



# GM Newsletter

November 2024

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

*Water For Life*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Division I  
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## Message from the General Manager

As Thanksgiving approaches, NID wants to share our appreciation for your support throughout the year.

An important achievement has been the Plan for Water process, which has brought our community together to discuss how to meet our local demand for water over the coming decades. We appreciate so many people coming to monthly workshops to provide input.

NID's Board of Directors will integrate this information, strategy alternatives and future supply and demand scenarios into the District's water management practices and capital improvement projects. This will be vital to craft the District's actions into the future.

Without your support and input, this process wouldn't have been as successful as it ultimately became.

### In this edition:

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- \* Board appoints Division 4 Director. Meet Earl Stephens, [Page 3](#)
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Happy Thanksgiving from the NID Headquarters in Grass Valley

## NID works to ensure a lead-safe community



NID recently conducted an inventory of all water service lines, which are the pipes that connect homes and buildings to the water main.

The purpose of the inventory is to identify the materials used in these service lines and fittings, including the customer-owned side of the water service line. NID has thoroughly inspected all service lines under its care (from the water main to the meter) and confirmed that no lead pipes are present.

For many customers, the District also has identified their “customer-owned portion” of their service line. For the lines that remain unidentified, NID has sent a letter to customers asking for their assistance. If the portion of the pipe from the meter to home has not yet been verified and its material is unknown, it could potentially contain lead.

NID encourages customers who received letters to respond as soon as possible. Find resources and guidance on how to determine service line material through this link; [click here](#)

### Distribution system monitoring

NID routinely monitors for lead in the distribution system, and the most recent water sample results received in September 2024 showed that the 90th percentile of all lead levels measured in the distribution system was 0.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l). This is below the action level for lead in drinking water of 0.015 mg/L or 15 micrograms per liter (µg/L).

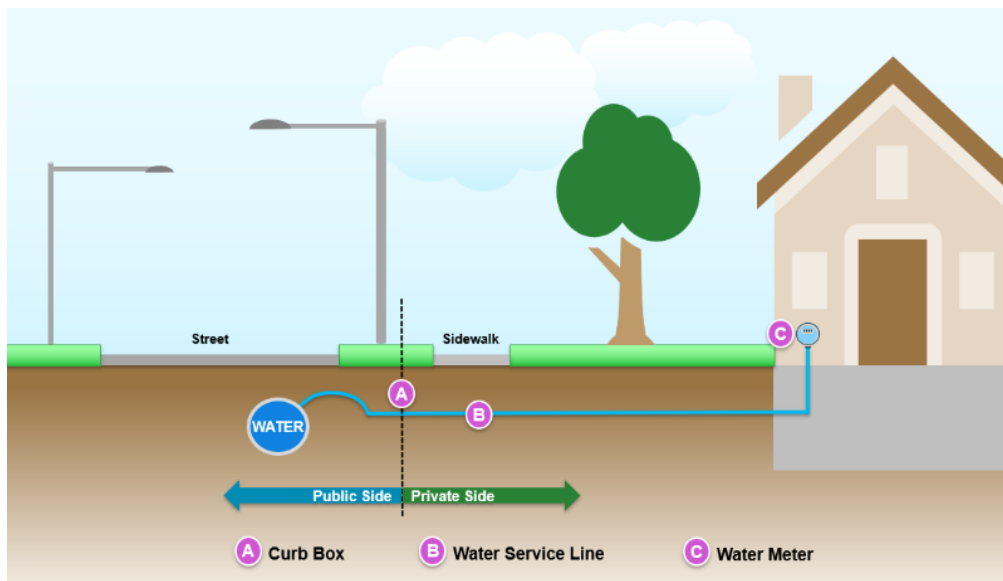
Based on the testing results:

- This is not an emergency
- Your water is safe to drink and meets federal and state safe drinking water standards
- You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).

### Why is lead a problem?

Lead can affect almost every organ and system in your body. Young children and infants are particularly vulnerable to lead. A dose of lead that would have little effect on an adult can have a significant effect on a child.

How does lead get into drinking water? Lead can enter drinking water when pipes and plumbing fixtures that contain lead corrode, especially where the water has high acidity or low mineral content.



### What is a service line?

The service line connects the water main to the property.

NID owns the portion of the service line from the water main in the street to the curb stop.

The customer owns and is responsible for the portion of the service line from the connection to the curb stop to the building.

# NID Board appoints Earl Stephens new director to serve Division 4

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) Board of Directors announced the appointment of Earl Stephens of Lincoln to serve as director for Division 4, which includes portions of North Auburn and the Lincoln areas.

The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Stephens during its Nov. 6 meeting. His term will expire in December 2026.

Stephens is a third generation Californian with a deep history in agriculture, engineering and geology. He grew up in the rural Lincoln area, participated in 4-H and FFA. He attended grade school and high school in Lincoln, attended Sierra College, received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from San Diego State University and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering from California State University Long Beach with an emphasis in water resources, hydrogeology and environmental engineering.

After earning his engineering degrees, Stephens returned to the Lincoln area and operated an engineering company for 31 years. The majority of his work was related to water resources and hazardous materials.



Earl Stephens

He serves on the Placer County Agricultural Commission. Stephens grows mandarins and on-vine pumpkins and operates an agritourism business that includes a winery/brewery, farmstand, and pumpkin patch.

The Division 4 seat became available after Director Trevor Caulder resigned on Sept. 26, 2024.

NID is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected to four-year terms by the District's voters. The Board is the District's policy-making body, and that policy is carried out by more than 200 full- and part-time employees. Members of the Board are elected from within and represent five geographical divisions within the District.

## Infrastructure

WHAT IT TAKES  
TO DELIVER  
WATER TO YOU



## NID Infrastructure Library

An A-Z listing of NID infrastructure, including dams, reservoirs, treatment facilities, canals, conduits and pipes, and hydroelectric facilities.

Click on specific structures to see details, photographs, and maps.

What's the oldest NID reservoir in the mountains? Which water system brings water to you? Where's the closest water treatment plant to your neighborhood?

It's all here in the NID Infrastructure Library.

[Check it out!](#)

## NID is honored to receive “Partner of the Year” award from the Bear Yuba Land Trust

The Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) recognized the 2024 Conservation Award Recipients at its annual Conservation Awards & Gratitude Breakfast on Nov. 16. NID is honored to receive “Partner of the Year” recognition for working with BYLT on certain trails, investing in the community to make this area a better place to live.

BYLT exists to conserve and protect the natural, working, and cultural lands in the Bear and Yuba River watersheds. Over the past few years, NID's encroachment staff has helped BYLT with encroachment permitting for the Bailey Trail, Deer Creek Tribute Trail, and Adam Ryan Preserve. The trail location and additional information about the trails can be found at their website: <https://www.bylt.org/trails/>

Bailey Trail -- BYLT is in the process of connecting two separate trail systems, Bailey and Wildflower trail systems, in order to accomplish this they needed to traverse an NID owned property and construct a foot bridge over the Rough and Ready Canal. Through NID approval, they completed the permitting and constructed a very nice bridge over the canal.



Bailey Trail along Alison Ranch Canal. Photo courtesy of BYLT



BYLT Stewardship Manager Shaun Clarke (center) presents the “Partner of the Year” conservation award to NID Directors Ricki Heck and Rich Johansen.

Deer Creek Trail -- BYLT is constructing a new trail had that is accessed from an NID easement and partially constructed within the easement. This is a very steep trail location.

Adam Ryan Preserve -- BYLT is in the process of improving the parking lot for this recreation zone. NID has a siphon pipe and canal in the area. BYLT reached out with plans, and we proceeded with the permitting process and developed a plan that would work for both parties.

BYLT has built and maintains more than 45 miles of local trails for all trail users. Trails preserve the rural and scenic quality of life in this community while contributing positively to the local economy. They provide a link between people and their natural environment.

# Bowman Lake



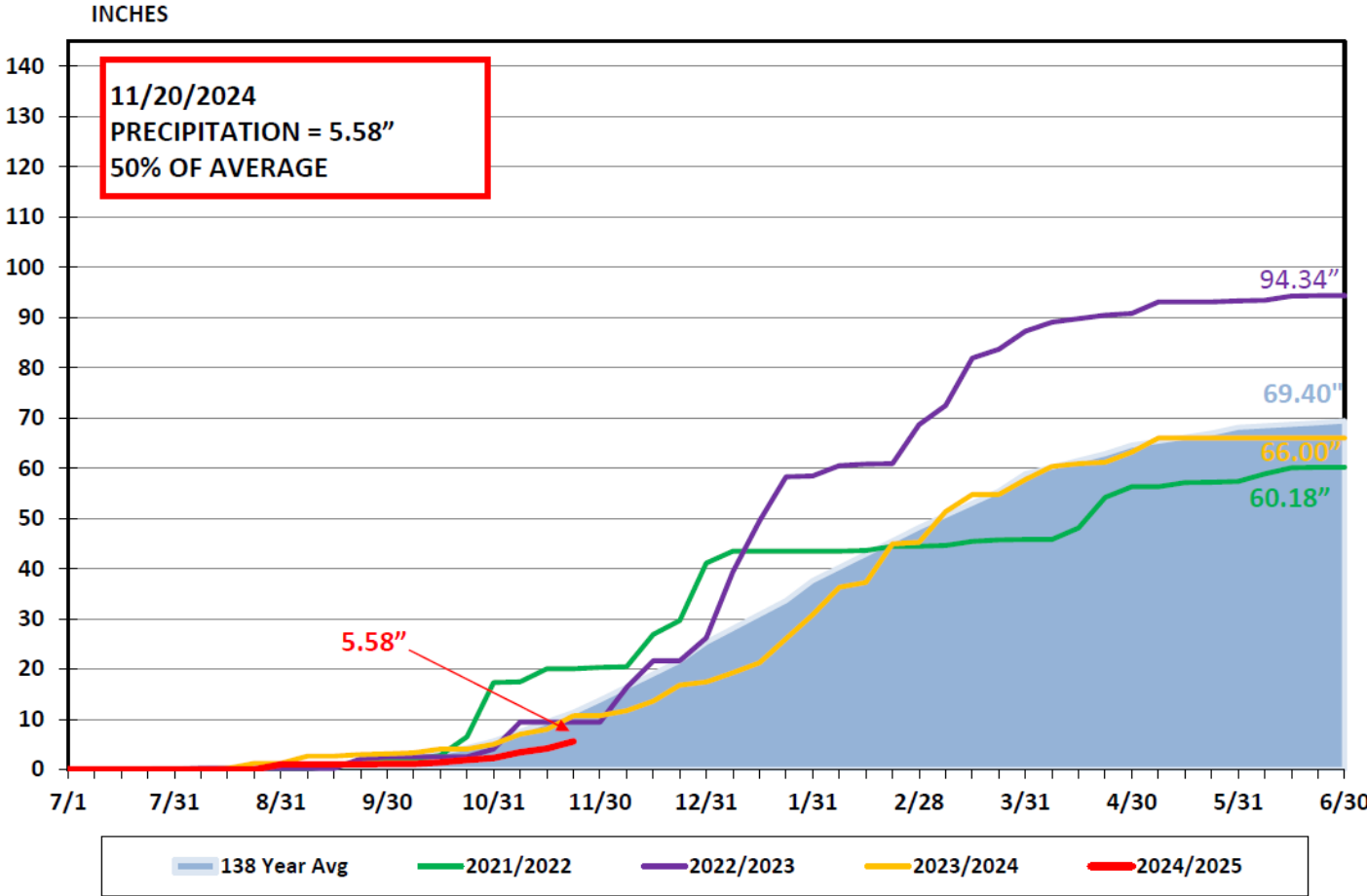
NID has been keeping weather records for Bowman Reservoir (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

The 69.2-inch annual average precipitation 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.

Precipitation is measured for the 12-month period beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

As of Nov. 20, 2024, before this week’s storm, 5.58 inches of precipitation had fallen at Bowman. That was 50 percent of average for the date.

## BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



# NID's total reservoir storage is 100% of average

Before this week's storm, total reservoir storage was 171,764 acre-feet on Nov. 20, 2024. That was 100 percent of a 10-year average.

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

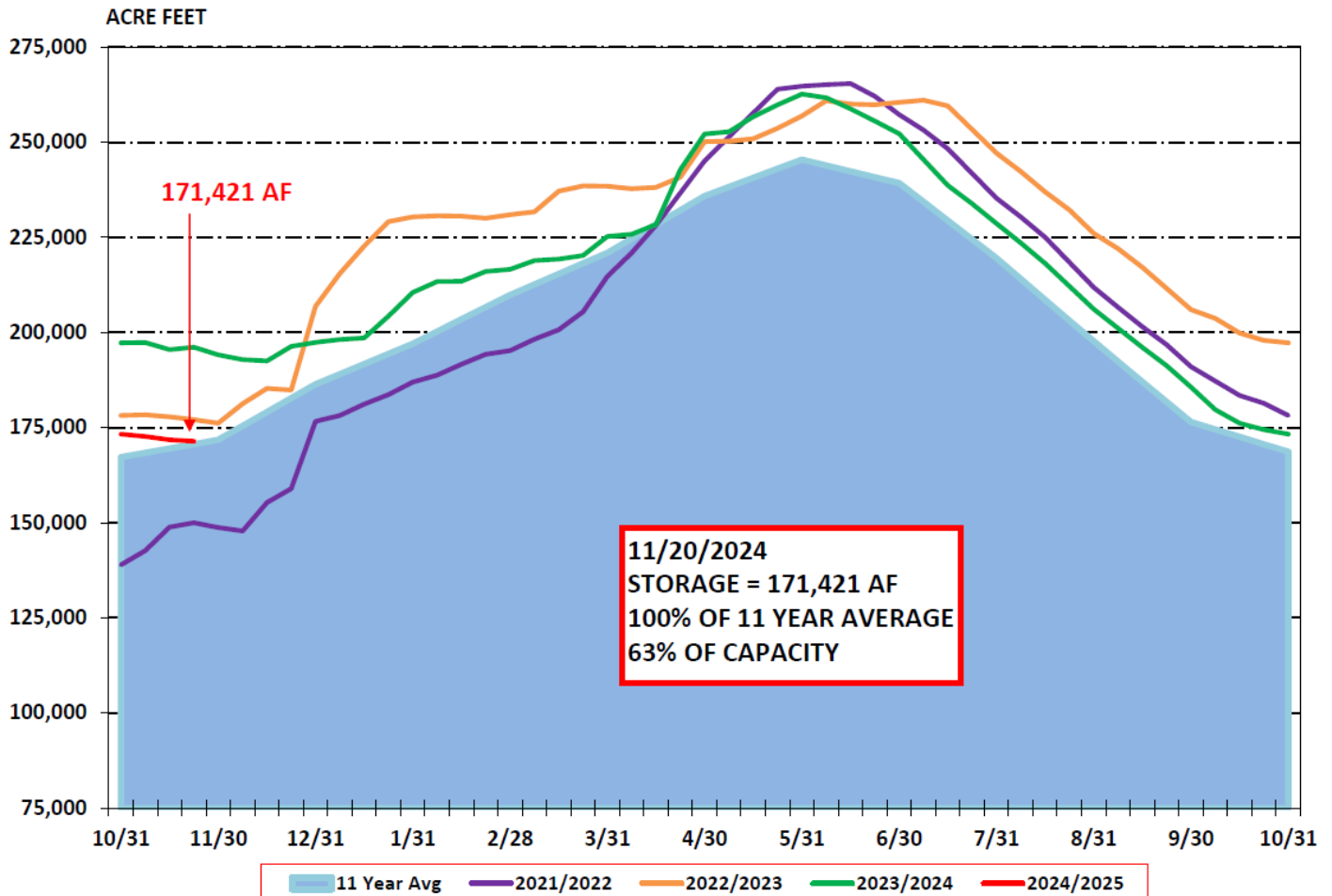
Lakes include: Jackson Meadows, Jackson, French, Faucherie, Sawmill, Bowman, and Canyon Creek, as well as Scotts Flat and Rollins.



Faucherie Reservoir

Interested in the latest information? It's all just a click way on the NID website under [River & Reservoir Data](#).

## NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



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# Project Updates - Engineering, Hydropower and Operations

The NID Engineering Department has a number of projects in various phases of construction.

Project Status Reports provide project information, planner information, and a brief project description. Be sure to sign up for email news alerts about projects.

[2024 Engineering & Hydroelectric Project Status Reports page \(Oct. 31, 2024\)](#)

[2024 Capital Improvement Program Mid-year Project Status Update](#)

## Maben Canal Phase IV Improvement Project

The Maben Canal Phase IV Improvement Project includes the encasement of open portions of an existing canal and the enlargement of an existing siphon.

The canal is located on the backside of private properties with difficult access for maintenance. The current section of the canal is undersized and does not meet downstream demands.

Roughly 600 feet of open canal will be converted into an 18-inch diameter, buried pipe and a 470-foot long, 12-inch diameter siphon (pipe) will be replaced with a 24-inch PVC pipe to realize the required flow capacity. A control valve and flow-measuring flume will be added at the end of the project to provide control and measurement of flow.

The project will provide uninterrupted service and will lift the moratorium to allow water service for new customers. The canal lies near the southern borders of Nevada County, along Lime Kiln

See a photo gallery of the project, [click here](#)



Additional downstream canal to be encased in 18-inch pipe



Canal along the back of properties

# Meetings & Events

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2024  
NID Main Office, Grass Valley



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



A special Thanksgiving greeting to the local farmers who grow our food. Click below for short videos

\* [Local agriculture \(2:39 minutes\)](#)

\* [Farm Innovation—wise water use with micro ponds \(4:37\)](#)

