

# WaterWays

A newsletter for the customers of the Nevada Irrigation District



Spring 2021

## Irrigation season starts

April 15 was the start of irrigation season when NID opened up its seasonal canals for local farms and ranches. Flowing through the 500 miles of canals, district water irrigates 32,000 acres in Nevada, Placer, and Yuba counties.

While it might seem like a simple cranking of a valve, it is actually a herculean effort. Each year NID workers walk each canal to inspect and then flush debris, such as tree limbs, pine needles, leaves, and rocks so they do not clog the system.

Each of the 5,600 customers' water boxes must be turned on before the signal can be given for the head gates to be opened allowing the water to flow.

Due to lack of rain this year, water needed to



come from higher up in the system, taking longer and using more of the water stored in reservoirs.

Read more [here](#).

## Alert: Snowpack and water content is well below average



An NID hydrographer measures the snowpack at Bowman Reservoir in late March.

March produced only half of the average precipitation in the high country, and NID asking customers to conserve water going into the warmer, drier spring.

During the District's snow survey taken March 30 and 31, surveyors found the snow water equivalent (SWE) in the Sierra snowpack was 24.2 inches, which is 72 percent of the normal average of 33.5 inches for this time of year.

At Bowman Reservoir, NID saw 5.45 inches of precipitation during March, bringing the season total to 33.16 inches which is 56 percent of average.

Normally, the April 1 survey measures the snowpack when it is the deepest and has the highest snow-water content, which is a key component of the water supply forecast for later in the summer.

"The dry weather at the end of March is projected to continue. These conditions will create higher than average demands heading into the irrigation season. With reservoir storage levels below average, the District is encouraging all customers to conserve water," said Thor Larsen, NID's Water Resources Superintendent.

See the results of the April snow survey [here](#).

# NID completes vital Combie Phase 1 Canal and Bear River Siphon Project

The crucial pipeline system that transports more than half of the water delivered by NID has been completed. The Combie Phase I and Bear River Siphon Project replaces aging infrastructure from below the Combie Reservoir to customers in southern Nevada and western Placer counties.

The complex project had two components: replacement of the 50-year old Combie Canal, a flume along steep terrain above the Bear River, and the Bear River Siphon.

The new canal infrastructure stretches 1.7 miles, and water flows through a 96-inch – 8-foot diameter -- reinforced concrete pipe.

The District also replaced the existing aerial siphon that crossed the Bear River with an aerial siphon with about 825 feet of 54-inches diameter steel pipe and spans the border of Nevada and Placer counties that connects the Combie Ophir Canal in Placer County to the Combie Phase I Canal.

This new infrastructure is NID's primary water conveyance from Combie Reservoir. It delivers water to 2,650 irrigation water customers, and serves two treatment plants that provide drinking water to 5,077 homes in Lake of the Pines and North Auburn

communities. The system also serves as a secondary conduit for deliveries made through the Bear River Canal, including to 525 NID irrigation water in NID boundaries in Lincoln.

The \$27 million project is an example of the enormous effort by NID to ensure a reliable water supply for its customers.



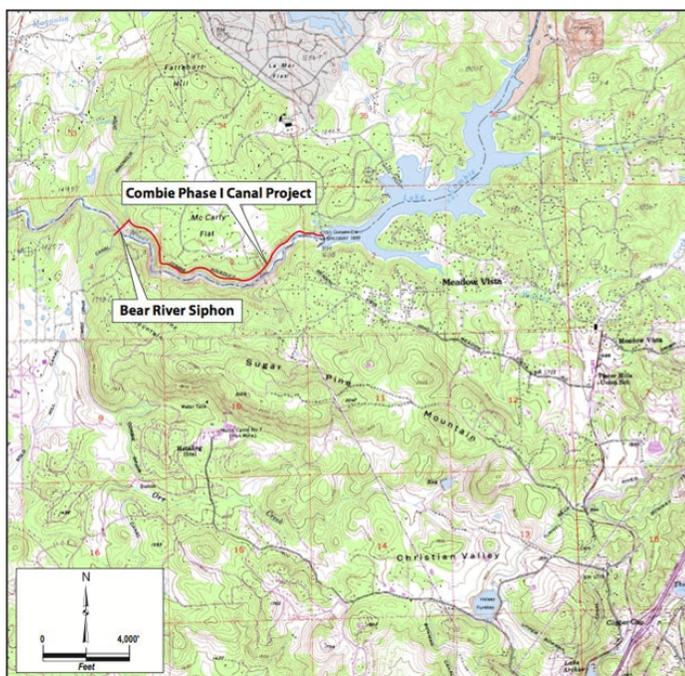
The Combie Phase 1 pipeline stretches 1.7 miles.



The aerial siphon crosses the Bear River.



Inspectors look over the massive pipe segments.



**Don't miss this!** [Watch drone footage of the NID's Combie Phase I Canal and Bear River Siphon Replacement Project.](#)

## Stay safe; have fun at NID recreation facilities



NID's water and hydroelectric system not only provides our communities with water and generates clean renewable energy, it also offers prime locations for recreation.

The District's reservoirs are ideal for boating, fishing, camping and swimming. Campgrounds, boat launches and trails are readily available.

At Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs, NID provides public parks, trails, campgrounds and beaches for the community's enjoyment. Higher up in the mountains, NID maintains and operates campgrounds in the Jackson Meadows and Bowman Lake areas.

Before you go safety guidelines:

- Comply with all warning signs in fishing areas and campgrounds
- Obey all warning signs and watch for restrictive buoys when swimming or boating
- Wear a life vest in the water, even when water levels are low
- Never dive or jump into shallow water. Submerged trees and rocks can cause injury
- Use the buddy system. Never swim, fish or boat alone
- Always supervise children around water.

Boating tips:

- It's always good to take a boating safety course
- Have a boat safety kit on board
- Bring proper life jackets
- Don't overload the boat with people or gear
- File a float plan with trip details. Leave the plan with a trusted person before you go.

## NID News Briefs

### Need to pay a water bill?

#### Online bill pay

Click [here](#) to pay online with credit card or electronic check.

#### Phone system pay

Call 1-833-366-7104 to use our automated phone system to pay with a credit card.

#### Drop-off boxes

- \* NID Business Center, 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley – box by main entry
- \* NID North Auburn Water Treatment Plant, 12200 Locksley Lane, North Auburn – box outside the gate
- \* Safeway, 2550 Bell Rd., Auburn - box near store entry

### Toilet rebates

Get a \$100 rebate when you replace your older inefficient toilet with a high-efficient WaterSense-labeled toilet.

This rebate is available to NID treated water residential customers. Funding is limited, and will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis until depleted.

Customers: to check your eligibility, call 530-273-6185 ext. 244 or email [strongk@nidwater.com](mailto:strongk@nidwater.com).

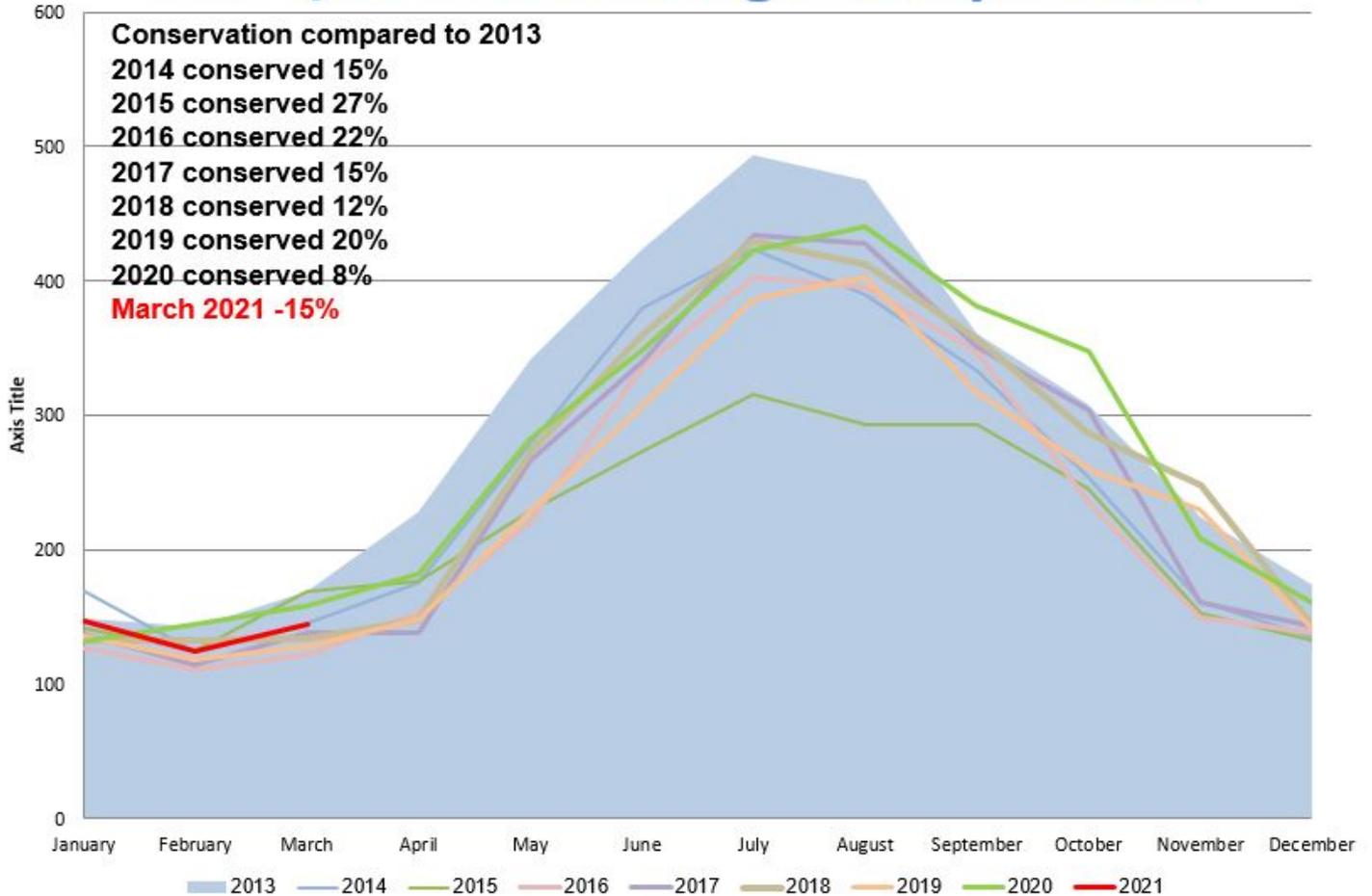


# Conservation is vitally important as we face drought conditions

The good news is we have become more water efficient since the last major drought in 2013. In March, we used 15 percent less water than in 2013.

But we need to save more as we face drought conditions after two successive years of below-normal precipitation.

## NID T/W Water Usage Comparison



### Find out how much water you use and learn how to reduce those gallons

**Measure Your Water Use Calculator** Click on the link and answer the questions to find out how much water your home uses and how to save water, energy and money.

Conservation and water use efficiency is important to preserving our precious water resources. To learn more about water use efficiency, [click here](#).



You can count on us to deliver the highest quality water, while caring for our environment and community.

Learn more about NID's commitments to supporting our community. Visit [NIDwater.com](http://NIDwater.com).

## NID turns 100

We are celebrating a milestone in 2021, as we enter our 100th year of operation.

Throughout the past century, we have grown and evolved aside our neighborhoods and agricultural community.

We are so proud to have established ourselves as your trusted water district.

The technology has evolved since starting with flumes and canals built during the Gold Rush to deliver water to the mines, but basically we have stuck to what has proved to be reliable – tapping the pure snowmelt of the high Sierra and channeling it to your homes, businesses, fields and farms.

We vow to continue with programs, projects and hard work to ensure this tradition continues.

**NID is a California Special District operated by and for the people who own land within its 287,000-acre boundaries.**

Formed in 1921, the District supplies both treated drinking water and raw water to homes, farms and businesses in Nevada, Placer and Yuba counties.

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