



GM Newsletter

March 2026

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

Water For Life

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Division II
President



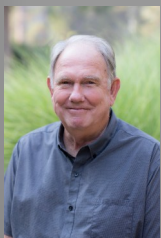
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Message from the General Manager

Water sustains our daily lives, from a glass at the kitchen sink to the water that keeps farms productive and households thriving. At Nevada Irrigation District, our mission remains the same: every customer deserves safe, reliable water every day.

NID last set rate adjustments in 2019, even as costs for energy, materials, construction, and maintenance have steadily increased. While no one welcomes a rate change, updating rates is essential to maintain the pipelines, pumps, and treatment systems that keep water flowing safely across our community.

Following the release of the NID Cost of Service Study, we've determined that a rate adjustment is necessary. A water rate notice with full details has been sent to customers. See [Page 2](#) to learn more about the notice, the Proposition 218 process, and how NID works to manage costs responsibly while ensuring long-term reliability for every home, farm, and ranch we serve.



Irrigation season begins April 15, and NID crews are busy preparing the canal system for spring water flows. Some work involves clearing canals, while other projects require engineering upgrades.

(Left) A crew works in the Tarr Canal at Retrac Way and Hilltop Drive to install a new measuring structure.

These station and upstream channel improvements will provide more accurate, accessible flow data for operations and help prevent water from backing up in the Tarr Canal.

See [Page 9](#) to learn more about the Tarr at Hog Chute Measuring Station Project.

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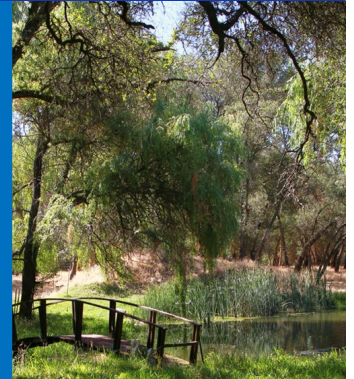
Prop 218 notice sent to customers

NID has begun outreach to inform customers about proposed changes to the District's treated and irrigation water rates.



WATER RATES

*Securing our water future:
Necessary rates for reliable service*



A Proposition 218 notice has been mailed to all property owners and tenants within the District, initiating a 45-day public review period. Customers are encouraged to watch for the notice in the coming days to learn more about the proposed changes and the rate-setting process.

NID is committed to providing clear and accessible information throughout the review period. In addition to the mailed notice, customers can visit the District's public information webpage, "[NID Water Rate Adjustments](#)," which includes frequently asked questions, detailed proposed rate schedules, and downloadable documents related to the rate study.

A public hearing on the proposed rate changes is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on May 27, 2026 at the Nevada Irrigation District Office, 1036 West Main Street in Grass Valley, CA 95945.

NID engaged an independent water rate consultant to evaluate customer demand, revenues, operating expenses, capital infrastructure needs, and financial reserves. The consultant's findings and recommendations are presented in the 2026 Cost of Service Study, a comprehensive analysis designed to ensure fair and equitable rates, sufficient revenue, and adequate reserve funding.

Since its last rate adjustment in 2021, NID has worked to control costs. However, like many public agencies, businesses, and households, the District has experienced rising expenses associated with operating and maintaining a reliable water system.

The rate adjustments are necessary to fund critical infrastructure improvements and meet regulatory requirements. Key cost drivers for the rate increase include completion of the Scotts Flat Spillway Replacement Project, estimated at \$55 million; ongoing repairs to the critical conveyance of the South Yuba Canal; and increasing operational costs related to labor, debt, materials & supplies, and insurance.

If approved by the NID Board of Directors, the new water rate schedules would take effect on January 1, 2027.

[Click here to read the notice.](#)

Have questions? Follow the [NID Rate Adjustment webpage](#) at for details, updates and Prop 218 information.

What is Proposition 218?

Proposition 218 is a California law that requires local agencies to set water rates based only on the actual cost of providing service, including operations, maintenance, infrastructure repairs, and system reliability. It prohibits using water rates to generate extra revenue or fund anything unrelated to delivering safe, reliable water.

Under Proposition 218, customers may submit written protests if they oppose the proposed rate increases. Protests must be received by or submitted at the public hearing on May 27, 2026. Instructions and protest forms are available on the "[NID Water Rate Adjustments](#)" webpage.

NID's Agricultural Water Management Plan adopted for 2026

NID has adopted its 2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP), which outlines how the District delivers irrigation water for thousands of local farms and ranches while continuing to improve water use efficiency and prepare for future drought conditions.

The AWMP highlights the District's ongoing efforts to modernize its delivery system, support growers, and make the most of every drop. These strategies help ensure a reliable, resilient water supply for the region's agricultural community.

The Plan includes findings, modeling, and strategies from the *Plan for Water* process, which is NID's long-range framework designed to secure water supplies, manage demands, and adapt to climate change through community collaboration.

Nevada Irrigation District

2025 Agricultural Water Management Plan

What's in the Ag Water Management Plan?

- Description of agricultural water supplier and service area
- Information on quantity of water uses
- Description of quantity and quality of water supplies
- Analysis of water supply reliability
- Annual water budget based on quantification of all inflow and outflow components for the service area
- Identification of water management objectives aimed at improving system efficiency or to meet other water management objectives
- Quantifying agricultural water use efficiency following the methods presented in DWR's 2012 report, "A Proposed Methodology for Quantifying the Efficiency of Agricultural Water Use."
- Analysis of the effect of climate change on future water supplies
- Information regarding efficient water management practices required pursuant to Section 10608.48.
- Inclusion of a drought plan for periods of limited water supplies available to the supplier. The drought plan describes actions for resilience and response planning

Agricultural Water Management Plans are required under California law for larger agricultural water suppliers and must be updated every five years and submitted to the California Department of Water Resources.

The plan includes detailed information about irrigation water supplies, demand, drought preparedness, and efficient water management practices across the District's service area. Once adopted, the updated plan will be submitted to the state in accordance with these requirements.

Read the Plan, [click here](#).

NID declares surplus water supply

The NID Board of Directors has declared a surplus water supply for 2026, confirming that the District will have more than enough water to meet customer demand this year.

Surplus water is defined as water that exceeds the needs of customers within NID's service area. When a surplus is declared, the District may sell additional supply to a limited number of customers outside its boundaries, as well as to the City of Grass Valley and Nevada City under long-term agreements.

Each year before the April 15 start of irrigation season, NID's hydrography team evaluates expected water availability for the summer. The analysis incorporates current reservoir storage and anticipated snowpack runoff based on snow survey data. These projections help determine whether the District will have adequate supply or if the Water Shortage Contingency Plan may need to be activated.

This year's analysis indicates the following:

- As of March 11, reservoir storage was 255,168 acre-feet, or 112 percent of average for this time of year and 94 percent of total capacity.
- The Department of Water Resources' Bulletin 120 forecast projects 50 percent of average runoff in the Yuba watershed. Using this forecast, NID estimates approximately 61,000 acre-feet of runoff from its own watershed.
- PG&E anticipates having water available for purchase under the Coordinated Operating Agreement, but no estimates are currently available. Because of this uncertainty, NID completed its analysis without including PG&E supplies.

Based on these factors, the District is forecasting an April 1 supply of 279,300 acre-feet, which exceeds the 235,000 acre-feet required for a "normal year" under NID's Drought Contingency Plan.

Irrigation season begins April 15

NID water returns to the foothills on April 15, 2026, when the District begins the irrigation season and releases water into its canal system to support local farms, ranches, and rural customers.

NID maintains more than 500 miles of canals and delivers raw water to more than 32,000 acres across Nevada and Placer counties. This water supports everything from pastures and crops to backyard gardens.

As canals start flowing again, NID encourages customers to check their irrigation systems and use water carefully throughout the season. Small steps, like fixing leaks, adjusting sprinklers, and watching for runoff, can make a big difference in how efficiently water is used.



The Five Lakes Basin in late February, before the recent record-breaking temperatures heated up the area.



Bowman Reservoir

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

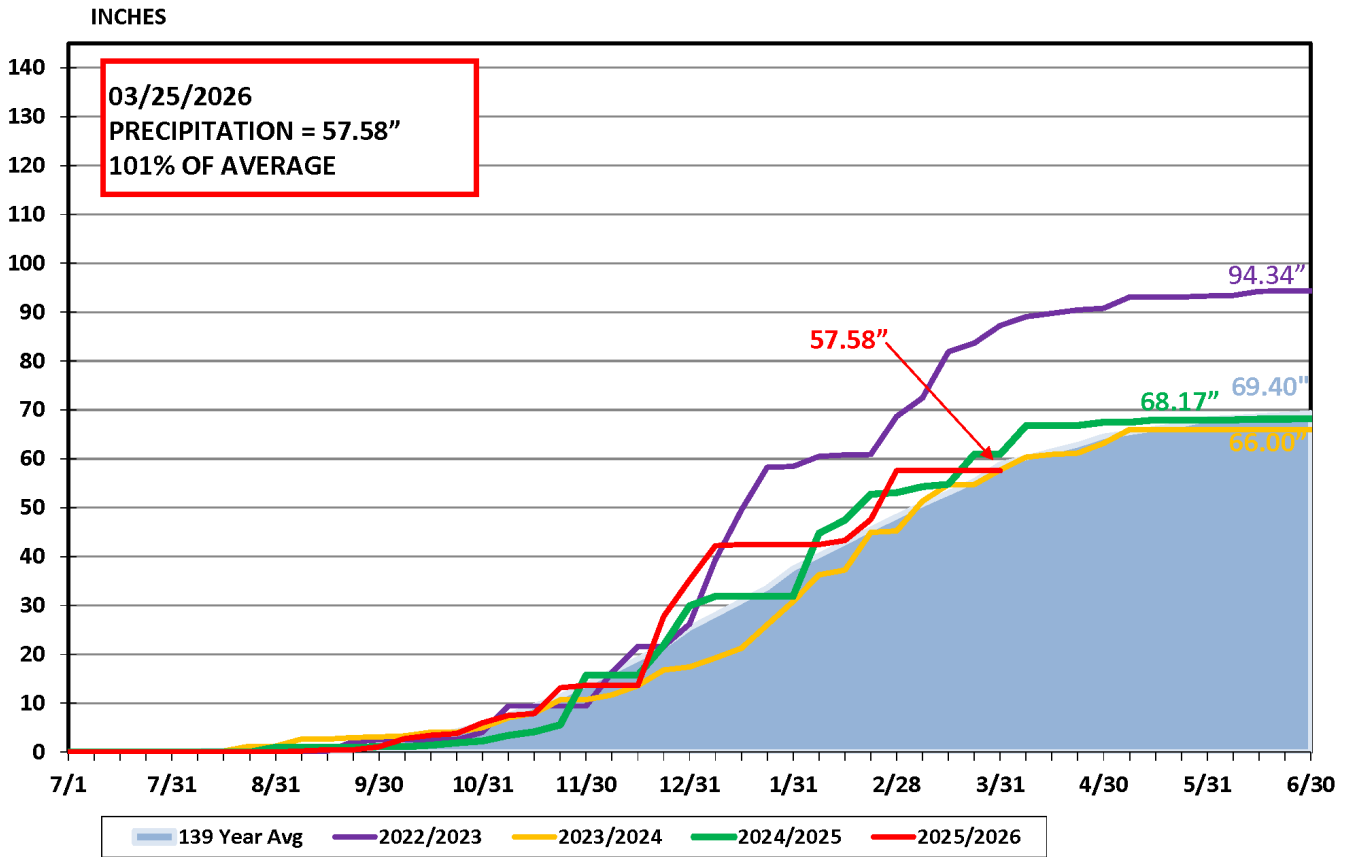
The 69.2-inch annual average of rain and snow at Bowman compares to an annual average of 56 inches at 2,700 feet near Nevada City and 52 inches at 2,400 feet in Grass Valley.

As of March 25, the reservoir was at 101 percent of its average precipitation.



Bowman Reservoir

BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



NID's total reservoir storage is 117% of average

Total NID reservoir storage is 259,867 acre-feet as of March 25, 2026. That is 96 percent of capacity and 117 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.

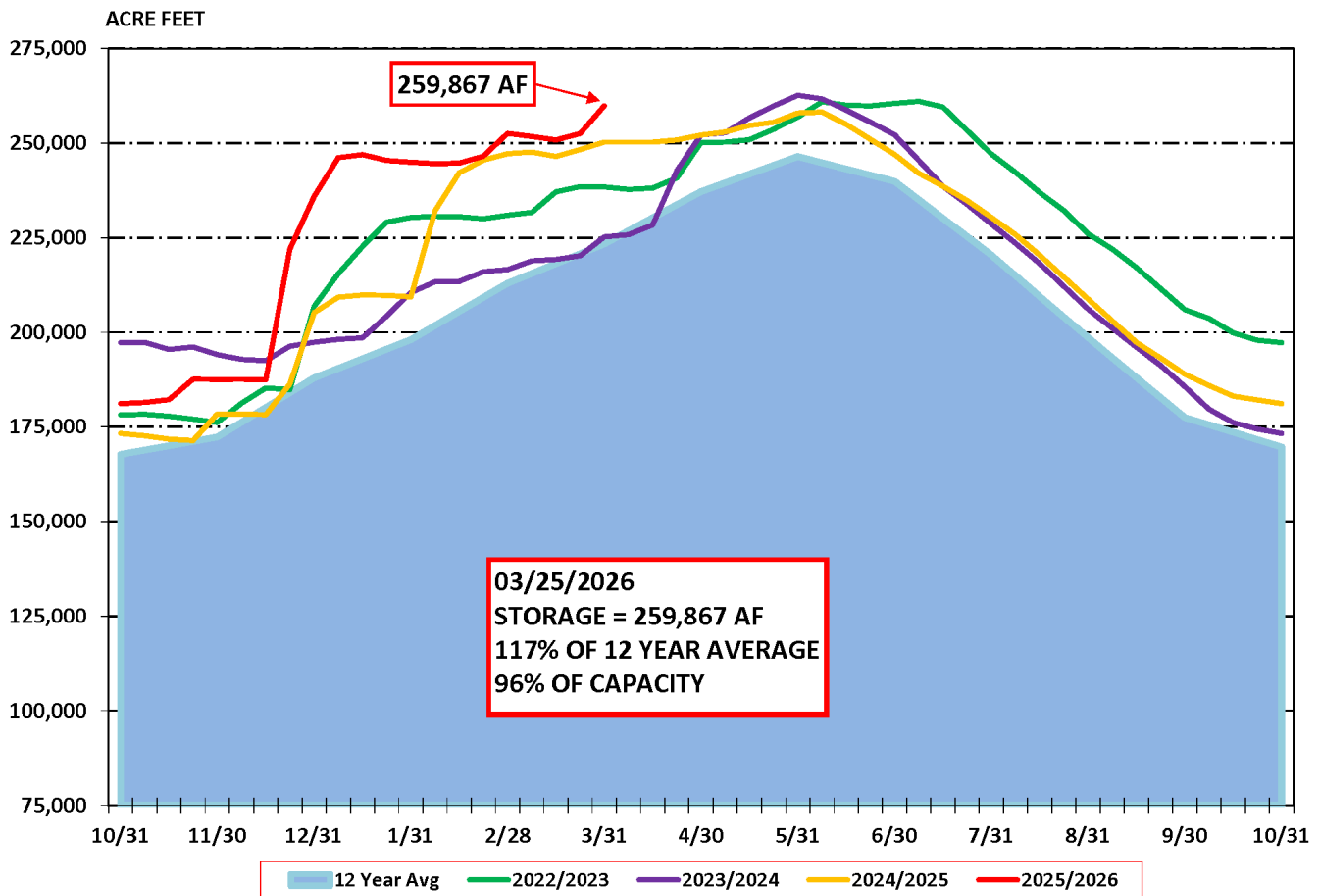


Faucherie Reservoir, Feb. 26, 2026

NID's water managers regularly post updates of 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](#).

NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



Project Updates - Engineering, Hydropower and Operations

Learn details about and check the latest status of projects, including from the Engineering Department, Maintenance Department, Operations Department, Hydroelectric Department, Information Technology and Watershed Division.

[Engineering & Hydroelectric Project Status Updates](#)

Tarr at Hog Chute Measuring Station Project

(From front page)

The project is located near Retrac Way and Hilltop Drive in unincorporated Nevada County. NID is installing a new measuring structure in this section of the canal called a Replogle flume. The straight-walled structure is about 5.5 feet tall with a 6.5-foot base and includes a raised ramp in the floor that slows water for accurate flow measurements. The full structure is roughly 25 feet long.

A small metal stilling well will be installed next to the wall, equipped with feed lines and a radar unit that sends data to Operations remotely. After this irrigation season, the channel upstream of the new station will also be rebuilt.

This project will make readings in this part of the Tarr Canal far more accurate and accessible for NID's Operations team. The channel improvements will also help prevent water from backing up in the canal.

The Tarr Canal is 23.91 miles long and serves about 148 customers, mostly in the Deer Creek South System. As a raw water canal that primarily supports local agriculture, this new measuring station will give NID important data for allocating irrigation water.



Above left: The canal is prepped for placement of the wooden concrete form.



Above right: Concrete is poured into the form to create a wall for the new automated gage.

**Meetings
& Events**



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

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
NID Main Office
1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 2026
NID Main Office
1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

