



Preparing a canal for the start of irrigation season, which began on April 15: (In the canal L-R) Utility Workers Davin Chittock, Patrick Sheehan, Daniel Roth, Zachary Clark Ware, Wyatt Landrum, Adam Custer and Joe Amberg; (On the berm) Sean Rash and Joe Franks.

## Featured Inside

Call for customer water conservation after PG&E Spaulding canal failure - Page 2

HR Corner - Work anniversaries, promotions, etc.- Pages 3-4

Mulch Magic Giveaway is back: save the date April 27- Page 5

Planning grant awarded for 3,000-acre forest health project - Page 6

South Yuba Canal outage with an amazing video - Pages 7-8

NID at work- Pages 8-12

Safety Corner - Keep your focus with eyeglass safety - Page 13

*Flash from the Past* - What was a top Pipeline headline in April 1997? "Office remodel-expansion may begin this summer" - Page 14

... and more

## NID declares water shortage emergency, calls for customers to reduce water use

NID Board of Directors have declared a “water shortage emergency” after unanticipated infrastructure repairs in the headwaters have cut off water supply to the District.

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) notified NID that a landslide significantly damaged its portion of the South Yuba Canal, which is the primary supply to NID’s Deer Creek System and Scotts Flat Reservoir. In addition, PG&E’s Spaulding 1 powerhouse sustained an infrastructure failure that has curtailed water flow into the Drum Canal. That canal provides water to Rollins Reservoir and the Bear River.



Rollins Reservoir will be most impacted if repairs are delayed

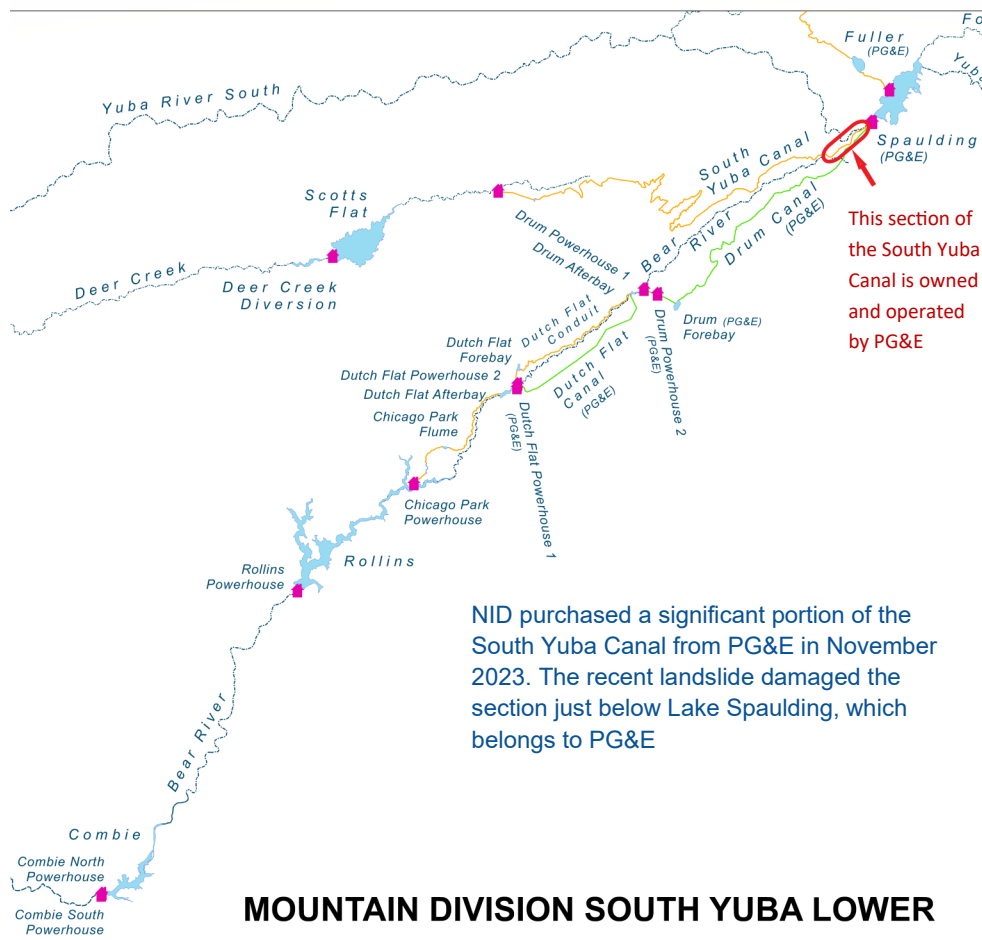
PG&E estimates repairs will be completed by June 8. In the meantime, NID will use existing stored water in Scotts Flat and Rollins reservoirs. But that is a limited supply, and the drawdown will be consequential.

As a result, all customers – using raw irrigation water and treated water -- are requested to conserve by 20 percent for the remainder of 2024.

“The lack of access to normal watershed runoff means NID will have to rely upon limited water storage to begin the irrigation season on April 15,” said General Manager Jennifer Hanson.

The situation will impact deliveries to District customers, as well as have severe effects on lake levels and recreation opportunities this summer. Also, hydroelectric generation will be affected by the water restrictions.

The PG&E infrastructure repairs are estimated to be completed by June 8. Any delay in the repair schedule will lead to future mandatory water restrictions from NID.



“NID cannot get our water into the South Yuba Canal or the Drum Canal,” said NID’s Director of Operations Chip Close during the March 27 Board meeting. “We are concerned that if this outage is to extend into July we will really suffer. Our supply in Scotts Flat and Rollins becomes an issue.”



## March Anniversaries

- Todd Williams**, Hydro Plant Operator II, 19 years, March 7
- Adrian Schneider**, Senior Engineer, 17 years, March 19
- Cindy Ware**, Safety Technician II, 13 years, March 21
- Caden Caldwell**, Senior Park Ranger, 12 years, March 26
- Kevin Mundt**, Senior Utility Worker, 12 years, March 8
- Larry Lundell**, Facility Ranger, 9 years, March 30
- Lacy Cannon**, Assistant Engineer, 6 years
- Jason Bullard**, Utility Worker I, 4 years, March 30
- Jason Carroll**, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent - Vegetation Management, 4 years, March 9
- Lia Kollwe**, Senior Park Ranger, 2 years
- Declan Maloney** – Utility Worker I, 2 years, March 7



Doug Dreher



Leit Hammer

## Promotions & Transfers

- Lance Adams** – Promotion to Hydro Electrical Machinist II
- Douglas Dreher** – Promoted to Hydroelectric Plant Operator II
- Eric Fassler** – Promotion to Senior Water Distribution Operator
- Leit Hammer** – Promotion to GIS Analyst II



Eric Fassler

## New Hires

- Sue Langdon** – Finance Assistant I



### Welcome Emma Townsend

Congratulations to Cameron and Jami Townsend, and big brother Aiden, on the newest addition to the family, baby Emma who arrived in mid-March!



## Employee Submissions

Tell the Pipeline readers you have something to celebrate!

Have a new baby? Attained a certification? Placed in a sporting event?

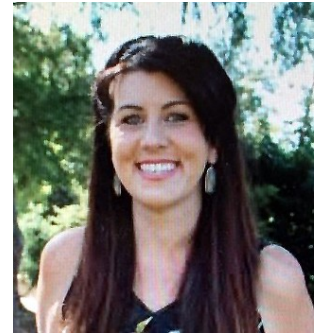
If so, contact Susan Lauer in Communications ext.1335, [lauers@nidwater.com](mailto:lauers@nidwater.com), or stop by the Annex.

### April Anniversaries

- Larry Martin**, Senior Vegetation Control Worker, 25 years, April 14
- Kenton Early**, Maintenance Supervisor, 22 years, April 29
- Andrew Rutter**, Hydroelectric Water Systems Operator I, 19 years, April 18
- John Grande**, Senior Water Distribution Operator, 17 years, April 30
- Brian Berg**, Hydroelectric Systems Technician II, 12 years, April 16
- Dennis Frey**, Water Distribution Operator II, 10 years, April 7
- Steven Haack**, Water Distribution Supervisor, 10 years
- Lisa Price**, Administrative Analyst II, 10 years, April 7
- Andrew Chidley**, Senior Utility Worker, 9 years, April 27
- Dennis Flower**, Senior Storekeeper, 9 years, April 13
- Robert Jackson**, Water Distribution Supervisor, 8 years, April 1
- Shane Slattery**, Hydroelectric Water Systems Operator I, 7 years, April 3
- John Ortiz**, Information Technology Administrator, 4 years, April 20
- Chance Wick**, Water Treatment Operator III, 4 years, April 27
- Wyatt Landrum**, Utility Worker I, 3 years
- Robert Stice**, Welder II, 3 years
- Jonathan McNamara**, Water Treatment Operator II, 2 years, April 25



Larry Martin



Lisa Price



Steven Haack

### Promotions & Transfers

- Andy Browning** – Promotion to Hydroelectric Plant Operator I
- Cory Mayo** – Promoted to Hydroelectric Technician I

### New Hires

- Cody Rioux** – Finance Water Distribution Operator I
- Clint Piper** - Water Treatment Operator II

#### Celebrate Nutrition

The National Health Organization website offers great tips and tools to help consumers eat healthy on a budget. [Check it out here.](#)

This from the agency: Maintaining a healthy and balanced diet is a critical way to prevent disease and promote good health. As the 2020–2025 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* tells us, there is substantial evidence that healthy diets can improve health and reduce the risk of chronic disease over the course of one’s life. But data shows that “Americans are falling short” in this regard, and the rates of diet-related chronic disease are increasing.



# NID's Annual Mulch Magic Giveaway is April 27

NID will provide free mulch available to local residents for pick up on a first-come, first-served basis on April 27 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

"Mulch Magic is part of the District's continuing efforts to promote conscientious water use and conservation," said NID's Water Efficiency Technician Kaycee Strong.

Mulch is a great tool to help save water in gardening and landscaping. Two or three inches of mulch helps retain water, keeping the soil moist for longer periods of time.

Last year, 80 residents took away about 250 cubic yards of free mulch.

"Get there early on April 27. The mulch will go fast!" Strong said.

- **Date:** Saturday April 27, 2023 from 7am-11am (or until supplies are gone)
- **Location:** Nevada County Fairgrounds- Enter Gate 8 off Brighton Street (event will be held in the arena)
- **Self-load:** Bring your own shovels, container, truck, and tarp to cover your load.

Need Help Loading? Local Boy and Eagle Scouts will be available to help load mulch into your vehicle. NID reminds you to "tip your scout."

Limitations:

- Limit 1 cubic yard per vehicle
- For personal use only; not for resale or commercial use.

This is the District's seventh annual Mulch Magic Giveaway.

Sponsor: Nevada County Fairgrounds.

Questions? Contact Kaycee Strong at 530-273-6185 extension 1244 or [strongk@nidwater.com](mailto:strongk@nidwater.com)





## Planning grant awarded to NID and TNF for 3,000-acre project

*Partnership will advance water security and forest health, address wildfire risk*

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID), in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, has received a planning grant to complete environmental surveys and compliance for a forest management project to return the Middle Yuba headwaters region to a healthier state.

The project will complete the surveys and assessments that are needed to begin forest restoration and fuels reduction work on up to 3,000 acres in the Middle Yuba headwaters, which are an important source of water for NID's water system.

The project area is located near Jackson Meadows and Milton reservoirs on the Tahoe National Forest in Nevada and Sierra counties.

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has awarded \$386,100 to complete work considering potential environmental effects of the project, as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Once the necessary environmental compliance and forestry/fuels planning is complete, work can begin in the forest to increase resiliency of the forest.

The total cost is \$556,100 with an in-kind match to be provided by the Tahoe National Forest, Nevada Irrigation District and Wildfires.org.

Specifically, the forest management actions aim to improve forest health, wildfire resilience, key terrestrial and aquatic habitats, public safety and protect critical water system infrastructure. This will protect reservoir water quality and capacity, unique montane meadow environments and other wildlife habitats in the Sierra Nevada, and popular recreational sites like the Pacific Crest Trail, campgrounds and publicly accessible roads.

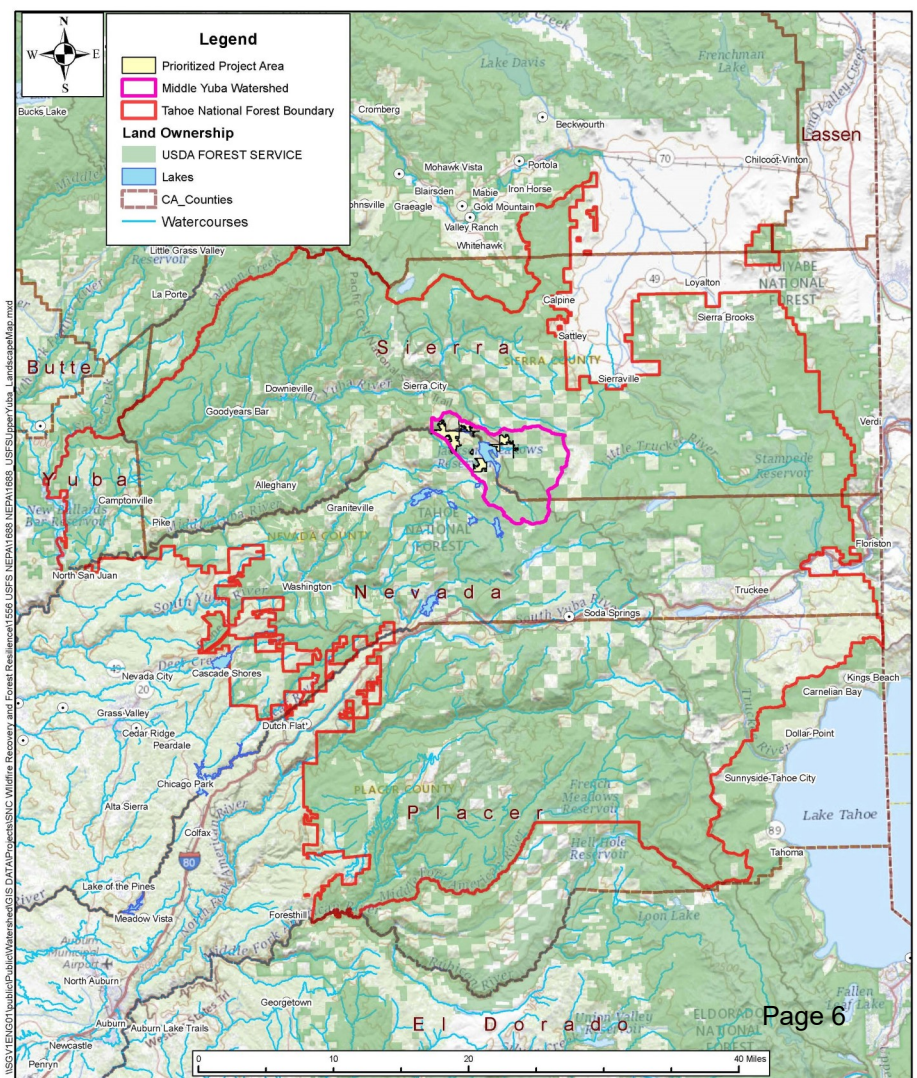
The project will leverage ongoing planning work by Tahoe National Forest to improve forest health within the Middle Yuba River watershed and will advance implementation of a priority project for the east side of the forest.

The grant announcement was made during SNC's quarterly Board Meeting Thursday, March 7, in Sacramento.

[Read more, news release](#)



*Potential project area with Jackson Meadows Reservoir in the background.*





# South Yuba Canal Outage

Starting on March 18, five NID crews and one PG&E crew went to work on the annual outage on the South Yuba Canal and Deer Creek Powerhouse. Work included replacing girders, caps, and posts on the elevated flumes, lining leaking sections on the wooden box flumes, testing/maintenance/repairs at the powerhouse, upgrading canal monitoring equipment and general cleanup of the entire canal. Crews worked long hours during the three-week outage to ensure the system could be returned to service on schedule.



“This was our first outage on this system so there was a lot to be learned” said Keane Sommers, Director of Power Systems. “NID crews from throughout the District (Hydro, Grass Valley, and the Placer Yard) rose to the challenge and are already making plans to streamline the process for next year.”

District employees that helped with the outage included: Josh Chambers, Ed Aschow, Ted Blank, Thomas Kluge, Justin Koster, Cory Mayo, Ashley Vander Meer, Tina Haenny, Lance Adams, Jeff Farmer, Chris Thompson, Nick Green, Ken Bartsch, Jason Gates, Adam Custer, Andrew Rutter, Shane Slattery, Hunter Hedman and Bobby Newkirk.

Special thanks go to Phil Nedved, Todd Wiederhold, Evan Parks, Chad Smith, and Rob Granholm who spent the last several months planning for this outage.

Grass Valley and Placer maintenance employees that helped included Chris Thompson, Jason Gates, Adam Custer, Ken Bartsch, Nick Green, Bobby Newkirk, and Cameron Price.

Upgrading the canal monitoring communications was performed by Josh Chambers, Ed Aschow and Ashley Vander Meer.

Powerhouse electrical apparatus testing and mechanical tasks were completed by Lance Adams, Brian Berg, Ted Blank, Jeff Farmer, and Thomas Kluge.

Operations employees that helped to replace timbers and coordinated scheduling included Hunter Hedman, Justin Koster, Cory Mayo, Andrew Rutter, and Shane Slattery.

Licensing and compliance tasks were the responsibility of Tina Haenny. Thanks to Kathryn Schwartz, Troy Texiera and Dennis Flower for handling many contracts and invoices related to this project. Don Bird and Cindy Ware helped with safety gear and helicopter training.

Each person in their own way contributed to the successful outcome, and many others played important roles behind the scenes.



The logistics of an outage this size can be daunting. Specialty lumber is ordered from Oregon months in advance. Custom tools necessary to make the repairs were made locally and were delivered only days before the outage began. In all, over 50 loads of materials, equipment, and tools were lifted by helicopter and flown into the remote job site.

[Watch the video of the work!](#)

[Next page](#)



## South Yuba Canal Outage video



During the South Yuba Canal outage, a professional videographer followed our crews to the job sites. The resulting video is amazing; it captures the hard work done in precarious, dangerous settings.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the making of this video. Special thanks to on-the-spot narrators Hunter Hedman and Chris Thompson.

The video received nearly 700 views in its first week on YouTube

[Click here to watch](#)





## New water pipe installation on North Day Road



The North Day Road pipe installation project is progressing to replace existing aged and deteriorating treated water pipe with about 3,820 feet of 8-inch pipeline, three fire hydrants, and 33 new service connections.

Although stormy weather forced a pause, crews will resume their work off Highway 174. About 1,100 feet of pipe remain to be installed.

Most of the NID treated water crews have been at work: the construction crew installed the pipe and the service crew followed the next day to complete the trench restoration (asphalting).

“The crews have done an excellent job, and we can’t wait for better weather to get back out there to finish up the end of the project,” said Cameron Price, Maintenance Superintendent Treated Water.

This project is located north of Highway 174 on North Day Road. NID Maintenance crews began construction in 2023 and anticipate completion in 2024.

## Response to an emergency break on Annie Drive

Our crew worked through the night when called to an emergency break on Annie Drive in Alta Sierra in late March.



Right: L-R  
Utility Worker  
Adam Custer  
and Equip-  
ment Opera-  
tor Andy  
Newborn





## Filter cleaning at E. George Treatment Plant

Operations and Maintenance departments teamed up to remove filter material in four separate filters at the E. George Treatment plant. The 800-plus nasals per filter -- 3,200-plus in all -- had to be removed, disassembled and cleaned before they could be re-installed.

Each filter compartment holds about 33 cubic yards of filter material, and all of that has been vacuumed out using a specialized machine. This machine vacuums and holds a small amount that then can be discharged into Supersacks for storage or disposal.



This project was needed to improve the filter performance, which over time has been slowing. Inadequate flow rates made this a priority, and once the work is completed plant performance will be improved.

Above Left: Danny Granholm in the pit  
Above Right (L-R) Michael Page and Ken Hugg clean filters

## Rollins Recreation prepares for low water levels

Right: In preparation for lower lake levels this summer (read story on Page 2), Facilities Ranger Larry Lundell positioning a buoy to NID's work barge in the middle of Rollins Reservoir.





## Spreading the word about working at NID



Assistant General Manager Greg Jones and Human Resources Director Naomi Schmidt recently participated in Union Hill School's "Career Café" to share NID career opportunities with middle school students.

The school reported that after presentations by various potential employers, "the halls were buzzing with comments and questions after the sessions!"

Left photo: Greg and Naomi are on the far right

## Save the Date: No Motor Day on Scotts Flat Lake is May 17



No Motor Day is back on May 17. From 10 AM to 4 PM, non-motorized watercraft, including sailboats, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards, will be allowed entry to the Scotts Flat Recreation Area without charge. Use of motorized boats will be suspended for the entire day.

Full details are coming soon. Information about special activities will be posted on the NID website.



## Fleet Department: two EV trucks are being readied for delivery

The Fleet Department attended an EV Ride and Drive event held by the local Riverview International Truck dealer. This is a good way to allow our staff to check out the upcoming Electric Fleet (EV) technology.

Right: The District ordered two EV trucks in early 2020. The trucks have finally arrived at the dealership. Once they have the dump bodies installed, they will be delivered.



## Storm cleanup: Hydro removes fallen tree from the B-S Canal



When a large tree fell into the Bowman–Spaulding Canal during a storm in early March, Hydro needed to section it, then remove it piece by piece from the waterway. The canal conveys water flows from NID’s Bowman Reservoir to PG&E’s Lake Spaulding.

Above: Jeff Farmer, Hydro Electrical Machinist helped to take care of the situation.



## NID takes part in Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

*“Hazard mitigation is sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property”*

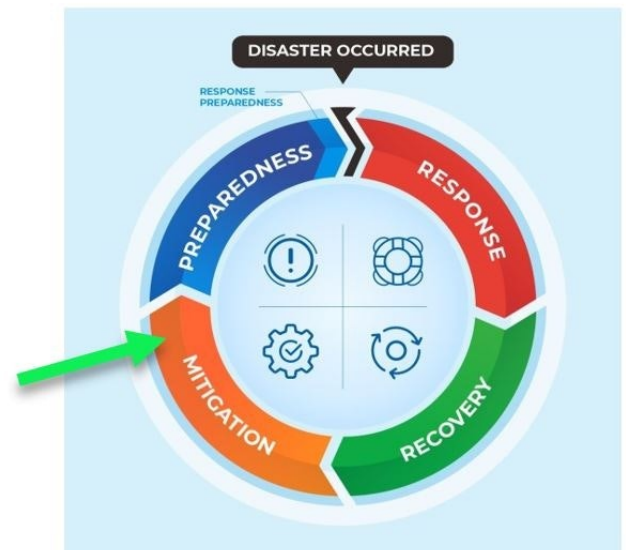
NID is proud to partner with Nevada County and other municipalities and special districts in the county’s Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (LHMP), which is a multi-jurisdictional plan that addresses all hazards countywide, including wildfire.

NID has created a webpage to detail aspects of the Plan.

[Click here.](#)

### What are the Benefits of Hazard Mitigation?

- Establish eligibility for grant funds (\$\$\$ for projects)
- Improve understanding of risks and vulnerabilities
- Reduce negative impact of natural hazards – actions save lives, reduce displacement, and speed recovery
- Encourage sustainable actions – builds strong, resilient, and self-sufficient communities
- Foster collaboration between local jurisdictions and residents



### NID Hazard Information is included on the webpage

#### NID Natural Hazard Events History

Nevada County has frequently experienced natural hazard events. NID has experienced damages and losses as a result. This history chronicles disasters and impacts from wildfires in 2017 to severe storms in 2023.

#### NID Takes Action to Mitigate Hazard Events

NID has multiple projects and programs to address risk and effects of hazard events. Read about the projects and see their status

[Click here to access the webpage](#)

***Get involved!  
Take the survey!***

#### **2024 Nevada County Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey**

The community survey is designed to help Nevada County better prepare our communities to withstand the hazards and potential disasters that are most relevant to the area.

[Click here to take the survey](#)



### Don't lose focus: both eyes on safety

More than 2,000 eye injuries occur on the job site every day and about one in 10 of them require missed work days to recover. Of the total amount of work-related eye injuries, 10 to 20 percent will cause temporary or permanent vision loss in the affected employees.

Flying objects, tools, particles, chemicals and harmful radiation, are the causes of most eye injuries. And in many cases, implementing safe work practices and using appropriate personal protective equipment could prevent them entirely.

Here's some tips:

- Always wear the appropriate safety eyewear for your job site or role, even if you are just passing through a hazardous area.
- If working in an area with particles or dust, be sure to wear safety glasses with side shields to protect against flying objects.
- When working with chemicals, always wear safety goggles or face shields to protect against splashing.
- When working around hazardous radiation like welding, lasers or fiber optics, be sure to use special-purpose safety goggles and helmets designed specifically for the task.

*So remember - something as simple as putting on a pair of safety glasses can prevent serious eye injuries. These injuries are painful, cause many lost work-days and sometimes lead to permanent vision loss.*



The vegetation management team doesn't risk injury by wearing safety eyewear (L-R) Brian Beahm, Kyle Hampton, Seth Miner-Gann, and Morgan Mooers



# PIPELINE

A Newsletter to the Employees of the Nevada Irrigation District

Volume 18 Number 4 April, 1997

## ***Office Remodel-Expansion May Begin This Summer***

**T**he NID Board of Directors on Mar. 26 reviewed preliminary plans for a remodel and expansion of the main office building.

Designs for the 7,200 square-foot addition to the east end of the building were presented by architect **David Wright**.

The estimated \$625,000 project includes a two-story addition to the east end of the building to balance and complete the west end expansion of 1989.

Features include a new board and community meeting room with a capacity of 85, twice that of the current modular building; handicap access ramp, new heating and air conditioning and office space expansions for several departments.

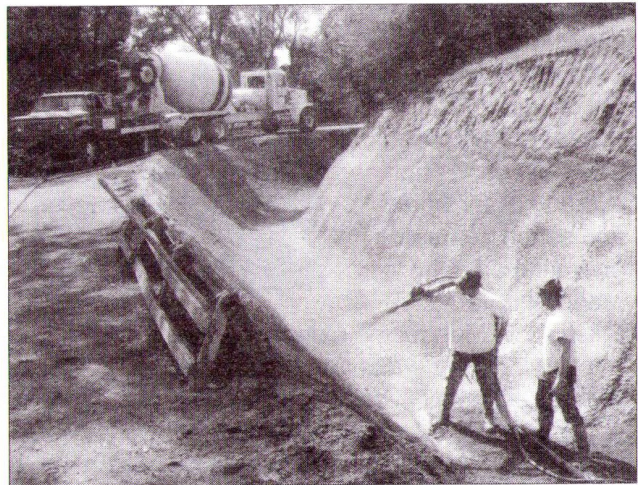
The board will review the project again Apr. 9. If approved, construction could begin this summer and be complete early next year.

## ***Board Okays Reorganization in the Operations Department***

**A** reorganization of duties within the Operations Department won support Mar. 26 from the Board of Directors.

Under the change, Water Operations Manager **Terry Mayfield** will be assisted by a water superintendent (**Dennis Sanders**) and a treated water superintendent (**Don Wight**). Both will have responsibilities of filling in for the manager when he is away.

A revised hydrographer position (**Sue Sindt**) will



### **One Clean Job**

**The Placer Crew has been busy in recent weeks with an upgrade of the Auburn Ravine No. 1 Canal off Chili Hill Road. Here, Craig Harkey and Ed Rossovich Jr. spray shotcrete.**

report to the department manager and supervise the operations technicians and assistant.

The water superintendent will be assisted by a new assistant water superintendent. In addition, the electrical group will come under the responsibility of the treated water superintendent.

Human Resources Manager **Lynda Durand** said the reorganization has eliminated the former operations superintendent position and will save the district about \$4,000 per year.



# Meetings & Events



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 24  
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, May 8  
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

**Board of Directors Meeting**  
Wednesday, May 22  
NID Main Office, Grass Valley

\*\* Dates subject to change. For updated dates, see [nidwater.com](http://nidwater.com)

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[February 2024](#)

[January 2024](#)

[December 2023](#)

[November 2023](#)

[September 2023](#)

[August 2023](#)

[July 2023](#)

[June 2023](#)

[May 2023](#)

[March 2023](#)



Rollins Reservoir - April 19, 2024