

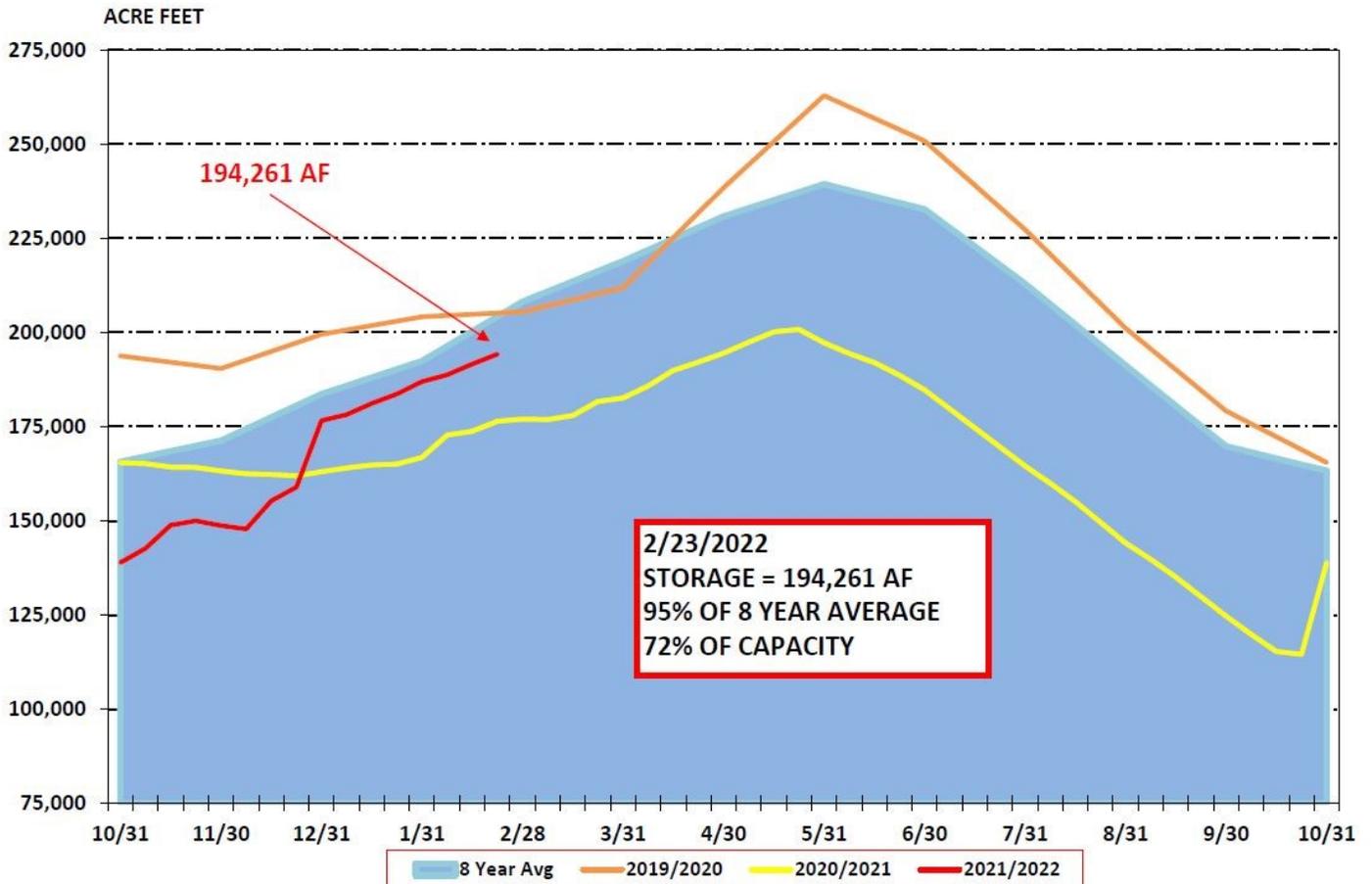
NID's watermaster regularly posts updates of our local reservoir levels. You can see how water levels fluctuate in easy-to-read charts.

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](#).



NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



Engineering Projects

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.

[2022 Engineering Department Project Status Report](#)

[2021 Year in Review, Department Updates, Plans for 2022](#)

Featured Project: Alta Sierra Tank

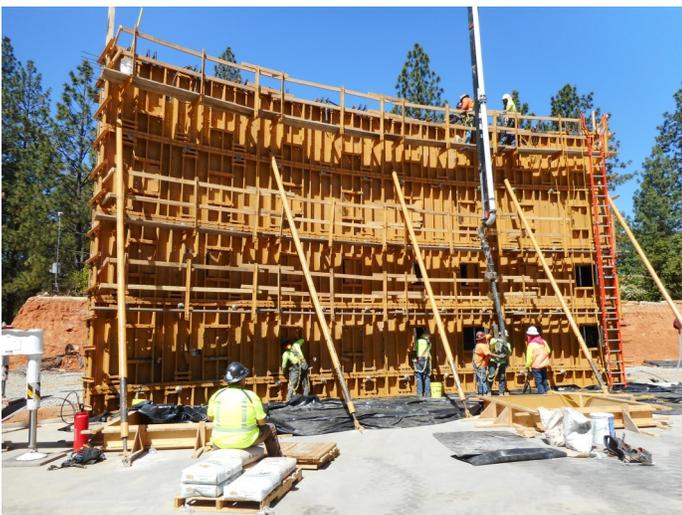
The 3-million gallon (3 MG) treated water Alta Sierra Reservoir was constructed in 1976, replacing the raw water storage reservoir originally constructed in 1965. The existing reservoir was constructed as a covered potable water storage reservoir with a Hypalon lining. Rehabilitation and repairs have been made on the reservoir, including a surface water collection system. However, the Hypalon lining was continuing to deteriorate.



The project has involved removing the existing Hypalon 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.

The concrete tank is 150 feet in diameter and 26 feet tall.

Status: The roof is now complete. The pre-stressing of tank walls began in January. Also, the tie-ins to effluent pipes were scheduled for January.



Water Conservation

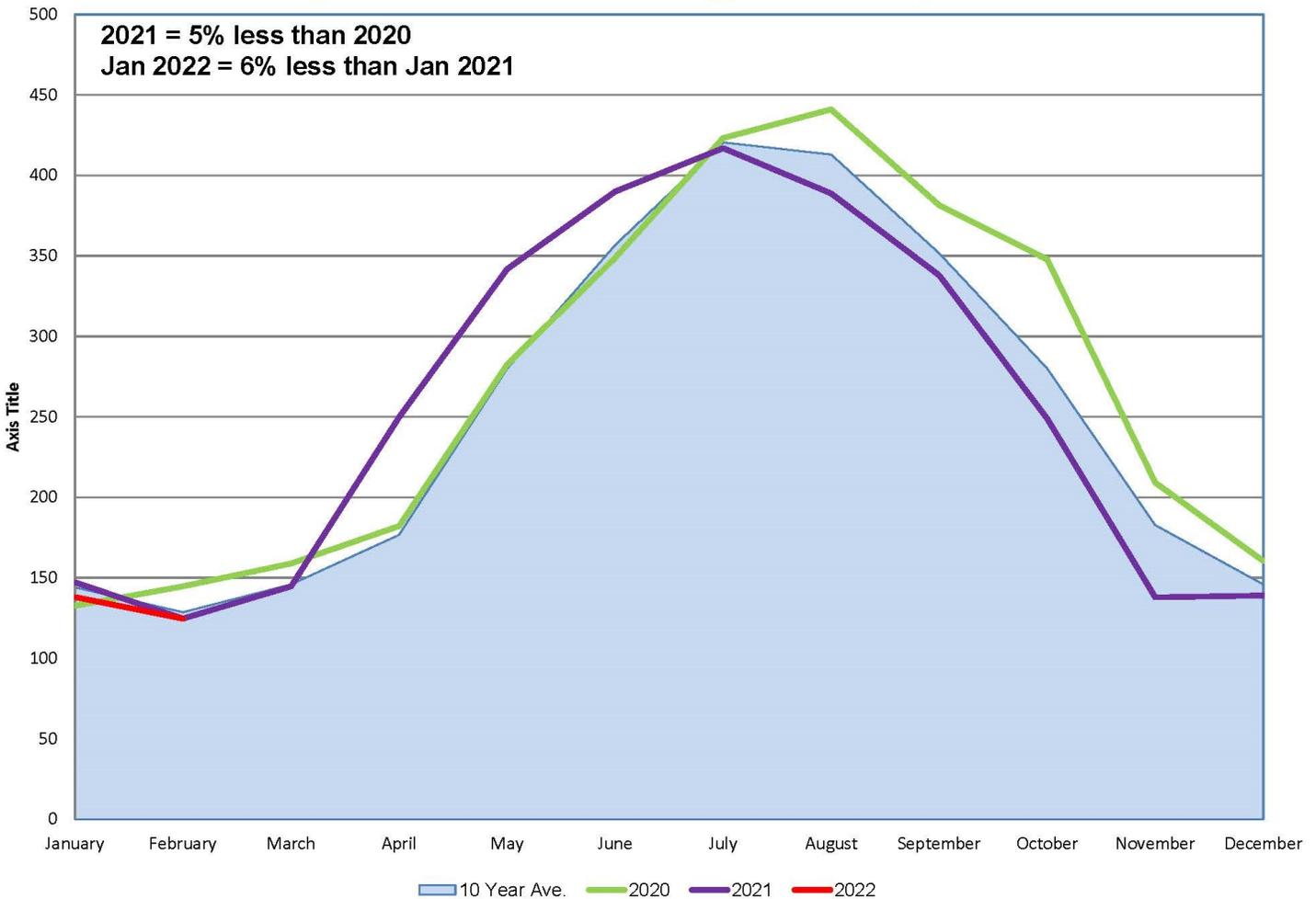
The heavy snow and rainfall in December may have eased our drought status, but it doesn't mean the drought is over. Conservation is still key to preserving our precious water resources.

Although we still are saving more water than in prior years, our conservation efforts have slipped in recent months. We've used 6 percent less than in January 2021 and 5 percent less than in 2020. That is a solid effort, but we can do even better. Our goal is 20 percent.

Locally, our work to conserve water goes a long way. As drought conditions linger and flare during the summer, it's important to make water efficiency a habit. Every drop matters!

Keep up the effort—together we can reach our 20% goal.

NID T/W Water Usage Comparison



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

Hydropower Update

NID is a leader among Northern California water agencies in the production of clean, renewable hydropower.

The District’s hydropower facilities include 13 reservoirs and 20.75 miles of pipes, flumes, tunnels and open ditch canals.

NID Hydropower Plants

Chicago Park	39.00 megawatts
Dutch Flat	24.57 MW
Rollins	12.15 MW
Bowman	3.60 MW
Combie South	1.50 MW
Scotts Flat	0.875 MW
Combie North	0.50 MW



The Rollins powerhouse (above) along with NID’s six other powerhouses can generate a total of 82.20 megawatts. That’s enough to power 60,000 homes.

Generation Report

This 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.

Generation at most facilities was above normal at most facilities in January due to inflow from late December storms. Scotts Flat and Bowman were the exception where low reservoir levels caused by dry conditions last year did not allow for generation.

Powerhouse	Average Generation	Current Generation
Chicago Park	7,311	13,106
Dutch Flat #2	2,818	7,368
Rollins	4,471	8,424
Bowman	143	26
Combie North	110	242
Combie South	613	1,112
Scotts Flat	43	0
Total	15,510	30,278

Hydropower Update

Availability Report

This 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 budgeted availability for the month of January.

Powerhouse	Budgeted Availability	Actual Availability
Chicago Park	93.9%	95.6%
Dutch Flat #2	92.0%	98.9%
Rollins	94.2%	100%
Bowman	92.0%	100%

Outage Report

This report presents a list of each time a powerhouse has an outage caused by something other than a lack of water or a planned extended outage as well as basic information about the outage. Minimizing the number of outages and their length is key to maximizing revenue from the powerhouses.

Damaged powerlines and debris from December storms continued to cause outages.

Powerhouse	Date and Time Out	Duration (HH:MM)	Cause
Chicago Park	1/23/22 0:03	3:17	Broken shear pin
	1/23/22 15:08	4:13	Broken shear pin
Dutch Flat #2	1/1/22 16:24	4:33	Transmission line issue
	1/11/22 8:00	5:40	Remove trees from flume
Rollins PH	1/2/22 21:41	2:40	Transmission line issue
	1/20/22 20:02	14:30	Transmission line issue
	1/27/22 10:23	4:00	Transmission line issue
	1/27/22 19:09	0:46	Transmission line issue
Combie North	1/5/22 14:30	1:15	12 kV line issue
	1/11/22 12:08	0:47	Planned canal work
	1/5/22 14:30	2:00	12 kV line issue
		19:41	Total

Redistricting process begins: draft maps available for viewing

All jurisdictions that have electoral divisions, including NID, must equalize the populations of their respective divisions every 10 years following the federal census.

Redistricting is the process of adjusting the division boundaries to ensure equal populations in each.

NID Board of Directors will continue the discussion in March.

Interactive Draft Maps

* Presented to the Board of Directors on Jan. 26, 2022

[Draft Map A – Minimal change](#)

[Draft Map B – Unifying cities](#)

[Draft Map C – Revision of A](#)

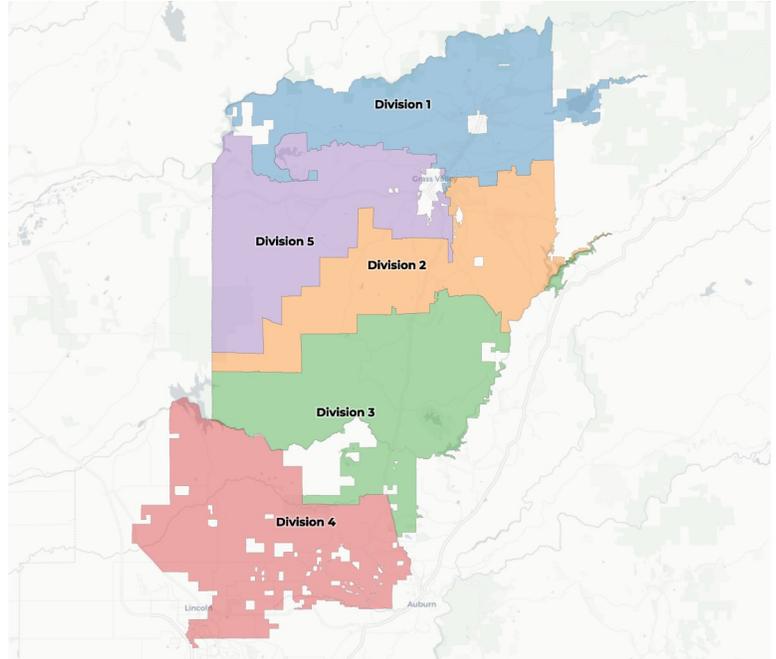
* Presented on Feb. 9, 2022

[Draft Map D - Hybrid of B and C](#)

* Scheduled for March 9, 2022

[Draft Map E - Hybrid of A and B](#)

Note: Click on map and zoom in to see street and area details.



Existing NID division map

For more information, [click here](#)

Meetings & Events

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.

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

NID Special Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday March 8, 2022
3:00 PM

Plan for Water Workshop
Tuesday March 8, 2022
4:00 PM

NID Regular Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 9, 2022
9:00 AM

