

Staff Report

for the Administrative Practices Committee on January 5, 2021

TO: Administrative Practices Committee Members
FROM: Greg Jones, Interim General Manager
DATE: 12/29/2020
SUBJECT: 100 Year Anniversary – Resolution Request

ADMINISTRATION

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive an update on NID's 100 Year Anniversary planning and direct staff as appropriate.

BACKGROUND:

This year NID celebrates its 100 Year Anniversary. On August 5, 1921, a public election was held with voters favoring formation of the new district by a margin of 536-163. On August 15, 1921, the Nevada County Supervisors authorized the new District, and NID was born.

The District is planning a number of activities to celebrate this year, subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Events include the roll-out of an anniversary logo, a new website, an NID history book, a new blog, and possibly an appreciation celebration / event at Scotts Flat Lake in August.

Staff would like to solicit local, state, and federal representatives to prepare a resolution recognizing NID's 100 Year Anniversary. This is a common request made to elected representatives to mark significant events. Providing a sample resolution for their use is appreciated.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Staff Time

ATTACHMENT:

- Proposed Sample Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. XXXX

OF THE [AGENCY NAME]

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY: 1921-2021

WHEREAS, The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) was formed through a public election on August 5, 1921 to be an independent special district headquartered in the City of Grass Valley in Nevada County, California; and

WHEREAS, NID began delivering irrigation water to local farms in 1927 at a cost of about 10 cents per day; and

WHEREAS, The NID water system began as an old reservoir and canal system serving gold mines and has been transformed into a modern water distribution system that now boasts 27 reservoirs, six treatment plants, 44 storage tanks, 12 drinking water systems, over 475 miles of canal, and 400 miles of pressurized pipe; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Irrigation District's high quality drinking water originates as pure snow melt throughout approximately 70,000 acres of high elevation watershed at the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the Yuba River, Bear River and Deer Creek in the Sierra Nevada Mountains; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Irrigation District has grown over 100 years to provide drinking water to 19,574 drinking water customers and 5,600 raw water customers in Nevada, Placer, and Yuba counties; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Irrigation District delivers 30 billion gallons of high quality drinking water to its customers each year and delivers irrigation water for 30,000 acres of agricultural land supporting a wide range of fruits, nuts, family gardens and irrigated pastures; and

WHEREAS, In 1962 the community held an election to approve a \$65 million bond issue to construct the Yuba-Bear Power project. The election results showed 97 percent voter support and brought hydroelectric power generation, new reservoirs and canal systems to the District and created an additional 145,000 acre-feet of water storage for District residents; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Irrigation District operates seven hydroelectric plants and 12 miles of overhead power lines that deliver 82 Megawatts of clean renewable energy to California's power-grid. Every year, hydro operations contributes more than \$6 million in revenues from hydroelectric sales to offset water rates for the District's 30,000 customers; and

WHEREAS, for the community benefit, NID has installed 2,551 hydrants to help protect neighborhoods in the event of fires and supplies treated water to the hydrant system; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Irrigation District manages thousands of acres of watershed and practices healthy forest and fire safe stewardship. NID works with partners to implement forest thinning, restore mountain meadows, and improve fish habitat. These efforts also result in increased water yield, better water quality, and help to reduce wildfire threats. NID's goal is to improve the resiliency and sustainability of the watershed in its care; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Irrigation District offers recreational opportunities at its largest 10 reservoirs such as hiking, camping, fishing, swimming, sailing, water skiing, etc. with an average regional economic impact of \$3M annually. At Rollins and Scotts Flat Lakes, NID provides public parks, trails, campgrounds and beaches for over 200,000 people each year. Higher up in the mountains, NID maintains and operates campgrounds and recreational facilities in the Jackson Meadows and Bowman Lake areas; and

WHEREAS, NID’s customer service and maintenance personal are highly visible in the community with Customer Service at the ready in the District office or by phone to help resolve customer’s water service needs. In the neighborhoods, NID maintenance personnel can be found working on routine projects or responding to emergencies around the clock to ensure continuous flow of water to our customers; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Irrigation District now employs more than 200 employees, manages a budget of over \$80 million and carries more than \$60 mm in unrestricted reserves. NID employees have worked together to create operational efficiencies totaling more than \$28.5 million since 2014; and

WHEREAS, The Nevada Irrigation District has repeatedly received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation, recognition only granted to 13% of the 2,300 Special Districts in California. Further, NID has received the prestigious award for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Financial Officers Association for the past several years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada Irrigation District is commended on its 100 years of service, providing a reliable, high quality supply of drinking and irrigation water to its customers in Nevada, Placer and Yuba counties.

* * * * *

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the _____ of the _____ at a regular meeting held on the ____ day of _____, 2021 by the following vote:

- AYES:**
- NOES:**
- ABSENT:**
- ABSTAINS:**

[AGENCY NAME]

Attest:

Secretary to the [AGENCY NAME]