



# NID

# The Pipeline

## Employee Newsletter

Volume 46~ Number 12 December 2025



A quiet winter moment on Banner Quaker Road, heading toward the Deer Creek Powerhouse, captured by Supervising Electrical Systems Technician Thomas Kluge.

## GM Message from Jennifer Hanson: “Holiday Greetings”

As we wrap up the year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication and hard work. The strength of NID lies in its people, and together we delivered another year of reliable service to our community.

This year brought significant challenges as we navigated the ongoing emergency water shortage during PG&E’s repairs at Lake Spaulding. When water finally began flowing again in late July, it was a welcome milestone. But what truly stood out was your resilience, including your willingness to adapt, innovate, and do whatever it took to meet customer needs under unprecedented conditions. Your teamwork made the difference.

I’m grateful for what we accomplished together, and I look forward to building on that progress in 2026. Wishing each of you a joyful holiday season and a bright, prosperous new year. Thank you again for everything you do.

### Featured Inside

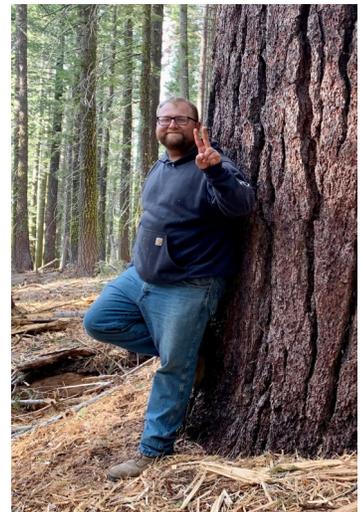
- HR Corner: Anniversaries, [Page 2](#)
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- Bierwagen and Fowler named 2026 NID Board officers, [Page 4](#)
- *Flash from the Past* -- from the December 2005 Pipeline Newsletter: “Deep in the D-S,” [Page 8](#)

### November Anniversaries

- Chris Berg**, Senior Construction Inspector, 27 yrs. Dec. 14
- Ken Copher**, Recreation Facility Superintendent, 26 yrs. Dec. 13
- Aurora Penaluna**, Customer Service Administrator, 18 yrs.
- Glen Alexander**, Utility Worker II, 12 yrs. Dec. 2
- Danny Granholm**, Chief Water Treatment Operator, 11 yrs. Dec. 1
- Neysa King**, Environmental Resources Administrator, 10 yrs. Dec. 30
- Kris Stepanian**, Board Secretary, 9 yrs. Dec. 5
- Joshua Frates**, Utility Worker II, 6 yrs. Dec. 30
- Cameron Townsend**, Environmental Resources Technician II, 5 yrs. Dec. 21
- Dianna Traylor**, Accountant II, 3 years
- Sandra Dunlap**, Director of Finance, 3 years
- Ryan Pfile**, Equipment Mechanic I, 3 years
- Amanda Fejes**, Office Assistant II, 3 years
- Mason Angel**, Utility Worker I, 3 years
- Aaron Brinkman**, Water Distribution Operator I, 2 years
- Carrie Ann Signett**, Customer Service Representative I, 2 years



Neysa King



Cameron Townsend

### New Hires

- Justin Hanrihan** – Utility Worker I – 12/1/2025
- Jon Ritter** – Purchasing Supervisor – 12/1/2025

#### New Purchasing Supervisor Jon Ritter

Some fun facts about Jon: His pride and joy are his wife and 4-year-old daughter; he likes to travel; he loves to bake/cook; he likes to collect vinyl records

Interesting Fact: he was stationed in Alaska and Spain

Jon Ritter



### Address change? Let HR know

Please notify Human Resources of any address changes that happened in 2025. It is important that they know where to send year-end W2 forms!

### **NID receives a \$615,000 CAL FIRE grant to protect the South Yuba Canal**

NID has received a \$615,000 grant from CAL FIRE to help protect the South Yuba Canal, one of the most important components of the NID water system.

Located about 18 miles east of Nevada City near Highway 20, the project will cover 58 acres along the canal. Work will focus on reducing wildfire risks by creating a shaded fuel break and removing hazard trees within 100 feet on both sides of the waterway.

This area includes 2.5 miles of elevated flume that carries all the water feeding the Deer Creek side of NID's system — the source that supplies most communities in western Nevada County. Strengthening protections here helps safeguard the reliability of the local water supply.

"This significant grant from CAL FIRE will help protect NID's critical infrastructure and our communities as a whole," said Greg Jones, NID Assistant General Manager. "The South Yuba Canal is the primary conveyance that transports water to Scotts Flat Reservoir and is the keystone of the District's Deer Creek System."



Cameron Townsend, Environmental Resources Technician II, examines the landscape along the South Yuba Canal, where surrounding trees encroach on the structure from both sides.

The project is funded through CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program, supported by California Climate Investments (CCI). These statewide investments reduce greenhouse gas emissions while supporting fire-threatened communities.

"Besides providing the funding to do the physical work to safeguard the South Yuba Canal, this will also be a good opportunity to improve public awareness and reduce human ignitions," Jones added.

This proactive effort will enhance community safety and support the long-term reliability of NID's water delivery system.

[Read more details about the grant and project, click here](#)

### NID Board selects new officers for 2026

The NID Board of Directors has selected Chris Bierwagen as Board President and Brad Fowler as Vice President for 2026. The officers were selected during the Board's December 10 meeting.

Bierwagen, a lifelong, fourth-generation farmer, was first elected to the NID Board in 2018 to represent Division II, which includes Chicago Park and Alta Sierra. He has served on numerous local agricultural and community boards, including as President of the Nevada County Farm Bureau.

Fowler was elected in 2024 to represent Division III, which includes the Bear River and Lake of the Pines. His family has been ranching and farming in Placer County since 1885. He has been actively involved with NID for more than 15 years and is a long-term water customer.

The new appointments are effective Jan. 1, 2026. In 2025, Ricki Heck served as Board President, with Bierwagen as Vice President.

Read more about the NID Board of Directors, [click here](#).



For 2026, Chris Bierwagen (left) will serve as President and Brad Fowler (center) will serve as Vice President of the NID Board of Directors.



Bringing you the holidays ... designed, assembled, and approved by Engineering. Greg McCay, Senior Right of Way Agent; Trevor Sterrett, Engineering Technician II, and Tony Moscini, Senior Construction Inspector, get into the season.

## NID 2026 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day	Thursday, January 1st
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 19th
President's Day	Monday, February 16th
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25th
Juneteenth	Friday, June 19th
Independence Day (Observed)	Friday, July 3rd
Labor Day	Monday, September 7th
Veterans Day	Wednesday, November 11th
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 26th
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27th
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25th



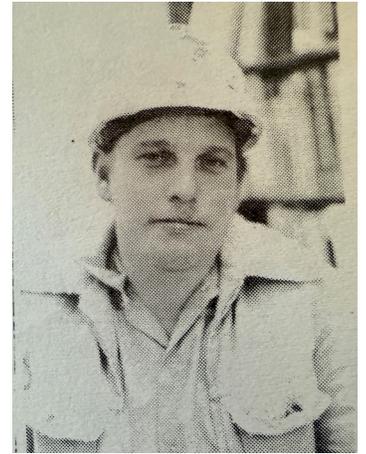


*In Memoriam*  
**John Pratt**

NID retiree John Pratt, 78, passed away on November 21, 2025, following injuries sustained when he was struck by a vehicle while crossing West Main Street at Mill Street in Grass Valley on Nov. 12.

John joined NID in February 1971 as a utility worker and dedicated three decades of service before retiring in 2001.

He was also a proud United States Navy veteran who served during the Vietnam War.



In 1981, John celebrated his 10th work anniversary and appeared in the *Pipeline*.

The family has created a [GoFundMe page](#) in John's memory.

**2026**  
**EMPLOYEE AWARDS**  
**COFFEE & COCOA**

**When: Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

**Where: Grass Valley Maintenance Yard**

### “Celebrate Safely: Keep the Holidays Merry & Bright”

While it's the most wonderful time of the year, it's also a time when accidents can sneak in if we're not careful. Here's how to keep your celebrations joyful and injury-free.

#### Deck the Halls Safely

Decorating is one of the best ways to get into the holiday spirit, but it's also when emergency rooms see a spike in injuries. Keep the magic alive while staying safe:

- ◆ Keep plants like mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and amaryllis out of reach of little hands
- ◆ Give your indoor Christmas tree plenty of space: at least 3 feet from fireplaces, radiators, or any heat source
- ◆ Put fragile or small ornaments up high where little ones can't reach
- ◆ Use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and pick the right ladder for the job
- ◆ Never nail or stress wiring, and keep plugs away from snow or puddles
- ◆ Turn off all decorations before leaving the house or going to bed

#### Fireplaces & Candles: Cozy, Not Risky

Candles and fireplaces are the heart of a cozy holiday, but they also mean fire risk. December sees nearly half of candle-related fires each year.

- ◆ Place candles where they can't be knocked over and away from children
- ◆ Keep matches and lighters locked up and out of sight
- ◆ Try flameless candles near flammable decorations
- ◆ Never burn trees, wreaths, or wrapping paper in the fireplace
- ◆ Always use a screen when the fireplace is lit
- ◆ Don't leave candles or fireplaces unattended, especially while sleeping



***Celebrate Safely***

# PIPELINE

A Newsletter to the Employees of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 26 Number 12 December, 2005



## Deep in the D-S

**A Maintenance Dept. crew works in an excavated section of the D-S Canal during the current Flume No. 10 replacement project.**

## Dry Fall Weather Good for Water Projects

**M**aintenance crews are wrapping up a couple of major system improvements that began as irrigation season ended and were helped by dry working conditions through early fall.

In Nevada County, the old D-S No. 10 Flume above Nevada City is being replaced with 240 feet of buried 66-inch pipe. It is part of an ongoing program that has replaced 17 of 24 flumes on the D-S Canal over the past two decades.

Meanwhile, the Placer Crew has replaced a 2000-foot raw water siphon on the Rohr-Shanley Pipeline.

Next up in Nevada County is the Hogeland Flume replacement in Penn Valley, while the Placer Crew tackles a 1000-foot siphon replacement on the Vernon Canal.

# Meetings & Events

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 28, 2026  
NID Main Office, Grass Valley



**NID**

\*\* Meeting dates subject to change. For updated dates, see [nidwater.com](http://nidwater.com)



NID has a new Instagram page. Log in and follow us! And spread the news!

[https://www.instagram.com/nid\\_nevada\\_irrigation\\_district/](https://www.instagram.com/nid_nevada_irrigation_district/)

