

Done deal!

NID acquires South Yuba Canal, Deer Creek facilities from PG&E

See page 2

(Right) Hydro Plant Operators Doug Dreher and Pat O'Connor stand in front of the Deer Creek Powerhouse, which PG&E built in 1908. It was the utility's first project ever.



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Flash from the Past - What was the top Pipeline headline from November 1980? "Employees Face Important Choice (Social Security or PERS)" - page 9

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NID acquires PG&E's South Yuba Canal, Deer Creek facilities

NID has acquired Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) Deer Creek hydroelectric development, including that portion of the South Yuba Canal, Chalk Bluff Canal, Deer Creek Powerhouse, and all associated canals and facilities.

Of all the acquisition components, the preeminent infrastructure is the South Yuba Canal.

The canal is NID's primary water conveyance that moves water from the mountain headwaters – from the Jackson Meadows, Bowman and Spaulding area – all the way down to just above Scotts Flat Lake. This plays a key role in keeping Scotts Flat Reservoir full. Additionally, it supplies nearly all the water for NID's customers throughout Nevada County, including the cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City.

NID has had an agreement with PG&E to use the canal as its main conveyance delivering water to the foothills as irrigation for farms and fields and, once treated, provide drinking water to local communities.

The canal traverses 19 miles of some of the most rugged terrain you can find in the Sierra. For example, the construction of a waterway path along the side of a granite mountain was completed by men hanging over ledges in slings to drill and blast for anchors.

PG&E purchased the water system in 1905, and the Deer Creek Powerhouse upstream from present-day Scotts Flat Reservoir was the utility's first project in its efforts to increase hydroelectric power in California. Today, the powerhouse generates 5.7 megawatts.

General Manager Jennifer Hanson notes this effort has been going on for more than a decade. "A huge thank you to Keane Sommers, Matt Crowe, Tina Haenny, and Trevor Moore for seeing this transaction through. A lot of hard work was put into the acquisition, and I very much appreciate it."

NID's Hydro Department will be responsible for operations and maintenance of the new facilities with all of the team rotating among the structures, rather than a specifically assigned crew.

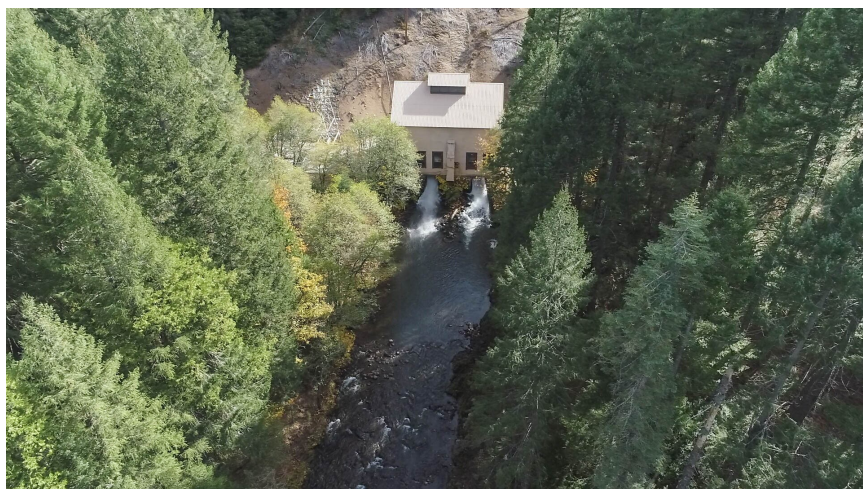
Learn more at the [NID Infrastructure Library](#)

Entries:

- [South Yuba Canal](#)
- [Deer Creek Powerhouse](#)
- [Cascade Canal System Diversion](#)



South Yuba Canal. Photo credit: Katie Kemp



Deer Creek Powerhouse

November Anniversaries

Phil Nedved, Hydroelectric Maintenance Superintendent, 25 years, 11/25

Douglas Roderick, Director of Engineering, 19 years, 11/22

Chad Garvey, Senior Utility Worker, 15 years, 11/3

Gus Gramm, Senior Hydroelectric Plant Operator, 15 years, 11/3

Bob Page, Senior Water Distribution Operator, 15 years, 11/3

Gene Presley, Senior Water Distribution Operator, 14 years, 11/17

Tricia Panock, Senior Customer Service Representative, 9 years, 11/10

Thomas Kluge, Senior Hydroelectric Systems Technician, 8 years, 11/23

Joshua Chambers, Hydroelectric Communication Technician II, 6 years, 11/17

Melissa Pelton, Cashier, 5 years, 11/19

Shea Hart, Utility Worker II, 4 years, 11/18

Hunter Hedman, Hydroelectric Water Systems Operator I, 4 years, 11/18

Gregory McKay, Right of Way Agent II, 4 years, 11/12

Andrew Newburn, Equipment Operator, 4 years, 11/4

Steven Petersen, Utility Worker I, 4 years, 11/4

Steve Prosser, Director of Maintenance, 2 years

Trevor Moore, Hydroelectric Compliance Technician I, 1 year



Phil Nedved



Chad Garvey



Gus Gramm



Bob Page

Promotions & Transfers

Carl Cookson, promoted to Survey Technician II on 10/10/2023

David Taylor to Water Distribution Operator II on 10/28/2023

Robert Stice to Welder II on 10/10/2023

Glen Alexander, transfer to Utility Worker II on 11/20/2023

New Hires

Cory Cyr – Budget Analyst – Hire Date 10/30/2023

Will Greist – Equipment Service Worker – Hire Date 11/07/2023



David Taylor



Robert Stice



Carl Cookson



Cory Cyr

HR Reminders, Deadlines

FSA Open Enrollment

Employees are now eligible to enroll in and/or make changes to your Flexible Spending Account and/or Dependent Care Account effective 1/1/2024. Please call or visit Human Resources for more information. Open enrollment changes must be submitted to HR no later than Friday, December 15, 2023.

Mutual of Omaha Open Enrollment

Employees are now eligible to enroll in and/or change voluntary life and short-term disability coverage effective 1/1/2024. Please call or visit Human Resources for more information. Open enrollment changes must be submitted to HR no later than Friday, December 8, 2023.

Address Change

Please notify Human Resources of any address changes that happened in 2023. It is important that we know where to send year-end W2 forms.

Holiday schedule for 2024

Next year employees will see a shift in holidays as part of their Benefits and Compensation plans. Changes for union- and unrepresented employees include conversion of Columbus Day to a floating holiday.

Full-time employees receive eight (8) hours of pay at their straight-time rate for each of the following holidays:

- New Year's Day (Jan. 1)
- Martin Luther King's Birthday (Jan. 15)
- President's Day (Feb. 19)
- Memorial Day (May 26)
- Juneteenth (June 19)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Labor Day (Sept. 2)
- Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
- Thanksgiving (Nov. 28)
- Day after Thanksgiving (Nov. 29)
- Christmas Day (Dec. 25)

Observed Holidays

If the holiday falls on a Sunday, the Monday following is observed as the holiday. Employees (other than operational field staff) who work on the holiday will receive a holiday premium of half their regular rate of pay for each hour worked.

If the holiday falls on a Saturday, the Friday preceding is observed as the holiday.

Employees required to work on an observed holiday will receive an additional halftime for all hours worked on the holiday

NID Veterans

Chris Berg (Construction Inspector):
Navy

Gregory Callison (Storekeeper): Navy

Will Barker (Water Distribution Operator):
Air Force

Bobby Newkirk: (Utility Worker) Army
National Guard

Steven Peden (Utility Worker): Army

Randall Pool (Utility Worker): Navy

Chris Dunn (Utility Worker): Army

Nathan Wasley (Water Superintendent): Army



Pumpkin Contest: winners are creepy, cute and brainy

The NID pumpkin carving/non-carving contest drew a dozen entries. These ranged from a witch's dive into her brew and Wilson the Cast Away volleyball, to an elegant owl.

Employees voted - one vote per employee - and ballots tallied. The winners are:

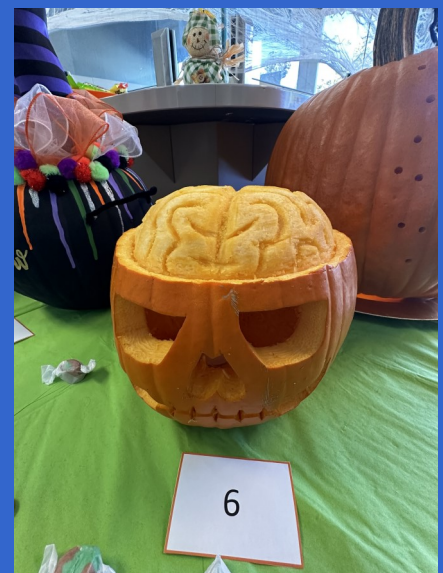
- 1st David Straub, Customer Service Technician
- 2nd David Straub, Customer Service Technician
- 3rd Carter Hatch, Hydrographer



1st place

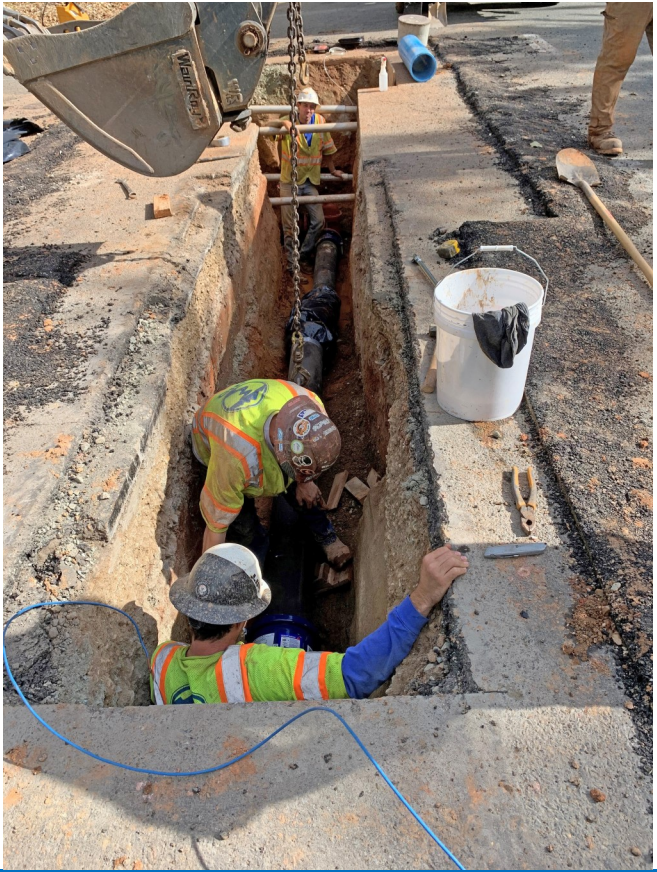


2nd place



3rd place

Highway 174 - North Day Pipe Replacement



Jackson Lake Toe Slope Protection Project



Just ahead of the first snow, work has been completed to stabilize the toe slopes near the downstream outlet of Jackson Lake Dam.

The contracted construction crew installed a geogrid to reinforce soil. Once the grid was laid over the slope, each cell was filled with gravel.

Also, a bit downstream of the dam a new weir was constructed to ensure accurate environmental flow measures will be taken.

Thanks to Construction Inspector Chris Berg for the photos.



Above: Hydrographer Ashley Vander Meer observes work to maintain environmental flows while construction occurs.

Right: Stabilization work focused on the toe slope. That is the junction of the downstream face of a dam with the natural ground surface.



Southwest of Jackson Meadows and tucked away in the Sierra, Jackson Dam is at the head of Jackson Creek. The dam was constructed in 1941-42 and is an earthen dam with a reservoir capacity of 1,330 acre-feet.

Trends show training matters

A comparison of injuries and accidents occurring in 2022 and 2023 show safety training makes a difference.

For example, in 2022, NID employees recorded five slips, trips and falls. After training and education, in 2023 there were no reported accidents.

Injuries and Accidents comparison 2022 & 2023

Injuries 2022

- Slips, trips and falls: 5
- Leg injuries: 4
- Poison oak: 3

Accidents 2022

- Vehicle damage by running into an object: 7
- Vehicle backing up: 6
- Hit by another driver: 3
- Unsecure loads: 2

Injuries 2023 YTD

- Bee stings: 4
- Hand injuries: 3
- Poison oak: 2
- Dog bites: 2

Accidents 2023 YTD

- Vehicle backing up: 5
- Vehicle damage by running into an object: 4
- Hit by another driver: 3
- Unsecure loads: 1



“Here’s the takeaway: look at situations where we have control. Safety practices make a difference,” says Safety Analyst Don Bird.

“Even with situations we can’t really control, like poison oak or bee stings, we provide awareness training. It makes a difference.”



PIPELINE

A newsletter for the employees of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 1 Number 11, November, 1980

EMPLOYEES FACE IMPORTANT CHOICE

Should NID employees quit the federal Social Security system? Would the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) offer better benefits than the current Aetna plan?

These questions were among the major concerns October 24 when representatives of PERS, Aetna and Social Security explained their programs during two three-hour sessions with district employees.

Administrative Aide Jim Chatigny, who has been coordinating the proposal to consider alter-

native retirement plans, said a committee of employees, union representatives and management would be formed to develop a plan for an employee vote.

Chatigny, who said the plan would not be changed without the support of employees, anticipates that the vote will take place by mid-1981.

NID has already notified the Social Security Administration that it plans to drop the system effective December 31, 1981. Social Security

Cont'd on page 2



responded by saying the termination will take effect unless NID asks that the program be continued.

Other options such as the new deferred compensation plan with Placer Savings will also be explained.

Many employees seem to prefer switching to PERS, but also continuing their Social Security contributions. That, however, would mean payroll deductions of 13.65 percent (7 percent to PERS and 6.65 percent to Social Security) an amount many employees feel is too high a price for retirement benefits..

Nevada County employees as well as Nevada City and Grass Valley city workers are members of the PERS system but also are enrolled with Social Security.

PERS representative Graham Morey said the agency began in 1932 and now has 560,000 members in California and \$13 billion in assets.

He said a chief part of the program is retirement at age 60. His graphic example showed a 30-year employee retiring at a pay rate of \$1200 monthly, receiving a retirement allowance of \$720 per month. Retirement at 50 would bring less; at 65, it would bring more.

The district's insurance broker, Tom Sher, and Aetna's Gene Goldman explained the Aetna plan. "It's your plan," said Sher. "You and management control it. You're not dependent on what's happening in Washington or Sacramento."

He said NID has been with Aetna since 1947 and that the district has contributed \$2.3 million into the plan. Since 1973, all contributions have been paid by the district with no employee payments.

Their graphic example showed an employee retiring after 40 years at \$1200 per month collecting \$686.40 per month, less than PERS but the employee would not have made the seven percent employee contribution through the years.

The plan is designed to be used in conjunction with Social Security, Sher said, adding that it is flexible and can be changed according to desires of district employees.

The Aetna team pointed out that if NID converted to PERS and withdrew its assets from the current plan, the district could suffer early withdrawal losses of up to 10 percent because NID funds are invested in long-term investment packages.

Tom Kahler of the Social Security Administration outlined the history and development of old age security programs in the United States. Today, he said, nine out of 10 U.S. workers are enrolled in Social Security..

Despite often-heard criticism of Social Security, Kahler said, "It is a dynamic program that responds to the changes in society."

Advantages of Social Security, he said, are that it is not taxable, it is portable, going from job to job with the worker, and that the system is financially stable and enjoys broad political support.

He cautioned NID employees that if they choose to remove themselves from the system, the decision would be permanent and preclude future generations of district employees from joining, unless today's laws were changed and universal Social Security coverage became required.

WINTER SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Winter driving on snow or ice can be a slippery affair for NID employees whether you're on or off the job. Here are a few wintertime tips:

Slow down to make sure you can stop your vehicle within the sight distance ahead. Let your engine drag slow you; use the brakes sparingly.

Pump your brakes gently to avoid locked-wheel skids. Tap the brake pedal once or twice per second to maintain braking and steering control.

If your vehicle does begin to slide, steer toward the direction your rear wheels are sliding.

Remember, road conditions don't cause accidents; drivers do, especially those who don't take a moment to adjust to special hazards.



**Special Board of Directors Meeting
(Plan for Water workshop)**

Tuesday, Dec. 12

NID Main Office, Grass Valley 4 PM

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 13

NID Main Office, Grass Valley

* Dates subject to change. Check the NID website for the latest dates

**Meetings
& Events**



South Yuba Canal. Thanks Katie Kemp for the photo

Pipeline Editions

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>October 2023</u> | <u>August 2023</u> | <u>May 2023</u> |
| <u>September 2023</u> | <u>July 2023</u> | <u>March 2023</u> |
| | <u>June 2023</u> | <u>January 2023</u> |