



GM Newsletter

July 2026

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

Water For Life

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Division II
President



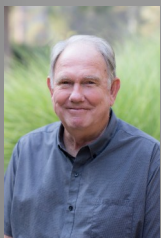
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Message from the General Manager

Summer is here, bringing warmer temperatures and higher water demand. While NID's reservoirs remain in good condition, I encourage everyone to continue using water wisely. Small actions like watering efficiently, fixing leaks, and avoiding unnecessary outdoor water use help ensure this precious resource is available for generations to come.

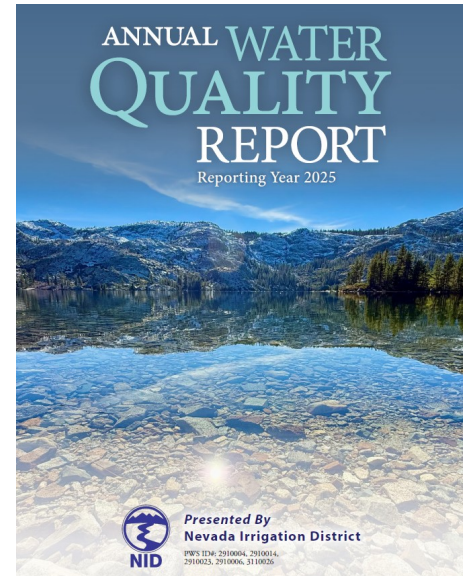
This month, NID released its annual Water Quality Report, and I'm pleased to share that our drinking water continues to meet or exceed all state and federal drinking water standards.

Providing safe, reliable drinking water is one of our most important responsibilities. Each year, NID treats nearly 3 billion gallons of water, serving thousands of homes and businesses throughout Nevada and Placer counties.

Our certified operators monitor water quality around the clock and conduct extensive testing to ensure every gallon meets rigorous health standards. We also benefit from an exceptional water source. Our drinking water begins as Sierra snowmelt in protected mountain watersheds before undergoing a multi-step treatment process and continuous monitoring.

NID also tests for hundreds of regulated substances, including PFAS, which have not been detected in our drinking water.

I invite you to read this year's [Water Quality Report](#) to learn more about the care and commitment that goes into delivering safe, high-quality water every day.



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NID's annual Water Quality Report confirms safe drinking water



The NID Water Treatment Supervisor uses a turbidimeter to measure water clarity and ensure safe drinking water.

When you turn on your tap, you can be confident your drinking water is safe. NID has released its annual Consumer Confidence Report, confirming that the District's drinking water continues to meet or exceed all State of California and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency drinking water standards.

Each year, NID treats nearly 3 billion gallons of water at six treatment plants, providing high-quality drinking water to thousands of customers throughout Nevada and Placer counties.

State-certified operators monitor water quality around the clock and conduct extensive testing to ensure every gallon meets rigorous health standards.

One of NID's greatest advantages is its water source. Drinking water begins as Sierra snowmelt across approximately 70,000 acres of protected mountain watershed before flowing into NID reservoirs.

Because the District is located high in the watershed, its source water is naturally protected from many of the contaminants that can affect downstream supplies.

Before reaching customers' taps, the water undergoes a multi-step treatment process that includes flocculation, sedimentation, filtration, and disinfection. Throughout the process, operators continuously monitor water quality using advanced equipment capable of detecting substances at extremely small concentrations.

NID also routinely tests for hundreds of regulated constituents and participates in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5) program, which includes testing for PFAS, commonly known as "forever chemicals." To date, no PFAS have been

detected in NID's drinking water.

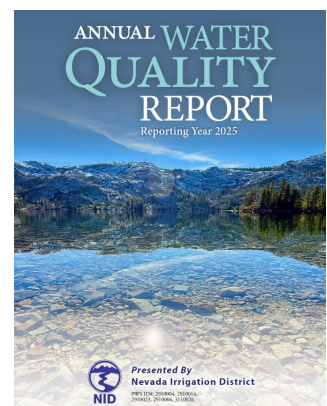
While NID was founded in 1921 to deliver untreated water for mining, livestock, and agriculture, the District expanded into drinking water treatment in the late 1950s. Today, decades of investment and innovation have created a modern water treatment system that delivers safe, dependable drinking water to thousands of homes and businesses every day.

The full 2025 report, including detailed water quality results for each of NID's six treatment plants, is available on NID's website.

[Customers can also watch a short video that explains how Sierra snowmelt is transformed into safe, high-quality drinking water.](#)



Settling and filtration basins at the Elizabeth George Water Treatment Plant help ensure safe drinking water.



[Read the Water Quality Report](#)

Goats help NID reduce fire risk one bite at a time



Keeping vegetation under control is an important part of protecting NID's reservoirs, canals, and other facilities. Each summer, the District brings in some hungry helpers to tackle the job: herds of goats and sheep.

The four-legged crews graze around reservoirs, tank sites, and other District properties, munching through blackberry thickets, poison oak, brush, and other vegetation that can fuel wildfires. Their work helps reduce fire risk, minimize the use of herbicides, and frees up NID maintenance crews to focus on other important projects during the busy summer season.

This year's "rent-a-goat" crews worked at Cunningham Reservoir in south Nevada County, Sugarloaf Reservoir and the Snow Mountain site near Nevada City, Rex Reservoir near Rough and Ready, Union Reservoir near Smartsville, and the Timber Ridge tank site near Lake of the Pines.

The herds, primarily Nubian-Kiko and Nubian goats plus sheep, were provided by three local goatscaping companies. Sure-footed and always hungry, they're especially effective on steep slopes and in areas where heavy equipment can't easily reach.

Goat grazing is just one tool in NID's vegetation management program. The District uses a combination of methods, including mechanical removal, targeted herbicide use, and biological controls, to keep more than 475 miles of canals and numerous reservoirs and facilities operating safely and reliably.

The goats may be the most popular members of the vegetation management team, but they're also some of the hardest working. One bite at a time, they're helping protect critical infrastructure, reduce wildfire risk, and keep reliable water flowing to our communities.



Goats graze at Sugarloaf Reservoir near Nevada City, helping to clear vegetation and reduce wildfire risk.

105 Year Forward: Every drop starts here

NID's 105 Years Forward celebration is bringing local history to life one story at a time.

Healthy forests help protect your water long before it reaches your tap

When people think about drinking water, they often picture reservoirs, pipelines, or water treatment plants. But the work of protecting your water begins much earlier in the forests, meadows, and mountain streams of the Sierra Nevada.

NID's water starts as snow and rain falling across approximately 70,000 acres of mountain watershed. Healthy forests naturally filter runoff, reduce erosion, protect water quality, and help snow melt gradually throughout spring and summer.

Today's forests face growing challenges from drought, overcrowded trees, insects, disease, and increasingly severe wildfires. That's why NID works with federal, state, and local partners to improve forest health through tree thinning, vegetation management, meadow restoration, and other wildfire mitigation projects that protect the source of our water.

Although much of this work takes place high in the Sierra, its benefits reach every customer. By investing in healthy watersheds today, NID is helping ensure clean, reliable water for homes, farms, businesses, recreation, and hydropower for years to come. For more than a century, NID has understood that protecting water starts by protecting where it comes from.



The backside of English Mountain showcases the lush Sierra watershed that helps provide clean, reliable water for NID customers.

Watershed Stewardship in Action

Recent projects

- * Scotts Flat Reservoir Healthy Forests Project
- * Rollins Reservoir Fuels Reduction Project
- * Bear River Wildfire Recovery Project
- * Magnolia/Parker Ranch Fire Fuels Reduction Project
- * Scotts Flat Logging Project (55 acres)

Currently underway

- * South Yuba Canal Wildfire Defense Project
- * English Meadow Floodplain Restoration and Fire Fuels Reduction Project
- * Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration Project
- * Upper Yuba Headwaters Forest Restoration Planning Project (with the U.S. Forest Service)
- * Hazard tree removal, defensible space, and fuel reduction projects
- * Watershed education

Coming up

- * Additional hazard tree removal, defensible space, and fuel reduction work
- * Selective commercial logging
- * Watershed education
- * New grant-funded forest restoration and wildfire mitigation projects



After 105 years, the story is still being written. [Check out the website hub](#)

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.

A new water year begins July 1. Hydrologists track precipitation from July 1 through June 30 because it aligns with the Sierra's natural dry season before the next winter's rain and snow begin.

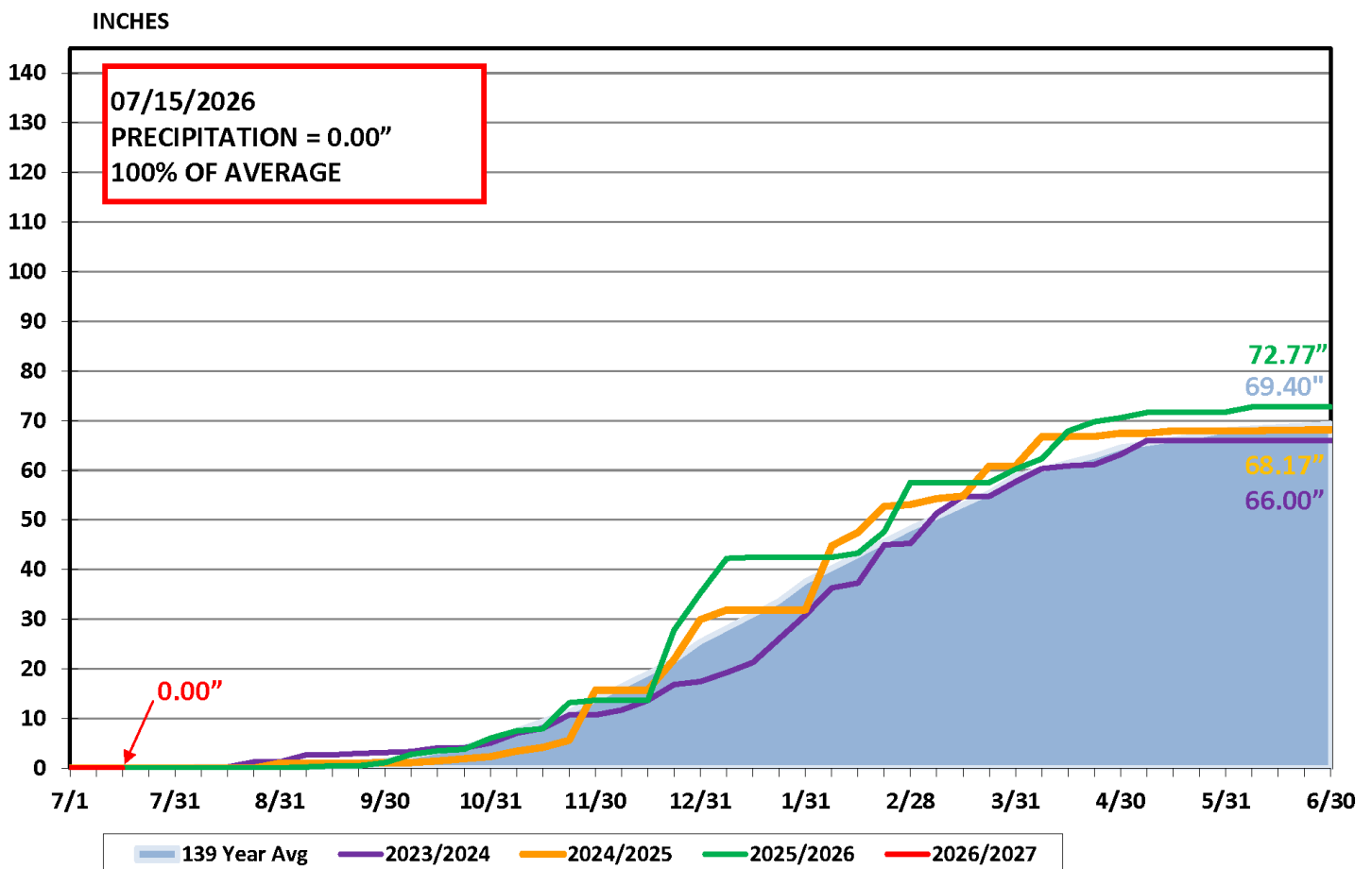


Bowman Reservoir

As of July 15, no rain had fallen.

Note: As of June 19, 2026 (at the end of the prior rainfall year), Bowman stood 106 percent of average precipitation.

BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



NID's total reservoir storage is 90% of capacity

Total NID reservoir storage is 243,750 acre-feet as of July 15, 2026. That is 90 percent of capacity and 106 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.

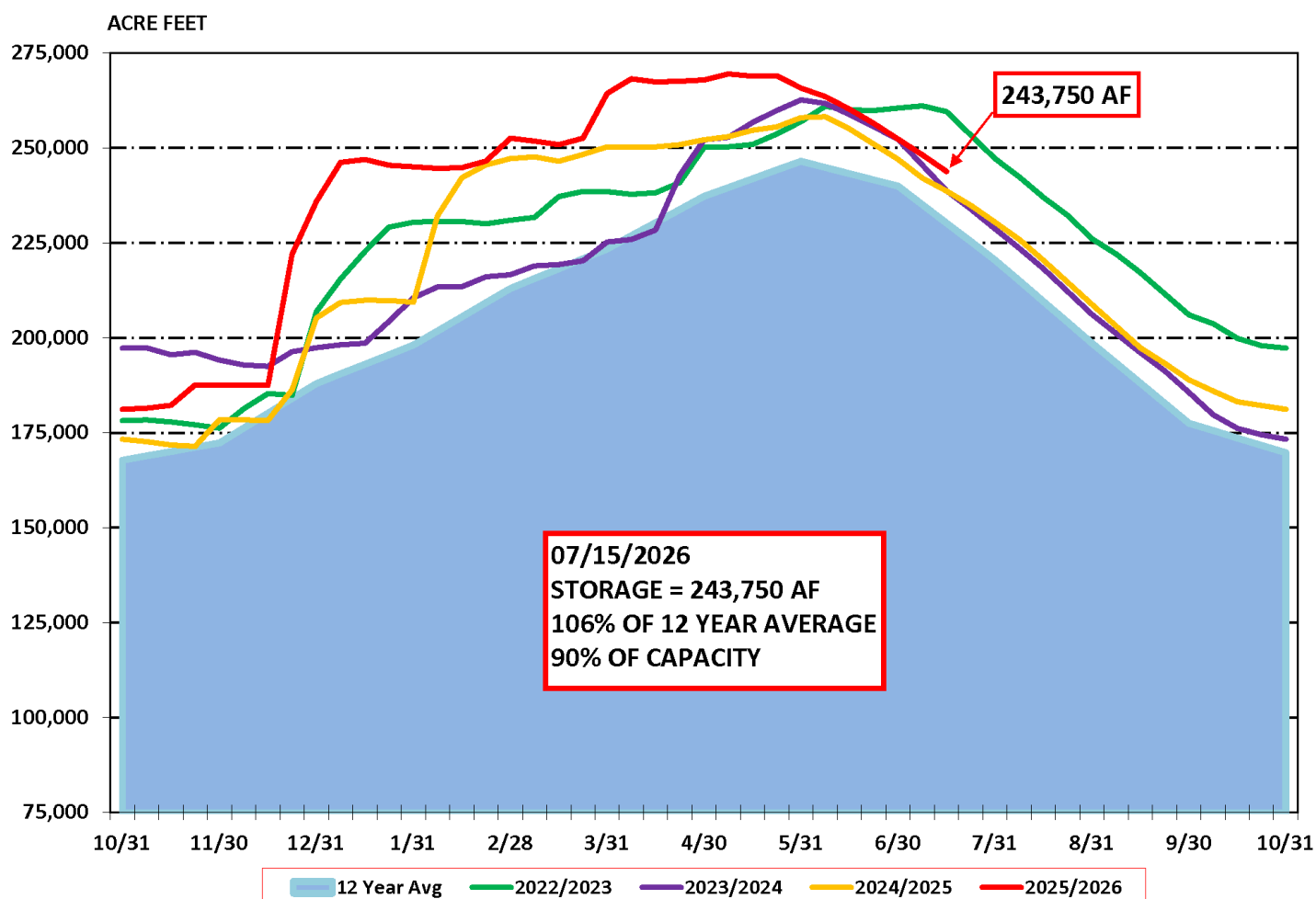


French Lake

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



Water conservation still matters, even in a good water year



Summer temperatures are arriving, and outdoor watering is already driving water use higher across the NID service area.

Through May, treated water use was approximately nine percent above the District's 12-year average as customers increased landscape irrigation with the warmer weather.

While NID's water supplies remain strong, with reservoirs at 90 percent of capacity and 106 percent of the 12-year average as of July 15, the District is encouraging customers to make efficient water use part of their summer routine.

Even in years with healthy water supplies, conservation remains important.

Efficient water use helps stretch available supplies, reduces pressure on treatment and delivery systems, and ensures water is available when demand peaks during the hottest days of summer. Small actions taken by thousands of customers can make a significant difference.

NID encourages customers to water landscapes during the cooler morning or evening hours, check irrigation systems for leaks, install water-efficient fixtures, and consider replacing high-water-use lawns with water-wise land-

scaping. Applying mulch around plants and trees can also help reduce evaporation and keep soil moist longer.

Conservation is important every year, not just during droughts. As temperatures continue to rise, NID asks customers to use water wisely and help ensure every drop counts throughout the summer season.

Mulch rebate helps customers save water and protect landscapes

NID customers can improve the health of their landscapes while reducing water use by applying mulch.

Mulch acts as a protective layer over soil. It helps retain moisture, reduce evaporation, suppress weeds, and protect plant roots from extreme heat. By keeping water in the ground longer, mulch allows gardeners to water less frequently while helping plants stay healthy during the hottest months of the year.

June is an ideal time to apply mulch. A 2- to 3-inch layer of organic mulch helps lock in moisture before peak summer heat, shields soil from direct sunlight, and keeps root zones cooler during heat waves.

To encourage water-efficient landscaping, NID offers a Mulch Rebate Program providing customers up to \$50 toward the purchase of mulch from the vendor of their choice. The rebate is credited directly to the customer's water account.

The program is one of several conservation incentives available through NID, including rebates for high-efficiency toilets, raw water storage tanks, and turf-removal projects that replace traditional lawns with water-wise landscaping.

For more information about the Mulch Rebate Program, including voucher availability, contact Water Efficiency Technician Kaycee Margherita at 530-273-6185 ext. 1244 or margheritak@nidwater.com.



Meetings & Events



Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Special Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Planning Commission Chambers

3091 County Center Dr., Auburn

Board of Directors Special Meeting

Wednesday, August 6, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

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

