

Staff Report

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Chip Close, Director of Water Operations

DATE: June 26, 2024

**SUBJECT: Mandatory Conservation Measures Due to Water Shortage
Emergency**

OPERATIONS

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution No. 2024-26 - Establishing mandatory conservation measures in response to the extended PG&E water supply infrastructure emergency.

BACKGROUND:

On or about February 9, 2024, PG&E notified NID that a portion of the South Yuba Canal (SYC) suffered a collapse, rendering the canal inoperable. On March 6, 2024, PG&E's Spaulding One powerhouse suffered a failure, causing the Drum Canal to be inoperable. The combination of these two failures have made it impossible to transport water into the Drum and South Yuba Canals, both of which are crucial for providing water to thousands of District customers.

The initial return to service date of the Spaulding One / Drum Canal (SPA 1) was scheduled for June 8, 2024, while the return to service date of the SYC was scheduled for June 18, 2024. Both estimates were delayed to June 18th. In response to the delay, NID crews enacted emergency backup plans, including rerouting water through alternate channels, purchasing available runoff water, and activating all available backup pump stations. These efforts were expected to provide sufficient flows to meet NID customer demands with only voluntary conservation actions necessary.

Since PG&E's initial estimated return to service date, the emergency repairs have been delayed numerous times, pushing return flows out 52 days beyond initial estimates.

Given the lack of a firm schedule, NID must conserve water supply for critical beneficial uses and public health and safety. To extend the limited water available in Scotts Flat and Rollins Reservoir, NID will be implementing mandatory conservation measures as outlined in Resolution 2024-26. These measures are derived from stage two of NID's Water Shortage Contingency Plan with a goal of 20% savings.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Mandatory conservation measures will reduce treated water volumetric revenue. The amount is unknown at this time and depends on the volume of water conserved.

Attachments: (1)

- Resolution No. 2024-26



RESOLUTION NO. 2024-26
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

**IMPOSING MANDATORY WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES GIVEN ONGOING
EMERGENCY WATER SHORTAGE CONDITIONS**

WHEREAS, the Nevada Irrigation District (NID or District) is a California Irrigation District formed and existing pursuant to Division 11 of the California Water Code and is empowered to provide water for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, environmental, fire protection and prevention and other beneficial uses of water; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2024, the NID Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2024-10 “Declaring a Water Shortage Emergency, Authorizing Extraordinary Water Conservation Rules and Regulations, and Authorizing Emergency Response Activities and Projects”; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 2024-10 was adopted due to multiple failures of facilities owned by Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) that are utilized by NID to transport NID water to its downstream facilities and customers, thereby causing emergency water shortage conditions; and

WHEREAS, resolved paragraph 5 of Resolution No. 2024-10 authorized the NID General Manager to take appropriate emergency actions necessary to mitigate emergency water shortage conditions, including adopting and publishing reasonable regulations and restrictions on the delivery of water within NID’s service area; and

WHEREAS, given adequate lead time, and consistent with resolved paragraph 7 of Resolution No. 2024-10, the NID Board of Directors, rather than NID’s General Manager under delegated authority, is considering in this Resolution additional emergency response measures to address the ongoing water shortage emergency; and

WHEREAS, PG&E’s initial estimate of restoration of water service to NID’s Drum Canal through PG&E’s Spaulding 1 Powerhouse (SPA 1) was June 8, 2024, and then modified to June 18, 2024, and

WHEREAS, PG&E's estimates of restoration of the its South Yuba Pipeline (SYP) which supplies water to NID's South Yuba Canal, Cascade Canal, Scotts Flatt Reservoir and multiple other downstream NID facilities has fluctuated significantly and currently is end of August 2024; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2024, PG&E informed NID that the return to service date of the SYP was delayed to approximately August 24, 2024, and on June 11, 2024, PG&E informed NID that the SPA 1 return to service was delayed to July 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, under Resolution No. 2024-10 NID requested 20% voluntary water conservation from all NID customers, initiated operation of all emergency backup facilities including all pump stations, purchased additional source water, and rerouted irrigation flows, all designed to meet customer demands through PG&E's June 18th SPA 1 return to service date and end of August return to service date for PG&E's SYP; and

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2024, NID adopted Resolution No. 2024-23 "Authorizing Rotating Outages to Irrigation Water Service for Certain Canals Given Ongoing Emergency Water Shortage Conditions"; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding these emergency response measures in Resolution Nos. 2024-10 and 2024-23, PG&E's continued delays cause cascading issues impacting NID's ability to continue to supply continuous water supply to usable volumes to NID customers, thus necessitating further water saving measures; and

WHEREAS, to equitably apportion the water available given limited supplies all customers will need to conserve to ensure adequate water resources through the duration of the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District as follows:

1. The above recitals are true and are incorporated by this reference as findings of the Nevada Irrigation District
2. Under state and federal law, including California Water Code sections 375 through 378, and the District's Urban Water Management Plan and Agricultural

Water Management Plan, the District is hereby implementing portions of its drought contingency plans to achieve a cumulative 20% reduction in treated water and raw/irrigation water use as compared to usage in 2023.

3. To conserve limited available water supplies, the District hereby prohibits the following water use practices except where necessary to address immediate health and safety needs:
 - a. Applying water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private and public walkways, roadways, parking lots, or structures, or excessive spill.
 - b. The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle except where the hose is fitted with a shut off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use.
 - c. The application of water to driveways and sidewalks.
 - d. The use of water in a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system.
 - e. The application of water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
 - f. The serving of drinking water other than upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, bars, or other public places where food or drink are served and/or purchased.
 - g. The irrigation with water of ornamental turf on public street medians.
 - h. The irrigation with water of landscapes outside of newly constructed homes and buildings in a manner inconsistent with regulations or other requirements established by the California Building Standards Commission and the Department of Housing and Community Development.
 - i. Failure of the operators of hotels and motels to provide guests with the option of not having towels and linens laundered daily.

4. All the District's customers (treated and raw/irrigation) shall be subject to the following conservation measures applicable to watering of lawns, ornamental landscape, and turf (collectively "turf") to achieve a 20% reduction in water use as compared to 2023.
 - a. Outdoor irrigation of turf shall be limited to three days per week.
 - b. Odd property addresses are permitted to water turf on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
 - c. Even property addresses are permitted to water turf on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

- d. All watering of turf, when permitted, shall be undertaken in early morning (before 7 a.m.) and late evening (after 9 p.m.).
- 5. The measures implemented under this Resolution shall be in addition to those measures specified by the District under Resolution No. 2024-10 and Resolution No. 2024-23. Nothing herein is intended to supersede either Resolution.
- 6. This Resolution will remain in effect until (a) notification by the District that water delivery in satisfactory volumes has been re-established by PG&E; or (b) superseded by the NID Board of Directors, whichever is earlier.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Nevada Irrigation District at a meeting duly called and held within the District on the 26th day of June, 2024 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors:
NOES: Directors:
ABSENT: Directors:
ABSTAINS: Directors:

President of the Board of Directors

Attest:

Secretary to the Board of Directors