



The Pipeline

Employee Newsletter

Volume 47~ Number 7 July 2026

Keeping rescue skills sharp

A group of highly skilled NID employees recently completed a one-day rescue refresher, practicing high-angle and confined-space techniques to stay prepared for emergencies at District facilities.

Read more on [Page 4](#).



Featured Inside

HR Corner: work anniversaries, [Page 2](#)

In Memoriam: Bill Gainer, [Page 3](#)

Refresher: perfecting rescue techniques, [Page 4](#)

News: Water Quality Report is out, [Page 5](#)

News: Grazing goats help out the vegetation management team, [Page 5](#)

Flash from the Past: "Computer expansion continues" (June 1982), [Page 6](#)

Safety Corner: Boat safety—make every trip a safe one, [Page 7](#)

... and more

July Anniversaries

Matthew Crowe, Land Surveyor, 26 years

Coby McCoy, Water Treatment Supervisor, 22 years

Troy Texeira, Buyer, 21 years

Andy Browning, Hydroelectric Plant Operator I, 17 years

Michael Page, Hydroelectric Maintenance Technician I, 12 years

Kaycee Margherita, Water Efficiency Technician I, 10 years

Ashley Vander Meer, Senior Hydrographer, 10 years

Joshua Pratt, Welder II, 8 years

Leit Hammer, GIS Analyst II, 7 years

Patrick O'Connor, Hydroelectric Plant Operator II, 7 years

Jonathan Ettlin, Utility Worker I, 5 years

Charlie Schlitzer, Water Treatment Operator III, 5 years

Stephanie Neels, Customer Service Representative I, 3 years

Sierra Monroe, Hydroelectric Compliance Technician II, 2 years



Kaycee Margherita



Ashley Vander Meer



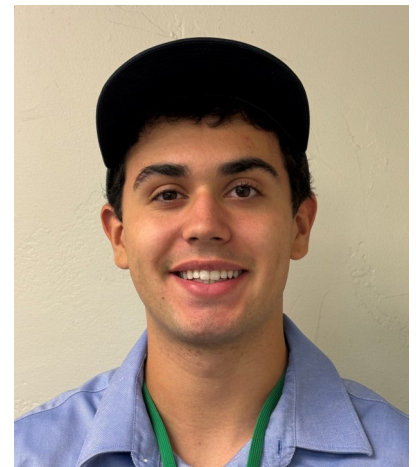
Jonathan Ettlin



Charlie Schlitzer

New Intern

Please join us in welcoming **Theo Aronow**, who is spending the summer as an intern in NID's IT Department. Theo is studying Computer Science and is gaining hands-on experience supporting the District's IT team. Outside of work, he enjoys photography, hiking, and cheering on the Sacramento Kings. Welcome to NID, Theo!



Theo Aronow

In Memoriam: Bill Gainer

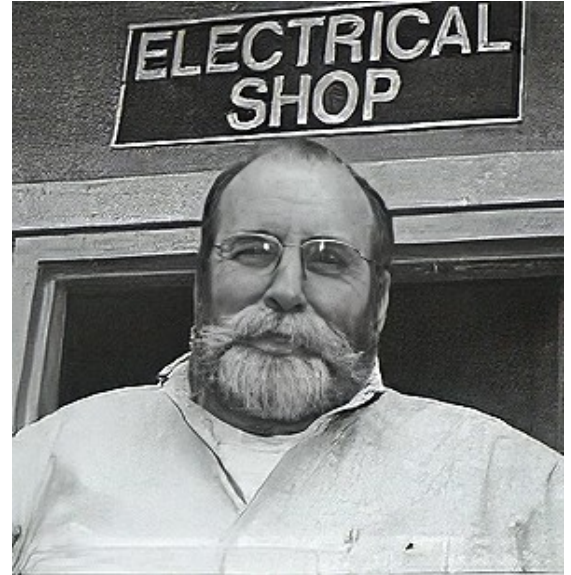
NID extends its condolences to the family and friends of retired employee **William "Bill" Gainer**, who passed away on June 19, 2026, at the age of 77.

Bill joined NID in 1983 and retired in 2009 after 25 years of service as Supervising Electrical Systems Technician. During his career, he oversaw the electrical and communications systems that supported the District's treatment plants, hydropower facilities, pump stations, and other critical infrastructure.

Outside of work, Bill was an accomplished poet, author, editor, and storyteller whose work earned recognition throughout Northern California and beyond.

He is survived by his wife, Karen; his children, including **NID Director of Recreation Monica Reyes**; and three grandchildren.

We remember Bill with gratitude for his dedicated service to NID and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family.



Bill Gainer in a *Pipeline* photo taken to commemorate his retirement in March 2009.

Veg Management takes to the skies



NID's Vegetation Management team is using drone technology to make field operations more efficient. By developing specialized drone skills, employees can cover more ground, improve planning, and reach challenging areas more easily. This helps the team work smarter while supporting the reliable operation of District facilities.

(Left) Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Vegetation Jason Carroll and Senior Vegetation Control Worker Larry Martin prepare the drone.

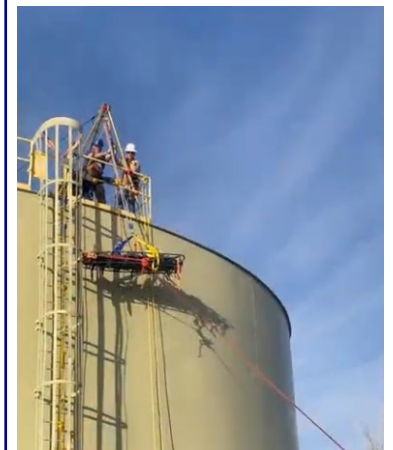
Keeping rescue skills sharp through hands-on refresher course

A group of NID employees recently completed a one-day rescue refresher course, practicing specialized techniques used in some of the District's most challenging work environments.

Employees from the Maintenance, Operations, and Hydroelectric departments participated in hands-on exercises at NID water treatment plants, reviewing high-angle and confined-space rescue procedures.

Using ropes, harnesses, pulleys, and other rescue equipment, crews practiced safely removing "victims" from elevated tanks, treatment basins, and confined spaces.

The refresher helps employees maintain the skills needed to respond safely and effectively in an emergency. Just as importantly, it reinforces teamwork, communication, and careful planning, which are key elements of NID's commitment to ensuring every employee returns home safely at the end of the day.



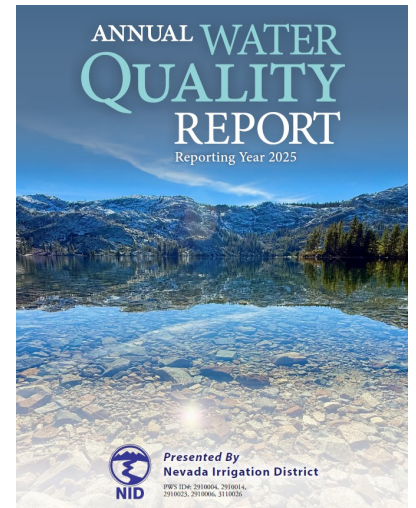
Watch a 2:26-minute video of the team participating in an intense 4-day 40-hour training in 2023. Rescues from tanks, pipes, and pits [Click here](#)

Drinking water meets every standard

NID has released its 2025 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), confirming that the District's drinking water continues to meet or exceed all state and federal drinking water standards.

Each year, NID treats nearly 3 billion gallons of water at six treatment plants, serving customers throughout Nevada and Placer counties. Behind the scenes, certified water treatment operators conduct extensive testing and continuous monitoring to ensure safe, reliable drinking water every day.

The report also highlights the quality of NID's Sierra source water and notes that no PFAS ("forever chemicals") have been detected in the District's drinking water.



Goats help reduce wildfire risk

Keeping vegetation under control is an important part of protecting NID's reservoirs, canals, and other facilities. Each summer, the District uses herds of goats and sheep to help clear brush and reduce wildfire risk.

The animals graze around reservoirs, tank sites, and other District properties, feeding on blackberry thickets, poison oak, brush, and other vegetation that can fuel wildfires. Their work helps reduce fire hazards, minimizes the need for herbicides, and allows NID maintenance crews to focus on other priority projects during the busy summer season.

This year, grazing goats worked at Cunningham Reservoir in south Nevada County, Sugarloaf Reservoir and the Snow Mountain site near Nevada City, Rex Reservoir near Rough and Ready, Union Reservoir near Smartsville, and the Timber Ridge tank site near Lake of the Pines.

The herds—primarily Nubian-Kiko and Nubian goats, along with some sheep—were provided by three local goat-scaping companies. They are especially effective on steep slopes and in areas where heavy equipment is difficult to operate.



Goat grazing is one part of NID's vegetation management program, which also includes mechanical removal, targeted herbicide application, and biological controls.

Together, these methods help maintain more than 475 miles of canals and numerous reservoirs and facilities, protecting critical infrastructure while supporting reliable water delivery to our communities.

(Left) Goats devour unwanted vegetation at Sugarloaf Reservoir near Nevada City.

PIPELINE

A Newsletter to the Employees of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 24 Number 7 July, 2003

From Pickups to Paper Clips: *Purchasing Dept. Keeps NID Supplied*

If it's used in the district, chances are it was acquired by the Purchasing Department.

"We buy everything from vehicles and pipe to pencils and paper clips," says Purchasing Supv. **Jim Williams**, a 29-year department veteran.

The five-member Purchasing crew is responsible for buying equipment and supplies, receiving, warehousing and inventory.

Williams and Buyer **Kim Ivy** do most of the buying. Senior Storekeeper **Bob Partington** oversees receiving, inventory control and fixed assets. Storekeepers **Ed Rossovich Jr.** and **Art Huber** handle warehousing and distribution.

The district shops locally and deals with numerous local vendors but has no official "shop local" policy. Williams and Ivy frequently buy from Sacramento and Bay Area sources when prices



Members of the Purchasing crew, from left, are Jim Williams, Art Huber, Bob Partington and Kim Ivy. Missing from the photo is Ed Rossovich Jr. who was on duty with the U.S. Air Force Reserves.

warrant. Much of their purchasing is specific to the water industry and from specialized firms.

"We deal with dozens of vendors on a day-to-day and week-to-week basis," says Williams.

Policy Guidelines

Purchasing activity is conducted under a purchasing policy which outlines procedures for bids, quotes and other practices.

Inventory, once taken on a

yearly basis, is now controlled year around. Counts of certain materials are conducted monthly January through October, with fixed assets done annually.

Materials are distributed from the Warehouse by delivery or pickup by employees.

"We're kind of like a grocery store," says Williams. "People come to the window with a list of
(Please turn to back page)

Boating Safety: Make every trip a safe one

A day on the water is one of summer's greatest pleasures—but safety should always come first.

Thousands of boating accidents occur across the United States each year, and many are preventable with a little preparation and good judgment.

Before leaving the dock, make sure the person operating the boat is experienced, attentive, and familiar with safe boating practices. The operator is responsible for everyone on board.

Alcohol and boating don't mix

Alcohol is one of the leading contributing factors in fatal boating accidents. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, alcohol use is the leading known contributing factor in recreational boating fatalities.

Operating a boat requires constant awareness. Sun, wind, heat, engine noise, and vibration can all contribute to boater fatigue, slowing reaction time and impairing judgment. Add alcohol to the mix, and the risk of an accident increases dramatically. Save the drinks for after you've returned safely to shore.

Wear your life jacket

The simplest way to protect yourself on the water is to wear a properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket (also called a personal flotation device, or PFD). Even strong swimmers can become injured, unconscious, or exhausted after an unexpected fall into the water.

In California, children under 13 are required to wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket while aboard a moving recreational vessel that is 26 feet or less in length. Regardless of age or legal requirements, wearing a life jacket is the safest choice for everyone.

Think of a life jacket the same way you think of a seat belt or bicycle helmet—you hope you never need it, but you'll be glad it's there if you do.

Before heading out, check the weather forecast, make sure your boat is equipped with the required safety gear, and let someone know where you're going and when you expect to return.

A little planning can help ensure your day on the water ends with great memories—and everyone returning safely to shore.



Meetings & Events

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Special Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Placer County

Board of Directors Special Meeting

Wednesday, August 6, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

** Dates subject to change. For updated dates, see nidwater.com

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[June 2026](#)

[May 2026](#)

[April 2026](#)

[March 2026](#)

[February 2026](#)

[January 2026](#)



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