NID

The Pipeline

Employee Newsletter

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NID Makes a Splash at Orchard Springs

Grass Valley Charter School first-graders spent a hands-on morning at Orchard Springs, exploring water cycle experiments, surveying tools and equipment demos with NID crews. A fun look at how classroom lessons connect to real fieldwork.

(Right) Robby Graham, Cross-Connection Technician, teaches students about the importance of backflow preventers and how they help protect our water systems. Students had the opportunity to test a reduced pressure assembly by following Robby's instructions and learning the proper testing procedures.

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September Anniversaries

Greg Cornejo, Electrical Systems Technician II, 36 years

Chris Friedman, Equipment Operator, 26 years

Robert Granholm, Hydro Maintenance Technician II, 16 years

Lance Adams, Senior Hydro Electrical Machinist, 15 years

Chris Dunn, Utility Worker I, 15 years

Wayne Giles, Water Treatment Operator III, 15 years

Megan Pontius, Customer Service Representative II, 11 years

Chris Glass, Equipment Operator, 9 years

Wayne MacMenigall, Senior Utility Worker, 9 years

Kathryn Schwartz, Administrative Analyst II, 9 years

Adam Custer, Utility Worker II, 6 years

Kyle Hampton, Vegetation Control Worker I, 4 years

Kate Tyler, Human Resources Representative II, 3 years

Peter Wade, Director of Power Systems, 2 years

Lance Adams

Chris Dunn

Wayne Giles

Promotions

Cindy Ware – promoted to Safety Analyst I

Cody Kucera – promoted to Equipment Operator

Cindy Ware

Cody Kucera

CalPERS meetings scheduled

CalPERS Open Enrollment has begun, and there's still time to get information. The next meeting is Sept. 30.

- Wednesday, September 30th - 7:00 am – Hydroelectric Office

Open enrollment ends on Friday, October 9th. All forms must be turned in by 5:00pm.

GV Charter School first-graders learn about water

Water Efficiency Technician Kaycee Margherita shares details about a special day at Orchard Springs: The students had camped out at Orchard Springs the night before and woke up to hands-on learning stations put together by several NID departments. The students are currently learning about the water cycle, mapping, and tools in the classroom, so Water Efficiency, Survey, and Backflow teamed up to bring those lessons to life.

At the Water Efficiency station, we talked about the water cycle and water conservation. Students created their own mini water cycles using cups, warm water, and ice to see how water changes and moves through the water cycle. The excitement was contagious when each student was able to create their very own “rain!” We then challenged the students to think of ways they could save their raindrop once it made its way to their home.

The Survey Department, Carl Cookson and Corey Schmitt, brought out an older drone and survey equipment so students could see some of the tools used when working with maps and gathering information.

The Backflow team, Matt Halvorson, Robby Graham, Bobby Newkirk and Troy Gomes, brought the fun with tools from their trucks, including giant wrenches, blowers, and water valves. Students even had the opportunity to use the equipment to turn water on and off and see how it works. Jim Belleque from our Electrical Department also brought the mini pump they have created, allowing students to experiment with different speeds and watch water being pumped through a mini system.

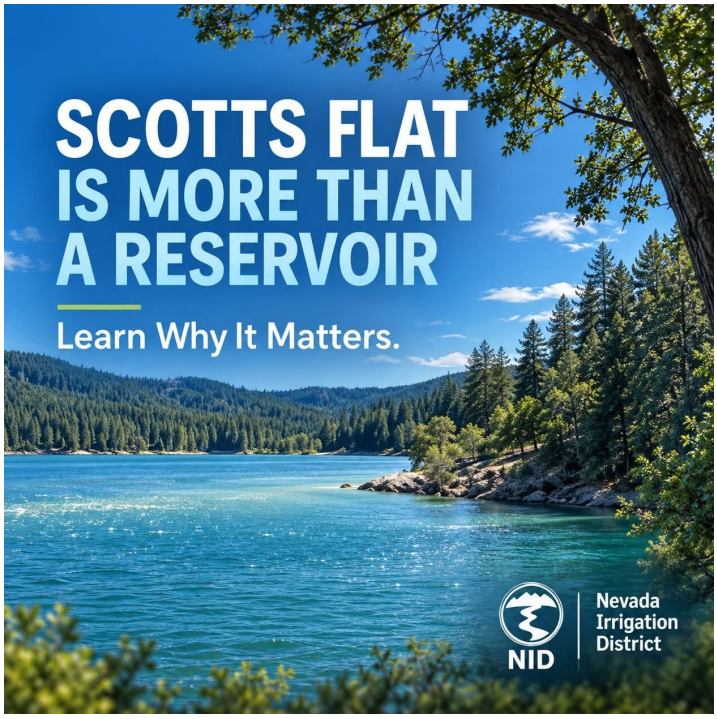
Overall, it was a great morning! The students were engaged and excited at every station and got to see firsthand how what they are learning in the classroom connects to the work our departments do every day. The students finished their day with a nature walk around the campground and down to the water, making for a perfect ending to a fun day of hands-on learning!

(Above) Kaycee Margherita, Water Efficiency Technician, engages kids as she teaches about the water cycle.

(Left) Bobby Newkirk, Hydraulic Technician, gives a student a hands-on lesson about water pressure and how it is managed within a water system.

Bobby set up a Cla-Val pop-off valve and allowed students to safely manipulate the valve to release water and experience the effects of pressure firsthand. The activity quickly became a popular attraction as students made their way through the different water stations.

We Need Your Help: Support NID's Scotts Flat Spillway Grant Application



NID is applying for state funding to help pay for the Scotts Flat Reservoir Spillway Restoration Project. Employee support can make a big difference.

Under Proposition 4, the Climate Bond approved by voters in 2024, California is offering billions of dollars for projects that improve water reliability, environmental health, and wildfire resilience. A strong grant application helps us secure outside funding for major infrastructure needs, reducing pressure on rates and keeping our system safe and dependable.

One key requirement: letters of support from the community, including NID employees.

Why It Matters
Originally built in 1949 and later modified and raised in 1964, the Scotts Flat spillway has significant structural issues worsened by past storm events. Both the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) have determined it must be replaced. Completing this project protects the reservoir, downstream communities, and the raw water system that serves thousands of customers.
By submitting a letter of support, you help demonstrate broad regional backing for this important project. The more voices we include, the stronger our application becomes.

How You Can Help
Please take a moment to download the fillable Letter of Support, sign it, and send it to us. We'll forward all letters directly to the State as part of the grant application. Thank you for supporting this critical project and helping NID bring grant dollars into our community.

Access the fillable PDF letter here.

Thanks from a Customer — 2026 Barbara Schmidt Millar Triathlon

Dear Monica,

Your NID team were superstars in helping make the BSM a big hit! Caden was very supportive during set up and the event - had garbage cans available, made sure I could open the gate early and provided additional support on connecting power ect.. Elias was great too... he made sure the bathrooms were clean and the parking lot was cleared and blown free of debris.

All the NID team was friendly and welcoming and made us feel supported. That is part of the magical feel of living in our small collaborative community! I lost count of the number of people expressing heartfelt gratitude that the BSM was back!

Next year's date is set for August 29th!

Bravo to you and your team!!

Ag Water Efficiency Committee explores opportunities to support local producers

The Nevada Irrigation District's (NID) Agriculture Water Efficiency Committee held its second meeting last week, drawing strong participation from growers, ranchers and community stakeholders.

The discussion highlighted promising opportunities to reduce water use while supporting on-farm and ranch productivity across the foothills. The meeting's tone was positive and collaborative, with members expressing strong support for working toward a shared set of goals and practical solutions.

A deliverable discussed was the committee's endorsement of a water-use survey. The survey aims to better understand how irrigation water is used, the impediments to infrastructure improvements, crops it supports and producers' greatest opportunities to increase water-use efficiencies in operations.

Once developed, the survey will be sent to NID raw water customers in the region. Agriculture uses significant irrigation water in the Sierra foothills, and water often represents a major overhead cost for producers. Crop choices are shaped by soil, climate, markets and operational limitations.

The Committee will help provide an objective look at current water use and inform future educational efforts, local decision-making and policy development.

More information will be shared as the committee's work continues.

Staying Safe as the Seasons Change

September brings cooler weather, new routines, and a chance to refresh our safety awareness. It's also National Preparedness Month—a reminder that small steps today can prevent big problems tomorrow.

Be Ready for Anything

Know the plan: Review our emergency procedures, evacuation routes, and assembly points. A fire breaks out at work – *where you going to go?*

Keep it clear: Hallways, stairs, and exits should always be free of clutter. In an emergency, a clear path can save lives.

Think ahead: Know where to find extinguishers, first-aid kits, and automated external defibrillators AEDs. *Quick – where's the nearest fire extinguisher near your desk or locker?*

Tidy spaces = safer spaces. Don't let paper or combustibles pile up.

Check cords and plugs. If it's frayed or overloaded, it's unsafe.

Handle heaters wisely. Keep them stable, away from flammables, and always shut them off at the day's end.

Fight the Flu

Flu season kicks off in the fall, but you can help stop it in its tracks:

Get your shot. It's the best protection.

Wash up often. Soap, water, and at least 20 seconds.

Stay home if you're sick: If you have a fever or flu-like symptoms, stay home to prevent spreading germs to others. Rest up so you can recover quickly.

Your Role in Safety

A safe workplace doesn't just happen—it's built by all of us. Stay alert, take simple precautions, and look out for each other. Let's make September the start of a safe, healthy, and productive fall.

PIPELINE

A Newsletter to the Employees of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 29 • Number 9 • September 2008

NID Invests in Fire Hydrants

The district is working with local fire districts on efforts to improve fire protection through the placement and installation of new fire hydrants.

Under the new Community Investment Program, the district plans to install about a dozen new hydrants each year. This year's budget is $60,000 and includes 15 new hydrants at several locations.

The program is being co-managed by Chief Engineer **Gary King** and Maintenance Manager **John Kirk** and is being conducted in coordination with fire districts, cities and counties.

Kirk said Nevada County and the City of Grass Valley are partnering with the district by waiving permit fees for the new hydrants. New hydrants are planned in the Nevada City area and in Placer County in years to come, Kirk noted.

Local fire officials are recommending locations for the new hydrants and NID is working to accommodate requests when water supplies and necessary pressures are available to the area.

NID's Cameron Price shows a new dry barrel fire hydrant to Chris Turner and Cari Edgerton, volunteer firefighters with the Smartsville Fire District.

Smartsville First

In August, crews installed four new hydrants in Smartsville, Yuba County, where the district operates a tiny water treatment plant and system. Local firefighters observed the work and expressed gratitude for the district's effort.

The district is using dry barrel hydrants, which are more reliable and require less maintenance than wet barrel models. In dry barrel hydrants, water remains underground at main line level, reducing the chance of freezing in cold weather.

Meetings & Events

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

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

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

Senior Park Ranger Caden Caldwell captured this bobcat resting at Scotts Flat Reservoir. It's a beautiful reminder that wildlife is always part of our landscape.