



NID

Employee Newsletter

The Pipeline

Volume 43~ Number 9 – August/September 2022



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Busy Summer Work *We've been as Hot as the Weather*

How do you say it? This summer has been busy; and NID employees have been “flat out like a lizard drinking.” From completing larger construction projects and taking on grueling maintenance and monitoring jobs to responding to an occasional emergency and switching our technical systems to make the daily grind more efficient. Thanks to all of our workers, who time after time step up to do the job.

Heading into fall, NID has a number of employee activities. Take some time from your busy schedule and check out details for the Safety BBQ, golf tournament and Bear River cleanup.

(Above) Utility Workers Adam Custer and Andrew Chidley give a hand to a platform nest for ospreys. [See story on P4.](#)

August Anniversaries

Richard Dills, Electrical Systems Technician II, 8 years, Aug. 18

Kenneth Hugg, Water Treatment Operator II, 8 years, Aug. 25

Desiree Ince, Accountant I, 7 years, Aug. 17

Eric Lauer, Equipment Operator, 8 years, Aug. 18

Tony Moscini, Construction Inspector II, 23 years, Aug. 16

Randall Pool, Utility Worker II, 6 years, Aug. 22

Cameron Price, Maintenance Superintendent – Treated Water, 23 years, Aug. 23

Christopher Ribble, Maintenance Superintendent – Raw Water, 14 years, Aug. 4

David Straub, Customer Service Technician II, 3 years, Aug. 26

Tonia Tabucchi-Herrera, Senior Engineer, 17 years, Aug. 29

Stu Uchida, Senior Engineering Technician, 39 years, Aug. 12

Shannon Wood, Business Services Technician II, 25 years, Aug. 18

Promotions & Transfers

Glen Alexander – Promotion to Water Distribution Operator I

Effective date 08/29/2022

New Hires

Ted Blank – Hydroelectric Compliance and Protection Systems Specialist

Hire date 7/25/2022

Elizabeth Montejano – Payroll Technician – Hire date 8/22/2022



Shannon Wood

Congratulations on Operations team licensing upgrades

Steve Beebe, water treatment operator III, to Water Distribution Grade 3

Sam Beaver, Water Distribution Supervisor, to Water Distribution Grade 4

Coby McCoy, Chief Water Plant Operator, to Water Distribution Grade 5

September Anniversaries

- Lance Adams**, Hydro Electrical Machinist II, 11 yrs. Sept. 19
- Greg Cornejo**, Electric Systems Technician II, 32 yrs. Sept. 10
- Adam Custer**, Utility Worker I, 2 yrs. Sept 2
- Christopher Dunn**, Utility Worker I, 11 yrs. Sept. 19
- Christopher Friedman**, Equipment Operator, 22 yrs. Sept. 5
- Wayne Giles**, Water Treatment Operator III, 11 yrs. Sept. 19
- Christopher Glass**, Utility Worker I, 5 yrs. Sept. 5
- Robert Granholm**, Hydro Maintenance Tech. II, 12 yrs. Sept. 13
- Miranda Guidera**, Finance Assistant II, 5 yrs. Sept. 18
- Kate Gunther**, Records Management Assistant, 15 yrs. Sept. 24
- Craig Harkey**, Equipment Operator, 26 yrs. Sept. 3
- Wayne MacMenigall**, Utility Worker II, 5 years
- Megan Pontius**, Dispatcher II, 7 yrs. Sept. 8
- Kathryn Schwartz**, Administrative Analyst II, 5 yrs. Sept. 18
- Wade Townsend**, Senior Survey Technician, 27 yrs. Sept. 11



Chris Glass



Kate Gunther

Promotions

Hunter Hedman – promotion to Hydroelectric Water Systems Operator I, 9/19/2022

New Hire

Kyle Hampton – Vegetation Control Worker I
– Hire date 09/12/2022

HR Corner

- CalPERS Open Enrollment for plan year 2023 begins Monday, September 19, 2022 and ends Friday, October 14, 2022. During this time, employees and retirees are eligible to make changes to their health plans with CalPERS. All changes made during Open Enrollment will take effect on January 1, 2023.
- Active Employees: The Human Resources staff can be reached at (530) 273-6185 or hr@nidwater.com to help answer any benefit questions. If you are making changes to your health plan or dependents, your form is due to the HR office **no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, October 14, 2022**.
- Retired Employees: You may contact CalPERS at (888) 225-7377 for assistance and questions regarding your medical plan. Please stay tuned in the upcoming months for details regarding our annual HRA Forms.

Going to the Birds

Constructing an Osprey Platform Nest after the River Fire



(Right) Equipment Operator Michael Page lowers the pole then nest into place.

(Above) Maintenance Supervisor Tim Rowe, Senior Utility Worker Andrew Chidley and Utility Worker Adam Custer secure the nest platform after construction.



The River Fire was ignited in early August 2021 and ripped through NID property near the Bear River. In all, the fire burned 2,619 acres and destroyed 142 structures in Placer and Nevada counties.

Among the damage was a power pole housing an osprey nest. Last month, our crew was there to build a platform with a new nest. Because ospreys return to the same nest year after year, odds are they will take advantage of our new platform.

The platform constructed by Maintenance Supervisor Tim Rowe, Senior Utility Worker Andrew Chidley, Utility Worker Adam Custer, and Equipment Operator Michael Page.

The pole was erected using a crane operated by Page, who expertly placed it into a concrete block. Then atop that, he set the metal grid nest.

[Watch the crew in action](#)
[Click here for the short video](#)

Ospreys are territorial and tend to come back to the same nest year after year. Females lay eggs between mid-April and late May. So there is a good chance the ones living on the property before the fire will return.

The River Fire began at the Bear River Campground in Placer County on Aug. 4, 2021 and was fully contained on Aug. 13. The fire had widespread impacts within the Bear River watershed, including dramatic impacts to the forest, water supply, and watershed function.

We currently are working to remove burned trees on 150 acres of NID's property for erosion control on the steep slopes of the Bear River canyon, between Chicago Park and Lake of the Pines.

Wilson Creek Diversion Conduit: a straight-forward project with many complexities



A new regulating gate in the Wilson Creek Diversion Conduit makes it possible to manually control flows from the creek to the Milton-Bowman Tunnel and ensure we meet state regulations involving water rights curtailment.

Although not a huge project (construction was completed in about five days), it was challenging due to the forested location, state/federal permitting and environmental work.

What the project does

Hydro recently installed a 30-inch slide gate valve and steel pipe conduit, using hand tools after a telescoping forklift lowered the apparatus into place.

The project provides a solution for the Wilson Creek Diversion and associated curtailments.

As anticipated, the State Water Resources Control Board put a curtailment order into effect on July 7, 2022. This requires NID to cease diversion of water. The new gate allows us to effectively do this in the Wilson Creek Diversion Conduit.

Rob Granholm (left) and Dean Rutter work to install the new gate valve and conduit.

Added complexities are a sign of the times

This project is an example of the added complexities of work done in and around waterways, demanding extra attention to special-status species' habitats, forest service property, and other restricted/special areas.

For example, prior to the construction, surveys were conducted to keep a lookout for nesting birds and sensitive species, such as the northern goshawk and the Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged frog. In addition, water quality surveys were conducted throughout the project.

A special call out to Hydroelectric Compliance Analyst Tina Konkle and Kaylie Hague, Hydroelectric Compliance Technician, who have the expertise and took the time to ensure the Wilson Creek Diversion Conduit project's permitting, testing and additional monitoring met state requirements.

They also remind us that many of our future projects are going to look very similar to Wilson Creek regarding agency coordination and permitting...regardless of how simple the project may seem.

Emergency breaks: Crews work around the clock



Two emergencies in one night kept about a dozen workers up until sunrise.

A call came in around 10 p.m. on July 28 about an emergency break on Names Drive in Alta Sierra.

Our crew was on the job. Thanks to: Kenton Early, Ken Barstch, Alex Ramirez, Chris Glass, Cory Mayo and Jonathan McNamara. Paul Hopper was the on-scene Water Distribution Operator.

After an hour or two in working on this break, a call came in about a break in Smartsville. One worker from the Names Drive response drove out to Smartsville to join a few more colleagues to make the repairs. That crew was: Cameron Price, Shane Slattery, Alex Ramirez and Wayne MacMenigall. And Paul Hopper was the WDO.



The cleanup was superb!

Both of these jobs did quite a bit of property damage and scattered debris all over the roads. In addition to the repair work, all of the traffic hazards had to be cleaned up before leaving.

Cameron Price said, "These guys had no idea how long the night/early morning this was going to be."

Both crews finished up about sunrise. Maintenance would like to put out a special thank you to everyone who goes the extra mile keeping our system running."

The day after the Names Drive mainline break, a crew was back out onsite on Monday to start the cleanup on the property and private road. It took a day and half, but they did a great job on the clean-up.

Safety BBQ is on! Save the Date for Oct. 27

In appreciation of everything you do and your good work ethics, come enjoy the NID Safety Barbeque on Oct. 27. Originally scheduled for Thursday, September 15, the date was changed to accommodate more of our colleagues.

Kick back, relax and enjoy some yummy BBQ from Bill's Chuck Wagon. Lazy Dog Ice Cream bars are also on the menu.

The BBQ will be held at the Grass Valley Yard behind the mechanics' shop from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Thanks to our Safety Department – Don Bird and Cindy Ware — for hosting this event.

Stay tuned; more information will be released as we get closer to the date

Wear your blue! We haven't had an all-hands photo taken since the pandemic. NOW'S THE TIME! A group photo will be taken at the BBQ

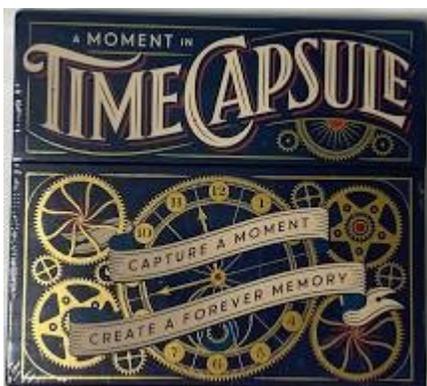


Can you guess the year?

The answer is in the blue bar below

The NID Time Capsule will be assembled during the BBQ

What would you like NID employees to know about you 100 years from now?



During the BBQ, we will assemble a time capsule for NID employees to open in the future. Think of it this way. A hundred years from now, your successors will be able to step back in time with you as their guide.

What would you like them to see about work life in 2022? The collection can include tools and office items. Also, what everyday personal items might leave a lasting impression on them?

The time capsule will be built by our Maintenance Department. And it will be sealed and buried on District property.

Time to Tee Up — NID Golf Tourney is Oct. 1

Sign up for the annual NID golf tournament.

The tourney returns on Oct. 1. Sign up now to secure your spot. \$70.00 per player and top 3 get payout. Closest to the pin and long drive get payouts. Two-person scramble format and minimum of 6 tee shots need to be taken per person.

WHERE: Alta Sierra Country Club (11897 Tammy Way, Grass Valley, CA 95949)

COST: \$70 per player (\$140 a team) - 90 players max. Sign up with [Caden Caldwell](mailto:Caden.Caldwell@nidwater.com) at calwellc@nidwater.com by September 24th and pay Caden by October 1 (cash only).

TIME: 8:30 am shotgun

FORMAT: Two-person scramble format. Each team will take the best shot, of the two, until the ball drops into the hole. You must use a minimum of six tee shots from each player per team, per 18 holes.

AWARDS & CONTESTS:

- 1st, 2nd & 3rd cash prizes
- Longest drive: Hole 14 (must be in the fairway for it to count)
- Closest to the pin



Bear River Cleanup is on Sept. 15

Pitch in to make the Bear River sparkle. The second annual cleanup is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 15 from 8-10 a.m.

We'll meet at the Dog Bar bridge, then remove trash from local area trails and beach on the Bear River.

Sign up in the Admin lobby and/or send Assistant General Manager Greg Jones an email – jonesg@nidwater.com.

Last year 15 of our colleagues pitched in to clean up. In three hours, they picked up 25 bags of garbage.

Extras included a rain gutter, car parts, diapers, beer cans, needles, tires, mattresses, bedding and cushions, toilet paper, plastic bags, cigarettes, and various other household trash.

The cleanup effort will be part of the 25th Annual Yuba River Cleanup, sponsored by the South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL).

Our volunteers from 2021 with their haul.



NID Community Survey— a snapshot of water views

NID wanted to understand how our customers and local residents view water and water issues, so we asked. The online survey was meant to take a snapshot of what's on residents' and customers' minds. By design, it was short -- six questions -- and simple. The survey drew 682 responses, and 348 people left comments.

Here are the responses:

What is the most important objective that NID should focus on in the future? Seventy-three percent of the respondents chose water supply reliability and sustainability; 26 percent said protection of the environment and watershed, and 18.5 percent said low water rates.

Water is a finite resource; supply is limited. To you, what are the most important uses of water? Domestic (drinking and household) 90.28%, Agricultural 64.06% and the Environment (24.74%) were the top three.

What are the three greatest challenges regarding water? The top three answers were: increasing demand on supply, not enough water, and climate change impacts.

When asked about satisfaction with NID services, respondents indicated the District provides a reliable water service, keeps the water system in good condition through timely repairs and maintenance, and protects the water supply from contaminations and pollutants.

When the survey asked questions about water rates, people said they believed the amount they pay for water is "just about right." Also, they said the water is a "good value."

See the results of the survey, [click here.](#)

Read the comments about water and NID, [click here.](#)

In the survey, we asked, "What would you like NID to know?" There were 348 comments! Here are some directed to employees:

- * Keep up the great work.
- * NID EMPLOYEES FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL!
- * Region would die and become a much less desirable place to live, without NID
- * Thank you for doing such a good job to keep everything working for all of us.
- * Great job NID team!
- * We are so fortunate to have NID in our region. You do a great job. I am very pleased to see you taking planning serious with your Plan for Water.
- * Our household has had a positive experience with NID, from handling a bill due to an unexpected leak, to enjoying the lakes and NID canals for walking.
- * Service has been terrific and every employee I have dealt with has handled all issues with courtesy and efficiency.
- * You do a fantastic job all around. Nevada County is extremely fortunate to have NID.
- * When we have had contact with the personnel it has always been pleasurable. The services have been equally great.



Thanks Office Assistant Katie Kemp for this amazing photo!

Remaining Holidays for 2022

Columbus Day—Monday, October 10, 2022

Veteran's Day—Friday, November 11, 2022

Thanksgiving Day—Thursday, November 24

Day after Thanksgiving—Friday, November 25

Christmas Day—Monday, December 26, 2022

NEWS BRIEFS—from the GM

Upcoming Board of Director elections

There are three seats this cycle up for re-election (Division 1, Division 2, and Division 4). No one is running against Division 1 Director Ricki Heck and Division 2 Director Chris Bierwagen. There are two external candidates for Division 4: Trevor Caulder and Bill Smull. The election is on November 8, 2022.

Hemphill Construction Project

The long-standing project to remove the Hemphill Diversion Structure is under construction. Huge Kudos to the engineering team for getting this project underway.

MMS Work Order System

The new work orders system is going live! The initial roll out will be limited to allow for the bugs to be worked out but it will soon be available for staff to use. This project will be a great tool to manage and track our assets. Kudos to Keane Sommers, IT, Maintenance, and all the other folks who worked so hard to make this happen.

Follow Us on Social Media



In Memoriam

Kenath Gravatt

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death our colleague Kenath Gravatt. Keny was born on January 2, 1980 and passed away on Aug. 2, 2022.

Since April of 2011, he has been a valued member of our NID team as a utility worker and a special part of the Placer Maintenance Crew.

Please keep Keny's family in your thoughts as they go through this difficult time. He leaves behind a wife and two boys, Keldon and Keny.

And thank you everyone who has contributed to gift cards for his family. The total amount of money collected was \$2,840, which was divided into gift cards to Safeway, Target, and Walmart.

Devon, Keny's wife, sends a huge thank you to everyone for all the support; her heart is full of so much gratitude.



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lauers@nidwater.com (530) 271-6735



We want to hear about it!

Employee Submissions

Would you like to tell the Pipeline readers that you have something to celebrate?

Have a new baby? Attained a certification? Placed in a sporting event?

If so, please email: pipeline@nidwater.com or hr@nidwater.com.

Helping to Make the Nevada County Fair a “Go”



Before the Nevada County Fair in August, NID showed up to prepare different venues before the grand event opened.

Our volunteers ensured the animal exhibition building was in top-notch order for the safety of the animals and public.

In the animal exhibits, our crew transported shavings to the animal pens and show arenas. This took a loader, two track loaders and three 1-ton dump trucks! Our crew worked fast and was able to get done in about 2.5 hours.

Thanks to Tim Rowe, Andrew Chidley, Charlie Schlitzer, Logan Vanderhoof, Shane Slattery, Eric Lauer and Robbie Graham.

Meanwhile, while the work was being done at the fairgrounds, an emergency break happened on East Main Street. Supervisor Cameron Price was able to get a few of the fair workers to respond. Another thanks to that crew also: Matt Baker, Shane Slattery, Charlie Schlitzer, Declan Maloney and Logan Vanderhoof.



Construction and Maintenance Work this Summer

After the Wolf Canal culvert failed in August, the NID construction crew replaced the culvert.

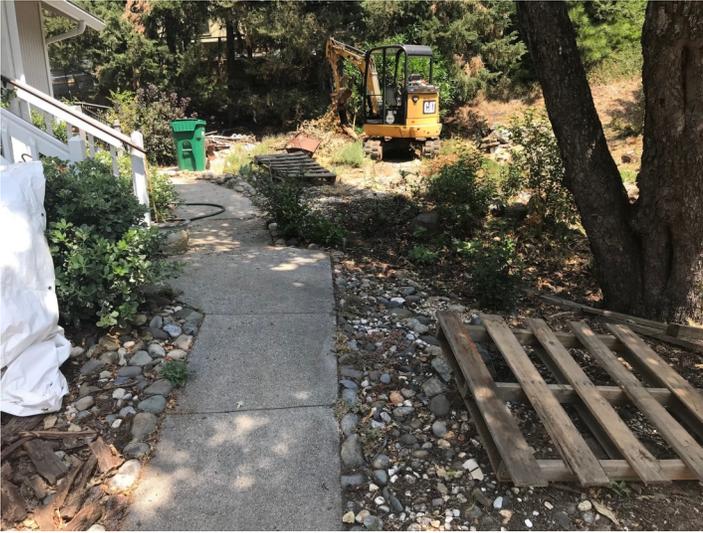


(Left) The construction crew replaced a raw water valve at the Lake of the Pines treatment plant . WHO

(Below) Asphalt repairs: maintenance crews recently completed final asphalt repairs at one of the busiest intersections in Grass Valley: Ridge Road and Sierra College Drive.



Summer Maintenance Work



(Above and right) It was a tight working area next to a home when our crew needed to repair a cross country main in the Lidster area in Grass Valley.



The construction crew completed culvert replacement on the Tarr canal on the Maidu Trail.

East Bennett Street Mainline break



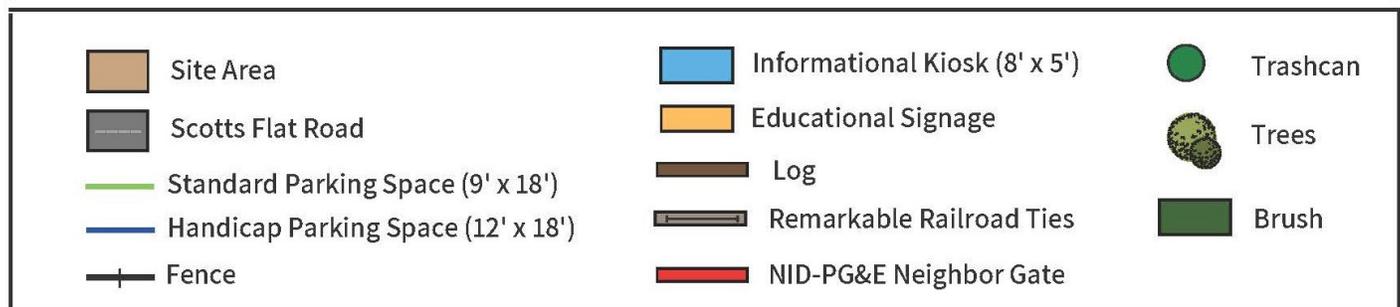
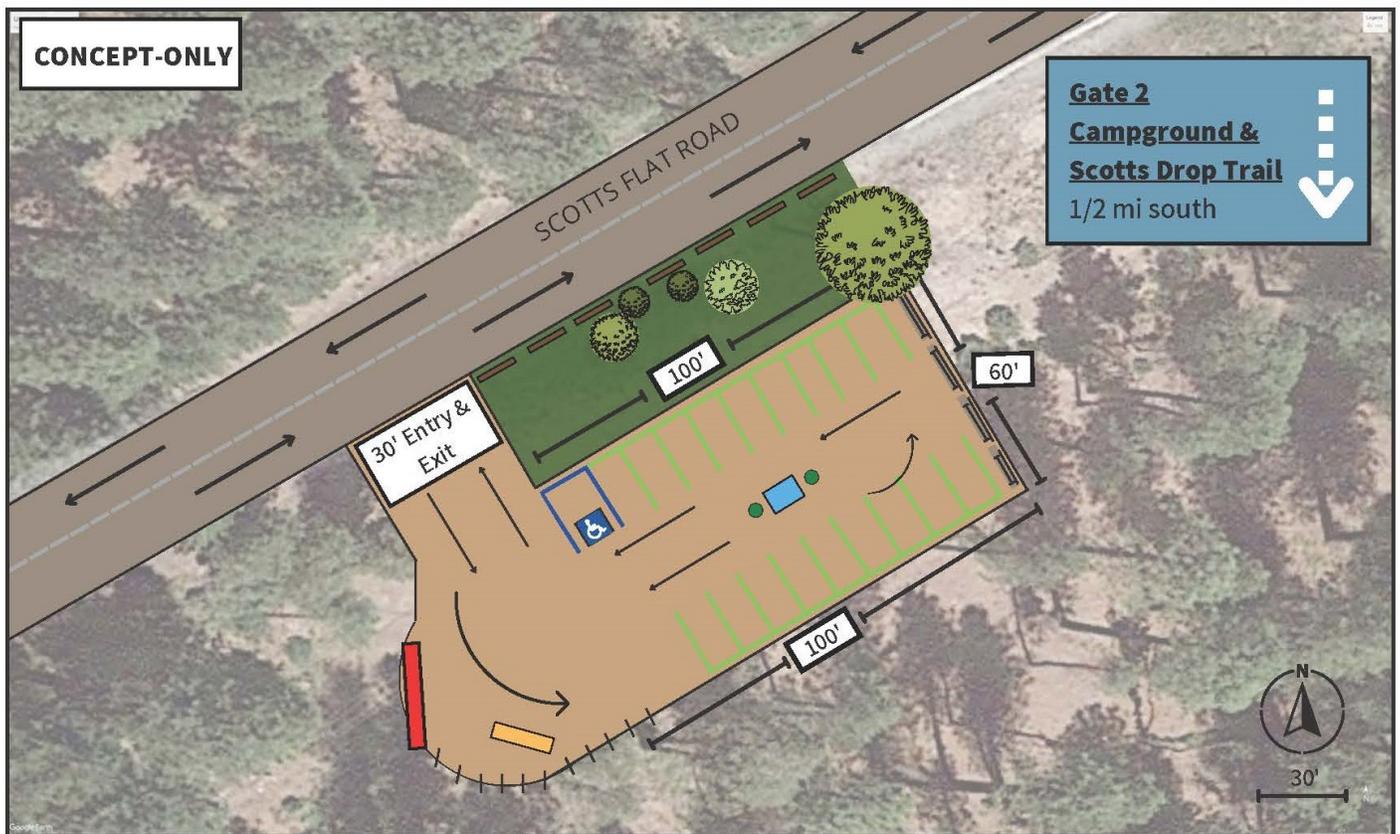
NID receives a grant to build parking site near Scotts Flat Reservoir

Nevada County has awarded NID an \$18,000 grant to construct a new parking site near Scotts Flat Reservoir. The parking lot will be conveniently located for cyclists near the Gate 2 entrance and the end of Scott's Drop Trail.

The county grant is part of their Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund for community organizations, which is funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), also known as the COVID-19 Stimulus Package.

The program is designed to respond to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 through promoting public health and safety at highly impacted outdoor recreation destinations.

SCOTTS FLAT LAKE PROPOSED PARKING SITE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT



Strategic Planning: updating our mission, vision and values



The Plan for Water process continues. In crafting our plan on how we will deliver water to the community for the next 50 years, NID personnel and the public are sitting down in monthly workshops to discuss how we can ensure reliable water delivery for our children and grandkids.

We now are focusing on the update of NID’s Strategic Plan, including the mission, vision, strategic priorities and goals of the District.

During an August workshop, we completed an analysis of our Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities (SWOT).

The leadership team, which includes managers and mid-level personnel developed a staff SWOT analysis. On Aug. 23 they and community stakeholders shared their thoughts about opportunities for NID in the future.

(Left): Great minds think alike. In an exercise to identify important opportunities for NID, a local rancher and NID Maintenance Supervisor Chris Ribble jockey to place emphasis “long-term planning” (infrastructure, financial, etc.).



A teambuilding exercise required Legos to build a model based on a theme. (Right to left) – Director Karen Hull, General Manager Jennifer Hanson and Customer Service Administrator Aurora Tilton plot and pick through the Legos. Office Assistant Katie Kemp is in the background.

September 1963: Work on Scotts Flat “raises spillway dam to the crest”

The Yuba-Bear River Power Project, completed from 1963-66, remains a very important milestone in NID history. It brought not only power generation capability, but new reservoirs and canal systems and, most importantly, created an additional 145,000 acre-feet of water storage for District residents.

During construction, crews ranging from 300 to 1,000 people worked up and down the project, which stretched nearly 50 miles

from its headwaters above Jackson Meadows near the Sierra crest to Scotts Flat and Rollins reservoirs in the Sierra foothills.

Ebasco Services, the engineers and construction managers, issued quarterly reports to NID throughout the work. After the first year of construction, the September 30, 1963 report by Ebasco’s Engineer in Charge Cecil Pearce noted, “substantial progress during the period ending September 30 was made on the Yuba-Bear River Development.”



In 1963, NID General Manager Ed Koster “rides the ‘cat’ at Scotts Flat Dam with his old friend.”

Significantly, the report noted that the Scotts Flat development was the farthest along of all the projects. The work focused on efforts to double the water storage capacity of the existing reservoir. “The main embankment of the enlarged dam was raised to its final elevation, and during the past three months all effort has been placed on raising the spillway dam to its crest. A bridge is being constructed over the spillway dam making year-round passage possible for the first time.”



Final Stages of Construction, Scotts Flat 1963

SCOTTS FLAT 11-30-63 FINAL RIPRAP ON UPSTR. FACE OF DAM