

WaterWays

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Road-mapping the process to plan for the next 50 years of water

Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is updating its Raw Water Master Plan (RWMP) to identify a vision and develop alternatives to meet our community's water needs for the next 50 years. Alternatives will be developed and presented as pathways for the Board of Directors to discuss and select.

Key to the success of the two-year process will be public input guided by a professional facilitator, who is being hired now. The recommended facilitator is expected to be presented to the Board of Directors in late August/early September of 2018.

Once the facilitator is under contract, the process will begin to identify and convene an advisory committee. This group will represent a wide range of community identities to provide a voice to as many segments of our diverse community as possible, which will be key to the success of the process.

Primary tasks during the update process will be to understand our water supply availability and demand issues and, with public input, evaluate methodologies to develop short-term and long-term solution sets to project our community's water future.

Check the [NID website](#) for the latest news about the RWMP update process.

What is raw water?

Raw water is the natural resource from rivers, reservoirs and groundwater.

NID is charged to provide and protect this resource now and into our community's future.

The Combie Reservoir Mercury Removal Project gears up for Fall



Combie Reservoir serves as primary storage for the Lake of the Pines water treatment plant and secondary storage for the North Auburn Water Treatment Plant.

NID has awarded contracts worth \$6.6 million to get the Combie Reservoir Sediment and Mercury Removal Project moving ahead during the Fall.

This pilot project will remove and clean about 80,000 cubic yards of sediment from Combie Reservoir using an innovative centrifuge process to reduce elemental mercury in the Bear River watershed. The removed sediment will reduce potential human exposure to methylmercury, as well as restore water storage capacity in the reservoir.

In September, contractors will begin to remove sediment in dry conditions. Dredging in wet conditions is scheduled to begin in February 2019.

Most Sierra watersheds contain elevated concentrations of mercury, a remnant of gold processing practices used more than a century ago. This pilot

project is intended to demonstrate that mercury can be effectively removed from river sediments. The process then can be applied at other reservoirs throughout the Sierra Nevada.

The total project is estimated to cost \$7.5 million. NID will contribute \$2 million and the Department of Water Resources will provide \$5.5 million in grant funding.

Read more about this exciting project [here](#).



Mercury used during the Gold Rush in the 1800s still remains in Sierra soils today.

5th Annual Kids Triathlon is set for Saturday, Sept. 15 at Rollins Reservoir



It's time for the 5th Annual Kids Triathlon on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018, at the Orchard Springs Campground at Rollins Reservoir!

The event begins at 8:00 am and is open to kids ages 6-15 years.:

- Ages 6-10 years will swim 50 meters, bike 4 miles, and run 1 mile
- Ages 11-15 years will swim 150 meters, bike 4 miles, and run 1 mile

Race packets will be available from 7:00 am to 7:45 am the day of the event. The race will start promptly at 8:00 a.m.

Register early to get a discount. The entry fee is \$30 until Sept. 5 and then \$40 until Sept. 14. There will be no race day registration. A portion of the money collected will be put toward building the Bierwagen Interpretive Site Project at the Orchard Springs Campground.

The entry fee into the park is included as part of the race registration. In addition, each participant will receive a t-shirt and medal. Plus, there will be water and

electrolyte beverages available in the transition area.

This is the fifth year NID has hosted the kids' triathlon at Rollins Reservoir as part of the District's efforts to provide outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities at its reservoirs for the community.

Go to NID's website to learn more and [download a registration form](#).

SAVE THE DATE

NID will host a Community Choice Aggregation roundtable on August 23

Learn how our community can deliver savings on electric bills and provide clean, renewable power

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a growing trend in California as a way for local governments and utility agencies to provide residents and businesses with a choice of an electric generation provider.

To explore this opportunity for our local community, Nevada Irrigation District (NID) will host a roundtable discussion from 6-8 PM on Aug. 23 at Ponderosa Hall at the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

The roundtable will cover several topics, including the basics, (the what, why and how of a CCA), potential benefits, the formation process, a case study presentation with "lessons learned," and a general Q&A.

In general, a CCA allows communities to join together to purchase electricity. Administered by local governments, the program provides competitive alternatives to investor-owned utility sources.

In California, there are 18 CCAs in existence, including in Placer County, Humboldt County and Alameda County. Currently, more than 80 cities are considering community choice energy, and it is estimated more than 50 percent of California residents will be served by a CCA by 2020, according to CalCCA, which represents the interests of California's community choice electricity providers in the legislature and at the state regulatory agencies.

NID looks forward to starting this important community discussion about how we might leverage the market power of local generation. Please mark your calendars for Aug. 23 and save the date for this exciting roundtable discussion.

Energy Choice



A CCA can choose how much renewable/carbon free power it wants to buy

Delivery



PG&E continues provides reliable transmission, distribution and billing services

Local Control



The community chooses energy source, program structure and costs.

The ups and downs of summertime reservoir management

The water levels of Nevada Irrigation District (NID)'s nine reservoirs are constantly changing this time of year, as NID water managers adjust levels to meet different water needs.

While late spring snowmelt helped to fill the reservoirs, water demand is highest during the dry months of summer. Stored water is released to irrigate crops, provide drinking water, generate hydroelectric power and support ecosystems with environmental flows in the rivers.

It's a complicated process that requires daily monitoring to make sure there's the ideal balance of water in the reservoirs while meeting customer demands.

This summer, NID reservoir levels are at healthy levels.

NID's storage was at 250,800 acre-feet, which was 93 percent of capacity and 113 percent of average at the end of June (an acre-foot is about 326,000 gallons, or enough water to cover an acre of land 1-foot deep).

Although total precipitation was about average at Bowman Lake with 68.63 inches at the end of rainy season, the amount that fell as snow was well below average at 66 percent of average. The reservoirs filled this year, but with less than average runoff, withdrawal from storage started sooner than normal. Keep track of reservoir storage and water levels on NID's [River and Lake Data](#) webpage.



Scotts Flat Reservoir

English Meadow restoration benefits the environment and water supply



When you turn on the tap at home, the flowing water comes from 70,000 acres of high mountain watersheds on the upper reaches of the Middle Yuba River, South Yuba River, Bear River, Deer Creek and many tributaries.

These mountain watersheds capture rainfall and snowmelt, then naturally cleanse the water that flows downhill to be used as supply for homes, farms and businesses. There is a direct link between the quality of water supply and health of the source watersheds.

NID is involved in the multi-year restoration work being done in English Meadow (elevation 6,152 feet). The Middle Yuba River flows through this beautiful high elevation meadow on its way into Jackson Meadows Reservoir.

NID's restoration project will improve meadow function and habitat. A chief goal is to reconnect the meadow to the Middle Yuba. English Meadow has been altered after decades of natural degradation and human uses, and a disconnect has occurred. When the natural connection between the river and meadow is re-established, more water will accumulate as the spongy ground absorbs snowmelt runoff and percolates it through the soil. The water will remain in the meadow longer into the year.

This restoration project will have many benefits, including increased groundwater and sediment reduction into Jackson Meadows Reservoir that will save water storage capacity. The project also will reduce the potential for catastrophic fire risk through understory thinning and selective tree removal.

In 2017, NID collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service, California State University, Sacramento and Plumas Corporation to create baseline data and a map.

In March 2018, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy awarded the District a \$65,000 grant for environmental, cultural and forestry work to develop a Timber Harvest Plan for 550 acres in the Upper Middle Yuba River watershed around English Meadow.



Now's the time to step up conservation efforts – let's make a difference!

While water conservation is becoming a way of life, summer months pose a challenge. Water use spikes from May through September, mostly due to outdoor irrigation.

Here are the numbers: compared to January water consumption, NID customers use twice as much treated water in May and three times the amount in August.

For instance, in January 2018, every residential customer used 85 gallons per day (measured in residential gallons per capita day or R-GPCD). By comparison, each customer used 166 R-GPCD in May and 277 R-GPCD in August, 2017.

Now is the time to start good conservation practices around the house – inside and out.

Check out NID's "[Water Efficiency](#)" webpage for conservation tips and tools:

- Measure your water use with a free online calculator
- Get tips to reduce the amount of water used indoors
- Get tips to reduce the amount of water used outdoors



Water use update

Overall, NID's treated water customers consumed 20 percent less water in May than in 2013, the benchmark year used before the drought.

In terms of daily water use, NID customers averaged 160 residential gallons per capita day (R-GPCD) in May. Statewide, the average was 94.4 R-GPCD for the same period.

Also, a comparison of May usage through the years indicates we are being less diligent. Estimated R-GPCD for NID treated water customers during the month of May (2013 – 2018):

May 2013 - 199	May 2017 - 154
May 2015 - 72	May 2018 - 160
May 2016 - 72	

NID customers used 166 R-GPCD during May. By comparison, here is a sampling of neighboring district R-GPCDs:

- Placer County Water Agency - 152
- El Dorado Irrigation District - 183
- Sacramento Suburban Water District - 120
- City of Roseville - 109
- City of Lincoln - 121

Since 2015, NID has joined other urban water agencies in California in submitting monthly data to the State Water Resources Control Board, which uses the data for its statewide conservation updates.

Read the May report [here](#).

NID in a Nutshell:

NID is a water resource district that supplies both treated drinking water and irrigation water to homes, farms and businesses in Nevada and Placer counties.

Customers: 27,577

District Size: 287,000 acres

NID Years of Service: Since 1921

Water Treatment Plants: 6

Canals: 460 miles

Number of Employees: 203

Mountain Watershed: 70,000 acres

Reservoirs: 9 (280,380 acre-feet)

Hydroelectric Power Plants: 7

Pipelines: 300 miles

NID Board of Directors



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