



NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT 2019 Year in Review

When you turn on the tap, shower, soak your garden or flush the toilet, the water you need is there. It's reliable and affordable because of the nearly 100 years of hard work by men and women of NID who've built and maintained our robust and sustainable water system.

We are dedicated to delivering water for life – water that supports the lifestyle, values and safety of our community. Our forward-thinking approach to watershed management and conservation helps sustain a healthy environment. When wildfire strikes, NID reservoirs and infrastructure are prepped to assist firefighting efforts.

Water for food

Since the 1920s, we have been proud to bring pure water from the high mountains to the ranches and farms of the drier Sierra foothills. During those many decades, the steady source of irrigation water has helped grow our region's agricultural economy.

Today, we have about 5,400 raw water customers who irrigate more than 31,000 acres in Nevada and Placer counties, and contribute to ag economies in Placer County worth \$72 million and Nevada County worth \$26.5 million.



Water for play

Each year about 200,000 people visit our 15 campgrounds in the foothills and mountains of the Sierra.

In the foothills, Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs are big draws for camping, fishing, boating, kayaking and more.

Higher in the mountains, Jackson Meadows features several campgrounds, picnic day use sites and boat ramps. Other campgrounds are located at Bowman, Canyon Creek, Sawmill and Faucherie lakes.



Water to power our lives

For more than 50 years, we have generated clean, renewable energy, using the snowmelt water source from the Sierra. As water flows to customers from the high country, it also feeds power plants located along the way. Today our seven power plants generate enough electricity to supply the equivalent of 60,000 to 80,000 homes.



District Highlights by Month

JANUARY

NID welcomes new Directors

NID welcomed three new members to its Board of Directors in 2019. Ricki Heck (Division 1), Chris Bierwagen (Division 2) and Laura Peters (Division 4) joined Directors Nick Wilcox (Division 5) and Scott Miller (Division 3) on the Board.

Elected to four-year terms, NID Directors set policy to ensure a reliable, high-quality water supply for our farms, homes and businesses in Nevada and Placer counties.

Read the bios of the Directors [here](#).



Directors (L-R) Laura Peters, Chris Bierwagen and Ricki Heck

FEBRUARY

Annual snowpack surveys begin

For 93 winters, our surveyors have trekked up to the high country to take snowpack measurements. Today, officially, we conduct three snow surveys each year in February, March and April.

In 2019, however, our team took surveys until June – it was only the 13th time throughout the years that there has been a June NID survey on record!

These surveys provide vital information to our experts who manage the water supply for our community.



Bowman Reservoir in early March 2019

MARCH

NID receives award for excellence in financial reporting

For the third consecutive year, we received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

This is the international association's highest form of recognition, awarded to NID for our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). To receive the honor, we published an efficiently organized and easily readable report that exceeded both accounting principles and met applicable legal requirements.

Read about the award [here](#).



The NID financial team

APRIL

Report: Rollins Reservoir generates as much as \$4.87 million for local economy

A new report found that boating, camping and fishing at Rollins Reservoir provide millions of dollars in spending at nearby businesses and as many as 50 jobs for the region.

Campers and day visitors at Rollins Reservoir (nearly 108,000 in 2018) spent as much as \$4.87 million at convenience and grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants and other nearby businesses in Colfax, Grass Valley and Chicago Park.

Read the report [here](#).



NID built a new camp store and added a kids' playground and native plant garden at the Orchard Springs marina at Rollins Reservoir.

MAY

Water quality is among the best in the state

Our drinking water continues to meet and surpass all state and federal public health standards, according to findings of the annual water quality report.

We treated and distributed more than 3.1 billion gallons of surface water in 2018. This water originated in the Sierra snowpack on five mountain watersheds.

Effective operation and maintenance of our drinking water distribution system assures high-quality drinking water travels through the system to customers.

Read the Water Quality Report [here](#).



NID experts routinely test drinking water to ensure it is the highest quality.

JUNE

A section of liner in a vital canal is replaced

A 475-foot long section of canal liner in the crucial Bowman Spaulding Canal got an important upgrade. We replaced the deteriorated liner with a new 16-foot wide floor and 8-foot-high slope walls.

This was labor intensive; crews only had a 10-day period when the canal was without water to do the work.

The Bowman Spaulding Canal is the connection that carries water from Bowman Reservoir downstream to our raw water and treated water customers.

We plan to replace about 400 to 500 feet of the canal every year with material that should last 150 years.

Read more about the project [here](#).



Bowman Spaulding Canal

JULY

Combie Reservoir Sediment and Mercury Project

Efforts to remove aquatic mercury geared up this year with the Combie Reservoir Sediment and Mercury Removal Project. A suction dredge removed wet sediment, and then that material was put through a centrifuge.

Mercury, introduced during the Gold Rush era, has led to watershed contamination throughout the Sierra. The goal is that this process can be applied at other impacted reservoirs.

The project has been a success thanks to a strong partnership with local, state and federal agencies. We were honored when the American Society of Civil Engineers, Sacramento Section named our efforts the 2018 Small Project of the Year.

Watch a video about the project [here](#).



From Combie Reservoir a suction dredge removed wet sediment for the centrifuge process.

AUGUST

Watershed projects – improving forest health and protecting against wildfire

We are working with state and federal governments to secure grant funding to improve our watersheds.

Our watershed team has led efforts to treat 400+ acres – 10 percent of NID-owned forested property – to remove fire fuels, including hazardous trees and dense dying vegetation. Not only does this significantly reduce the potential for catastrophic fire risk, it improves forest health. Major projects include fire fuel reduction at Scotts Flat and Peninsula campgrounds, and vegetation management around Magnolia Road.

Read more about our forest thinning projects [here](#).



Thinning at Scotts Flat was done in partnership with Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

SEPTEMBER

Boreham-Gayle pipeline replacement project

A Banner Mountain neighborhood at Boreham and Gayle lanes has received new pipeline – precisely 1.43 miles of mainline, 97 services, 12 air-release valves and 10 hydrants.

The project is part of our ongoing efforts to replace aged and badly deteriorated treated pipelines in large areas within the District. We've replaced all of the Cascade Shores systems and portions of the Penn Valley system. In 2020, the focus will be on the Lidster Avenue and Country Club Terrace area in Grass Valley.



OCTOBER

The power was out, but the water continued to flow

When PG&E activated widespread Public Safety Power Shutoffs in expectation of extreme fire danger conditions, NID was able to keep the water flowing.

In advance of the outages, NID made investments in backup power to ensure that during the times of disruption the District can continue to be connected and securely operating. It's our commitment as a trustworthy utility to be here for our customers around the clock.



NID electrical systems technicians set up a generator in advance of a power shutoff in October.

NOVEMBER

Combie Phase 1 Canal Replacement Project

Pipeline work has begun to replace the critical infrastructure that delivers more than half of NID's flows to customers in southern Nevada County and Placer County.

The District's 50-year old Combie Canal, a flume that runs along steep terrain above the Bear River, is being replaced with a single, 96-inch reinforced concrete pressure pipe that will extend 1.7 miles. The new pipeline will make deliveries more efficient and reliable well into the future.

Read more about the project [here](#).



NID personnel inspect new pipe segments that will replace the canal.

DECEMBER

Annual flushing ensures pipes are clean

Our annual flushing program to clean out treated water distribution lines ensures a fresh, high quality water supply is always available.

The work entails flushing waterlines throughout the entire district, from Cascade Shores in Nevada City to North Auburn. Using fire hydrants, our crews blast water (up to 400 gallons a minute) through the main lines to flush away any residue that may have collected over the year.

Read more about the flushing program [here](#).



An NID crew cleans pipes by flushing water through a hydrant.