



GM Newsletter

December 2024

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! The promise of a new year brings excitement as NID stays committed to our mission of providing a dependable water supply to our community and care for our watersheds.

We've seen a difficult year, during which unexpected infrastructure issues at PG&E's Lake Spaulding cut water flows to NID, and foothill reservoirs – Rollins and Scotts Flat – fell to less than half of capacity.

Now, in December, both the amount of precipitation and total reservoir storage are about average. NID's upper Sierra reservoirs remain around 100 percent capacity. And in the foothills on Dec. 17, Rollins was at 93 percent capacity and Scotts Flat was at 68 percent and gaining ground.

Let's all hope we have a wet winter to boost our water supply in 2025 for our farms, ranches and homes. And don't forget, we still need to conserve water and do everything we can to protect this precious resource. As 2024 comes to an end, on behalf of all at NID, I want to wish you and your family a festive holiday season filled with joy, peace and hope for the new year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones



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NID Water Treatment Operator Chance Wick enters a clarification basin as he starts to clean it. The clarification process is an essential part of the production of drinking water. Early in treatment, the large tank removes suspended solids from raw water before further purification processes.

NID installs Board president, vice president for 2025

Swears in new director and incumbent



Rich Johansen (left) and Brad Fowler are sworn in during the Dec. 11 Board of Directors meeting.

Nevada Irrigation District (NID) Directors welcomed new members and elected officers for next year, during their Dec. 11, 2024, meeting.

Director Ricki Heck will serve as Board President, and Chris Bierwagen will serve as Vice President. Heck (Division I) represents portions of Nevada City and Grass Valley. Bierwagen (Division II) represents the Chicago Park area.

NID welcomes a new member to its Board of Directors. Longtime Rancher Brad Fowler (Division III) was sworn in on Dec. 11. Fowler defeated incumbent Karen Hull in the recent election. Division 3 includes Alta Sierra and Lake of the Pines in Nevada County, as well as a portion of northern Placer County.

In addition, Incumbent Director Rich Johansen (Division V), who ran unopposed in the recent election, was sworn in for his second term. First elected to the seat in 2020, his new term will expire in 2028. Division 5 includes Lake Wildwood and Penn Valley.

NID's full Board for 2025:

- * Division I – Ricki Heck - Grass Valley and Nevada City area
- * Division II – Chris Bierwagen - includes Chicago Park
- * Division III - Brad Fowler - includes Alta Sierra and Lake of the Pines in Nevada County, as well as a small portion of northern Placer County.
- * Division IV – Earl Stephens - portions of North Auburn and Lincoln areas
- * Division V – Rich Johansen - Lake Wildwood and Penn Valley

Read NID Director bios, [click here](#)

Officers for 2025:

President Ricki Heck and Vice President Chris Bierwagen



NID closes foothill boat launches to address threat of invasive golden mussels

No motorized watercraft allowed on Scotts Flat, Rollins reservoirs

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is taking immediate proactive action to keep out highly destructive invasive golden mussels from the District's waterways. To address the threat, the District will close all boat launches to motorized watercraft at Scotts Flat and Rollins reservoirs.

The freshwater bivalve can block water intakes and infrastructure, harm native species, increase water clarity due to intense filter feeding and diminish water quality.

"NID will immediately implement a temporary boat launch closure due to the recent discovery of the golden mussel in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The golden mussel is probably one of the most invasive species we could get and would not only destroy our powerhouses but could also overtake the canal systems," said Greg Jones, NID's assistant general manager.

On October 17, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) reported finding adult golden mussels at the Port of Stockton. The species is originally from China and Southeast Asia, and it was the first time they had been detected in North America. State officials called the situation a "significant immediate threat."

One concern is the mussels will spread to other waterways, such as NID reservoirs in the foothills. To address the immediate threat, the District will temporarily close all launches to motorized boats at Scotts Flat and Rollins reservoirs. This includes Long Ravine, Orchard Springs and Greenhorn at Rollins, as well as the Scotts Flat boat launches on both the Cascade Shores and Scotts Flat sides.

"While no golden mussel has been detected at NID facilities, we cannot take a chance," Jones said. "This invasive species could significantly damage the District's infrastructure and the ecology of waterbodies."



Read the entire news release, [click here](#)

Above right: Golden mussels colonize a water pipe at a hydroelectric plant in Brazil in 2021.

Lower left: Long Ravine boat ramp



NID will accept reservations for District campgrounds beginning January 2, 2025.

Camping sites book quickly, so mark your calendar now to save the date.

There are reservation options for most of the campgrounds: book your site online or call the specific campground.

Scotts Flat Lake

Scotts Flat Campground: Phone (530) 265-5302. Campground address: 23333 Scotts Flat Road, Nevada City, CA 95959. Hours Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Reservations can also be made online at the [Scotts Flat webpage](#).



Scotts Flat

Rollins Lake

Orchard Springs Campground: Phone (530) 346-0073 (gatehouse located at 19085 Larsen Road, Grass Valley). Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. [Orchard Springs webpage](#).



Rollins

Long Ravine Campground: (530) 346-6166 (gatehouse located at 26909 Rollins Lake Road, Colfax). Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. [Long Ravine webpage](#).

Peninsula Campground: Phone (530) 477-9413 or online on our [Peninsula webpage](#).

High Sierra Jackson Meadows and Faucherie Lakes

Faucherie, Aspen, and Silvertip: Phone (530) 265-5302 or in person at our Scotts Flat Office located at 23333 Scotts Flat Road, Nevada City, CA 95959. Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. [Reservation webpage](#).



Jackson Meadows

Early Bird Reservations for groups needing 6+ sites -- starts December 16, 2024

Have a large group that will need six or more campsites? Reservations for group camping on multiple sites are available starting on Monday, December 16, 2024.

Reservations for Scotts Flat Campground: In-person or by phone at the Scotts Flat Campground office (530) 265-5302. Hours: 7:30 am to 4:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Reservations for Orchard Springs, Long Ravine and Peninsula can be made by phone. In-person reservations are not available at these three campgrounds.

English Meadow: NID embarks on watershed restoration to protect water supply

Read a new feature story on work progress with photos and history details, [click here](#)



The northern Sierra Nevada mountain range is immense; it's more than 39,000 square miles of forests, creeks, rivers and lakes which supply a vast majority of California's water.

Within this vast network of watersheds, the NID is restoring and enhancing about 200 acres of montane meadow habitat and another 175 acres of white and red fir forest roughly 21 miles northwest of Truckee.

Why the fuss over this postage stamp in the Sierra?

The restoration project is part of NID's efforts to protect its source watersheds and adapt its water system to a changing climate, which threatens our future supply of drinking and agricultural water. The work also supports the important ecological and hydrological function of high-elevation meadows.



An excavator constructs in-stream debris jam structures in the Middle Yuba River

The English Meadow Restoration Project is funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board's Forest Conservation Program, and it joins a growing movement to restore meadows in the Sierra Nevada region of California.

This restoration project has multiple goals. NID has developed a multifaceted approach that aims to improve montane meadow hydrology; reduce sediment delivery into Jackson Meadows Reservoir; and protect rare and declining wildlife habitat in the Sierra Nevada from climate impacts, including catastrophic wildfire.



(Above) Pre-mastication and (below) Post-mastication



[Read the full story with photos](#)

Environmental Resources Administrator Neysa King leads the way through the meadow.

Bowman Lake



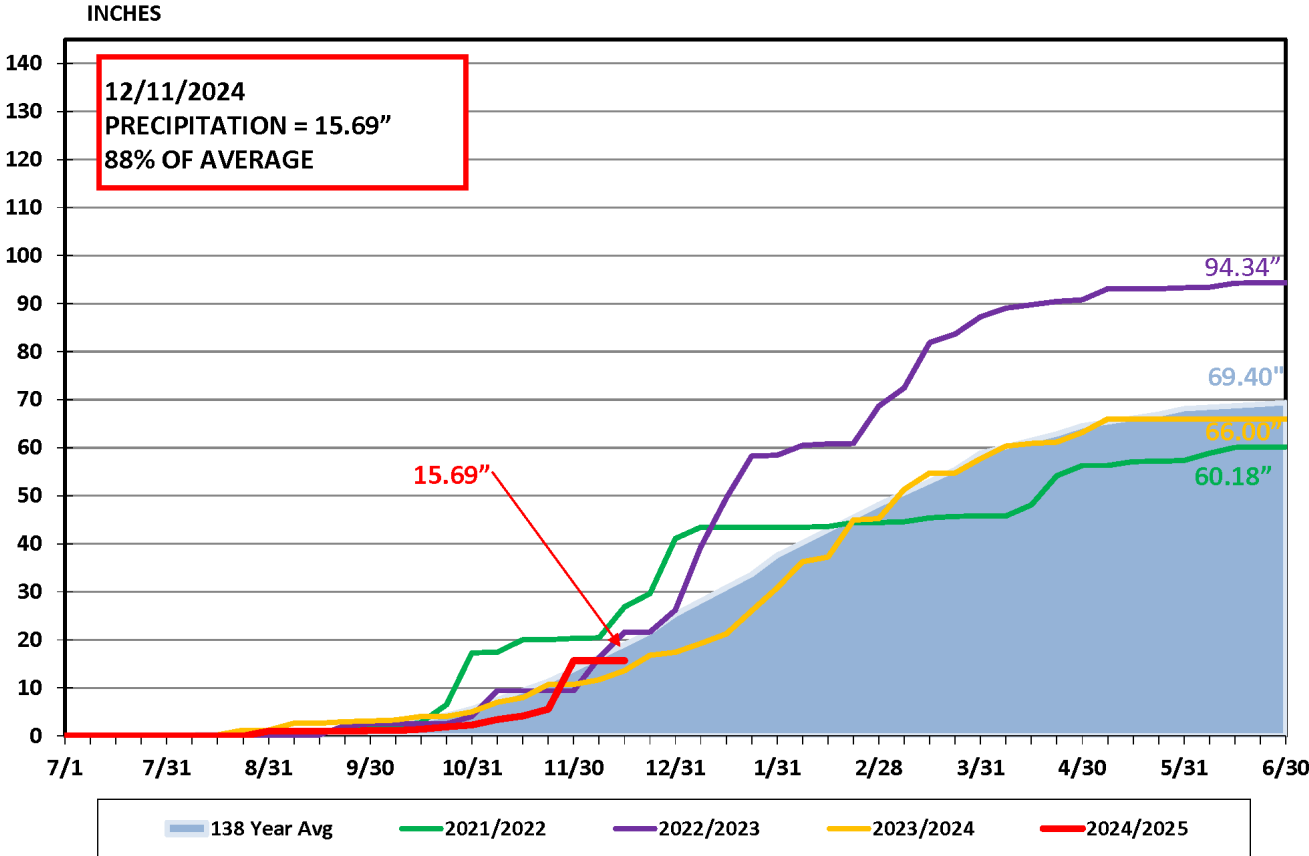
NID has been keeping weather records for Bowman Reservoir (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

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.

As of Dec. 11, 2024, 15.69 inches of precipitation had fallen at Bowman. That is 88 percent of average.

BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



NID's total reservoir storage is average for this time of year

Total reservoir storage was 178,251 acre-feet as of Dec. 11, 2024. That is 100 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.

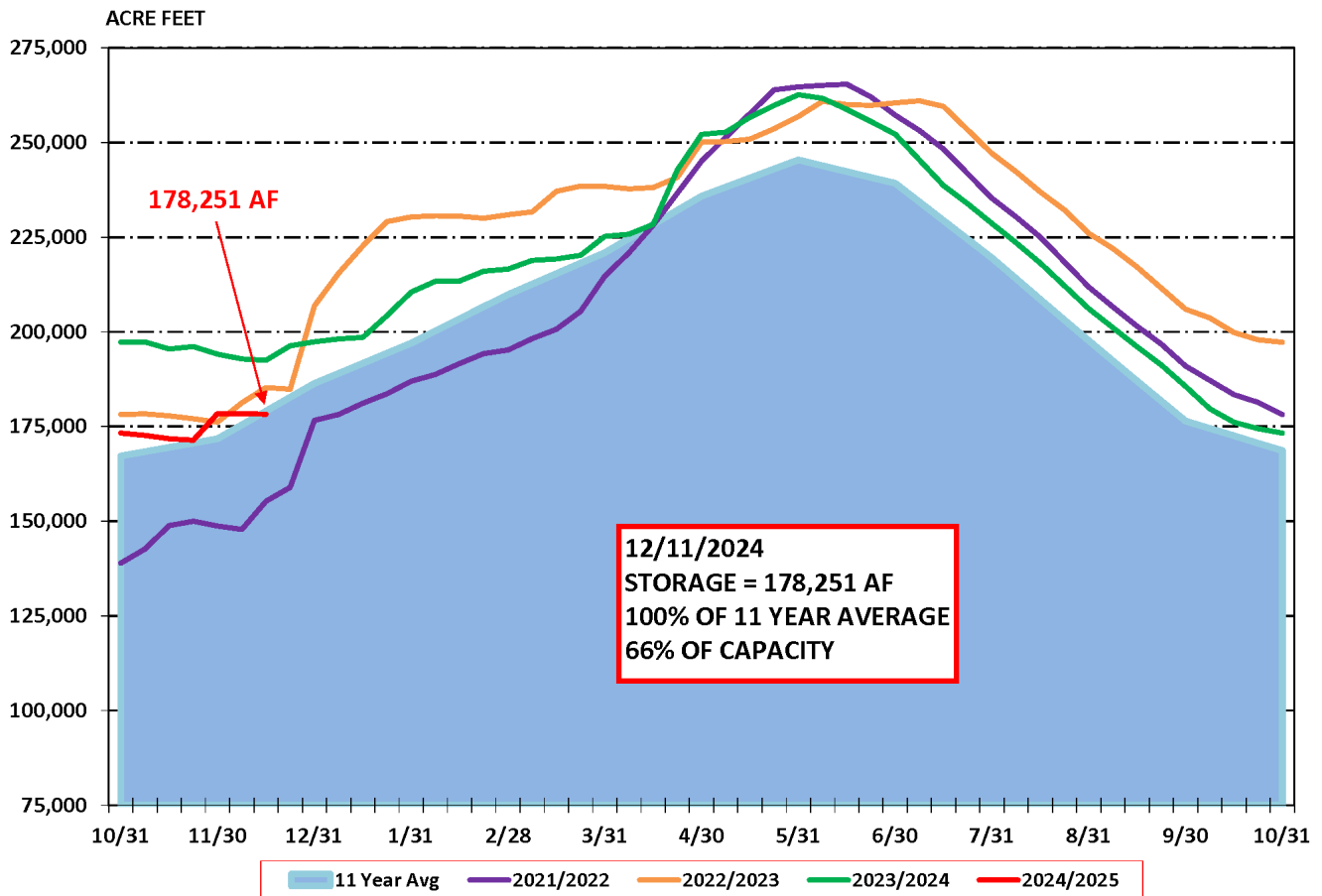
Lakes include: Jackson Meadows, Jackson, French, Faucherie, Sawmill, Bowman, and Canyon Creek, as well as Scotts Flat and Rollins.



Faucherie Reservoir

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.

[2024 Capital Improvement Program Mid-year Project Status Update](#)

[2024 Engineering & Hydroelectric Project Status Reports page](#)

Project: Lake Wildwood Treatment Plant

The NID Board of Directors have awarded a contract on Dec. 11 for design services for the Lake Wildwood Treatment Plant (WTP) Project that is the sole supply of drinking water to the community. The WTP is reaching the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced.

Lake Wildwood, Penn Valley, and nearby regions are currently served by the WTP for their drinking water. Supplied by NID's Newtown Canal, the WTP 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 WTP 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.



Meetings & Events



Board of Directors Meeting

No meeting scheduled until
January 2025

*** Dates and times subject to change.
Please check nidwater.com for up-
dates*

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

