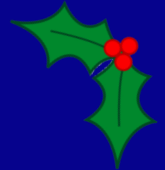




# GM Newsletter



December 2025

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

*Water For Life*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ricki Heck  
Division I  
President



Chris Bierwagen  
Division II  
Vice President



Brad Fowler  
Division III



Earl Stephens  
Division IV



Rich Johansen  
Division V

## Message from the General Manager

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! As we look toward a new year, NID remains committed to providing a dependable water supply, caring for our watersheds, and investing in the infrastructure that keeps our system strong.

This year brought key upgrades, including a new siphon on Orr Creek to replace the deteriorated 1940s original and the full replacement of the aging 20-inch steel pipe on Hughes Road to improve treated-water service.

We're also pleased to share significant news: NID has received a \$615,000 CAL FIRE grant to reduce wildfire risks along the South Yuba Canal by creating a shaded fuel break and removing hazard trees. This funding will help protect a critical part of our water system.

Winter storms have been slow to arrive, but reservoir levels remain healthy. Here's to a wet winter and a hopeful new year for all.



Work paid for by the \$615,000 CAL FIRE grant will help protect the South Yuba Canal from wildfire. The canal supplies Scotts Flat Reservoir and serves as the sole conveyance for water that supports Nevada City, Grass Valley, Penn Valley, Lake Wildwood, Chicago Park, Alta Sierra, and more. Read about the grant on [Page 2](#).

### In this edition:

- \* Board selects new officers for 2026: Bierwagen and Fowler, [Page 3](#)
- \* Bowman precipitation is 78% of average, [Page 4](#)
- \* Total storage update: reservoirs are 105% above average, [Page 5](#)
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## NID receives \$615,000 CAL FIRE grant to protect critical water infrastructure

NID has received a \$615,000 grant from CAL FIRE to help protect the South Yuba Canal, one of the most important components of the NID water system.

Located about 18 miles east of Nevada City near Highway 20, the project will cover 58 acres along the canal. Work will focus on reducing wildfire risks by creating a shaded fuel break and removing hazard trees within 100 feet on both sides of the waterway.

This area includes 2.5 miles of elevated flume that carries all the water feeding the Deer Creek side of NID's system — the source that supplies most communities in western Nevada County. Strengthening protections here helps safeguard the reliability of the local water supply.

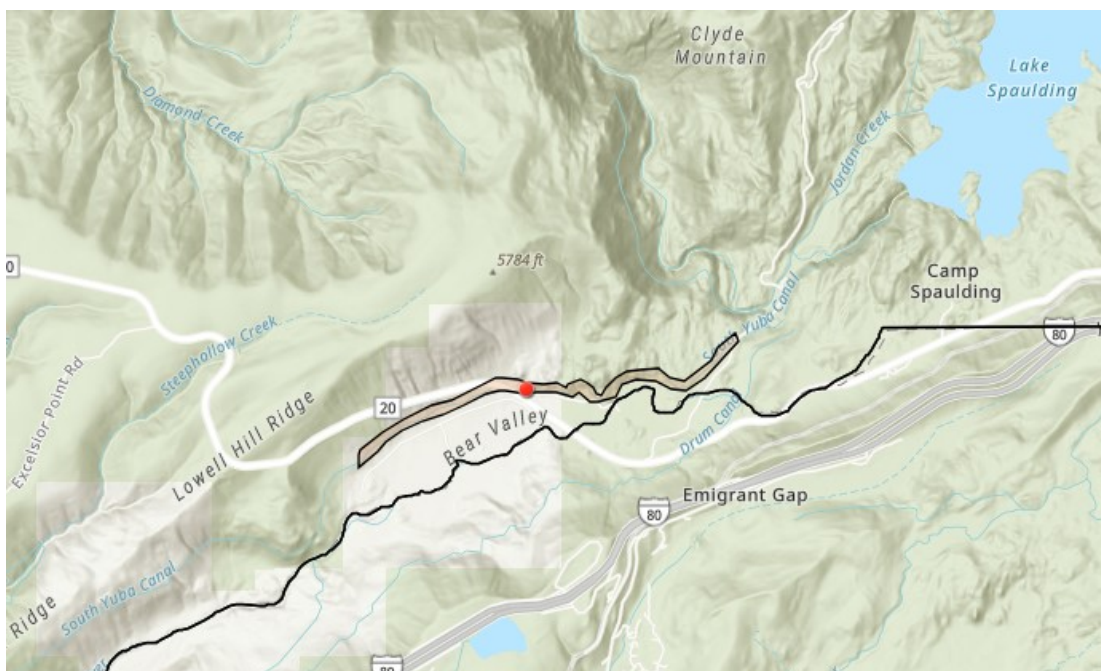
"This significant grant from CAL FIRE will help protect NID's critical infrastructure and our communities as a whole," said Greg Jones, NID Assistant General Manager. "The South Yuba Canal is the primary conveyance that transports water to Scotts Flat Reservoir and is the keystone of the District's Deer Creek System."

The project is funded through CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program, supported by California Climate Investments (CCI). These statewide investments reduce greenhouse gas emissions while supporting fire-threatened communities.

"Besides providing the funding to do the physical work to safeguard the South Yuba Canal, this will also be a good opportunity to improve public awareness and reduce human ignitions," Jones added.



The NID Environmental Resources Technician examines the landscape along the South Yuba Canal, where trees encroach on the structure from both sides.



This proactive effort will enhance community safety and support the long-term reliability of NID's water delivery system.

[Read more details about the grant and project, click here.](#)

# NID Board selects new officers for 2026

## *Bierwagen will serve as President and Fowler as Vice President*

The NID Board of Directors has selected Chris Bierwagen as Board President and Brad Fowler as Vice President for 2026. The officers were selected during the Board's December 10 meeting.

Bierwagen, a lifelong, fourth-generation farmer, was first elected to the NID Board in 2018 to represent Division II, which includes Chicago Park and Alta Sierra. He has served on numerous local agricultural and community boards, including as President of the Nevada County Farm Bureau.

Fowler was elected in 2024 to represent Division III, which includes the Bear River and Lake of the Pines. His family has been ranching and farming in Placer County since 1885. He has been actively involved with NID for more than 15 years and is a long-term water customer.

The new appointments are effective Jan. 1, 2026.

In 2025, Ricki Heck served as Board President, with Bierwagen as Vice President.

Read more about the NID Board of Directors, [click here](#).



For 2026, Chris Bierwagen (left) will serve as President and Brad Fowler (center) will serve as Vice President of the NID Board of Directors.

# Bowman Lake

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

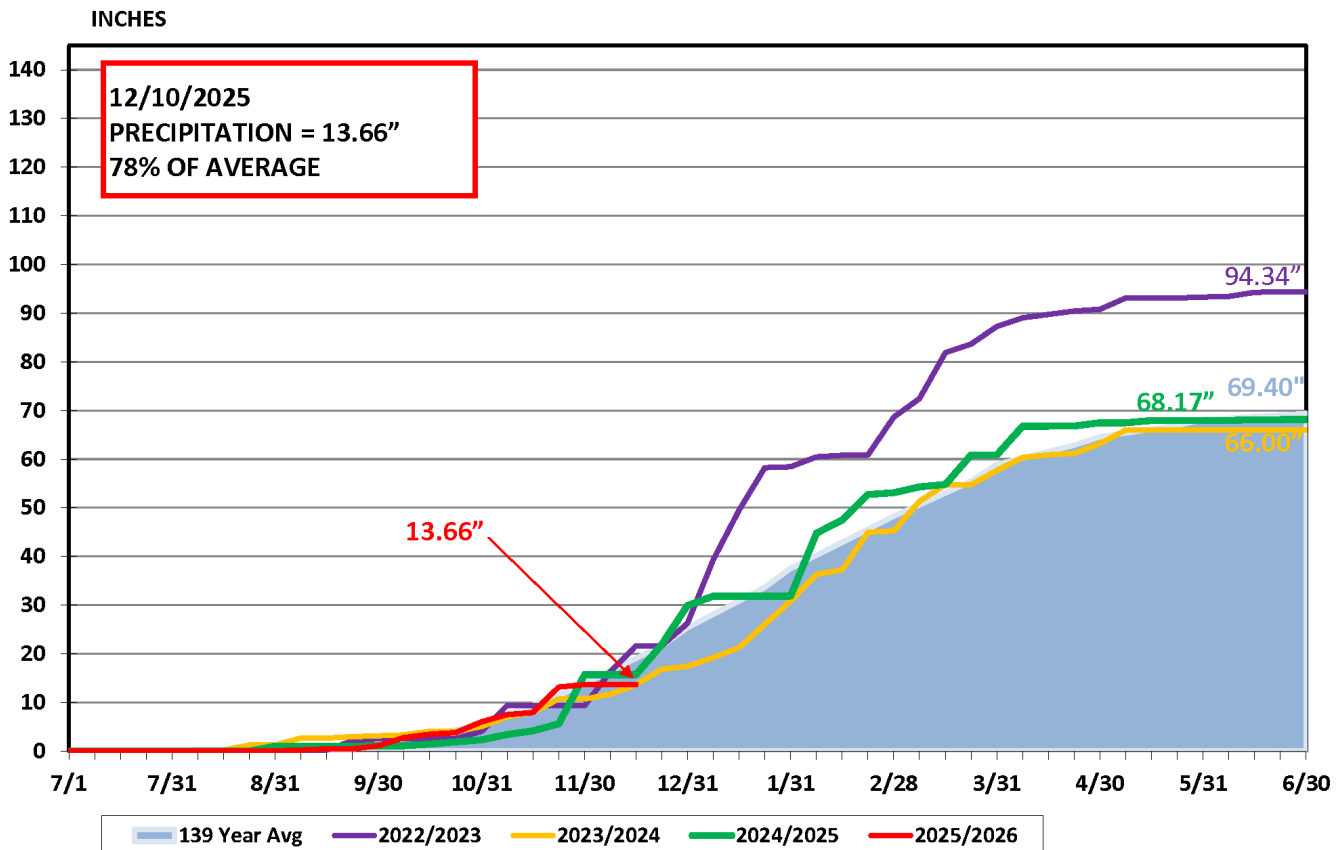
The 69.2-inch annual average of rain and snow at Bowman compares to an annual average of 56 inches at 2,700 feet near Nevada City and 52 inches at 2,400 feet in Grass Valley.

The warm, dry start to winter has limited mountain snowfall. Bowman Lake, at a 5,567 foot elevation, is currently at 91% of its average precipitation.



Bowman Lake

## BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



# NID's total reservoir storage is 105% of average

Despite the dry start to winter, total NID reservoir storage is strong at 108% of average. Higher-elevation reservoirs remain full, in part because water hasn't been able to move through the system since 2024, when PG&E experienced three failures at Lake Spaulding that cut off NID's water supply.

Total reservoir storage was 187,331 acre-feet as of Dec. 10, 2025. That is 69 percent of capacity and 105 percent of a 12-year average.

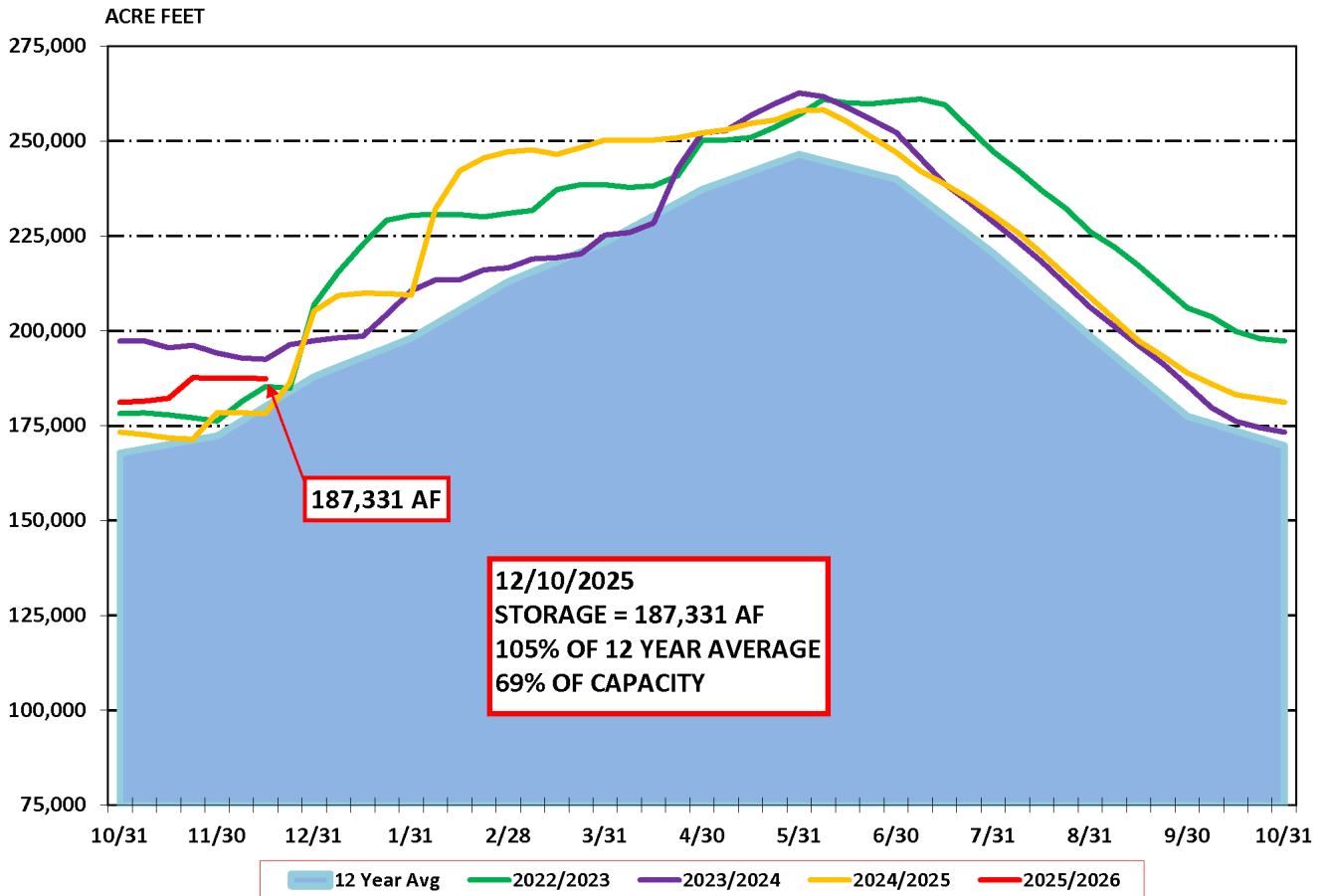


Faucherie Lake

Reservoirs include: Jackson Meadows, Jackson, French, Faucherie, Sawmill, Bowman, and Canyon Creek, as well as Scotts Flat and Rollins.

Interested in the latest information? It's all just a click way 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.

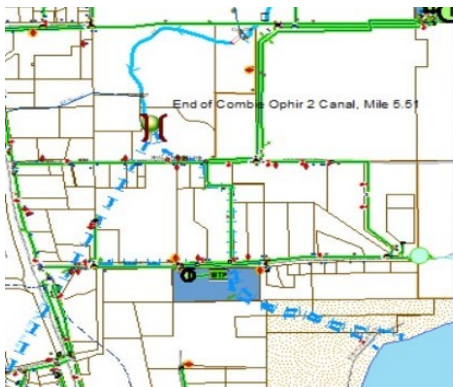
## [Engineering & Hydroelectric Project Status Updates](#)

### North Auburn Treatment Plant Chemical Tanks

**Purpose:** This project is necessary to provide redundant storage of water treatment chemicals at the plant. The goal is to have two tanks for each chemical so repairs and maintenance can be completed without interruption. A new concrete tank pad with curbing will be poured and drains that tie into the existing system to prevent off-site spillage. Once the pad is complete, the District will purchase and install a new double-walled chemical storage tank.

**Status:** Design is currently underway. Anticipate construction to be late 2025 or early 2026.

The project will result in lower operating costs, provides a regional benefit, and reduces the threat to health and safety.



### Combie Ophir II & III Siphon Replacements

**Purpose:** The Orr Creek Siphon is a portion of the larger Combie Ophir II & III Replacement Project that includes the Orr Creek, Dry Creek, and Rock Creek Siphons. The siphons, constructed in the 1940s are deteriorated, and undersized. The project is for the replacement of an 850-foot steel pipe, 36 inches in diameter that has reached the end of its useful life. The new pipe will be a 48-inch diameter PVC pipe and is sized to include an emergency contingency flow.

**Status:** Construction is underway. The majority of the Orr Creek Siphon has been installed. The Dry Creek and Rock Creek Siphons will be replaced in the future.



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# Meetings & Events



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 14, 2025  
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 28, 2025  
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

*\*\* Dates and times subject to change.  
Please check [nidwater.com](http://nidwater.com) for updates*

