



GM Newsletter

August 2026

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

Water For Life

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Chris Bierwagen
Division II
President



Brad Fowler
Division III
Vice President



Ricki Heck
Division I



Earl Stephens
Division IV



Rich Johansen
Division V

Message from the General Manager

This month, we're proud to celebrate the Nevada Irrigation District's 105th anniversary. It's a milestone that reflects more than our history, it reflects a promise to continue providing reliable water for the communities we serve.

For more than a century, generations of employees, board members, and community leaders have built and cared for a water system that serves customers across Nevada and Placer counties. Whether you're turning on a faucet, irrigating a field, generating renewable hydropower, or enjoying one of our reservoirs, that reliability is the result of decades of planning, investment, and stewardship.

While we take pride in our past, our focus remains on the future.

The challenges facing water agencies today are different than they were in 1921. Changing climate conditions, aging infrastructure, growing communities, and the need for healthy forests and watersheds require thoughtful planning and continued investment. NID is committed to strengthening infrastructure, advancing technology, restoring watersheds, and supporting the dedicated employees who keep our system operating safely and reliably.

As we celebrate 105 years of service, I'm grateful for the trust our customers have placed in NID for more than a century. We will continue working to earn that trust by planning ahead, investing wisely, and being responsible stewards of the water resources our communities depend on.

The best way to honor our history is to prepare for the future. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Shade: check. Water flowing: check.

An NID Hydraulic Technician finds some shade in the heat while keeping an eye on the system and the water moving.



In this edition:

- NID Board approves 9% water rate increase for 2027 — [Page 2](#)
- Raw Water customers to transition to monthly billing — [Page 2](#)
- 105 Years: The Promise Passed Forward — [Page 3](#)
- Fire & Water Magazine returns for 2026 — [Page 3](#)
- NID's Total Reservoir Storage is 83% of Capacity — [Page 6](#)



NID Board Approves 9% Water Rate Increase for 2027

The Nevada Irrigation District Board of Directors has approved a nine percent increase in treated and irrigation water rates for 2027. The increase is lower than the maximum rates authorized through the District's Proposition 218 process.

The decision follows two public workshops in July, where the Board reviewed financial information, heard from customers, and considered options for reducing the 2027 increase while continuing to invest in the infrastructure and facilities needed to provide reliable water service.

What will the increase mean for customers?

Beginning in 2027:

- A treated water customer with a 5/8-inch meter using 5 HCF (500 cubic feet) per month will see an increase of approximately \$5.80 per month.
- An irrigation customer receiving one miner's inch of summer water will see an increase of approximately \$13.61 per month during the six-month irrigation billing season.

The lower-than-maximum increase is possible in part because of stronger-than-expected hydropower revenues and lower hydropower expenditures in 2025. Following adoption of the 2027 budget, approximately \$1.28 million will be transferred from the Hydroelectric Fund to the Water Fund to help offset water system costs.

Water rates fund the operation, maintenance, repair, and improvement of NID's treated and irrigation water systems, including reservoirs, canals, pipelines, treatment facilities, and other infrastructure serving customers throughout Nevada and Placer counties.

The Board will review water rates annually and will continue looking for grants, operational efficiencies, and other funding opportunities to help manage costs while maintaining reliable water service. Learn more about NID water rates at www.nidwater.com/nid-water-rate-adjustments.

Learn more about NID water rates at www.nidwater.com/nid-water-rate-adjustments.



Raw Water billing to moves to monthly



NID will begin monthly billing for winter irrigation service starting in September 2026.

Winter water service runs from approximately October 15 through April 14 each year. Service is subject to water availability and is secondary to regular seasonal demand.

Beginning in 2027, all raw water services will switch to monthly billing so customers receive bills that align with when water is delivered.

Summer-only services will receive six bills during the irrigation season; customers with fall water will receive one additional bill and customers receiving winter water will receive 12 bills per year.

For reference, summer irrigation season is typically April 15 - October 14, and fall irrigation season runs from about October 15 - December 01.

[Read more about customer billing information](#)

The Promise Passed Forward

Tomorrow morning, thousands of people will turn on a faucet, irrigate a field, or enjoy a day at one of NID's reservoirs without giving much thought to the system that makes it all possible. That's exactly how it should be.

Behind every drop of water is more than a century of planning, investment, and stewardship. While the tools have changed since 1921, our mission has not.

As the Nevada Irrigation District celebrates its 105th anniversary, we're also looking ahead. Providing reliable water has never been just about today. It's about making smart investments that will serve future generations.

NID continues to invest in healthier watersheds, stronger infrastructure, modern technology, and sound planning to ensure reliable water for homes, farms, businesses, recreation, and the environment. Those investments help prepare our region for changing conditions while protecting the resources our communities depend on. Every generation has inherited this water system, strengthened it, and passed it on. That tradition continues today.

As we celebrate 105 years of service, we're honoring the past while preparing for the future—because the best way to protect tomorrow's water is to invest in it today. Built on history. Focused on the future.



[Read stories and view historic photos celebrating NID's 105th Anniversary](#)

Fire & Water Magazine returns for 2026



The 2026 edition of Fire & Water magazine is now available, highlighting the connection between wildfire, forests, and water in the Sierra foothills.

Published annually by Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) in partnership with Gold Country Media and supported by the Nevada Irrigation District (NID), the magazine showcases how local agencies and communities are working together to build wildfire resilience and protect the region's water resources.

This year's edition features NID's English Meadow Restoration Project, where crews restored natural meadow functions while improving wildfire resilience. The work included reconnecting stream channels, installing natural wood structures to slow and store water, and thinning approximately 175 acres of surrounding forest to reduce fuel loads and improve forest health.

[The latest edition of Fire and Water Magazine is here!](#)

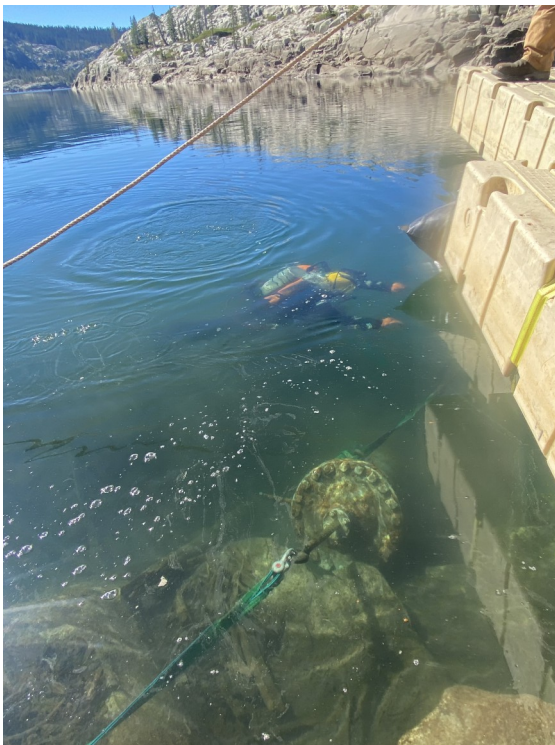
Engineering & Hydropower Projects

The NID Engineering and Hydropower departments have a number of projects in various phases of construction. Project Status Reports provide project information, planner information, and a brief project description.

[Engineering & Hydroelectric Projects Underway](#)

Divers repair 89-year-old equipment at NID's oldest reservoir

At French Lake, built in 1858, divers restored a critical piece of water infrastructure.



It's not every day you see commercial divers working beneath the surface of an NID reservoir.

This summer, a dive crew descended into French Lake to replace aging hydraulic equipment that operates the low-level outlet gate at French Dam, NID's oldest reservoir.

The underwater hydraulic actuator had been in service since 1937. After nearly nine decades, the actuator and hydraulic lines had become worn and leaky, making the gate increasingly difficult to operate. Opening the gate required about 200 strokes on a hand pump.

Working below the surface, divers removed the original actuator so a new replacement could be fabricated. The project also includes replacing the aging hydraulic lines and restoring reliable operation of the outlet gate.

Built in 1858–1859 on Canyon Creek in the South Yuba watershed, French Dam remains an important part of NID's water system. Projects like this help preserve historic infrastructure while ensuring it continues to operate safely and reliably for years to come.



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.

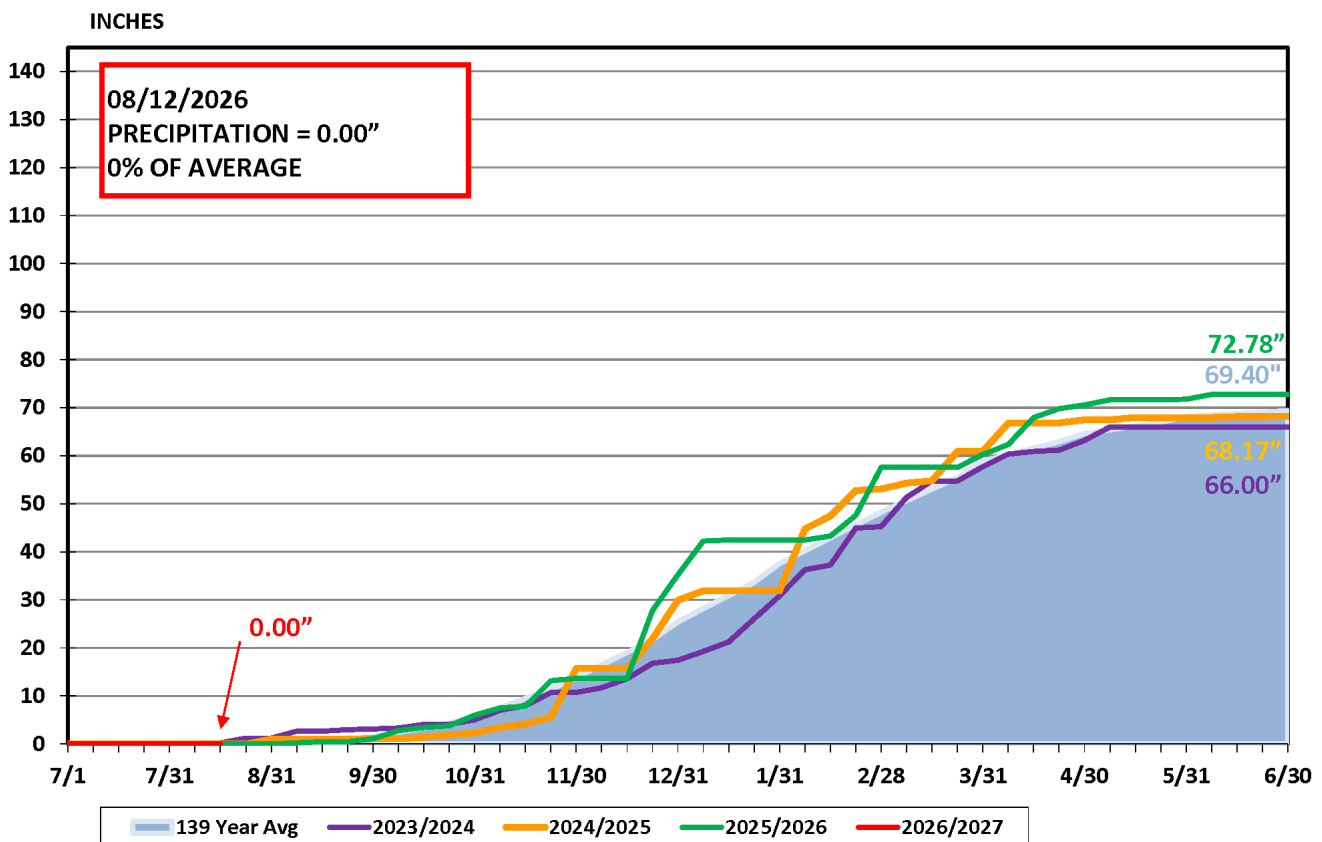
A new water year began July 1. Hydrologists track precipitation from July 1 through June 30 because it aligns with the Sierra's natural dry season before the next winter's rain and snow begin.



As of Aug. 12, no rain had fallen.

Bowman Reservoir

BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



NID's total reservoir storage is 83% of capacity

Total NID reservoir storage is 223,399 acre-feet as of Aug. 12, 2026. That is 83percent of capacity and 106 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.

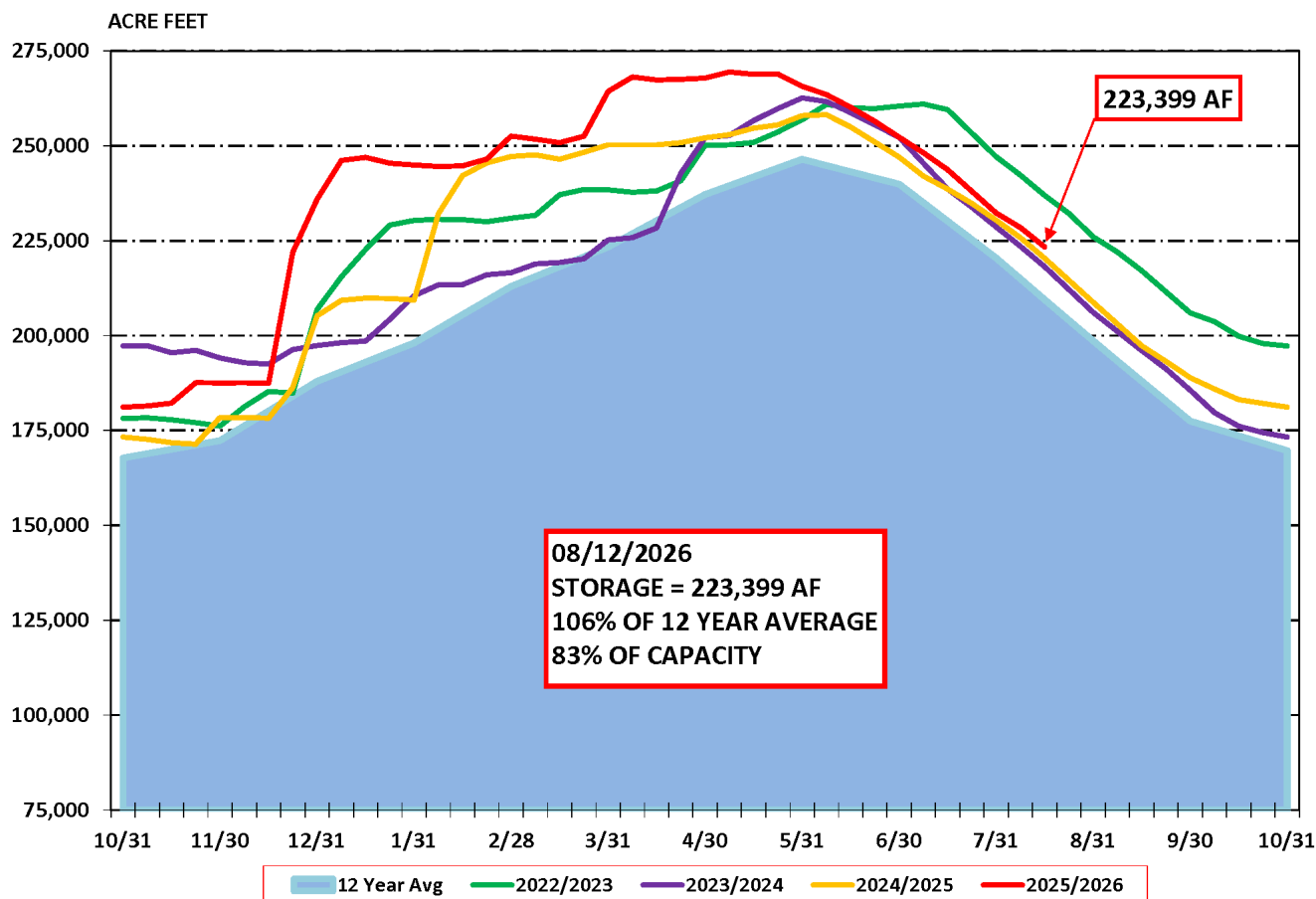


French Lake

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



Meetings & Events



Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026
NID Main Office
1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026
NID Main Office
1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

*** Dates and times subject
to change. Please check
nidwater.com for updates*

