

WaterWays

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Planning today for our water supply in the future – get involved!

The process has begun to update the plan that will detail how our community's water will be managed for the next 50 years. And you are invited to participate!

There is nothing more vital than a secure water resource. Water irrigates farms that produce our food, offers protection from fire, helps power the economy, sustains the environment and flows from our faucets.

Water is a tough resource to manage in a drought-prone state like California. That's why long-term water resource planning is an urgent issue for us all.

We believe we can best plan our water future by teaming up with water users. To do this, we have initiated a two-year process called Plan for Water that will update NID's Raw Water Master Plan. Key to the process will be a 30-member group comprised of community representatives who will develop strategies, or pathways, that reflect a balanced mix of community perspectives. Learn more about the process and how to get involved at PlanforWater.org. Sign up to receive a newsletter [here](#).

Conservation: Cooler temps signal time to reduce outdoor water use

Cold nights and cooler days provide the opportunity to save water – and money – this fall and winter. Every drop truly counts year-round. Customers who avoid outdoor watering definitely are doing their part to conserve water and help the environment and their neighbors. About 30 - 60 percent of residential water is used outdoors.

Yards need much less water with the cooler weather and during the rainy season. You could save 55-100 gallons per day by stopping outdoor winter watering!

Another excellent way to conserve water is to wrap bare outdoor pipes, which are more likely to freeze in cold weather and later burst as they thaw. Other ways to be more water-wise include catching rainfall with a rain barrel or large bucket and using that water for indoor and outdoor plants.



Check out NID's "Water Efficiency" webpage for conservation tips and tools

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

Combie Reservoir dry sediment removal is underway

Work has begun to remove sediment from Combie Reservoir. In the first of two stages – the dry stage – contractors expect to remove 30,000-40,000 cubic yards of sediment from the reservoir basin.

Dredging in wet conditions is scheduled to begin in February 2019. During the second stage, the sediment will be cleaned using an innovative centrifuge process aimed 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.

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.

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.

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



About 27,000 cubic yards of sediment has been excavated from Combie Reservoir this fall.

NID upgrades powerhouses during annual fall outages

Our crews have been busy during the annual fall outages at NID's powerhouses. This year's outage work included:

- Chicago Park Powerhouse – an upgrade that allows the District to more precisely monitor and control the powerhouse
- Dutch Flat #2 Powerhouse – surface repairs to a six-foot diameter turbine wheel, repairs to a 6,000-pound section of the draft tube and preparations to install an engineered dust collection system to help supply the generators with clean, filtered air.
- Rollins Powerhouse – installation of a new backup generator transfer switch to provide a third source of power.



At the Chicago Park Powerhouse, hydroelectric experts survey testing of a full load rejection. The test included ramping up the powerhouse to its maximum generation and causing it to shut down in an emergency fashion.

We will continue to complete similar upgrades at all the powerhouses in an effort to ensure we are able to adapt to changes in both regulation and the power market.

The district's seven power plants have a generation capacity of 82.2 megawatts and produce an average 375 million kilowatt hours of energy each year.

Learn more about NID hydroelectric [here](#).



Watershed Open House showcases key projects

Our 1st Annual Watershed Open House drew about 100 people to the Miner's Inn in Grass Valley on Oct. 17 to learn about efforts to restore and protect the watersheds that provide our water.



The open house showcased nine of NID's watershed projects:

- Scotts Flat Fire Fuels Reduction to increase water yield and reduce fire risk
- Water Conservation and NID's meter replace program
- Fish Passage project on Auburn Ravine
- Recreation and wildfire risk reduction at Scotts Flat and Rollins Campgrounds
- Combie Reservoir Sediment and Mercury Removal to restore capacity and develop best practices for Sierra reservoir maintenance
- Integrated Vegetation Management to test alternatives to conventional herbicides
- Watershed Education and opportunities for local students and schools
- Hydroelectric Power Generation
- English Meadow Restoration to improve hydrology and habitat in the Middle Yuba River headwaters.

NID plans to make the Watershed Open House an annual event as a way to inform the community about the District's many stewardship and restoration projects.

Photos: (upper left) Neysa King, NID's environmental resources administrator, stresses healthy watersheds mean a healthy community and (upper right) the watershed team's Cameron Townsend and Amber Leavitt welcome attendees.



Kids make a splash at Rollins Reservoir during triathlon

It was an impressive display – kids of all ages turned out to Rollins Reservoir to participate in the 5th Annual Kids Triathlon on Sept. 15.

Kids ages 6-10 years swam 50 meters, biked 4 miles and ran 1 mile. Older kids ages 11-15 years swam 150 meters, biked 4 miles and ran 1 mile. Each participant received a special t-shirt and medal.

NID sponsors the event each year to get kids (and their parents) out to take advantage of the outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities at our local reservoirs.

Senior Park Ranger Jim Pelton keeps a watchful eye over youngsters during the annual kids' triathlon.

NID taps its ag heritage during Farm Day

Young students had the chance to learn how NID supplies water to customers and why water conservation is so important, during the annual Farm Day on Sept. 21.

NID representatives – with gear in hand – spoke to about 200 children in the first-through-third grades during the event. In addition to hearing our employees talk about water, the students got to try their luck turning a large butterfly valve and sit in a backhoe.

Nevada County Resource Conservation District sponsors the annual Farm Day, which draws ranchers, farmers, businesses, food networks and community volunteers to promote local agriculture endeavors.

It was a natural fit for NID, which was formed in 1921 by popular vote to provide irrigation water to area farms and ranches.



Emergency Action Plan: NID conducts a comprehensive test

Representatives from emergency preparedness agencies joined NID personnel for a comprehensive test of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP), an integral part of our dam safety program.

The full-day functional exercise focused on a hypothetical emergency situation at Scotts Flat Dam. Attendees responded to the simulated emergency and then discussed personnel efficiency and ways to improve response actions.



Hydro Plant Operators Josh Bove and Todd Williams respond as simulated emergency updates flow in.

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
- Water Treatment Plants: 6
- Number of Employees: 203
- Hydroelectric Power Plants: 7
- District Size: 287,000 acres
- Canals: 460 miles
- Mountain Watershed: 70,000 acres
- Pipelines: 300 miles
- NID Years of Service: Since 1921
- Reservoirs: 10 (280,380 acre-feet)

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