

Quick thinking keeps water flowing

After a windstorm knocked out two of the three pumps at the Joe Day Pump Station, NID crews from different departments moved fast to protect treated water service to the Snow Mountain area.

They worked together to design and install an emergency portable pumping system. It was a setup none of the current NID staff had ever built before.

Their quick thinking and teamwork helped ensure reliable service while permanent repairs are underway.

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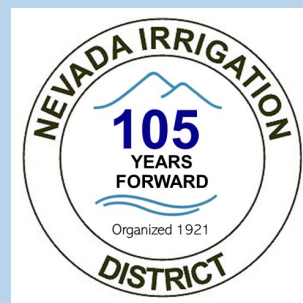
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... and more

May Anniversaries

Eric Fassler, Senior Water Distribution Operator, 26 years

Davin Chittock, Utility Worker I, 10 years

Naomi Schmitt, Director of Human Resources, 9 years

Valerie Kinnan, Accountant II, 8 years

Cory Mayo, Hydroelectric Maintenance Technician I, 4 years

Edwin Aschow, Hydroelectric Communication Technician I

Carter Hatch, Hydrographer II, 3 years

Blake Lukins, Utility Worker I, 3 years

Daniel Roth, Utility Worker I, 3 years

David Villnow, Water Distribution Operator I, 3 years

Austin Slining, Utility Worker I, 1 year

New Hires

Kate Hewett – Controller – May 18, 2026

Cody Kucera – Utility Worker I – May 18, 2026

Promotions

Bobby Newkirk – Hydraulic Technician II

Patrick O'Connor – Hydro Plant Operator II



Bobby Newkirk



Pat O'Connor



Kate Hewett



Retirement Planning Starts with CalPERS

Are you considering retirement in the next 6 months or 1 year? CalPERS has many resources available to assist you along the way.

Check out your online myCalPERS account or try the Retirement Estimate Calculator tool. CalPERS recommends a minimum of 1 year lead time in planning and has a [Retirement Planning Checklist](#) to help guide you through the process. They offer retirement education classes and service retirement phone appointments.

You may contact CalPERS at 888-225-7377 for questions on additional resources and more information on CalPERS retirement guidelines.

Water Rates Update:

Public hearing, Board adopts new water rate schedule

On May 27, NID held a public hearing as part of the process to adjust water rates. Forty-three customers and members of the public, including farmers and ranchers, spoke to the Board before the Board of Directors adopted a new water service rate schedule.

The action establishes maximum allowable rates of 12.5%. The actual rate increases and implementation decisions will be considered in July.

Under Proposition 218, the rate adjustment process would have stopped if a majority-plus-one of customers — 12,537 protests — had been submitted.

A total of 3,105 protest votes were received. The count was unverified, meaning all submitted protests were included without checking addresses, account numbers, or customer information.

For comparison, NID received 4,684 protest votes during the District's last water rate adjustment process in 2019.

Following the protest count, the Board adopted several “guardrails” intended to guide future rate discussions and provide additional public oversight.

Under the new process, rate increases will not happen automatically. Each year, the Board must approve any adjustment during a public meeting before adopting the annual budget. The Board also agreed to hold at least two public workshops before considering future rate changes.

The Board will also review whether grants, outside funding, or reserve funds could help reduce future increases. Irrigation and treated water rates may be reviewed separately if conditions allow.

In addition, staff was directed to continue pursuing grants, partnerships, and cost-saving opportunities to help reduce pressure on rates.

Water rates are NID's primary source of revenue and fund operations, maintenance, debt service, and infrastructure improvements. NID estimates capital improvement costs will total approximately \$140 million over the next five years and \$235 million over the next 10 years. Operating costs are also projected to increase about 4 percent annually.

Check for updates on the [NID water rates webpage](#).



NID Administration staff and Department Directors counted protest forms submitted during the Proposition 218 water rate hearing. A total of 3,105 protest votes were received, short of the 12,537 required to invalidate the proposed water rate adjustments.

Inside the emergency response at Joe Day Pump Station

When two of the three pumps at the Joe Day Pump Station failed during a recent wind-storm and power outage, NID crews moved quickly to make sure treated water service to the Snow Mountain area remained reliable.

The Joe Day station boosts water pressure and elevation from the E. George Treatment Plant, helping serve customers and refill upper storage tanks in the system. With only one pump remaining operational, staff immediately began planning for the possibility of another failure or increased demand.

Operations and Maintenance crews teamed up to create an emergency backup system using a portable pump. It was something none of the current staff had ever seen done before.



Maintenance crews towed the portable pump to the site and worked through the challenge of routing hoses and connections inside the building. Welders fabricated a custom flange to connect the suction side of the system, while the Facility Crew designed hose routes around existing obstacles to reach outside connections.



The team also needed specialized discharge hoses rated for potable water and system pressure. Thanks to rapid support from Fluid Tech Hydraulics, new hoses were manufactured and ready for pickup within hours of the request.

Before the temporary system went online, Operations staff disinfected the equipment and piping to protect water quality. Cross Control technicians Troy Gomes and Bobby Newkirk installed and adjusted pressure relief valves to ensure the temporary setup stayed within normal operating limits.

After testing, the portable pump successfully delivered the needed supply and will remain on site until permanent pump repairs are completed.

Meanwhile, the Electrical Department continues coordinating with vendors to return the damaged pumps to service as quickly as possible. Staff credited Electrical Systems Superintendent Phil Goguen and his team for helping coordinate the emergency response and repair plan.

The project highlighted the creativity, teamwork, and quick problem-solving that keep NID's water system operating during unexpected emergencies.

Smith Road PRV relocation takes shape



NID's Construction Crew recently completed the relocation of the Smith Road PRV station, placing the new station into service on May 19.

The old station sat near the Highway 49 widening project, making relocation necessary. The new site on LaBarr Meadows provides a safer, more accessible location while also preparing the system for future expansion with infrastructure for a second PRV station.

The project has been technically challenging, involving six pipelines with two different pressure zones and pipe sizes that all had to align precisely within the new building layout. Future station piping on the high-pressure side is designed to handle pressures up to 255 PSI, requiring upgraded high-pressure flanges and fittings. Some progress has been delayed while the crew waits for specialized parts to arrive.

Once completed, the facility will include a block building with a metal roof, skylights, a personnel door, and a roll-up door.

The May 19 outage was carefully scheduled to minimize impacts on the water demands of nearby businesses. Work began at 1 p.m., and the crew completed the station tie-in around 5 p.m. System Operators remained on site afterward to adjust pressures and flush the system before returning operations to normal.

With the station now online, the next phase of work will include slab construction, block work, and site grading. The project highlights the Construction Crew's versatility, from pipeline installation to structural construction. Their teamwork and efficiency continue to move this important project forward. Nice job!



Service crew tackles asphalt repairs

As road rehabilitation projects ramp up across Lake Wildwood, Lake of the Pines, and Nevada County, the Service crew has been hard at work completing asphalt patching repairs ahead of the busy construction season.

The crew shares roadway maintenance responsibilities with several other departments, helping keep roads safe and in good condition throughout the district's service areas. While patch paving may seem straightforward, it is one of the most challenging maintenance tasks to perform well.

Successful asphalt repairs require skill, patience, and a sharp eye for detail. Crews often shape and level hot asphalt by hand, working carefully to create the smoothest repair possible. Even under the best conditions, patch work can be difficult to perfect.

Despite the challenge, the Service crew continues to deliver high-quality repairs and takes pride in its workmanship. Their effort, craftsmanship, and attention to detail earn high marks as they help prepare local roads for another busy season of improvements.



Don't forget — catalog with NID-logoed apparel



Employees can purchase apparel with the NID logo from a catalog designed to feature District colors and styles.

What's for sale? Choose among "non-FR" shirts, t-shirts, polos and more.

"Non-FR" stands for "non flame retardant." Brands include Carhartt, Ariat, Red Kap, and SanMar.

Browse the catalog and order for yourself. [Click here](#)

Username: your NID e-mail address

Password: NIDNONFR (Use all capital letters)

When you sign in, choose in the top menu "Shop by Category" and then select the "Non-FR" category to view the options.

It's wild out there at Scotts Flat

For years, bald eagles have been regular visitors at Scotts Flat Reservoir. And this season is no different.

Senior Park Ranger Caden Caldwell captured this action shot last week near the Cascade Shores boat launch.

While the bald eagle may be one of the most majestic birds in North America, this particular moment shows that even America's symbol isn't above getting scolded by a very determined crow.

The crow appeared to be making its feelings known with a mid-air swipe as the eagle flew overhead, proving that attitude sometimes outweighs size in the bird world.

One thing's for sure: between the wildlife sightings and the scenery, there's never a dull moment around Scotts Flat.



Urban Water Management Plan adopted

NID's updated Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) has officially been approved by the Board of Directors, providing the framework that will guide the District's water planning and reliability efforts over the next five years.

While the UWMP is required under California law, it also reflects the real-world work happening across the District every day, from maintaining infrastructure and managing reservoirs to planning for drought conditions and meeting customer demand.

The plan evaluates current and future water needs, available supplies, and NID's ability to continue delivering reliable service under a variety of conditions, including dry years. It also supports long-term planning efforts tied to conservation, system reliability, and operational preparedness.

For employees, the UWMP represents more than a regulatory document. It captures the coordination and expertise required across departments to operate and maintain a complex water system that serves the community year-round.

The updated plan includes:

- Water supply reliability and long-range planning
- Overview of NID's service area and water sources
- Historical, current, and projected water use
- State-required conservation targets (20x2020)
- Existing and planned conservation programs
- Five-year drought risk assessment
- Water Shortage Contingency Plan

[Read the 2025 UWMP, click here](#)



Behind the System: 105 Years Forward

Built on History. Powered by People

NID has launched "105 Years Forward," a 16-week campaign celebrating 105 years of delivering water — and the people and infrastructure that keep the system running every day.

The campaign highlights NID's history, modern operations, and the work happening behind the scenes to maintain reliable water service now and into the future.

Each week features:

- Monday: Historic milestone posts and archival photos
- Wednesday: "Myth vs. Fact" reels about water operations and infrastructure
- Friday: Employee spotlights featuring field crews, operators, technicians, and support staff

Topics include early infrastructure, water treatment, hydropower, drought preparedness, watershed health, and long-term system reliability.

Employees can follow the campaign on NID's Facebook page and visit the campaign hub for stories, photos, and videos: [105 Years Forward Campaign Hub](#)



PIPELINE

A Newsletter to the Employees of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 12 Number 5 May, 1991

Water outlook NID rides high on 'Miracle March'

The month of March brought 207 percent of normal precipitation to NID mountain watershed, allowing the district to plan normal deliveries of water this year and preserve adequate carryover storage for next year, says Operations Supt. **Terry Mayfield**.

In early April, it appeared the district's reservoirs would fill but dry conditions for much of April dampened the early optimism. The current outlook is for the system to be nearly full.

April normally brings 5.5 inches of precipitation to Bowman Reservoir and May normally produces 3.4 inches.

By mid-April, storage at Scotts Flat Reservoir stood at 95 percent of capacity and Rollins was at 92 percent. Recreation operators, who two months ago worried if they would even be able to operate, are anticipating good business this year.

Manager of Placer Administration **Ed Neuharth**, who oversees NID recreation programs, said operators are



Irrigation season opens

Ken Jaynes and Dan Crosby turn on the water at the new headworks on the Newtown Canal to signal the irrigation season.

seeing increased campground reservations and are planning full schedules of special events.

Mayfield said water releases were being carefully monitored as the irrigation season opened so water storage could be preserved while still meeting irrigation needs. He said the district had prepared to carry over as little as 70,000 acre-feet of water for next year but now anticipates carryover storage of 100,000 to 120,000

acre-feet.

Jackson Meadows is presently at about 40 percent of capacity and will probably not fill unless some large storms appear this spring, said Mayfield. Bowman, now about two-thirds full, could fill with average precipitation.

"We're still in pretty good shape," Mayfield concluded. "We'll be nearly full. The Miracle March brightened things up considerably."

Reducing the risk of tick bites

As field work increases across brushy, grassy, and wooded areas, so does the potential exposure to ticks. While small in size, ticks can pose a serious health risk to employees working outdoors. Taking a few simple precautions can significantly reduce the likelihood of bites and related illness.

Ticks are commonly found in tall grass, leaf litter, shrubs, and along the edges of trails and canals. They do not jump or fly; instead, they latch onto people or animals that brush against vegetation. Once attached, ticks can feed for several hours or even days, increasing the chance of disease transmission. In California, ticks can carry bacteria and pathogens that may cause illnesses such as Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections.

Prevention is the most effective control. When working in tick-prone areas, wear long sleeves and long pants, and tuck pant legs into socks or boots to reduce exposed skin. Light-colored clothing can make ticks easier to spot.

Use EPA-registered insect repellents containing DEET, picaridin, or permethrin-treated clothing when appropriate for the task and environment. Always follow product instructions and workplace guidelines when using repellents or treated gear.

After fieldwork, conduct a full-body tick check as soon as possible. Pay close attention to areas such as the scalp, behind the ears, under the arms, around the waist, behind the knees, and along sock lines.

Showering within two hours of being outdoors can help wash off unattached ticks and provides a good opportunity to inspect the skin.

If a tick is found attached, remove it promptly using fine-tipped tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull upward with steady, even pressure. Avoid twisting or squeezing the tick, which may increase the risk of infection. Clean the bite area thoroughly with soap and water or an antiseptic.

Monitor for symptoms in the days and weeks following a bite, including rash, fever, fatigue, or unusual aches. Report any concerns to a supervisor and seek medical advice if symptoms develop.

Staying aware and taking preventive steps helps protect not only individual health but also supports a safer, more resilient field workforce.



Meetings & Events



Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 24, 2026
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

** Dates subject to change. For updated dates, see nidwater.com

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