

# NOTICE OF PREPARATION



## CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY

### NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR PROJECT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is preparing an Environment Impact Report (EIR) for the Centennial Reservoir Project. NID will serve as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

NID is proposing to implement the Centennial Reservoir Project (Proposed Project) to provide drought and climate change-mitigation, meet projected future water supply needs, and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers. The Proposed Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir on the Bear River between the existing Rollins and Combie reservoirs. The Proposed Project would extend upriver from just above the existing Combie Reservoir for slightly over six miles to a point west of the Town of Colfax, approximately two miles downstream of the existing Rollins Dam.

NID has determined that its current water system is over-reliant on runoff from the annual mountain snowpack, resulting in an urgent and greater need for mid elevation storage to capture runoff from rain storms as well as snow storms. The region's climate and precipitation patterns are changing, bringing more rain and less snow resulting in an increase in the need for mid-elevation storage within NID's water system. The proposed reservoir is designed as a storage recovery project, rather than an expansion project. The Proposed Project would provide drought-mitigation and recapture water lost due to changing climate and reduced snowpack. The Proposed Project would also allow NID to continue to meet existing water delivery commitments and more flexibility in meeting the future water supply needs of customers in all parts of NID's service area.

The Proposed Project would involve construction of a new dam and associated facilities. The anticipated water depth at the dam would be approximately 255 feet and the height of the dam would be approximately 275 feet. NID anticipates that low impact public recreational opportunities (e.g. 5 mile per hour maximum speed on the reservoir, pedestrian trails, swimming, and kayaking) are also anticipated to be included with the Proposed Project.

A number of water supply operation alternatives as well as alternative dam sites and types have been/are being considered and the effect of these alternatives on the environment and NID's service area will be analyzed in the EIR.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two public scoping meetings will be held to present information about the Proposed Project and NID's decision-making processes and to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting dates, times, and locations are as follows:

**GRASS VALLEY**  
**Wednesday, March 9, 2016**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Holiday Inn Express**  
**121 Bank Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945**

**AUBURN**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2016**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Forest Lake Christian High School**  
**12515 Combie Road, Auburn, CA 95602**

#### SUBMITTING COMMENTS

A Notice of Preparation to prepare an EIR pursuant to CEQA was submitted to the State Clearinghouse on February 16, 2016. Written comments and suggestions concerning the Proposed Project must be received by NID no later than March 17, 2016 to:

**Lisa Francis Tassone, Board Secretary, Nevada Irrigation District**  
**1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945**  
**Phone: 530-273-6185 ext. 222 | Fax: 530-477-2646**  
**tassone@nidwater.com | www.centennialreservoir.org**