



# GM Newsletter

November 2025

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

*Water For Life*

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## Message from the General Manager

We are pleased to share that with water once again flowing from Lake Spaulding to our foothill reservoirs, NID has officially rescinded the emergency water shortage declarations tied to this challenging situation. The emergency, first declared in March 2024 after significant PG&E infrastructure damage limited our supply, required mandatory conservation measures. Read more on [Page 2](#).

Your commitment to conserving water was essential in helping NID maintain reliable service throughout this period. With repairs complete and flows fully restored, we are returning to normal operations, and prior water allotments will be reinstated.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation for your patience, support, and partnership. We are truly thankful and proud to serve you every day.



NID's annual flushing program has begun to clean the District's treated water distribution system. First on the schedule are the Cascade, Banner Mountain, and Red Dog areas. Read the story on [Page 3](#).

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# NID rescinds emergency water shortage declarations following restoration of Lake Spaulding flows

## *Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs receiving water, levels increase*

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) Board of Directors has officially lifted its emergency water shortage declarations related to severe damage to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) infrastructure at Lake Spaulding, which had significantly disrupted water deliveries to the District. The decision was made during the Board's November 12, 2025 meeting.

The emergency had been in place since March 2024. Throughout 2024 and into 2025, ongoing PG&E repairs meant little to no water flowed from the high Sierra to NID's foothill system. During this time, the District relied on limited storage in Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs to continue serving customers.

As supplies continued to decline, NID implemented mandatory conservation measures in June 2024, asking all customers to reduce water use by 20 percent.

Now, with most critical repairs completed and full flows restored, the Board voted to rescind all resolutions related to the PG&E water supply emergency.

"We've finally reached the point where the repairs appear sufficient for us to rescind the emergency declarations," said Chip Close, NID Director of Water Operations, during the Nov. 12 meeting.

Customers who voluntarily reduced their usage during the emergency will have their previous allotments reinstated. Requests for increases or continued reductions will be handled through the annual change letters, scheduled to be sent after the start of the new year.

NID will also resume new irrigation water sales for the 2026 irrigation season, contingent upon hydrologic conditions.

The District continues to meet weekly with PG&E to coordinate system operations. While some limited spring outages are expected in 2026 as rehabilitation work wraps up, PG&E has indicated these should be brief and completed by mid- to late April, around the start of the irrigation season.

### **Reservoir Level Update**

Total NID reservoir storage stands at 108 percent of average, with high-elevation reservoirs full, especially after there has been limited water movement through Lake Spaulding since the 2024 emergency outage.

Scotts Flat Reservoir: 35,000 acre-feet (capacity is 48,547 acre-feet), with ongoing imports continuing to raise levels.

Rollins Reservoir: 58,000 acre-feet (capacity is 65,988 acre-feet). Water levels remain below normal but are expected to rise with winter storms.



View the reservoir graph on [Page 5](#)

Low water levels in July 2025 forced the closure of the Long Ravine boat ramp at Rollins Reservoir, as the reservoir was drawn down to meet customer needs during the water shortage emergency.

# NID annual water system flushing begins

NID has begun its annual flushing program to clean the District's treated water distribution system. First on the schedule are the Cascade, Banner Mountain, and Red Dog areas.

During the flushing process, NID crews open fire hydrants to allow water to flow through the main lines at high velocity of up to 400 gallons per minute. This process removes naturally occurring sediment or residue that may have accumulated over the year.

The program, conducted annually, is essential to maintaining the efficiency of the water system and ensuring customers receive high-quality drinking water. Flushing work will continue throughout the District through March 2026.

## How's it Done?

Watch a short NID video (2:48 minutes)  
"Flushing the Lines Ensures Water Quality"

[Click here](#)

Right: An NID crew member tests the flushed water.

Below: The District crew will be flushing lines through March 2026.



# Bowman Lake

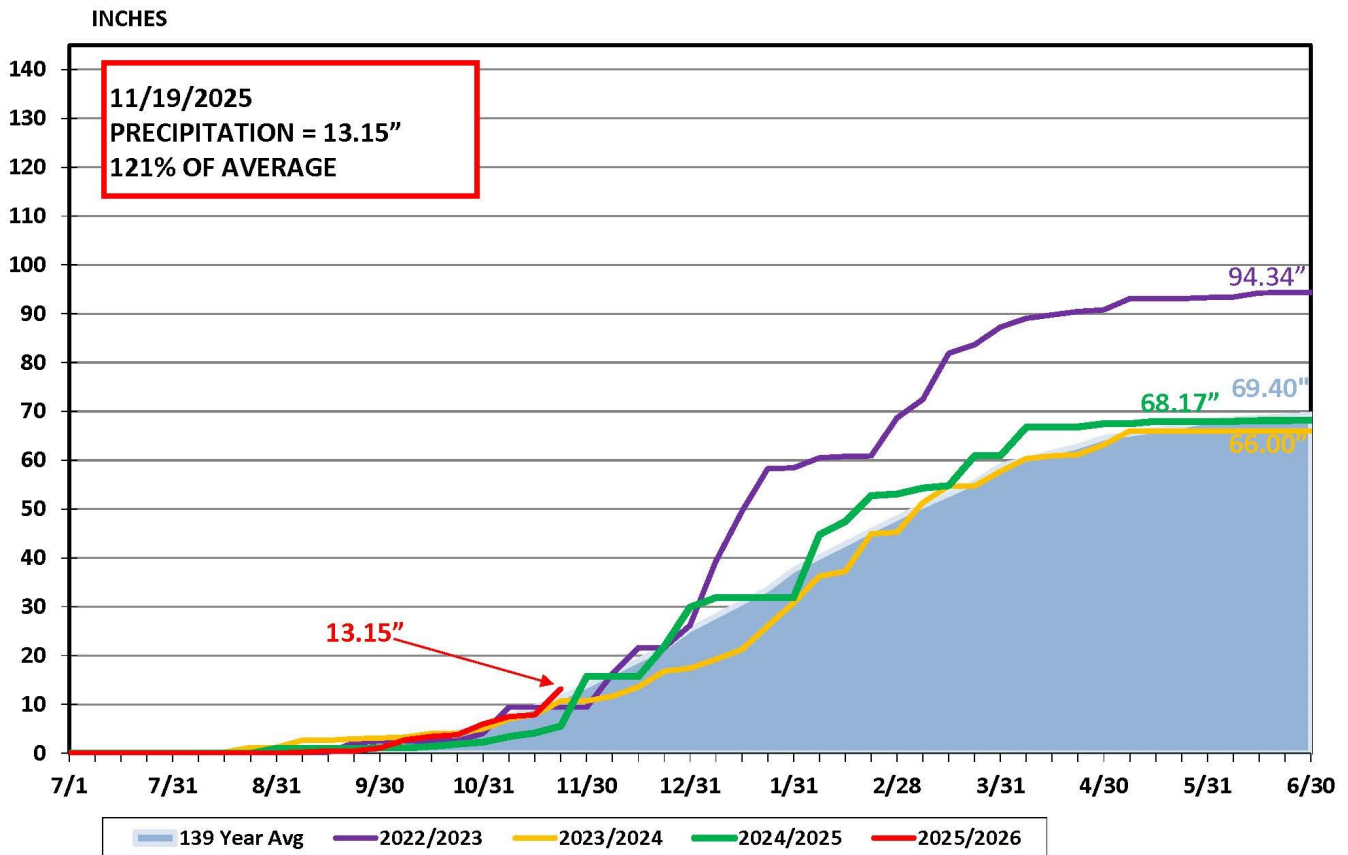
NID has been keeping precipitation records for Bowman Lake (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

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.

Precipitation is measured for a 12-month period — called the rainfall year season — beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Bowman ended the previous season at 99 percent of average.



## BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



# NID's total reservoir storage is 110% of average

Total reservoir storage was 187,602 acre-feet as of Nov. 19, 2025. That is 69 percent of capacity and 110 percent of a 12-year average.

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

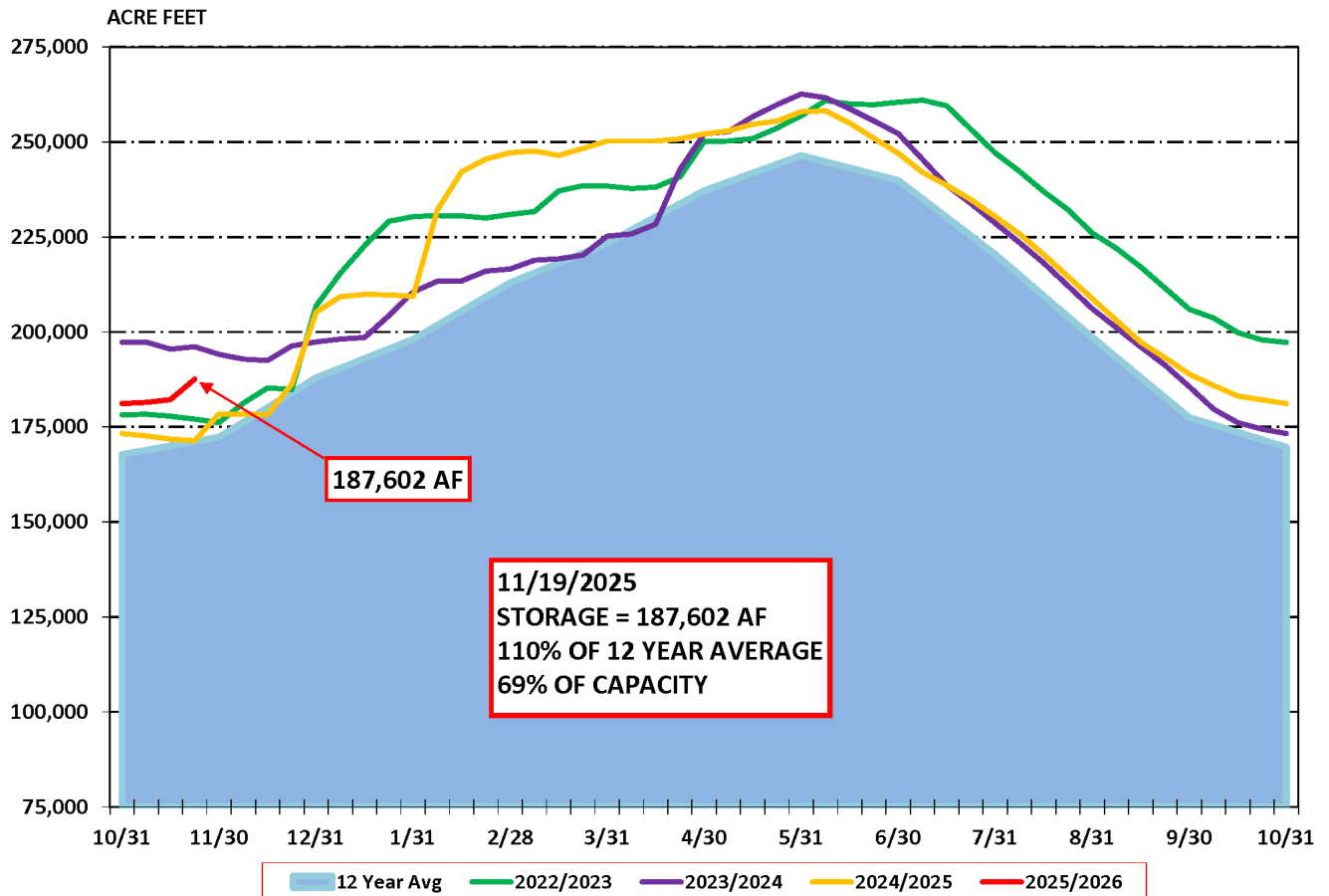
Reservoirs include: Jackson Meadows, Jackson, French, Faucherie, Sawmill, Bowman, and Canyon Creek, as well as Scotts Flat and Rollins.



Milton Lake

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.

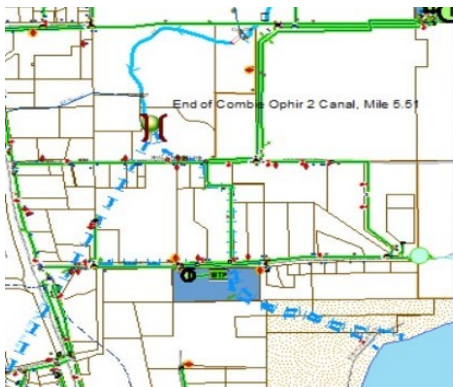
## [Engineering & Hydroelectric Project Status Updates](#)

### 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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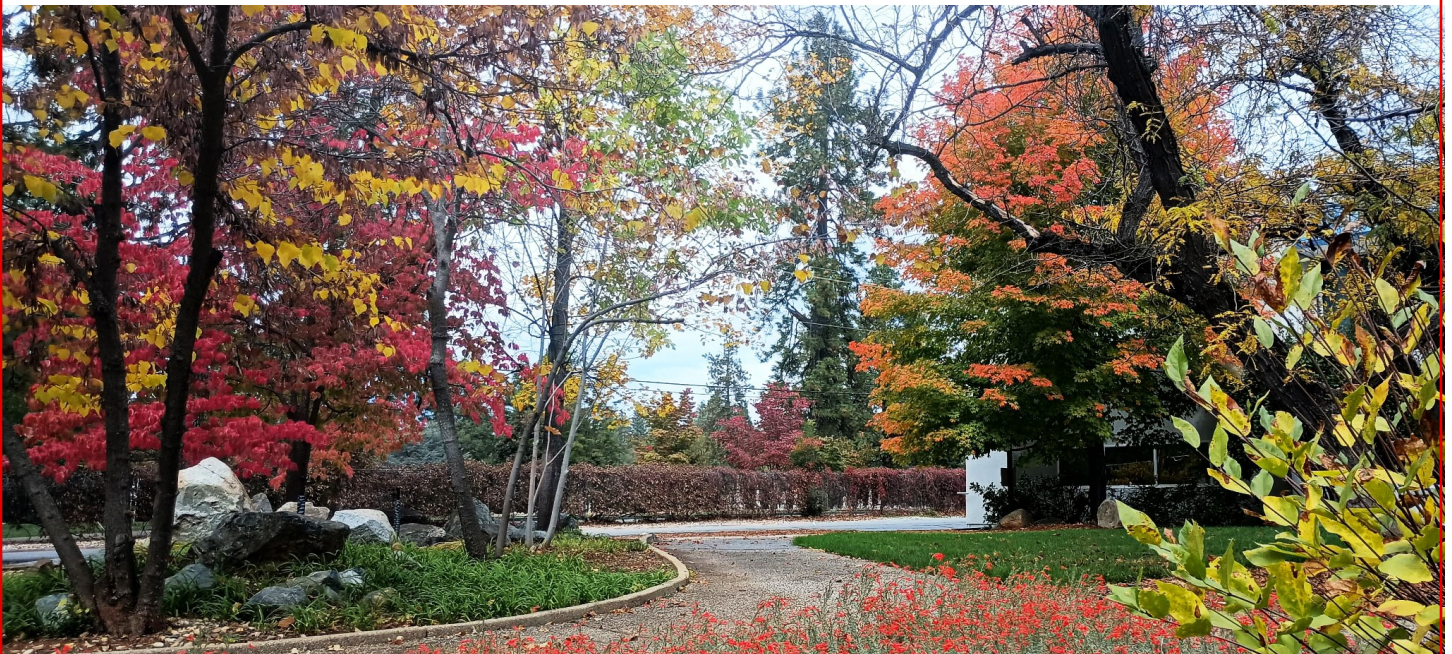
# Meetings & Events



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, December 10, 2025  
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

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

# Happy Thanksgiving



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