



GM Newsletter

August 2024

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

Water For Life

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Message from the General Manager

The emergency water shortage is still with us, and our community remains reliant on the limited amount of water we have stored in Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs.

The good news is partial flows are being released to NID foothill reservoirs from Lake Spaulding after repairs on the PG&E Spaulding 1 Powerhouse. Also, a helicopter has set the new South Yuba Pipe segment to replace what was severely damaged by a rockslide. That repair will be completed in mid-September.

Unfortunately, no water will be able to flow through the pipe because of newly discovered damage to Spaulding 2 Powerhouse. The repairs and timeline to that infrastructure are being assessed by PG&E right now.

What does this mean? The partial flows are helping Rollins maintain a steady level, although it is a mere 37.5 percent capacity available for use. Currently, Scotts Flat has a 46 percent usable capacity.

NID's forecasts indicate the District will be able to make all deliveries to meet customer demand this year. The repair schedule and new damage will all play into our water availability for next year.

What is crucial right now is that we all conserve as much water as possible, so we can stop the water level decline in Rollins and Scotts Flat. Mandatory conservation measures are still in effect. We need to save water to help us refill the reservoirs.

Thank you for doing your part to use water efficiently and save the water stored in our system. Keep reading for more information and updates about this situation.

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- * Actual vs forecasted reservoir levels. See the low water conditions, [Page 3](#)
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Rollins Reservoir remains at a very low, yet steady, level after some water is flowing from Lake Spaulding. For August, the lake has been at about 37 percent of capacity available for consumptive use. This photo was taken on Aug. 16, 2024

Update: Water begins to flow but more damage to PG&E infrastructure at Lake Spaulding

South Yuba Pipe: (This from a PG&E news announcement on Aug. 9) Pipe segments for the South Yuba Pipe [have been] placed by a heavy-lift helicopter as PG&E works to replace a 240-foot section of pipe taken out by a winter rockslide. Now that the pipe is set, crews will spend the next few weeks welding and installing collars to ready the pipe for water.

The South Yuba Pipe is one of two ways PG&E conveys water from Lake Spaulding to the Nevada Irrigation District's South Yuba Canal. The other is from a diversion on the Drum Canal to the South Yuba Canal. About 60 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water has been flowing into the South Yuba Canal from a diversion on the Drum Canal since PG&E repaired the Spaulding 1 Powerhouse in July.

Unfortunately, flow through the pipe will be delayed because of damage that occurred to the Spaulding 2 Powerhouse during the recent start-up testing. The repairs and timeline to that infrastructure are being assessed by PG&E now. Spaulding 2 does have the capability to bypass water if there is an emergency need but repairs to the unit cannot be completed in conjunction with bypass flows.

Spaulding 1 Powerhouse: (This from PG&E) PG&E is working with water agencies to develop a schedule to repair the second water discharge liner at Spaulding 1 powerhouse as it will require an outage on Spaulding 1 powerhouse and limit outflow from Lake Spaulding. When complete, as much as 750 cfs will be able to move through the powerhouse.

Spaulding 2 Powerhouse: (This from PG&E) During start-up testing operations of PG&E's Spaulding 2 powerhouse, the generator sustained mechanical damage that will require additional repairs extending the return to service date beyond the return to service of the South Yuba Pipe. PG&E is in the process of developing a repair plan and schedule and will continue to coordinate with NID & PCWA.

Water flows: (This from PG&E) repairs to the Spaulding 1 powerhouse's first of two water discharge liner in July means that a total of about 450 cfs of water is flowing in the Drum Canal. A portion of these flows, approximately 60 CFS, have been diverted into the SYC below the pipe repair supplying NID's Scotts Flat Reservoir.

Once the Spaulding 2 powerhouse is back in service, flows as much as 100 cfs or more could go into the South Yuba Canal restoring then full operational flow. The additional water into the South Yuba Pipe will allow all flows from Spaulding 1 powerhouse to remain in the Drum Canal.

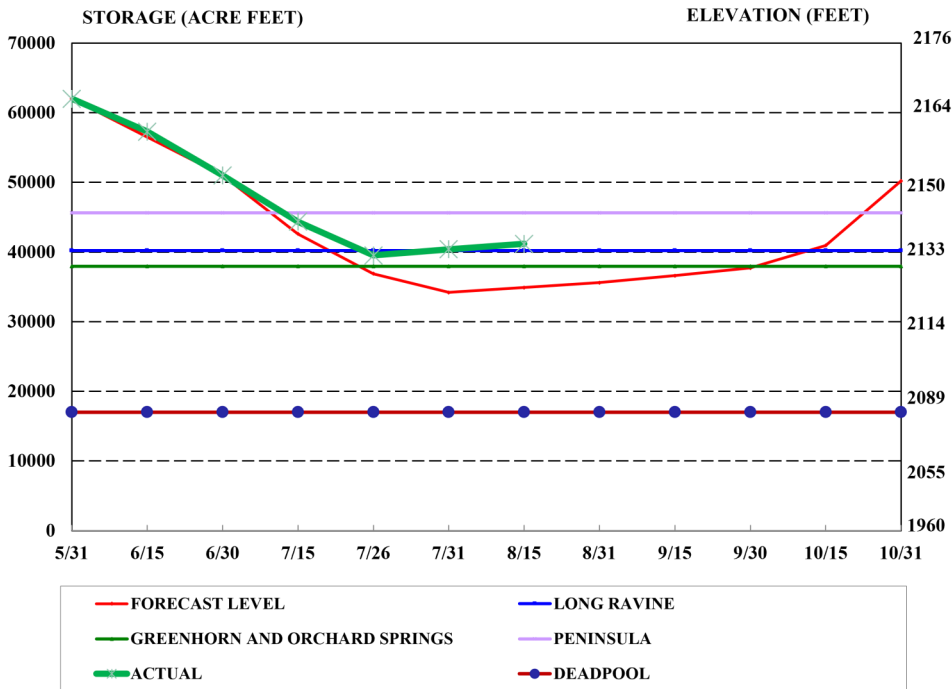
The Spaulding 2 powerhouse empties into the South Yuba Pipe, which connects to NID's South Yuba Canal and flows to NID's Scotts Flat Reservoir. The Spaulding 1 powerhouse empties into the Drum Canal, which feeds into NID's Rollins Reservoir. PCWA also draws water from Rollins Reservoir. Read the entire PG&E release, [click here](#)



Source: PG&E

Forecasts and actual drawdown: water levels at Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs

ROLLINS RESERVOIR 2024 FORECAST



The emergency water shortage has greatly affected levels at Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs.

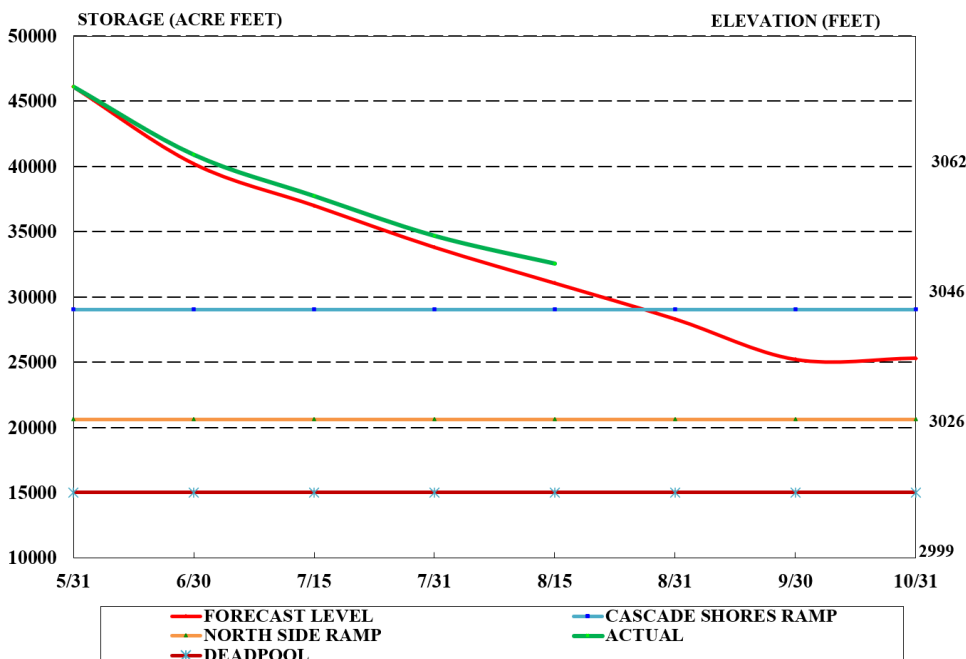
The good news is the repairs to Spaulding 1 Powerhouse now allow partial flows into the Drum Canal and South Yuba Canal.

Rollins: the flows from Spaulding 1 Powerhouse, at 450 cubic feet per second (cfs), have stopped the drastic decline. The level is now at a constant of about 37.5 percent of water capacity available for consumptive use.

To the left, compare the red lines — NID forecasts — with the green lines — actual levels.

At Rollins, the actual level has flatlined as flows arrive from Lake Spaulding. The results are better than anticipated, although the level remains very low.

SCOTT'S FLAT RESERVOIR 2024 Forecast



At Scotts Flat, the level continues to drop at a steady rate. The demand on Scotts Flat water is higher than the imports of water flowing into the reservoir.

TAKEAWAY: water conservation is what will help keep the actual drawdown at Rollins and Scotts Flat at a minimum.

The less customers use, the more water can stay in the reservoirs

[Updates on NID's dedicated webpage](#)

Call for conservation continues to address water shortage

Because of the extended water shortage emergency, NID has called on customers to practice commonsense conservation aimed to reduce water use and achieve a 20 percent savings.

Odd or even? We're all in this together, just on alternating days

Irrigation of lawns, ornamental landscape, and turf is limited to three days per week.

- * Odd property addresses are permitted to water turf on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- * Even property addresses are permitted to water turf on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

All watering must occur in early morning (before 7 a.m.) and late evening (after 9 p.m.).

Mandatory Irrigation (Canal) Water Conservation Measures:

- * Limit Water Usage: use water only for essential crops.
- * Reduce Landscape Watering: limit watering of nonfunctional turf and landscaping to every other day and a maximum of three days per week. This does not apply to agricultural uses.



Commonsense Conservation measures

Keep water on your property

No runoff is allowed from watering that flows onto adjacent property, walkways, roadways, parking lots, and the like.

Put a nozzle on it

When you wash your car, the hose must be fitted with a spray nozzle or attached device that cuts off water when not in use.

No fake water features

Don't fill a fountain or other decorative water feature, except where the water is part of a recirculating system.

Ask for a glass of water

Drinking water won't be automatically poured in eating or drinking establishments. Thirsty? Not a problem: water is available upon request.

Traveling? Forego daily-washed towels and sheets

Hotel and motel operators will provide guests with the option of not having towels and linens laundered daily. Choose to save water by not having washable items changed every 24 hours.



NID was at the Nevada County Fair to spread the word about the importance of water conservation.



Plan for Water Final Technical Memorandum is released

Report details strategic alternatives to meet the community's future water needs

After more than two years of public discussions about the best ways to meet the community's demand for water over the coming decades, the Plan for Water Final Technical Memorandum has been released by the Nevada Irrigation District (NID).

The Memorandum details strategic alternatives and how future supply and demand scenarios may be integrated into the District's water management practices and capital improvement projects.

The Plan for Water (PFW) process began in November 2021 and included a review of NID's available water supply and long-term impacts on varying water demands. The public was invited to participate in a series of workshops covering 11 stages. These included: the NID delivery system, water rights, watershed, risk, strategic planning, hydrology and hydrography, and local water supply and demand. The last discussions in early 2024 focused on evaluation of strategies to address unmet demands.

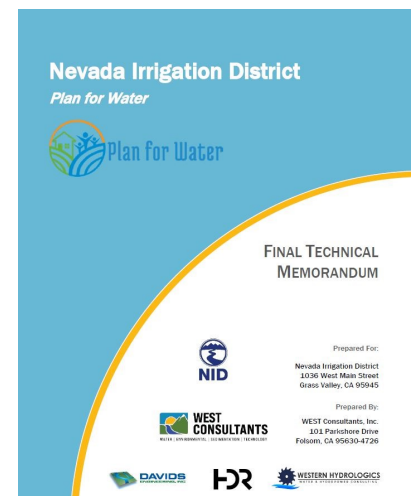
This Memorandum documents the modeling results and the associated evaluation that was presented in March 2004. The public is invited to read the report and will have the opportunity to make comments before NID directors when the Board discusses the Memorandum at a future meeting. Please note that there will not be a formal public comment and response period for this document. Comments were accepted and responded to throughout the model development process.

Links:

[Plan for Water Final Technical Memorandum with Appendices](#)

[NID news story about the release of the Memorandum](#)

[Also visit NID's Plan for Water webpage for updates and information about this public process](#)



A call to all boaters: help NID protect local reservoirs from invasive aquatic mussels

With boating season in high gear, efforts continue to protect local reservoirs from aquatic invasive species.

NID is asking all boaters to commit to the self-inspection of their boats before and after each launch to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic mussels.

“Clean, Drain, Dry” is the message. Boaters are requested to inspect their boat and trailer before launching and leaving and to:

- Clean- all plants and debris off your boat
- Drain- your motor and bilge water
- Dry- your boat and trailer



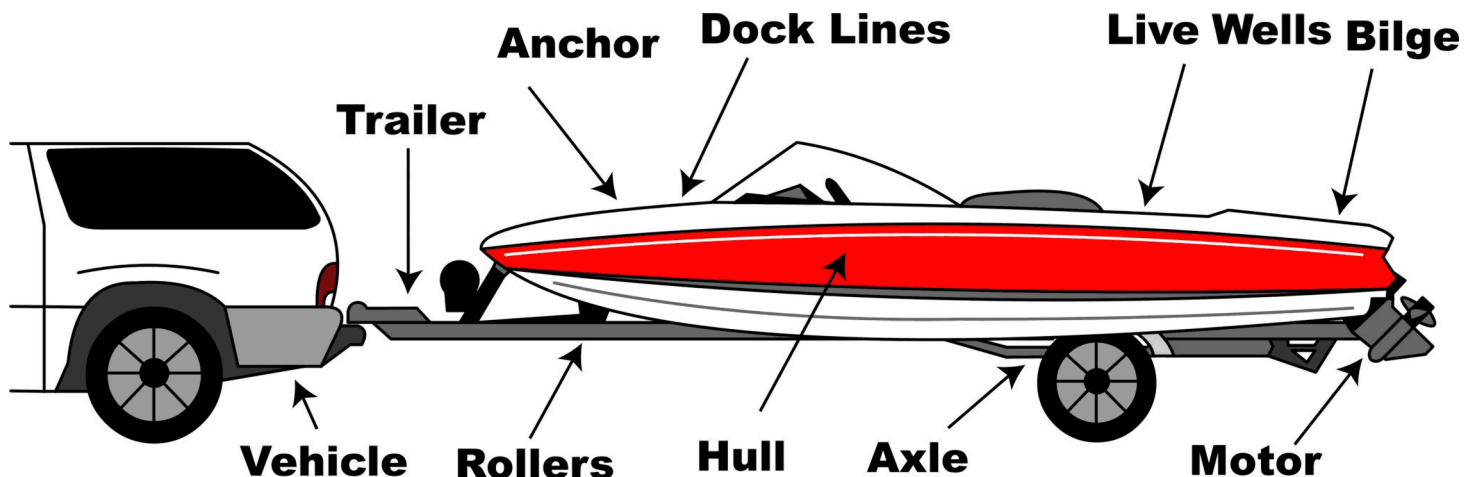
Examples of Quagga and Zebra mussels at various life stages.

NID is working to keep quagga and zebra mussels out of its reservoirs through boater education and a self-inspection program, as well as monthly monitoring at Scotts Flat, Rollins, Combie and Deer Creek Diversion reservoirs.

As of 2023, an additional 10 lakes have been added to the prevention and monitoring program for a total of 13 reservoirs. These reservoirs include Jackson Meadows Reservoir, Milton Diversion Reservoir, Jackson Lake Reservoir, French Lake Reservoir, Faucherie Reservoir, Sawmill Reservoir, Bowman Reservoir, Dutch Flat Forebay Reservoir, Dutch Flat Afterbay Reservoir, Rollins Reservoir, Combie Reservoir, Scotts Flat Reservoir, and Deer Creek Diversion Reservoir.

Quagga and zebra mussels are invasive, and quickly colonize and consume the food supply for native species. This can cause a shift in the natural population of plants and fish in reservoirs and disrupt the ecology of the aquatic environment. In addition, mussels attach to submerged surfaces and can clog water system infrastructure, threatening the water supply for homes, agricultural irrigation and power plant operations, such as those owned and operated by NID.

[Read more about the program](#)



Dispersed camping around Bowman causes concern

NID again appeals to people staying in dispersed camping sites around Bowman Lake to take caution and be considerate during their stays. As summer has progressed and the number of campers has increased, the amount of trash and smoldering campfires is posing a threat to public health and escalating the wildfire risk.

Dispersed camping is the term used for camping outside of an organized, hosted campground. This type of camping means no services, such as trash removal.

Located throughout the Bowman area (Bowman Lake to Faucherie Campground), dispersed camping is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Because there are no janitors or regular patrols -- county, federal or NID -- around dispersed camping sites, visitors have added responsibility. Their actions have real consequences, good and especially bad.

As of Aug. 1, 2024, the Tahoe National Forest increased restrictions banning all campfires on its lands and recreation areas. Most of the smoldering campfires are attempts at burning garbage, according to NID Director of Recreation Monica Reyes.

“All fire is prohibited, yet campers are choosing to try to burn their trash and leftover food rather than dispose of it properly. I cannot stress how dangerous this is. All it takes is a spark, and our forest and communities are in jeopardy,” she said. “Please people, do not start any fires of any types when you camp.”

Even ashes and embers can spark and start a fire. Embers can remain hot up to 12 hours after a fire has been extinguished. NID supports the “pack it in, pack it out” approach. The message is simple: whatever you bring in, you are responsible for bringing out.

With no garbage cans at the dispersed camp site areas, campers are responsible for their own disposal. Besides burning, many times bags full of trash are stuffed and abandoned in bear bins.

“It’s beyond consideration for the campers coming after you, the amount of garbage creates a public health problem and attracts bears. You absolutely must be mindful of your impact,” Reyes said.



Campers illegally burn their garbage rather than dispose of it properly



Bear bins are not trash cans. NID stresses the importance of “pack it in; pack it out.”



Bowman Lake

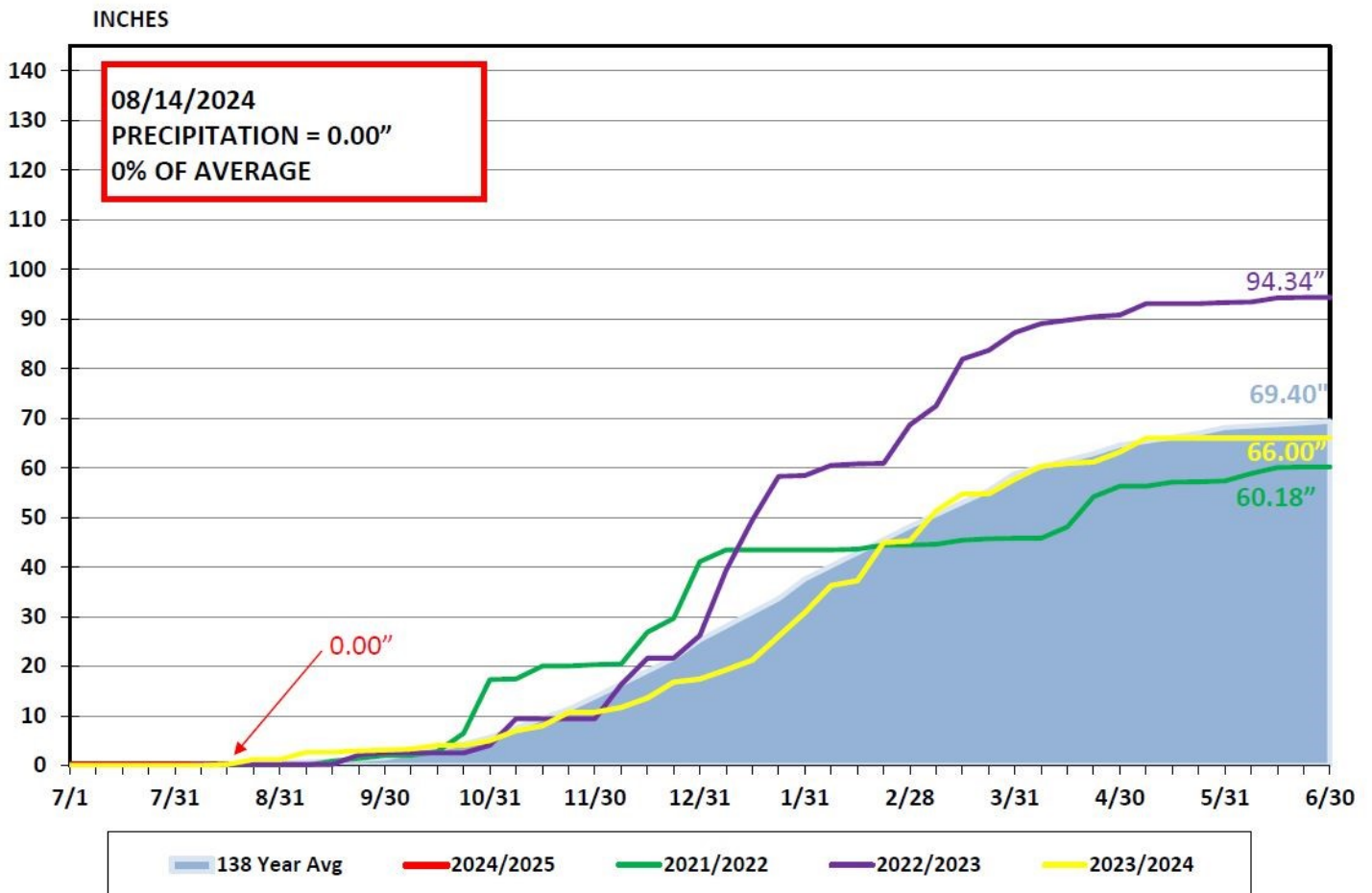
NID has been keeping weather records for Bowman Reservoir (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

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.

The new water year began on July 1. As of Aug. 14, 2024, no precipitation had fallen at Bowman.

BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



NID's total reservoir storage is above average

Total reservoir storage was 218,164 acre-feet as of Aug. 14, 2024. That is 105 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.

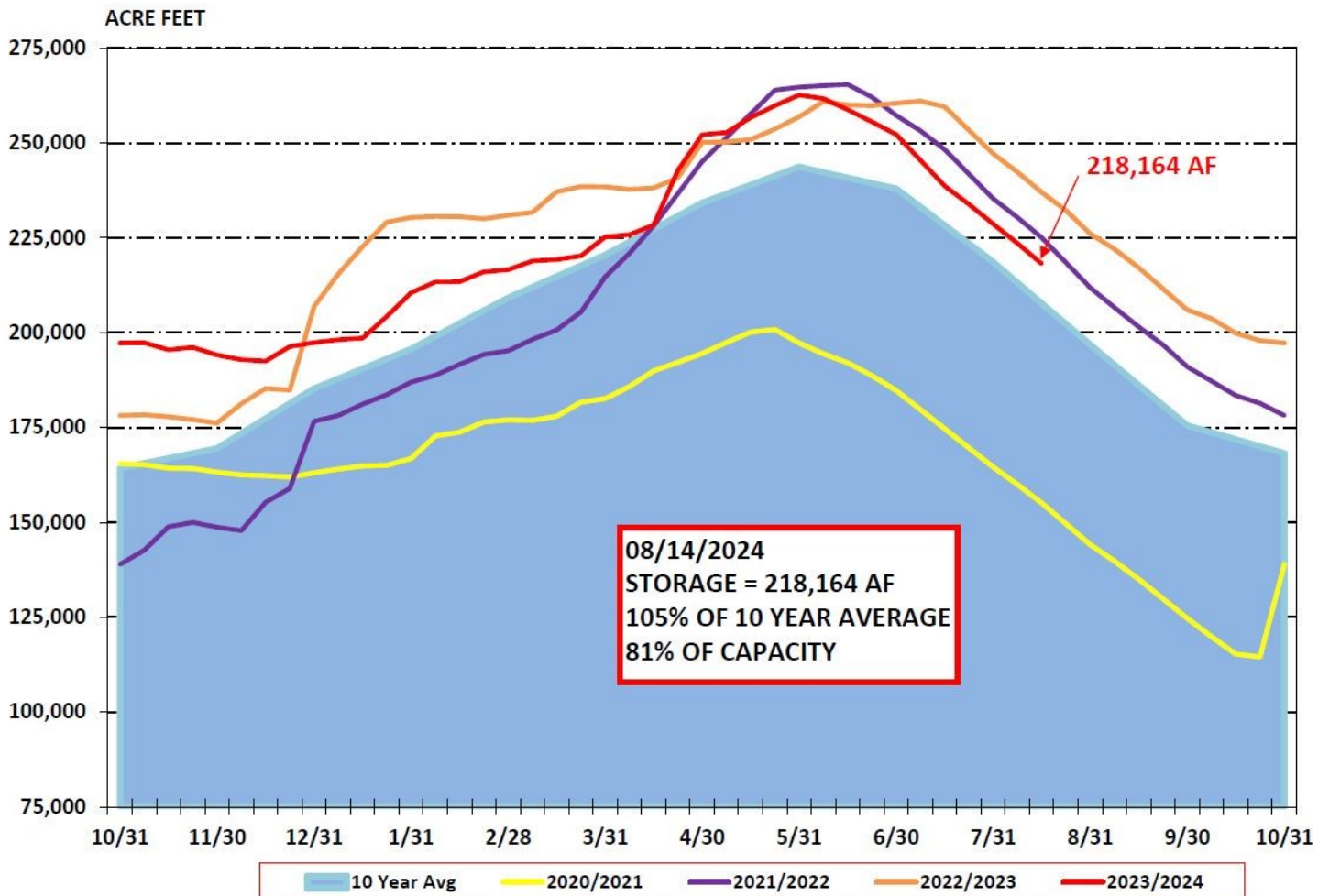
Lakes include: Jackson Meadows, Jackson, French, Faucherie, Sawmill, Bowman, and Canyon Creek, as well as Scotts Flat and Rollins.



Jackson Meadows Reservoir

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

NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



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.

[Engineering Department Project Status Report \(for August\)](#)
[2024 Engineering & Hydroelectric Project Status Reports page](#)



Harris Road DFWLE

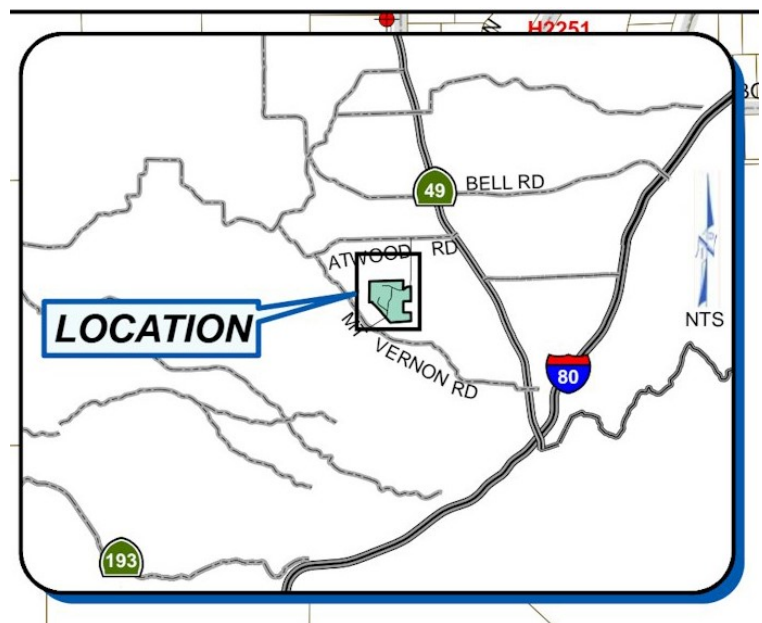
This project is for the installation of approximately 3,000 feet of 8-inch diameter treated waterline, three fire hydrants, and all appurtenances, to serve 34 parcels on Harris Lane and Bean Road in Auburn. Construction is scheduled to begin July 15, 2024, through October 31, 2024.

Update: August 16, 2024 – Construction of the main pipeline is completed on Harris Road and Harris Lane. It is expected that the main pipeline construction will be completed on Hidden Oaks Lane Friday, August 16, 2024.

Installation of the service lines, fire hydrants, and other necessary appurtenances will start on Harris Road and Hidden Oaks Lane beginning Monday, August 19, 2024. Work will follow the main pipeline route towards Bean Road with traffic restrictions in place.

DFWLE stands for District Facilitated Waterline Extension.

[Click here to see complete project details](#)



Meetings & Events



Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

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

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

Water Shortage

**Conserve
Water Now**

Learn about commonsense ways to reduce water use at nidwater.com

