



# GM Newsletter

May 2026

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

*Water For Life*

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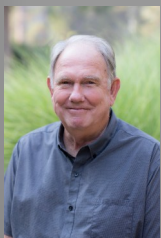
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## Message from the General Manager

As NID approaches a May 27 public hearing on proposed water rate adjustments, we understand many customers have questions and concerns about the proposal and what it means for their families, farms and businesses.

These proposed adjustments are about maintaining the long-term safety, reliability and sustainability of the water system our community depends on every day. NID's infrastructure, including reservoirs, treatment plants, canals, pipelines and dams, requires ongoing investment to continue delivering reliable water service now and for future generations.

One of the largest factors behind the proposal is the required replacement of the aging spillway at Scotts Flat Reservoir, a critical public safety and water supply project. We encourage customers to review the facts, ask questions and participate in the public process. Our responsibility is to ensure the system remains safe, resilient and capable of serving this community for decades to come.

Learn more at the [water rate adjustment webpage](http://nidwater.com/water-rate-adjustment) at [nidwater.com](http://nidwater.com).

### 'No Motor Day' on Scotts Flat — May 17

Enjoy the peaceful beauty of Scotts Flat Lake during NID's annual "No Motor Day" on Sunday, May 17.

Sailboats, canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards are welcome free of watercraft fees for the day, and motorized boat use will be suspended.

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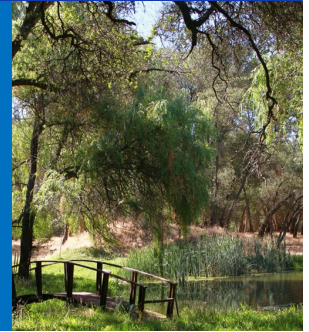
# The cost of keeping water reliable

*Public hearing—May 27, 2026*



## WATER RATES

[NID Rate Adjustment webpage](#) has details, updates and Prop. 218 information.



Think about your own home. When something needs maintenance, do you put it off? A roof, an air conditioner, a water heater, a sprinkler leak. Most people know that delaying upkeep rarely saves money in the long run. In fact, it usually leads to higher costs and more disruption when repairs can no longer be avoided.

The same principle applies to public infrastructure, including the water system that serves our communities. When maintenance is delayed, small issues can grow into larger, more expensive problems that are harder to fix and more disruptive to resolve. Planned investment and timely upgrades are what keep systems reliable and resilient over time.

NID's water system is no different. It is made up of reservoirs, canals, pipelines, treatment facilities, and power infrastructure that must all work together every day to deliver safe and reliable water. Maintaining this system is not optional. It is essential to protecting public health, supporting local agriculture and businesses, and ensuring emergency readiness, including fire protection.

Infrastructure like this requires ongoing care. Just as with a home, postponing maintenance does not eliminate the need for it. It simply shifts the cost and risk to the future, when conditions may be more urgent and more expensive to address.

NID's approach is focused on responsible, planned maintenance and long-term investment. This ensures the system continues to perform reliably today while also preparing for future needs, including changing weather patterns, aging infrastructure, and increasing regulatory requirements.

Reliable water service depends on this steady, proactive approach. It is what allows the District to deliver water safely and consistently to the communities it serves.

## Public Hearing on May 27, 2026

Nevada Irrigation District's proposed water rate adjustments will go before the Board of Directors for a public hearing on May 27, as discussion surrounding the proposal continues throughout the community.

### What is Proposition 218, and how does it affect water rates?

Proposition 218 is a state law that limits how local agencies, such as NID, can set rates for water service. Under this law, water rates can only be increased to cover the actual cost of providing service, including operations, maintenance, infrastructure repairs, and system reliability. The District cannot raise rates to generate unrelated revenue or fund programs outside the cost of delivering safe, reliable water.

Under the Proposition 218 process, customers may submit formal protests against the proposed rates. If a majority of customers protest, the rate adjustments cannot move forward.

# NID turns 105: a story still flowing

*Built on History. Focused on the Future.*

NID is celebrating 105 years of service with a new storytelling campaign that takes customers behind the scenes of the water system that powers life across Nevada and Placer counties.

Called “105 Years Forward,” the 16-week campaign is more than a look back at history. It is an inside look at the people, infrastructure, and innovation that keep water moving every day, from mountain reservoirs and historic canals to treatment plants, pipelines, hydropower facilities, and field crews working across the region.

Each week, customers will discover new stories, videos, historic photos, and behind the scenes features on the campaign hub, with fresh content added throughout the summer.

The campaign will explore:

- How drinking water moves from source to tap
- The history behind NID’s iconic canals and reservoirs
- Wildfire prevention and watershed protection efforts
- The people who operate and maintain the system every day
- Myth vs. Fact features answering common questions about water and infrastructure

Customers also will meet employees through the new “Behind the Water” video series, offering an inside look at the work happening every day to keep water reliable and flowing.

From rare historic images to modern drone footage and field operations, “105 Years Forward” is designed to show customers parts of the water system they rarely get to see.

After 105 years, the story of water in the foothills is still being written ... and still flowing forward.



**Workers construct the Reille Ditch in Placer County during the 1930s**

# NID Urban Water Management Plan approved

NID's updated Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) has been approved by the Board of Directors, setting the District's water management framework for the next five years.

Required under California law, the UWMP is a long-range planning document that outlines how NID will continue to provide reliable water service now and into the future.

It evaluates current and projected water demand, available supplies, and the District's ability to meet customer needs under a range of conditions, including drought.

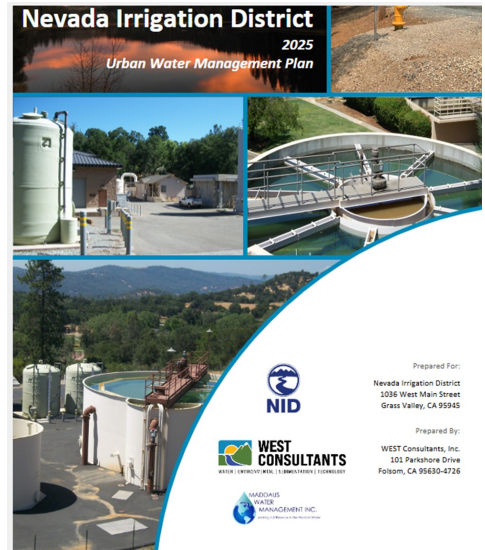
The plan also helps guide conservation efforts, identifies future water supply considerations, and includes a five-year drought risk assessment and the District's Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

## What's included in the UWMP:

- Water supply reliability and long term planning
- NID's service area and water sources
- Historical, current, and projected water use
- State required conservation targets (20x2020)
- Existing and planned conservation programs
- Five year drought risk assessment
- Water Shortage Contingency Plan

The UWMP is updated every five years by all urban water suppliers in California. NID's approved plan ensures the District remains aligned with state requirements while continuing to manage water resources responsibly and prepare for future challenges.

Read the 2025 UWMP, [click here](#)



## No Motor Day on Scotts Flat — May 17



Scotts Flat Reservoir

Enjoy the peaceful beauty of Scotts Flat Reservoir during the Nevada Irrigation District's (NID) annual "No Motor Day" on Sunday, May 17, 2026.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors are invited to experience the water without the noise of motorized boats.

Sailboats, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards will be welcomed into the Scotts Flat Recreation Area free of watercraft charges for the day, while use of motorized boats will be suspended.

Vehicle admission is \$22 per vehicle and includes up to four people.

The Gold Country Yacht Club will also offer free sailboat rides throughout the event.

NID hosts No Motor Day each year to highlight the natural beauty of Scotts Flat and promote quiet, environmentally friendly recreation opportunities.

# Jackson Meadows boat launch reopens for 2026 season with golden mussel protections

The Pass Creek boat launch at Jackson Meadows Reservoir will reopen for the 2026 recreation season, after being closed last year due to concerns over the spread of invasive golden mussels.

For boaters, it means a return to one of the Sierra's most scenic high-country destinations, known for calm waters, mountain views, and open space to explore.

The launch will operate Thursday through Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., weather and staffing permitting. The launch fee is \$28.

While access is returning, protective measures remain in place to help prevent the spread of the golden mussel, an invasive species discovered in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta in October 2024 that can spread rapidly through water systems and attach to boats and infrastructure.

These prevention requirements apply to motorized and trailered boats, which must be either professionally decontaminated at an approved facility or complete a required quarantine period before launching. NID's inspection and tagging program is designed to reduce the risk of spreading the species into Jackson Meadows and connected watersheds.

Non-motorized watercraft, including kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards, are not subject to the decontamination or quarantine requirements and remain welcome at Jackson Meadows under standard recreation access rules.



**Jackson Meadows Reservoir**

## Mussel Prevention Program in effect at NID reservoirs



Golden mussels may be tiny, but they pose a major threat to California waterways. First discovered in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta in 2024, the invasive species spreads rapidly and can damage water infrastructure, impact recreation, harm fisheries, and disrupt water quality and ecosystems.

To help protect local reservoirs, NID has continued its Mussel Prevention Program, requiring all motorized and trailered boats be either professionally decontaminated by an approved vendor or complete a mandatory quarantine period before launching.

Boats without ballast, bilge, or live wells must undergo a 30-day quarantine, while boats equipped with those features require a 60-day quarantine.

In the foothills, boat owners can begin the quarantine process by obtaining a red quarantine tag at Scotts Flat, Orchard

Springs, or Long Ravine recreation facilities, available daily from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The goal is to keep recreation access open while protecting the reservoir system that supports both local water supply and outdoor recreation.

For more information about NID's Mussel Prevention Program, click here. <https://www.nidwater.com/nevada-irrigation-district-mussel-prevention-program>

## Mulch rebate program continues



NID's mulch rebate program is back, helping customers save water and improve landscape health during the summer months.

Mulch helps soil retain moisture, reduces evaporation, suppresses weeds, and protects plants from heat and drying winds, reducing the need for frequent watering.

NID customers with an active treated or irrigation water account can receive a rebate of up to \$50 toward mulch purchased from the vendor of their choice. One rebate is available per parcel or account, on a first come, first served basis while funding lasts.

Customers must first obtain an NID voucher before purchasing mulch. After purchase, customers submit a receipt and photo showing the mulch application. The rebate is then applied as a credit to the customer's NID account. The rebate covers up to \$50 or the actual cost of the mulch, whichever is less. Taxes, delivery, and installation are not included.

For more information or to request a voucher, contact Water Efficiency Technician Kaycee Margherita at 530-273-6185 ext. 1244 or [margheritak@nidwater.com](mailto:margheritak@nidwater.com).

### **NID Customer Incentives and Rebates:**

NID is working to help you become more water efficient and save money with several rebates:

**Toilet Rebate Program:** NID treated water customers can get financial incentive to replace older toilets with high-efficient, water-saving toilets.

**Raw Water Storage Tank Rebate:** The Raw Water Storage Tank Rebate Program was developed to help customers improve their irrigation water system reliability through side storage. The minimum storage tank allowed through the rebate program is 500 gallons.

**Turf Removal Rebate:** NID's Turf Removal Rebate Program provides financial incentive to encourage residential treated water customers to remove turf grass and replace it with water efficient landscape. The rebate amount per residential meter is \$1 per square foot of converted turf up to \$1,000.



**Every Drop Counts**

# Bowman Reservoir

NID has been keeping precipitation records for Bowman Reservoir (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

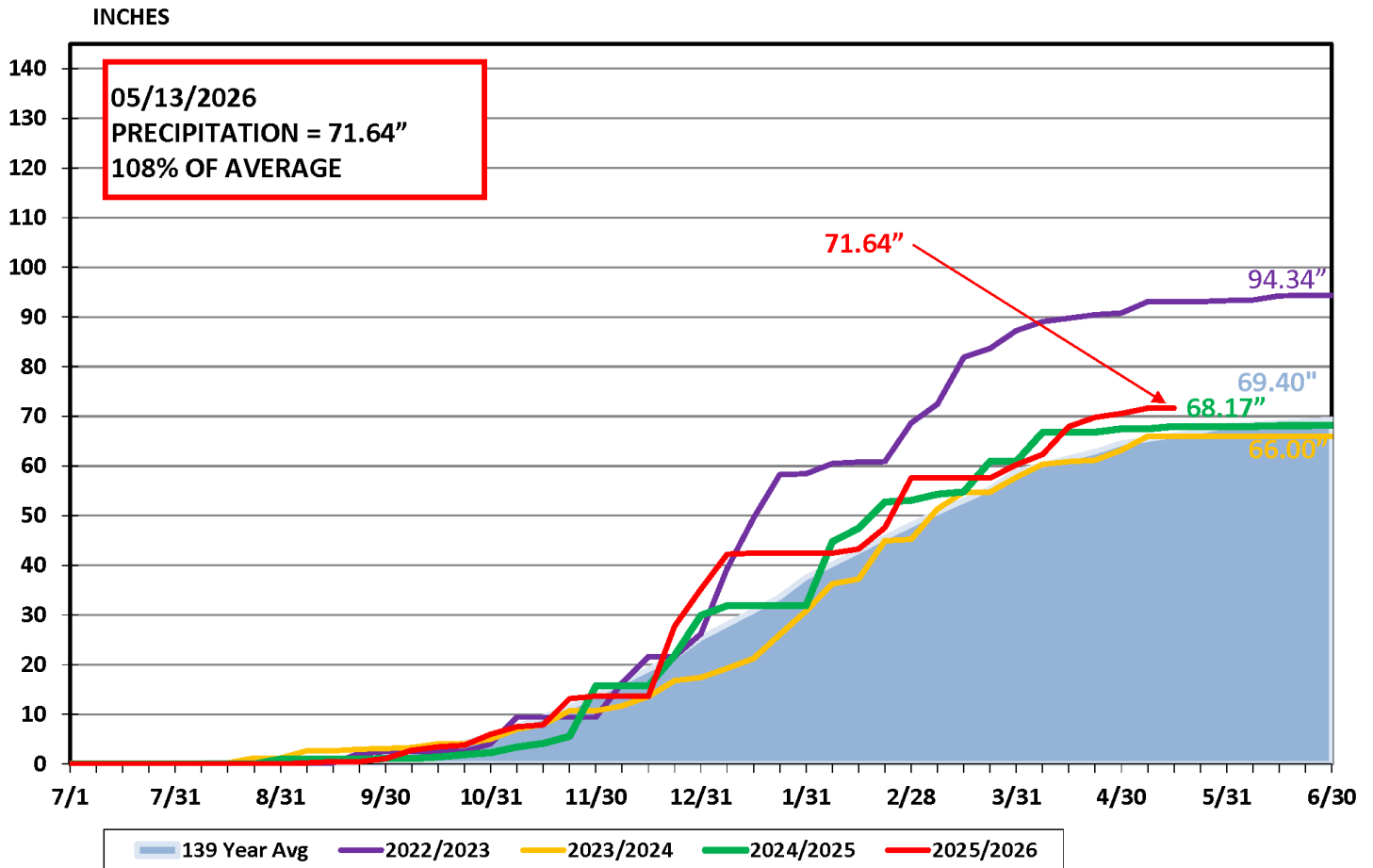
The 69.2-inch annual average of rain and snow at Bowman compares to an annual average of 56 inches at 2,700 feet near Nevada City and 52 inches at 2,400 feet in Grass Valley.

As of May 13, the reservoir was at 108 percent of its average precipitation.



Bowman Reservoir

## BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



# NID's total reservoir storage is 99% of capacity

Total NID reservoir storage is 268,866 acre-feet as of May 13, 2026. That is 99 percent of capacity and 111 percent of a 12-year average.

Reservoirs in this measurement include: Jackson Meadows, Jackson, French, Faucherie, Sawmill, Bowman, and Canyon Creek, as well as Scotts Flat and Rollins.

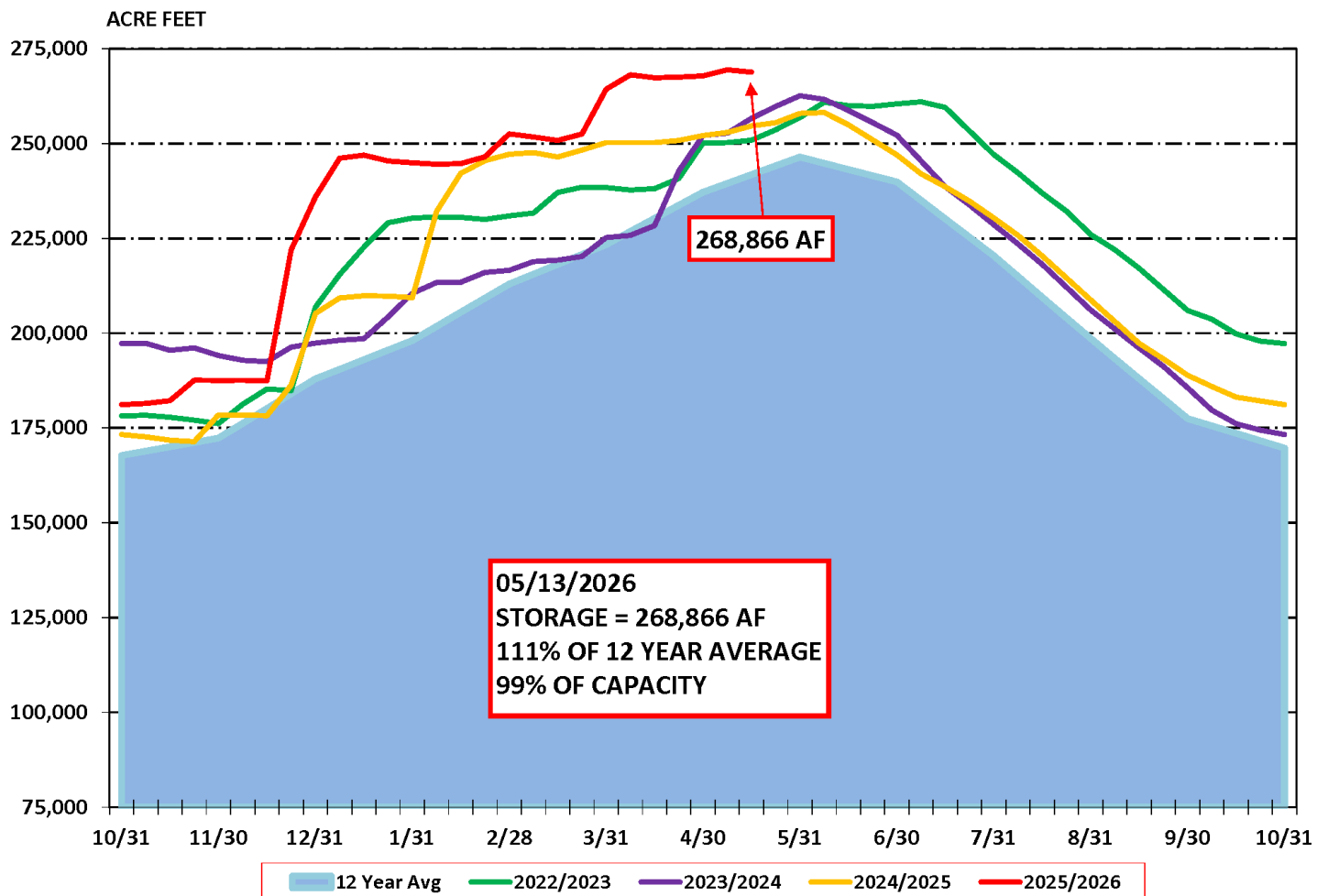


French Lake

NID's water managers regularly post updates of reservoir levels. You can see how water levels fluctuate in easy-to-read charts.

It's all just a click away on the NID website under [River & Reservoir Data](#).

## NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



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# Meetings & Events



## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, May 27, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

NID Main Office

1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

*\*\* Dates and times subject to change. Please check [nidwater.com](http://nidwater.com) for updates*

