



GM Newsletter

March 2022

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

Water For Life

IN THIS EDITION

Plan for Water (Page 2)

Snow Survey (p.3)

Reservoir Levels (p.5)

English Meadow (p.8)

Redistricting (p.9)

Hemphill Fish Passage (p.11)

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Customer Water Usage (p.6)

Mulch Magic Giveaway (p.7)

HYDROPOWER UPDATE

Generation Report (p.12)

Availability Report (p.12)

Message from the General Manager

As we move into our third year of drought, we all need to step up our conservation efforts. It matters.

March is the beginning of warmer weather, and it's a critical time as the snowpack melts into our water supply for the year.

Our latest snow survey found the average water content in the snowpack was 23.8 inches or 85 percent of average for the

District's five high-elevation snow courses (see details of the survey on Page 3).

That doesn't sound so bad, and it's better than other reports around the state. However, the snow survey is not the whole story. Notably, the District's lower reservoirs have comfortable storage levels, but the upper reservations are well below average and even just above half-full.

Our water managers are keeping a close eye on the situation, of course, and rest assured we are doing everything possible to maximize our water supply and ensure we are able to make full deliveries this summer.

What can each of us do? Get serious about conservation immediately. Unfortunately, in February NID customers actually used 17 percent more treated water than they did in February 2021.

Water conservation is so important as we adjust to drought conditions and water uncertainties, as we build resilience to climate change. Please visit the District's conservation webpage to get tips about how to use water efficiently.

And tune into the next Board of Directors' meeting on March 23, when the District experts will go into detail about snowpack, reservoir levels and the vital need for conservation.



***Irrigation
Water Season
starts April 15***

An NID crew cleans a canal in advance of Irrigation Season, which starts on April 15.



Plan for Water

Invitation to get involved

The Plan for Water process will continue on April 19 with a workshop focusing on watersheds. This conversation will include watershed management and a cultural awareness and sensitivity overview.

As with all Plan for Water workshops, public input and questions are encouraged.

NID looks forward to hearing from the public and working together to develop strategic options that reflect a balanced mix of community perspectives to guide the District's water management into the future.

The April 19 workshop will begin at 4 p.m. via Zoom teleconference.

The Watershed workshop agenda and Zoom information can be found on the [Plan for Water webpage](#).

Workshop Summary:

March 8, 2022 - Stage 2

The workshop continued an overview of water rights currently held by NID (Part 3 of 3).

- [Presentation: Water Rights](#)
- [Meeting video \(starts at 1:36:00\)](#)
- [Public comment summary](#)
- [New Planning Matrix](#)

“Risk” is added as a new stage in the Plan for Water

“Risk” has been added as a new stage in the Plan for Water process.

The discussion will include risk analysis and mitigation efforts presentation relating to three organizational considerations: Operational; Regulatory; and Environmental.

The goal is to develop a common understanding of NID's controlled and uncontrolled risk factors and mitigation efforts as it relates to operational, regulatory and environmental considerations

View the updated planning matrix [here](#). The matrix details each of the 11 stages, including Stage 4: Risk.

- Stage 1: Water System Overview
- Stage 2: Water Rights Overview
- Stage 3: Watersheds
- Stage 4: Risk
- Stage 5: Strategic Planning
- Stage 6: Basis for Plan for Water
- Stage 7: Hydrology and Hydrography
- Stage 8: Demand
- Stage 9: Water Supply Needs
- Stage 10: Strategy Options
- Stage 11: Strategy Evaluation

March Snow Survey: snowpack continues to shrink

During the snow survey for March, NID hydrographers found the average water content in the snowpack was 23.8 inches or 85 percent of average of 27.9 inches for the District's five high-elevation snow courses. By comparison, last month's snow survey found water content to be 24.7 inches.

Cumulative precipitation at Bowman Reservoir was 44.43 inches, which is 91 percent of average, as of March 2.

The results may not seem especially alarming, yet they do create a cause for concern. Short of a March Miracle deluge, we will again fall short of an average water supply and will be pressed to conserve as much water as possible.

NID's watermaster noted that February produced less than 1 inch of precipitation; it was the ninth driest February on record. This followed an exceptionally dry January. In fact, the two-month total of 2.83 inches was the second driest Jan-Feb in 134 years of records.

"We are taking efforts to maximize storage carry on while District planning focuses on optimizing all available supplies," said Water Resources Superintendent Thor Larsen.

With focus on saving as much water as possible as we head into the spring and summer, conservation continues to be key.

Read more; [click here](#).

How Do They Do It?

Learn how our hydrographers conduct snow surveys.

VIDEO (4:09 minutes) follows our team during a recent snow survey.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)



Read about the March Snow Survey and see the statistics for each of NID's five snow courses.

[Click here](#)



Bowman Lake



Bowman Lake statistics

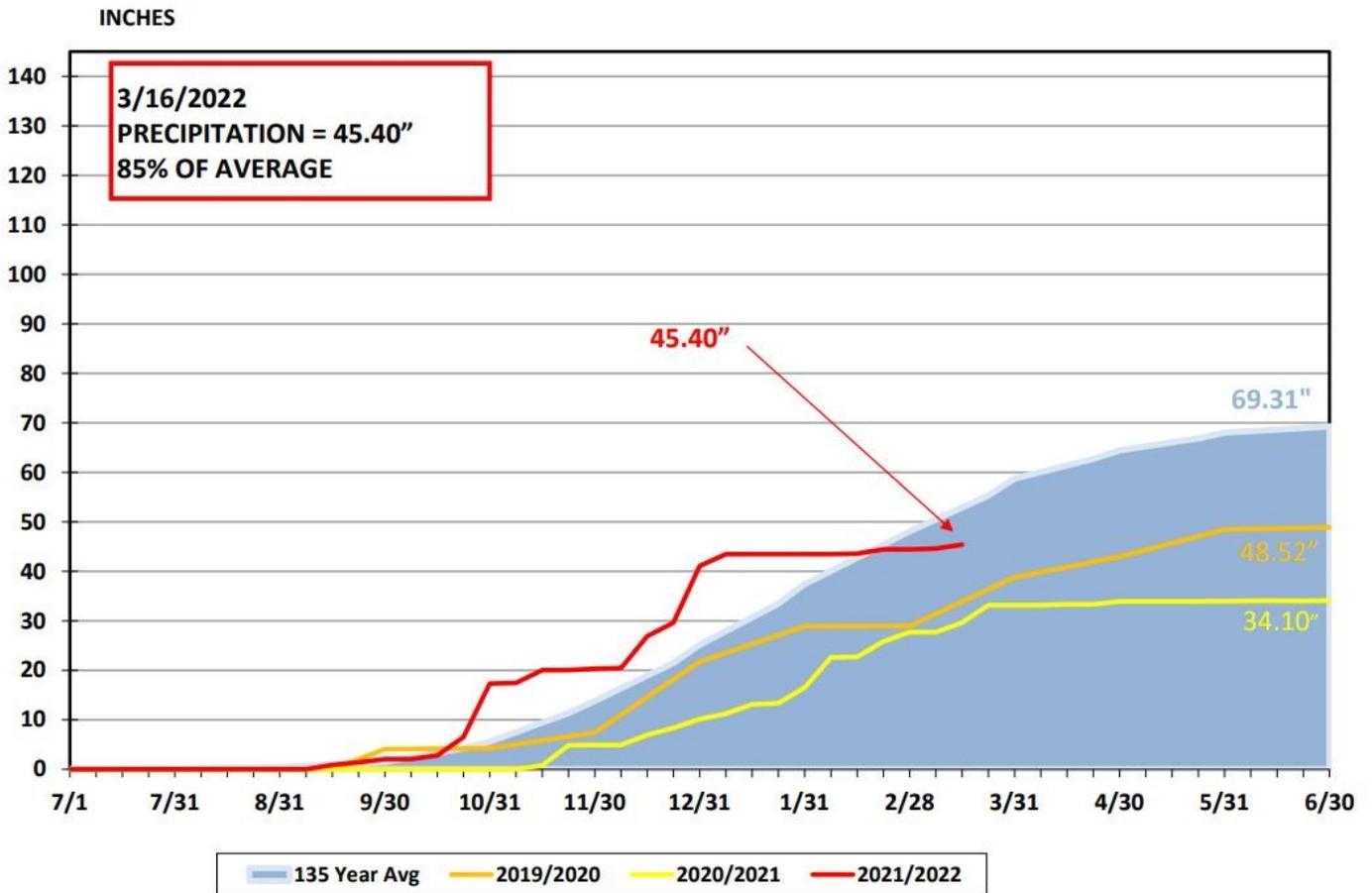
NID has been keeping weather records for Bowman Reservoir (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

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 March 16, 45.4 inches had fallen, which is 85 percent of average.

BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



Keep track of reservoir levels

NID reservoir storage has improved since last year, but we still are lacking. Storage is 200,700 acre-feet as of March 16. That is 94 percent of average and 74 percent of capacity.

NID's watermaster regularly posts updates of our local reservoir levels. You can see how water levels fluctuate in easy-to-read charts.

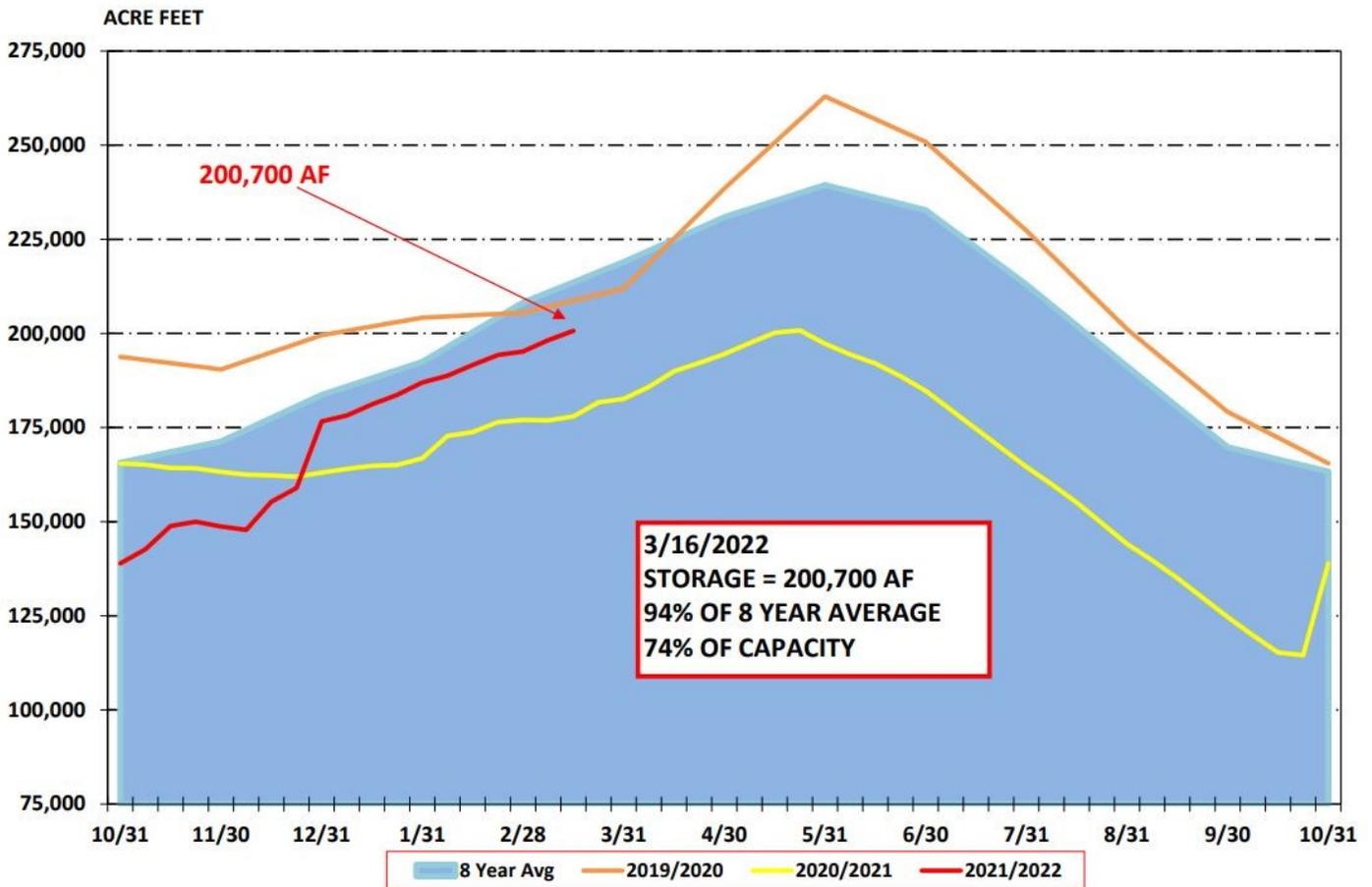
The District's River & Reservoir Data measures both capacity and elevation for different reservoirs, from the High Sierra Canyon Creek watershed (Bowman Lake and others) to the Deer Creek watershed (Scotts Flat Lake) and Bear River watershed (Rollins Lake).



Faucherie Lake

It's all just a click away on the NID website under [River & Reservoir Data](#).

NID RESERVOIR STORAGE

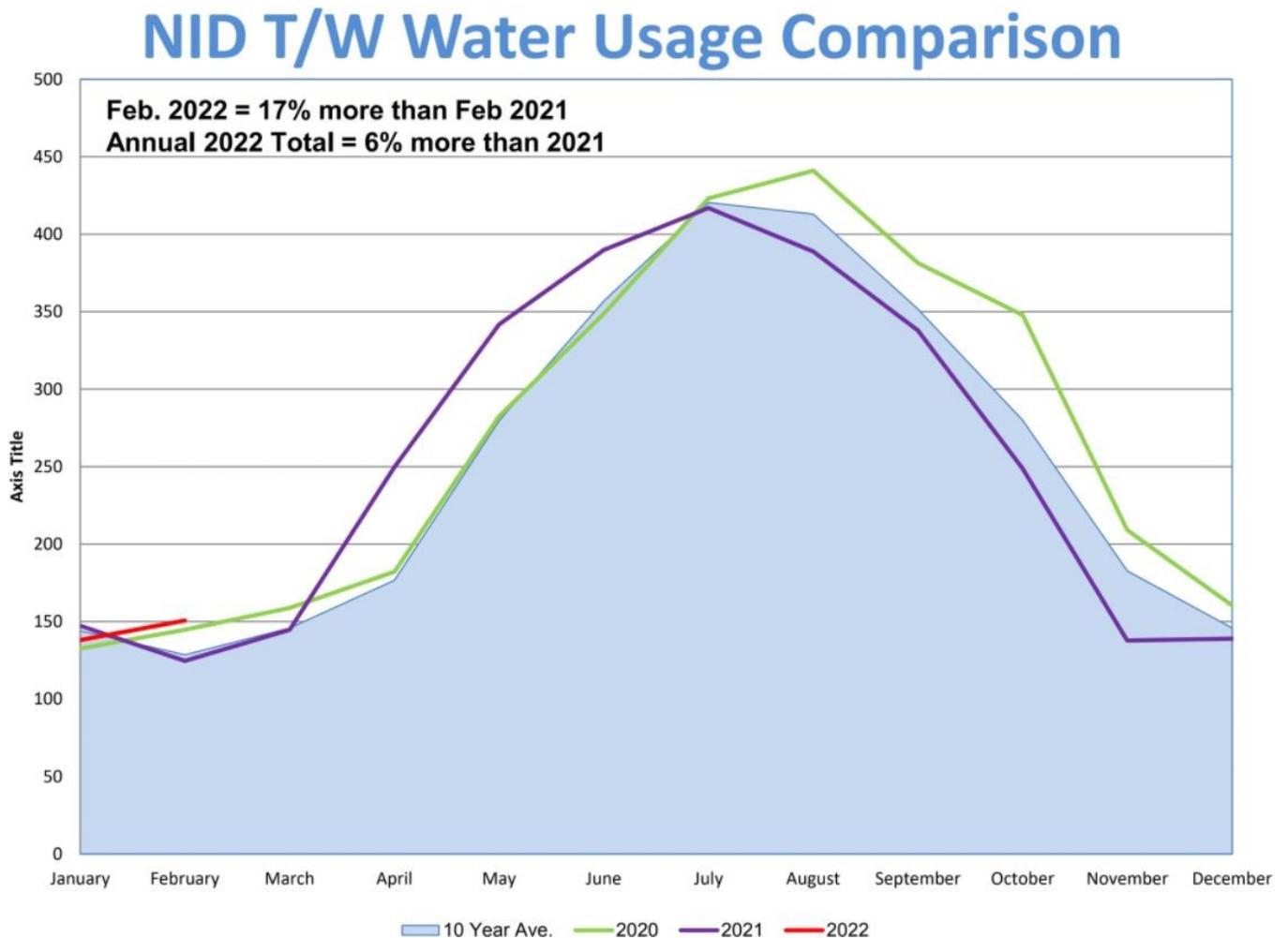


Water conservation lags—water usage up 17%

The warm, dry weather last month took its toll. In February treated water customers used 17 percent more water compared to February 2021.

Still experiencing drought conditions and facing a dry, warm summer, our community can't afford to waste water. It's important to make water efficiency a habit.

Let's start saving water. Start with knowing what you use
[Measure Your Water Use Calculator](#)



The above graph shows the overall treated water usage and effectiveness of conservation within the District's treated water customer base.

Mulch Magic Giveaway returns on May 14



**FREE
MULCH!**

Mulch is a great way to save water.

2-3 inches of mulch helps retain water and keeps soil moist for longer periods of time

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

FREE MULCH available for pick-up! NID and the Nevada County Fairgrounds will be hosting the Mulch Magic Giveaway.

When: Saturday May 14, 2022 7:00 am – 12:00 pm.
First come, first served while supplies last. Get there early!

Location: Nevada County Fairgrounds. Enter Fairgrounds at Gate 8 off Brighton Street. The event will be held in the arena.

SELF-LOAD. Bring your own shovels, containers, truck, and tarps.

Questions? Contact NID's Water Efficiency Technician Kaycee Strong at 530-273-6185 ext. 1244 or strongk@water.com



Need Help Loading?

Local Boy and Eagle Scouts will be available to help load mulch into your vehicle.

****BE SURE TO TIP YOUR SCOUT****

Limitations:

Limit 1 cubic yard per vehicle
For personal use only; not for resale or commercial use.

English Meadow Restoration Project moves ahead

Restoration of English Meadow is proceeding; NID is now accepting bids by contractors for floodplain restoration and forest management work.

This restoration project will begin later this year on 380 acres within the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Yuba River.

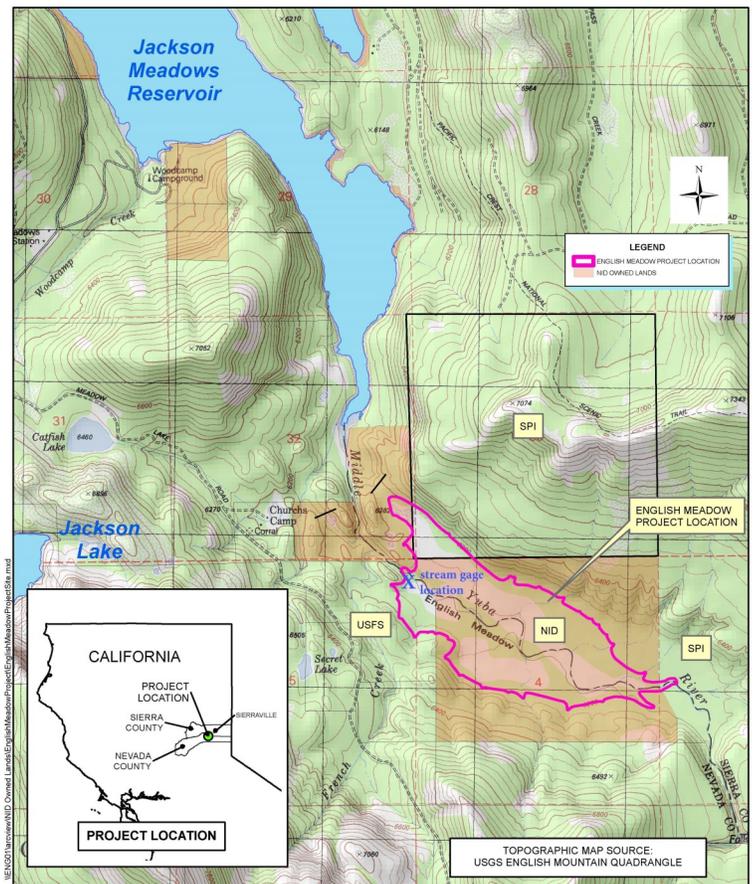
This project is the culmination of nearly five years of field studies, site assessments, planning and partnership development to achieve the restoration of this key meadow community within the patchwork of Sierran meadows found in this region.



English Meadow is located about 1 mile upstream of Jackson Meadows Reservoir, which is one of NID's largest water storage reservoirs.

The goal of the project is to restore and maintain healthy, fire-resilient watershed lands while protecting water supply and quality. The project will expand the fire fuels reduction and forest thinning efforts that have been initiated by NID throughout Nevada County.

This is a cooperative project and NID has received a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board to support expansion of its Forest Conservation Program, which includes the treatment of the specified area in this request for bid. Project partners include Plumas Corporation (Quincy, Ca.), Under the Trees (Nevada City, Ca.), the USFS and Tahoe National Forest, and Sacramento State University researchers.



Read more about the Project, [click here.](#)



ENGLISH MEADOW RESTORATION PROJECT PHASE 1 - PIN # 632		
Date: 7/11/2017	NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT	Scale: 1" = 2000' @ 8.12x11
Drawn By: D. HUNT	NEVADA COUNTY - PLACER COUNTY GRASS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA	Sheet: 1 of 1

NID adopts redistricting map

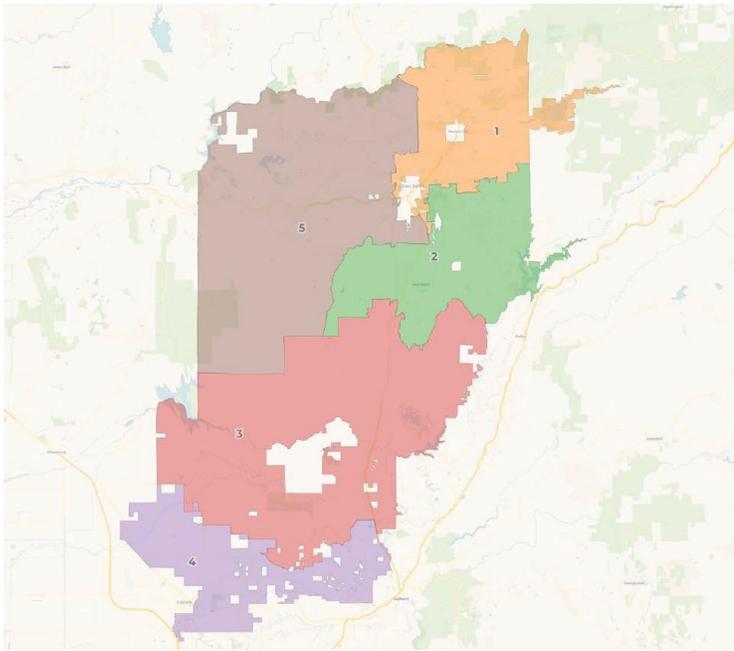
After four public meetings and five alternate maps created by an independent consultant, NID’s Board of Directors have voted on a map that keeps cities, communities of interest and watershed interests together.

The southern part of NID’s boundaries have experienced the largest percentage of growth since the last redistricting effort. In order to balance the shift in population, in accordance with election law, a few of the District’s divisions were reduced geographically; these include Divisions 1, 2 and 4. Divisions 3 and 5 now will see large geographic increases in order to capture a proportionate share of the population.

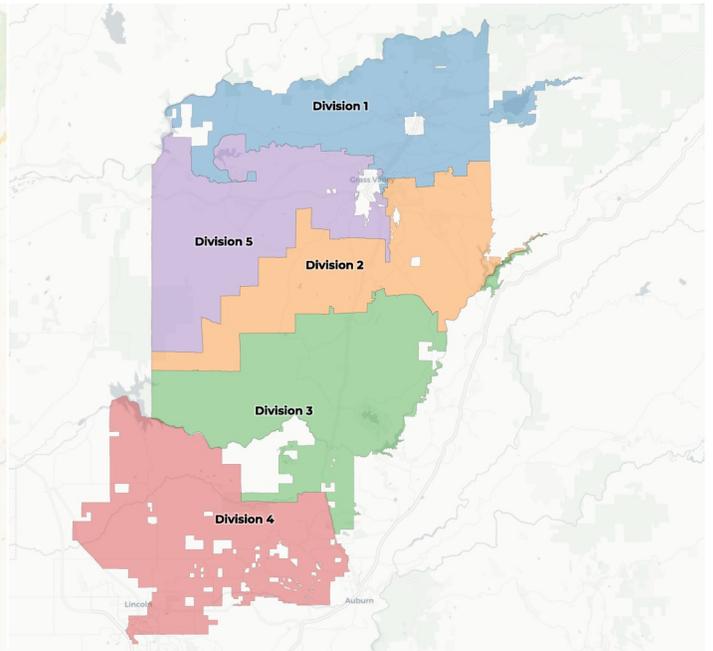
In the 2022 election, the Board of Director seats located in Divisions 1, 2, and 4 will be up for election.

Click [here](#) to see the former, proposed and new maps,

Click [here](#) to read the Board-adopted Resolution.



New division map



Former division map

What is redistricting?

All jurisdictions that have electoral divisions, including special districts like NID, must equalize the populations of their respective divisions every 10 years following the federal census.

Redistricting is the process of adjusting the division boundaries so that each has equal populations and are in compliance with all state and federal laws.

Engineering Projects

The NID Engineering Department has a number of projects in various phases of construction. Read about the projects on our website, and sign up for email alerts for news about a specific project.

Updated Project Status Reports are now available on the [District's Projects webpage](#). This report provides project information, planner information, and a brief project description.

[2022 Engineering Department Project Status Report](#)
[2021 Year in Review, Department Updates, Plans for 2022](#)

Centennial Water Supply Project Reservoir Quarterly Update

Since the last quarterly update, there has been no additional work done. No work is expected until the Plan for Water process is complete.

The Administrative Hearings Office (AHO) status conference was held on January 18, 2022, regarding water rights Application 5634X01. NID Staff and Legal Counsel met with South Sutter Water District on March 2, 2022, regarding protest resolution. Ongoing monthly meetings with SSWD are anticipated, additional staff and legal time are expected.

Read more, click [here](#).

Current budget expenditures as of March 17, 2022, are as follows:

2022	January - March	Total
Consulting	0.00	0.00
Consulting Property	0.00	0.00
Property Purchase	0.00	0.00
Water Rights Fees	\$ 3,830.40	\$ 3,830.40
Staff*	0.00	0.00
Legal*	0.00	0.00
Total	\$ 3,830.40	\$ 3,830.40
2022	January - March	Total
Property Revenue	\$ 50,600.00	\$ 50,600.00
Property Expenses	\$ 52,494.97	\$ 52,494.97
Total (Revenue - Expenses)	\$ (1,894.97)	\$ (1,894.97)

Featured Project: Hemphill Diversion Structure

Project awarded \$1.5 million grant

Design Phase:

On March 10, 2022, a meeting was held with the permitting agencies to review the 90 percent design drawings and technical specifications, and on March 11, 2022, a public meeting was held to discuss the 90 percent design. The purpose of these meetings was to receive comments and feedback from the public and permitting agencies regarding the 90% design. The Technical Specifications, Design documents, and meeting videos are posted on the Project's website.



Prequalification of Contractors:

The District is developing an agreement with the Placer Conservation Authority (PCA) to allow the District to participate in the program. It is anticipated to be brought before the Board at the April 13, 2022, meeting for approval. Staff is currently finalizing the application to submit for the 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement and the Placer County Conservation Program Permits (PCCP).

Permitting:

The District is developing an agreement with the Placer County Conservation Program (PCCP) to allow the District to participate in the program. It is anticipated to be brought before the Board at the April 13, 2022, meeting for approval. Staff is currently finalizing the application to submit for the 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Grant Award:

The Project was approved for a California Wildlife Conservation Board, Prop. 68 Grant Award of \$1,500,000 on February 24, 2022.



[Read more, click here](#)

Hydropower Generation Report

This report presents the total megawatt-hours (MWh) generated per powerhouse for the previous month. Average Generation is based on the monthly generation from the previous five years. Combie North, Combie South, and Scotts Flat Powerhouses create revenue-based on MWh produced. Generation from Chicago Park, Dutch Flat #2, Rollins and Bowman Powerhouses is provided for informational purposes.

Powerhouse	Average Generation	Current Generation
Chicago Park	6,348	6,284
Dutch Flat #2	2,841	2,737
Rollins	3,042	3,628
Bowman	67	0
Combie North	60	67
Combie South	300	402
Scotts Flat	164	0
Total	12,822	13,118

Generation was near average at most facilities. Scotts Flat and Bowman were the exception where low reservoir levels caused by dry conditions did not allow for generation.

Hydropower Availability Report

This report presents the total percentage of time a powerhouse is available to generate during the given month. Powerhouses Chicago Park, Dutch Flat #2, Rollins, and Bowman produce revenue based on the percentage (%) of time the unit is available to generate.

Powerhouse	Budgeted Availability	Actual Availability
Chicago Park	94.3%	100%
Dutch Flat #2	92.0%	100%
Rollins	94.9%	100%
Bowman	92.0%	100%

Budgeted availability shown was used to develop revenue forecasts. Actual availability shown is based on the hours the powerhouse ran minus any outages that are not excused by the terms of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and is the basis of payment calculation.

All powerhouses were above budgeted availability for the month of January.

Hydropower Outage Report

This report presents a list of each time a powerhouse has an outage caused by something other than a lack of water or a planned extended outage as well as basic information about the outage. Minimizing the number of outages and their length is key to maximizing revenue from the powerhouses.

Powerhouse	Date and Time Out	Duration (HH:MM)	Cause
Chicago Park	2/23/22 09:00	1:43	Planned maintenance
		1:43	Total

Unit reliability was extremely high for the month.

Women's History Month: Elizabeth George was a champion of clean water

In honor of Women's History Month, we recognize the contributions to NID by local business leader Elizabeth L. "Betty" George.

Elizabeth was a community leader credited with bringing millions of dollars in economic development funds into the region in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

NID's first modern water treatment plant was built on Banner Mountain near Nevada City. Funding for the \$1.3 million plant was spearheaded by Elizabeth, who was serving as president of the Sierra Economic Development District (SEDD).

The water treatment plant, named in her honor, was dedicated on May 27, 1970. When it began operation, it supplied 2,200 customers.

During the Banner Mountain plant dedication, NID General Manager Clendenen noted, "It was natural to name the plant after her; she did so much." He described Elizabeth as "a dedicated and capable person with a strong desire to serve her community."



Read more, [click here](#)

Meetings & Events

The District's Board room will open to a limited number of public for Regular Board of Directors' Meetings. The public may also participate in Board and Committee meetings remotely via Zoom. Note: Plan for Water workshops (Special Board of Directors meetings) will continue to be only teleconferenced on Zoom.

Zoom information will be provided on the meeting agenda and accessible at www.nidwater.com.

NID Regular Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
9:00 AM

NID Regular Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
9:00 AM

NID Special Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday April 19, 2022
3:00 PM

Plan for Water Workshop
Tuesday April 19, 2022

**Meetings
& Events**