



The Pipeline

Employee Newsletter

Volume 47 ~ Number 10 ~ October 2026



Senior Welder Robert Stice and Welder II Josh Pratt work on the PRV.

The Hydroelectric Department wrapped up its annual three-week maintenance outages at the Dutch Flat and Chicago Park powerhouses and flumes.

Work included replacing a remote terminal unit (RTU) to improve system monitoring, control, and operational reliability. Crews also replaced deteriorated concrete joints in box flumes, completed extensive repairs to a flume intake gate, and conducted generator and electrical testing to support the continued safe, reliable operation of the hydroelectric facilities.

Extensive internal inspections of penstocks were completed at two facilities. The Grass Valley welding team assisted with repairing a cavitated Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) outlet structure, installing steel plate over large areas.

In addition, crews completed welding repairs on a Francis-type turbine and gathered information to help plan future repairs.

The Department has a limited window each year to complete a significant amount of critical maintenance and repair work. Successfully carrying out these efforts requires careful planning, coordination, and teamwork. These accomplishments would not be possible without the dedication, expertise, and hard work of the entire team.

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Flash from the Past -- from the October 1983 Pipeline "Today's flumes are of steel," Page 7

October Anniversaries

Matthew Halvorson, Assistant Water Superintendent, 22 years

Todd Wiederhold, Supervising Mechanical/Civil Foreman, 19 years

Tina Haenny, Hydroelectric Compliance Administrator, 16 years

Carl Cookson, Survey Technician II, 14 years

Mark Gravatt, Equipment Operator, 14 years

Kriss Butcher, Senior IT Analyst, 13 years

Jeffrey Farmer, Hydro Electrical Machinist II, 12 years

Joshua Hynie, Water Treatment Operator III, 12 years

Susan Lauer, Senior Communications Specialist, 9 years

David Taylor, Water Distribution Operator II, 8 years

Bobby Newkirk, Hydraulic Technician II, 8 years

Steven Petersen, Utility Worker I, 7 years

October Anniversaries

Andy Newburn, Equipment Operator, 7 years

Morgan Mooers, Vegetation Control Worker I, 4 years

Logan Sheftal, Senior Utility Worker, 4 years

Cory Cyr, Budget Analyst, 3 years

Retiree

Valerie Kinnan, Accountant II, retired on September 30, 2026

New Hires

Maya Colacion, Accountant I, October 5, 2026

Jeremy Rutherford, Customer Service Technician I, October 19, 2026



Maya Colacion



Jeremy Rutherford

Honoring All Who Served

Thank you for your courage and commitment to keeping us safe



Will Barker (Hydroelectric Plant Operator I)
Air Force
Years of Service: 1992-1998
Rank: E3 Senior Airman
Security Forces / Explosive Ordinance Disposal
Under Operations: Bosnia/Croatia



Nathan Wasley (Water Superintendent)
Army 1999-2003
25th Infantry – Schofield, Hawaii
Corporal
MOS: II Bravo Infantry



Chris Berg (Senior Construction Inspector)
Navy
Years of service: 1990-1996
Seabee – Construction Battalion
E5 Petty Officer 2nd Class
Gulf War/Somalia Operation Restore Hope



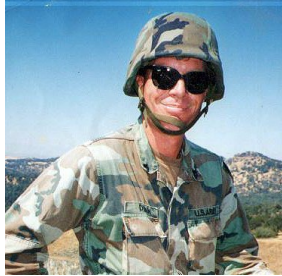
Gregory Callison (Senior Storekeeper)
Navy
Years of Service: 1992-1994 (active) 1994-1999
(reserve)
USS Long Beach CGN-9
MA for 1st Division



Bobby Newkirk (Hydraulic Technician I)
Army National Guard 2013-2020
E5 Sergeant
MOS: Communications

Honoring All Who Served

Thank you for your courage and commitment to keeping us safe



Christopher J. Dunn (Utility Worker I)

Army

Years of Service: 1984-2000

12 Bravo Combat Engineer Explosives

E5 Sergeant

Gulf War/Desert Storm/Desert Shield

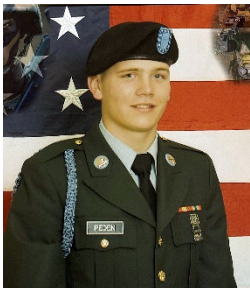


Clint Piper (Water Treatment Operator II)

Navy 2002-2007

E5 Petty Officer 2nd Class

War on Terrorism / Security of Nuclear School



Steven A. Peden (Equipment Operator)

Army 2004-2007

82nd Airborne Ranger

Specialist E4

MOS: Infantry



Jon Ritter (Purchasing Supervisor)

Air Force

Years of Service: 2017-2024

Rank: E5/Staff Sergeant

Under Operations: Red Flag Alaska/Operation

Inherent Resolve

Materiel Management (Aircraft Supply)



Randall K. Pool (Utility Worker II)

Navy 1987-1990

Seaman on USS Missouri

NID Showcases Water Careers at Nevada County Trades Expo



(Above) Equipment Operator Chris Friedman offers hands-on guidance as a student learns to operate an excavator.

(Right) Jim Belleque, Electrical Systems Tech II, encourages a student who works to open the butterfly valve.



NID was excited to take part in the Nevada County Trades Expo on October 7, where nearly 600 local high school students got hands-on career experience at the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

At our booth, students tried out real tools and equipment, including operating a remote-control mower, turning a butterfly valve, and maneuvering an excavator. It was a fun, engaging way to show how our crews help keep the water system running every day.

A big thank-you to our NID volunteers:

- ✓ Cameron Price, Maintenance Superintendent, Treated Water
- ✓ Chris Friedman, Equipment Operator
- ✓ Jim Belleque, Electrical Systems Tech II
- ✓ Wayne MacMenigall, Senior Utility Worker
- ✓ Kenton Early, Maintenance Supervisor
- ✓ Rick Dills, Senior Electrical System Tech

The Expo, organized by the Nevada County Contractors Association and local partners, featured more than 35 exhibits from area businesses and public agencies.

Students explored careers in construction, engineering, public works, and more.

We're grateful for the chance to inspire future water professionals and highlight the important work behind delivering safe, reliable water to our community.



(Above) Senior Utility Worker Wayne MacMenigall coaches a student as she tests her skills with the remote-controlled mower. It's trickier than it looks!

Fading light, autumn leaves, and wet roads

Autumn in Nevada and Placer counties is beautiful, but it brings unique challenges for anyone operating a Nevada Irrigation District vehicle. As we move deeper into October, we face a sudden shift in driving conditions: shorter days, fading daylight, and unpredictable weather.

To keep our crews safe on rural foothill routes, let's focus on visibility and traction this month.

Mastering the Changing Light

With the sun sitting lower on the horizon, sun glare during morning and evening shifts can be blinding.

Clean and Check: Clean your windshield inside and out to eliminate the film that magnifies glare. Inspect your wiper blades and top off your washer fluid—dust and early morning frost can instantly obscure your vision.

See and Be Seen: Turn on your headlights manually during dawn, dusk, and overcast days. Do not rely on automatic settings; ensuring your tail lights are active helps other motorists spot an NID utility vehicle from a distance.

Watch for Wildlife: Deer are highly active in October during dawn and dusk. Fading light makes them incredibly difficult to spot along heavily wooded easements. Slow down and scan the shoulders.

The Threat of "Invisible Ice"

While we aren't dealing with snow yet, wet leaves and pine needles on the roadway can be as slippery as black ice.

Double Your Distance: When early morning dew or rain hits a bed of fallen leaves, your braking distance doubles.

Navigate with Caution: Approach sharp curves and canal access roads with extra care. A patch of damp oak leaves in a shaded bend can easily cause a vehicle to lose traction.

Let's stay sharp, adjust our speeds for the low-light conditions, and ensure everyone makes it home safely at the end of every shift.

Drive defensively, NID!



PIPELINE

A newsletter to the employees of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 4 Number 10 October, 1983

Today's flumes are of steel

WHERE OLD wooden flumes carried water to NID customers, new sections of steel pipe are taking over. For the past few weeks, Maintenance Dept. crews have been working on the Little Deer Creek flume replacement project.

Maint. Supt. Lee Droivold says an old 100-foot wooden flume on the Cascade Canal is being replaced by five-foot steel pipe suspended on 10-inch I-beams.

The new section of pipe was scheduled to go into service the week of Oct. 10 after inlet and outlet structures were completed.

The project is located at the point the Cascade Canal crosses Little Deer Creek, between Red Dog Rd. and Banner Mtn.

Since the construction required water outages, Droivold said other crews have been taking advantage of conditions by cleaning sections of the canal with a backhoe and spraying shotcrete sealer in other portions.

He said the work along the Cascade would likely continue until the weather gets too wet to allow further work.



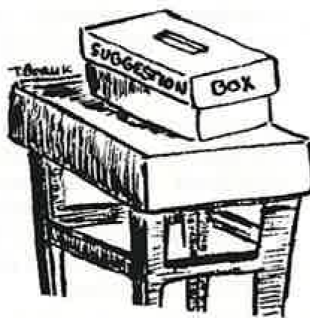
STEEL PIPE is replacing an old wooden flume in the current project on the Cascade Canal. The five-foot pipe is being supported on 10-inch I-beams.

Suggestion program wins board approval

AN EMPLOYEE SUGGESTION program which offers small cash incentives to employees has been approved by the NID Board of Directors.

Cash awards of \$5 to \$25 were originally proposed but the Board of Directors raised the ceiling to \$50 in approving the new program Sept. 28.

District officials hope the suggestion program will allow employees an



Suggestions anyone?

opportunity to contribute and feel more a part of the organization.

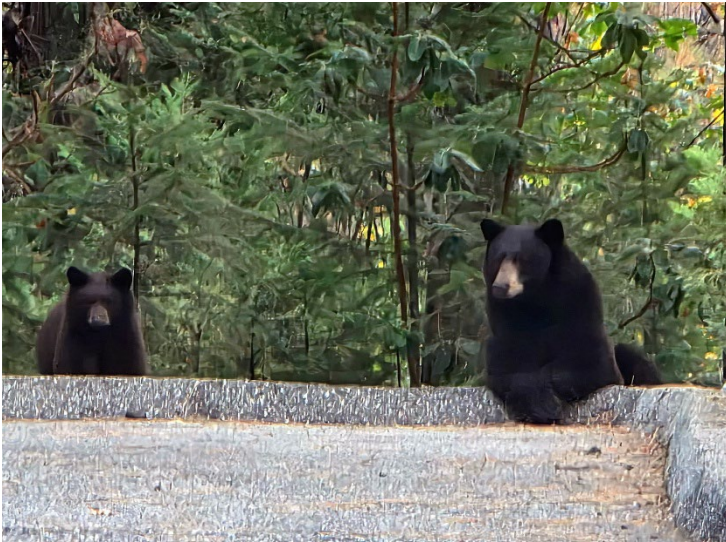
The program will also give everyone a chance to make positive changes in the ways we do our daily jobs. It is hoped employee suggestions will lead to increased productivity.

Suggestions may be submitted to the Personnel Office on a special form that is now being prepared and will be distributed to all departments.

Suggestions will be reviewed (each will be acknowledged) and the ones deemed needed will be recommended to the Board of Directors.

Not appropriate are suggestions that point out problems without offering solutions or proposals in the nature of grievances.

Further information on the new employee suggestion programs may be obtained through the Personnel Office.



Senior Park Ranger Caden Caldwell snapped these photos of his “new friends” while out on patrol at Scotts Flat. The pair wandered through, offering a rare and memorable glimpse of the wildlife that shares our open spaces. The photos were a big hit on social media, and we are excited to share a closer look with employees here.



Meetings

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 9, 2026
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 13, 2027
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

