



GM Newsletter

March 2025

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

Water For Life

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Message from the General Manager

As we begin to see hints of spring, NID's reservoirs have filled and are spilling as designed. Even before the recent storm, mountain snowpack measured about average, according to the March survey by District hydrographers. That is good news for upper watershed health.

Yet, that abundant water will not reach Rollins or Scotts Flat this summer, due to ongoing repairs to Lake Spaulding powerhouses by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). We are working to lessen the impact, but expect water levels in our foothill reservoirs to be dangerously low, similar to last summer. Read the latest update on [Page 2](#).

Knowing this, let's all increase our efforts to use water as efficiently as possible. During this emergency water situation, the call is to conserve 20 percent. It can be difficult but important and necessary. Thank you for doing your part to help stretch our water supply.



NID hydrographers conduct a snow survey on Findley Peak. Story on [Page 3](#).

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Water supply update: low reservoir levels expected again

The water supply outlook for the 2025 irrigation season is not encouraging. Similar to last year, essentially no flows from Lake Spaulding will replenish the water levels in Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs.

During the NID Board of Directors meeting on March 12, 2025, General Manager Jennifer Hanson provided an update on PG&E's continued repairs to Spaulding 1 and Spaulding 2 powerhouses and what that will mean for water deliveries to NID this year.

Flows from PG&E's Lake Spaulding into the South Yuba Canal, NID's primary water conveyance, will "be very minimal, so we will be living off of storage again this irrigation season in both Scotts Flat and in Rollins," she said.

Because of delays and repairs by PG&E to their Lake Spaulding infrastructure, "We could potentially have some challenges refilling the reservoirs," Hanson said. "It is likely we will enter into canal rotations again coming off of the Deer Creek system, which is Scotts Flat, because of the capacity issues in the DS Canal and having to pump up to the Cascade."

New issue with submerged intake tower

New damage is being reported to the lower intake tower in Lake Spaulding, and PG&E has begun investigation into the situation.

During the March 12 meeting, Jennifer Hanson notified directors of the development, adding NID doesn't have much information but will provide updates as they are received.

The submerged intake tower takes water from the lake to the powerhouses and tunnel, that, in turn release into the NID system. While repairs were being made to the tunnel, workers found a piece of large steel strapping that had broken loose from the tower.

2025 Spaulding 1 Outage Effects to Rollins

Worst Case Scenario (Spaulding 1 flows return Aug 2)

- Rollins expected to drop below 30,000af by August (Deadpool @ 17K)
- Maximum purchase of PG&E water to reserve supply in Rollins
- Potential for rotating canal outages may be necessary in August
- Boating and recreation unavailable in mid to late July

Best Case Scenario (Spaulding 1 limited flow end of June)

- Rollins expect to drop to elevations similar to 2024 elevations
- Purchase of PG&E water required but to a lesser extent
- Potential to sustain Rollins elevation to keep three boat ramps operational
- Rotating canal outages will likely be avoided

2025 Spaulding 2 Outage Effects to Scotts Flat

Worst Case Scenario (no Spaulding 2 bypass)

- Scotts Flat drops to elevations witnessed last year
- Maximum emergency pumping necessary
- Rotating canal outages necessary beginning in late June
- Boating and recreation become limited later in summer

Best Case Scenario (Spaulding 2 bypass at 70 CFS)

- Lake levels will continue to drop, however at a much slower pace
- Spa 1 tie-in may force short canal rotations depending on flow availability
- Emergency pumping will still be required
- Recreation should have adequate supplies for a full season

[Watch the GM Report during the March 12 Board of Directors meeting, click here.](#)

The water supply update starts at 1:05:33. The intake tower discussion starts at 1:07:41

NID March snow survey: snowpack at 96% before March storm



A cold, wet February delivered, and as a result the snowpack has increased and the water content in the snow is just about normal for this time of year. NID hydrographers conducted the second snow survey of the year on Feb. 26-27; their measurements taken on five courses found the water content to be 96 percent of average.

NID conducts three official snow surveys each year in February, March and April. Measurements are taken on five snow courses at varying elevations to get a good overview of the amount of snow in the watersheds that provide the District with water.

The average of water content of the snow was 26.9 inches, which was 96 percent of average. The snow water equivalent is an indicator of how much water the snowpack contains. This helps water managers plan for water use.

Notably, for the season, precipitation at Bowman was 54.31 inches as of March 5. That's 109 percent of average

The snowpack benefitted from a February that delivered 21.23 inches of precipitation, which is 200 percent of average for the month.

[See the details for snowpack and water content on each of the five snow courses, click here](#)

New boating seal program starts ahead of season on May 1

Efforts to protect reservoirs from invasive golden mussels

NID's new boat seal program has started, so boaters can fulfill a 30-day quarantine before the start of boating season on Scotts Flat and Rollins reservoirs.

The District's boat launches at foothill reservoirs have been closed to motorized watercraft as a precaution to prevent the spread of the highly invasive golden mussel. These bivalves pose a real risk to NID infrastructure if introduced into local waters.

As protection, a new program requires motorized watercraft to be free of any threat before entering Scotts Flat or Rollins reservoirs. That necessitates a 30-day quarantine or a decontamination process before entry to the water.

District boat launches are set to open May 1, 2025. In advance, starting March 20, boaters can get their red seals to start the 30-day quarantine.

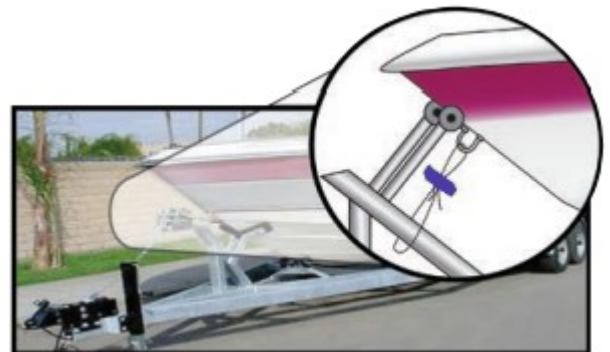


Golden mussels

[For full details, visit the NID Mussel Prevention Program webpage.](#)

This page has everything you need to know to get out on the water:

- * Boat Launching Protocols
- * Where and When Can I Get My Red Seals?
- * Where Can I Get My Blue Seals?
- * Watercraft Decontamination
- * Quagga, Zebra and Golden Mussel Facts
- * What Makes Golden Mussels So Invasive?



WHERE DO I GET MY QUARANTINE SEAL?

You can get your red seal applied for free at the following boat launches at Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs:

- Rollins Orchard Springs - Thursday, Friday and Saturday (7:30AM – 4PM)
- Rollins Long Ravine - Thursday, Friday and Saturday (7:30AM – 4PM)
- Scotts Flat - Thursday, Friday and Saturday (7:30AM – 4PM)
- Cascade Shores - Wednesday and Friday (12 noon – 2PM) and Saturday (9AM-12 noon)

Call for Conservation

NID customers are requested to reduce their water use by 20 percent this year.

While most customers stepped up last year to conserve, we all need to double-down this year to protect our limited water supply.

Customers have found that beginning to use water efficiently is as simple as making small habit changes to protect the resource for our community. These include simple practices, such as turning off the tap while brushing teeth and reducing the amount of water in gardens and landscaping.



With the continued water shortage emergency, certain water restrictions will remain. These include commonsense conservation practices:

- * Keep water on your property: no runoff is allowed from watering that flows onto adjacent property, walkways, roadways, parking lots, and the like.
- * Don't water outdoor landscapes within 48 hours after a rainfall.
- * Put a nozzle on it: when you wash your car, the hose must be fitted with a spray nozzle or attached device that cuts off water when not in use.
- * No fake water features: don't fill a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system.
- * Ask for a glass of water: drinking water won't be automatically poured in restaurants. Thirsty? Not a problem. Water is available upon request.

[Conservation tips, click here](#)



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.

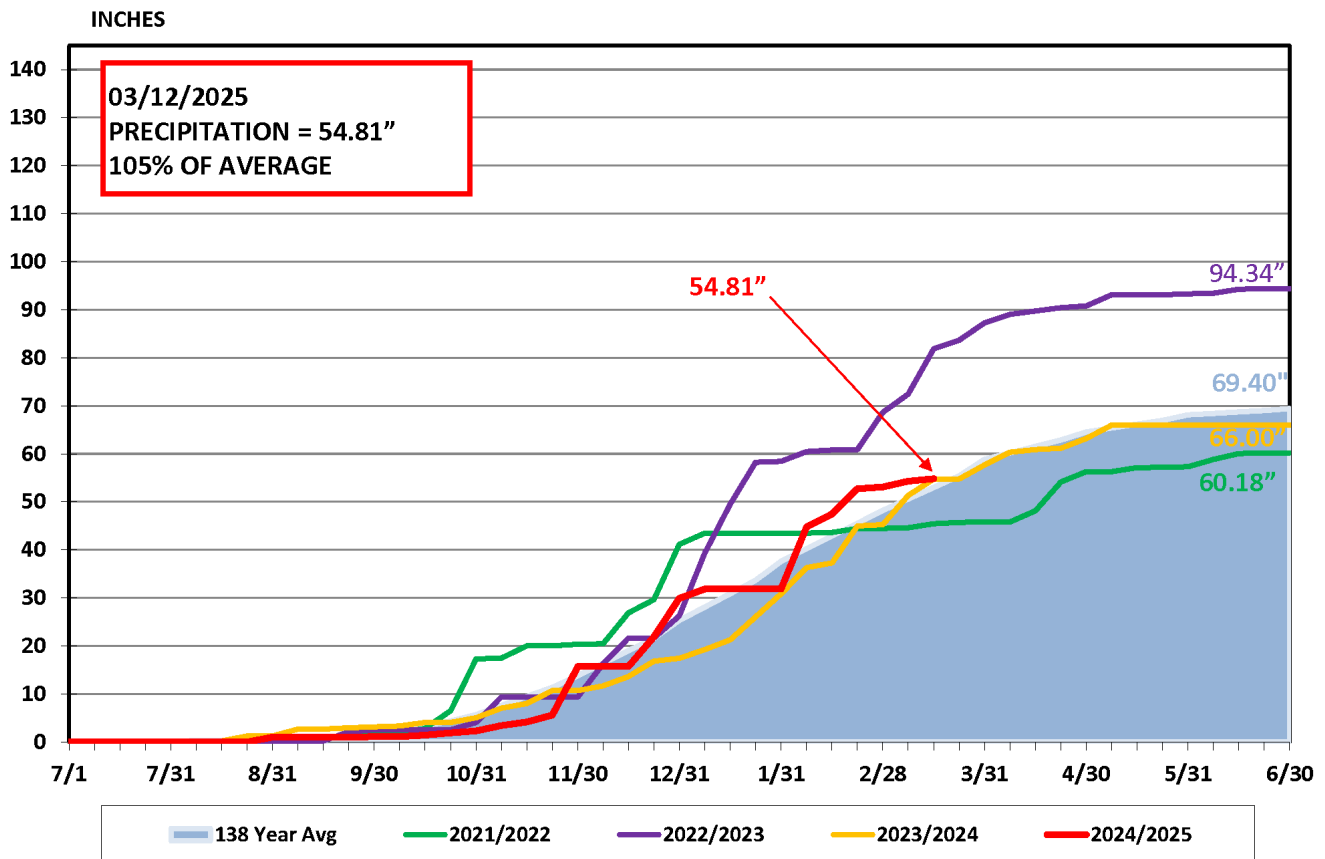
Precipitation is measured for the 12-month period beginning July 1 and ending June 30.



Overflow between Bowman afterbay before it enters the Bowman canal (March 12).

As of March 12, 2025, 54.81 inches of precipitation had fallen at Bowman. That is 105 percent of average.

BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



NID's total reservoir storage is 115% of average

Total reservoir storage was 246,472 acre-feet as of March 12, 2025. That is 91 percent of capacity and 115 percent of an 11-year average.

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

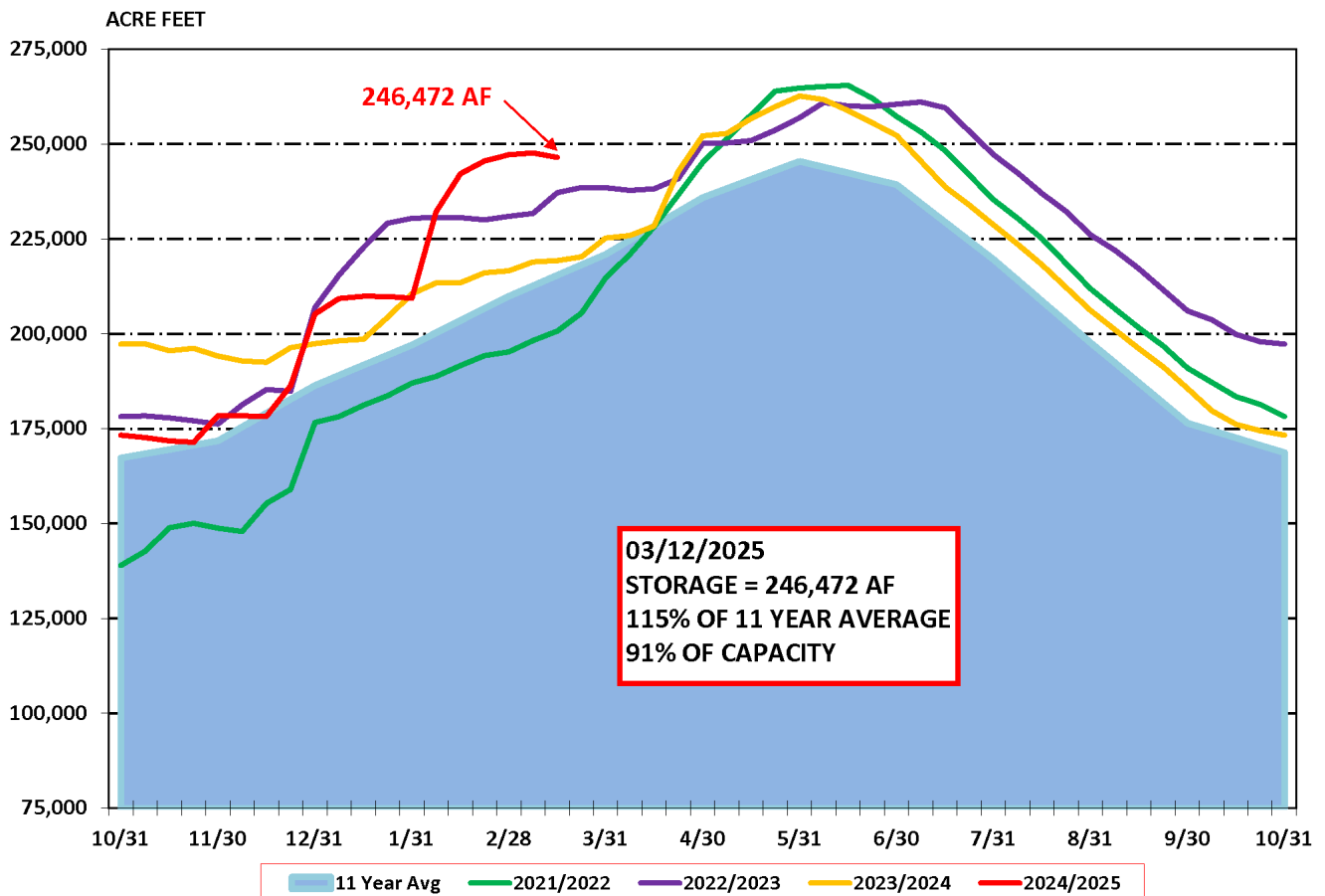
Lakes include: Jackson Meadows, Jackson, French, Faucherie, Sawmill, Bowman, and Canyon Creek, as well as Scotts Flat and Rollins.



Jackson Meadows on Feb. 26, 2025

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

The NID Engineering Department has a number of projects in various phases of construction.

Project Status Reports provide project information, planner information, and a brief project description. Be sure to sign up for email news alerts about projects.

[2025 Engineering & Hydroelectric Project Status Updates](#)

Project: Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant

On March 12, 2025 the NID Board of Directors approved contracted work to refresh the interior coatings for Lake Wildwood Tank 4, located at 11732 Wildwood Ranch Road in Penn Valley (outside the Lake Wildwood subdivision).

This welded 300,000-gallon steel tank was constructed in 1971. The interior of the storage tank was visually inspected in 2023, which revealed the failing condition of the tank's protective coatings that have outlived their expected lifespan.

Ultraviolet (UV) rays and oxidation have deteriorated these coatings, leading to rust beneath the surface. Any coatings that remain need to be removed before recoating, to assure all rust is remedied.

The work to be performed is described as removing the interior and exterior coatings of the storage tank, preparing surfaces, and repainting the tank's interior and exterior.

Lake Wildwood, Penn Valley, and nearby regions are currently served by the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant for their drinking water.

Supplied by NID's Newtown Canal, the facility consists of two plants that each provide 2 million gallons per day (MGD). This is a conventional water treatment plant built around 1971 and expanded in 1986 to provide flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection of raw water into drinking water.

The water treatment plant has historically met the water demands in the system; however, during peak demand periods the plant has been required to operate close to the maximum capacity, leaving little spare capacity for any future system growth or operational redundancy.



The Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant serves more than 3,300 connections, equivalent to a population of about 9,300.

Meetings & Events

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2025
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 26, 2025
NID Main Office, Grass Valley



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

CALIFORNIA F.I.R.E. FIX

With each passing year, wildfires burn more land, destroy more homes, and threaten our water. We need a California F.I.R.E. Fix now.

Protecting our forests, water and communities is a priority. NID is teaming up with other water agencies to advocate for Federal funding and public-private partnerships to do just that. [Watch the short video to learn more](#)

