



# CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR

COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY



## Final Scoping Report

**Centennial Reservoir Project**  
Nevada Irrigation District

*Nevada County, California*

**July 7, 2016**

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# 1 Introduction

This report summarizes the scoping activities related to the Centennial Reservoir Project (Proposed Project), which is being proposed by the Nevada Irrigation District (NID). NID completed the scoping process in support of its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis of the Proposed Project. NID is completing an environmental impact report (EIR) for the Proposed Project and, pursuant to CEQA, released a notice of preparation (NOP) in February 2016 that initiated the scoping process. The scoping process is used to solicit public and agency comments related to the scope and content of the EIR.

This report provides an overview of the Proposed Project, a summary of the public scoping meetings, and a summary of key issues identified during the scoping process. Report appendices include the NOP and scoping meeting promotion information (Appendix A), copies of scoping meeting materials (Appendix B), and copies of scoping comments (Appendix C).

## 2 Overview

### 2.1 Background

NID, which was formed in 1921 and is currently headquartered in Grass Valley, California, is an independent special district operated by and for the people who own land within its 287,000-acre boundaries. NID primarily supplies water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, and industrial purposes throughout portions of Nevada, Placer, and Yuba Counties, with additional storage facilities in Sierra County.

NID collects water on over 70,000 acres of high mountain watershed and owns and operates an extensive reservoir and canal system and network of water treatment plants. NID's water storage system extends from the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountain range to the Central Valley and consists of a network of 10 major and 17 minor reservoirs, more than 450 miles of canal, and more than 300 miles of pipeline. NID also owns and operates a number of outdoor public recreation facilities located adjacent to some of its reservoirs.

The Yuba River, Canyon Creek, Bear River, and Deer Creek watersheds provide NID's primary water supplies. NID's water supply comes from a single source: natural runoff from these contributing watershed areas.



## 2.2 Project Introduction

NID is proposing to implement the Proposed Project to provide drought and climate change mitigation, meet projected future water supply needs, and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers.

The Proposed Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir on the Bear River between the existing Rollins Reservoir and Lake Combie. The Proposed Project would involve constructing a new dam and associated facilities and new raw water pipeline within a segment of Dog Bar Road in NID's service area. Associated facilities include a pump station, tank, and extraction wells/pump intake area in the northern portion of the reservoir. NID anticipates that low-impact public recreational opportunities would also be included with the Proposed Project.

The NOP that is included as part of Appendix A provides additional background information, the purpose of and need for the Proposed Project, the setting of the Proposed Project, a more detailed description of the Proposed Project, and anticipated permits and approvals.

NID has determined that the Proposed Project could have potentially significant environmental effects on the following resources areas and will evaluate the effects related to the following subjects in the EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Air quality
- Agriculture and forestry resources
- Terrestrial and aquatic biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Tribal cultural resources
- Geology and soils
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Hazards and hazardous materials
- Hydrology and water quality
- Land use and planning
- Mineral resources
- Noise
- Population and housing
- Public services
- Recreation
- Transportation and traffic
- Utilities and service systems

NID is considering a number of water supply operation alternatives as well as alternative dam sites and types. The EIR will consider the effect of these alternatives on the environment and NID's service area and will describe the direct system-wide effects of constructing and implementing the Proposed Project. The EIR will also evaluate the cumulative effects of the Proposed Project when considered in conjunction with other related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects including other NID, Nevada County, and Placer County projects.

## 2.3 Purpose and Need

### 2.3.1 Need for the Proposed Project

As water demand in NID's service area increases, events such as drought and climate change create imminent challenges for NID in maintaining a sustainable water system. According to NID's Raw Water Master Plan (NID 2011), studies indicate that the margin between average watershed runoff volume and demand is diminishing. Increased future demands in NID's service area will result in increased demand on water storage and greater drawdown of NID's reservoirs, especially during summer when there is little natural runoff. As a result, NID is considering its current practices regarding surplus sales, purchased contract water, and carryover storage as well as climatic changes that affect the natural runoff volume, all of which are becoming increasingly more important.

NID has determined that its current water system is over-reliant on runoff from the annual mountain snowpack, resulting in an urgent and greater need for mid-elevation storage to capture runoff from rain storms as well as snow storms. The Proposed Project's location would be at a site that was initially identified in 1926 as part of an early NID reconnaissance project on the Bear River and was found to be a superior water storage location. The region's climate and precipitation patterns are changing, bringing more rain and less snow, resulting in an increase in the need for mid-elevation storage within NID's water system.

### 2.3.2 Purpose of the Proposed Project

The Proposed Project would be designed as a storage recovery project that would provide drought mitigation and recapture water lost as a result of changing climate and reduced snowpack. The Proposed Project would also allow NID to continue to meet existing water delivery commitments and to bring more flexibility in meeting the future water supply needs of customers in all parts of NID's service area.

The Proposed Project would directly benefit the southern portions of NID's service territory, including the Placer County service areas, and upstream areas in Nevada County. The Proposed Project would increase the maximum water storage available to NID's service customers from 280,000 to 390,000 acre-feet, thereby helping to ensure a stable future water supply (NID 2015b).

## 2.4 Location

The Proposed Project would extend upriver from just above the existing Lake Combie for slightly over 6 miles to a point west of the town of Colfax, about 2 miles downstream of the existing Rollins Dam (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The Proposed Project would be located in the Bear River watershed in Nevada and Placer Counties. The Proposed Project study area is based on the limits of reservoir inundation and the locations of associated facilities.



Figure 1. CEQA Study Area for the Proposed Project

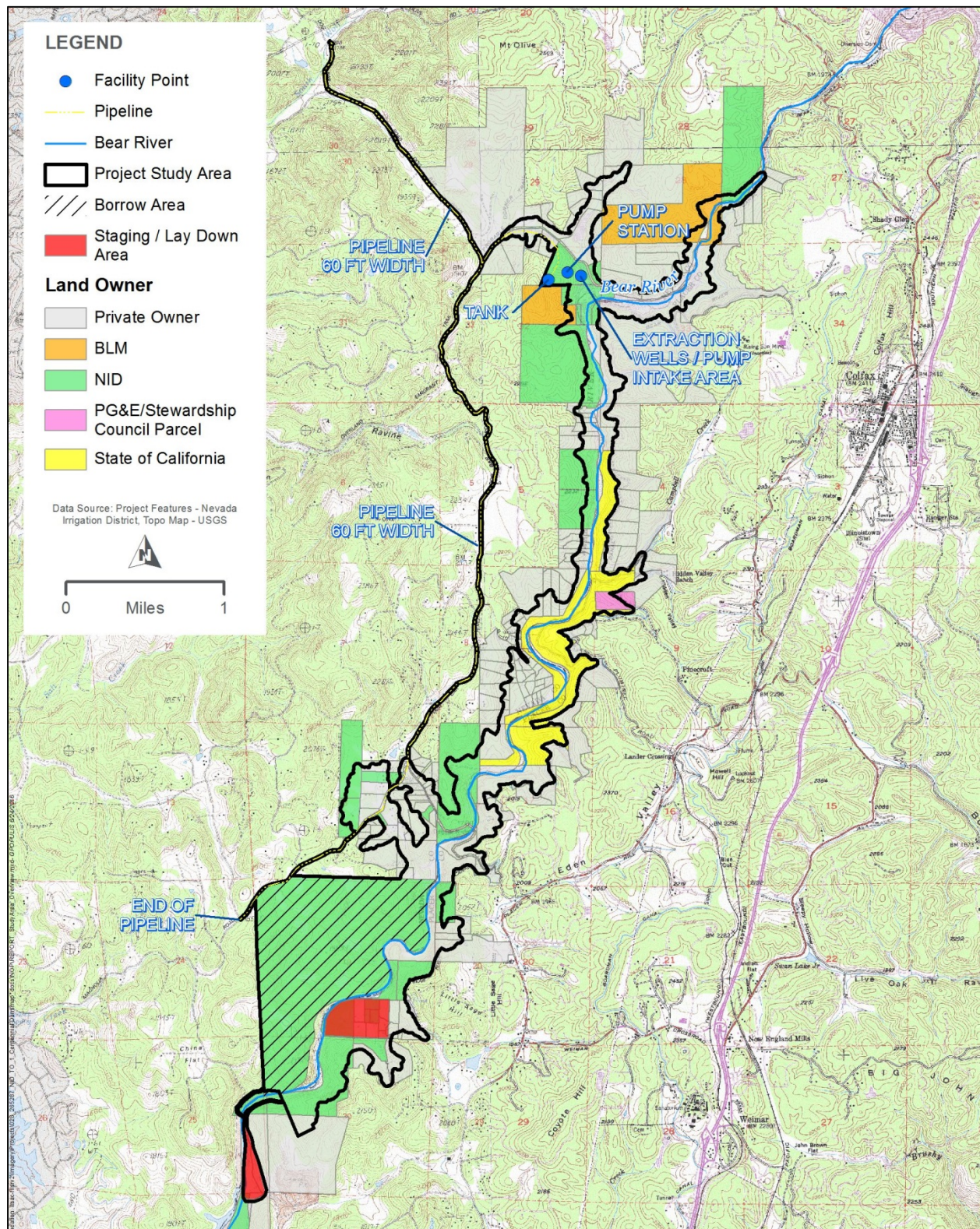




Figure 2. Location of Proposed Project Relative to Rollins Reservoir and Lake Combie



Source: NID 2016

### 3 Notice of Preparation

NID started the CEQA scoping process by publishing a NOP on February 16, 2016. The NOP was submitted to the State Clearinghouse and the County Clerks of Nevada County and Placer County. The NOP initially specified that scoping comments needed to be received by NID no later than March 17, 2016, but NID extended the scoping comment period to April 18, 2016. The State Clearinghouse documentation for the NOP is available online at [www.ceganet.ca.gov/ProjDocList.asp?ProjectPK=644356](http://www.ceganet.ca.gov/ProjDocList.asp?ProjectPK=644356).

The NOP specified where and how comments should be submitted and directed commenters to send questions about the Proposed Project and the EIR to NID by phone, email, or fax. The NOP also contained information about scoping meetings, which are described below.

## 4 Public Scoping Meetings

### 4.1 Public Scoping Meetings Introduction

Two public scoping meetings were held to present information about the Proposed Project and NID's decision-making processes and to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting dates, times, and locations were as follows:

Grass Valley  
Wednesday, March 9, 2016  
6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Holiday Inn Express  
121 Bank Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Auburn  
Thursday, March 10, 2016  
6:00 – 8:00 PM  
Forest Lake Christian High School  
12515 Combie Road  
Auburn, CA 95602

The public was also given an opportunity to submit written comments and suggestions concerning the Proposed Project. Comments were submitted to NID and could be submitted by U.S. mail, email, or fax. Comments had to be received by NID no later than April 18, 2016.

### 4.2 Promotion of the Public Scoping Meetings

The public scoping meetings were promoted through various mediums. In addition to publication in the NOP, about 1,110 postcard invitations were mailed to residents and stakeholders on February 16 and again on March 7. Email announcements were also sent to stakeholders. Lastly, the meetings were advertised in multiple newspapers including the *Auburn Journal* (February 16 and March 6 editions), the *Sacramento Bee* (February 16 and March 7 editions), and *The Union* (February 16 and March 7 editions). The meeting and project information was also posted on NID's Centennial Reservoir website at [www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org).

A copy of the NOP, newspaper advertisements, postcards, and email announcements are included in Appendix A.

## 4.3 Format of the Public Scoping Meetings

The scoping meetings format allowed the attendees to arrive, view displays, and talk with Proposed Project staff members and record comments, all at their convenience. This format afforded a comfortable, low-conflict context for imparting and receiving information. Each attendee was greeted at the welcome table, where they were asked to sign in and were provided an informational handout, a comment card, and a speaker card if they were interested in speaking during the public comment period. Attendees then had the opportunity to view study area maps and display boards before viewing a PowerPoint presentation. A court reporter was also on hand for attendees to dictate their comments.

The Proposed Project representatives at the meeting were the following:

### **Nevada Irrigation District**

Gary King, Engineering Manager  
Doug Roderick, PE, Project Manager

### **Perry Communications (Public Involvement Consultant)**

Julia Spiess Lewis, Senior Vice President  
John Kabateck, Senior Consultant  
Nicole Norton, Assistant Account Executive

### **ECORP**

Chris Stabenfeldt, Senior Planner

### **HDR (Environmental and Public Involvement Consultant)**

Jim Lynch, Consultant Project Manager  
Linda Fisher, Task Lead/Scheduler  
Kim Pallari, Public Involvement Director  
Tammy Teurn, Public Involvement Coordinator

As a result of the public outreach promoting the scoping meetings, about 330 community members attended the meetings along with Proposed Project staff and team members (182 in Grass Valley and 148 in Auburn, according to sign-in sheets).

A copy of the meeting handout, speaker card, display boards, and presentation are included in Appendix B.



## 5 Agency and Tribal Coordination

During the scoping process, NID coordinated with state agencies through the State Clearinghouse. State agencies that submitted written comments during the scoping period included the Native American Heritage Commission and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The State Water Resources Control Board provided oral comments at the scoping meetings. Other federal and local agencies also submitted scoping comments. A complete list of agency commenters is included in Appendix C.

On December 4, 2015, NID received a letter from the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), dated November 23, 2015, requesting formal notice of and information on proposed projects for which NID serves as a lead agency under the CEQA, Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21000 et seq. On December 9, 2015 NID formally notified UAIC of the opportunity to consult under PRC Section 21080.3.1, in compliance with CEQA, for the Project. NID has not received letters of request from any other California Native American tribes to be notified of proposed projects in relation to their geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation. On December 10, 2015, UAIC accepted the opportunity to consult, and on December 14, 2015, NID formally initiated consultation with UAIC in accordance with PRC 21080.3.1(e).

NID met with UAIC representatives on January 19, 2016, to discuss the Proposed Project and to establish the protocols and structure of the AB 52 consultation process. NID held a field tour and meeting with UAIC on April 28, 2016. Consultation is ongoing. A tribal monitor from UAIC is participating as a member of the cultural resources survey crew for field work that is being completed in summer 2016.

## 6 Summary of Key Issues Raised

In total, NID received about 280 individual comments during the scoping period. NID continued to receive additional comments after the April 18, 2016, deadline and will accept comments throughout the CEQA documentation period. NID is currently completing a focused review of the scoping comments and will prepare a more-detailed summary of the issues raised. That summary will categorize comments by topic area and help inform the content of the EIR. The summary will be included in the draft EIR as an appendix.

In general, scoping comments focused on the following themes (note that this is not a comprehensive list of all of the comments received):

- Project alternatives that should be considered in the EIR
- Mitigation that should be considered in the EIR
- Effects on adjacent land uses and property values
- Property acquisition needed for the project
- Complexities of land management because the project would be located in two counties
- Effects on tribal resources

- Effects on historic resources
- Aesthetic effects
- Effects on existing recreation and opportunities for recreation associated with the new reservoir
- Local traffic effects
- Biological resource effects
- Wildfire safety
- Crime effects
- Watershed-wide and downstream ecosystem effects
- Water supply effects
- Potential for growth-inducing effects
- Groundwater supply and groundwater quality effects
- Opportunities for power generation
- Project cost and how the project would be funded
- Effects related to gold mining—era mercury in the watershed
- Slope stability and erosion

Appendix C contains a list of agencies and individuals who commented during the scoping period. For specific information about and/or copies of individual comments, please contact NID.





# Appendix A: NOP and Scoping Meeting Promotion

The following is a copy of the NOP that was delivered to federal agencies as well as Placer and Nevada Counties.

**Notice of Preparation**

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Notice of Preparation

To: California State Clearinghouse,  
Responsible and Trustee Agencies, and  
Interested Parties and Organizations

(Address)

From: Doug Roderick, PE  
1036 W. Main Street  
Grass Valley, CA, 95945

(Address)

**Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Nevada Irrigation District will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study ( ☐ is ☒ is not ) attached.


Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Lisa Francis Tassone, Board Secretary at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Centennial Reservoir Project

Project Applicant, if any:

Date February 12, 2016

Signature 

Title Senior Engineer

Telephone 530-271-6866

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.



**NOTICE OF PREPARATION**  
**Environmental Impact Report for the**  
**Centennial Reservoir Project**  
**February 16, 2016**

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is preparing an Environment Impact Report (EIR) for the Centennial Reservoir Project. NID will serve as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

## **Summary**

NID is proposing to implement the Centennial Reservoir Project (Proposed Project) to provide drought and climate change-mitigation, meet projected future water supply needs, and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers. The Proposed Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir, on the Bear River between the existing Rollins and Combie reservoirs. The Proposed Project would extend upriver from just above the existing Combie Reservoir for slightly over six miles to a point west of the Town of Colfax, approximately two miles downstream of the existing Rollins Dam (see Attachment 1, Figure 1, Project Location and Vicinity Map).

NID has determined that its current water system is over-reliant on runoff from the annual mountain snowpack, resulting in an urgent and greater need for mid elevation storage to capture runoff from rain storms as well as snow storms. The Proposed Project's location is at a site that was initially identified in 1926 as part of an early NID reconnaissance project on the Bear River and found to be a superior water storage location. The region's climate and precipitation patterns are changing, bringing more rain and less snow resulting in an increase in the need for mid-elevation storage within NID's water system. The proposed reservoir is designed as a storage recovery project, rather than an expansion project. The Proposed Project would provide drought-mitigation and recapture water lost due to changing climate and reduced snowpack. The Proposed Project would also allow NID to continue to meet existing water delivery commitments and to bring more flexibility in meeting the future water supply needs of customers in all parts of NID's service area.

The Proposed Project would involve construction of a new dam and associated facilities. The anticipated water depth at the dam would be approximately 255 feet and the height of the dam would be approximately 275 feet. NID anticipates that low impact public recreational opportunities (e.g. 5 mile per hour maximum speed on the reservoir, pedestrian trails, swimming, and kayaking) are also anticipated to be included with the Proposed Project.

Additional background information, purpose and need, setting, description of the Proposed Project and anticipated permits and approvals are provided in Attachment 1.

NID has determined that the Proposed Project could have potentially significant environmental effects on the following resources areas and will evaluate these effects in the EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems

## Alternatives

A number of water supply operation alternatives as well as alternative dam sites and types have been/are being considered and the effect of these alternatives on the environment and NID's service area will be analyzed in the EIR. The EIR will describe the direct project-specific, system-wide, and cumulative effects of constructing and implementing the Proposed Project. The EIR will also evaluate cumulative effects of the Proposed Project when considered in conjunction with other related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, including other NID, Nevada County, and Placer County projects.

## Permits and Approvals

A summary of the anticipated permits and approvals that may be required for the Proposed Project is provided in Attachment 1. In addition, to those permits and approvals compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will also be required for the Project and will likely be carried out as part of the Clean Water Act Section 404 compliance for the Project through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). It is anticipated that an Environmental Impact Statement would be prepared under NEPA and that the USACE would serve as the NEPA lead agency. NID is working with the USACE to coordinate this effort.

## Scoping and Public Involvement Process

Written comments and suggestions concerning the Proposed Project must be received by March 17, 2016 and sent to Lisa Francis Tassone, Board Secretary, Nevada Irrigation District, 1036 W. Main St., Grass Valley CA 95945, by e-mail [tassone@nidwater.com](mailto:tassone@nidwater.com), or by fax 530-477-2646. Questions about the Proposed Project and the EIR should be addressed to Doug Roderick, P.E., at (530) 271-6866, by e-mail [roderick@nidwater.com](mailto:roderick@nidwater.com), or by fax 530-477-2646.

Two public scoping meetings will be held on March 9 and 10, 2016. The purpose of the scoping meetings is to present information about the Proposed Project and NID's decision-making processes, and to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting dates, times, and locations are as follows:

### Grass Valley

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express

121 Bank Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

### Auburn

Thursday, March 10, 2016

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Forest Lake Christian High School

12515 Combie Road, Auburn, CA 95602

The Draft EIR is scheduled to be available for public review and comment in the beginning of 2017. A 45-day public review period will be provided for individuals, interested parties, and agencies to review and comment on the Draft EIR. All interested parties are encouraged to respond to this notice and provide a current address if they wish to be notified of the Draft EIR circulation.

Project information will also be posted periodically on the internet at [www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org).

**Attachment 1**

# 1 Project Description

## 1.1 Introduction

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is proposing to implement the Centennial Reservoir Project (Proposed Project) to provide drought and climate change-mitigation, meet projected future water supply needs, and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers. The Proposed Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir, on the Bear River between the existing Rollins and Combie reservoirs. The Proposed Project would involve construction of a new dam and associated facilities. NID anticipates that low impact public recreational opportunities are also anticipated to be included with the Proposed Project.

## 1.2 Project Background

NID, was formed in 1921 and is currently headquartered in Grass Valley, California is an independent special district operated by and for the people who own land within its 287,000-acre boundaries (NID 2015a). NID primarily supplies water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, and industrial purposes throughout portions of Nevada, Placer, and Yuba Counties, with additional storage facilities in Sierra County. NID collects water on over 70,000 acres of high mountain watershed and owns and operates an extensive reservoir and canal system and network of water treatment plants. NID's water storage system extends from the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountain range to the Central Valley, and consists of a network of 10 major and 17 minor reservoirs, 450+ miles of canal, and 300+ miles of pipeline. Other NID facilities include seven hydroelectric facilities that produce 82+ megawatts (MW) of renewable hydroelectric energy, under various Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licenses. NID also owns and operates a number of outdoor public recreation facilities located adjacent to some of its operational reservoirs.

The Yuba River, Canyon Creek, Bear River, and Deer Creek watersheds provide NID's primary water supplies. NID's water supply comes from a single source, natural runoff from the contributing watershed area. Natural runoff within the watershed fluctuates annually because of the variability in hydrologic conditions, as evidenced by the inconsistent accumulations of annual rainfall and snowpack.

NID also benefits from carryover storage, which is the volume of water left in NID's storage reservoirs at the end of the water delivery season, and used as a buffer in the event that the following year produces below average storage. Reservoir capacities, seasonal hydrology, and minimum storage requirements affect carryover storage levels.

NID's water supply system is a "store and release" system, in that the reservoirs store snow melt and seasonal rains for release during the typically dry irrigation seasons. Based on the timing of seasonal events, NID's water supply management is dependent on snowmelt and winter period rains to fill storage reservoirs. While there is some natural runoff during the summer months, the irrigation season demand is met primarily with withdrawals from storage reservoirs. Careful management and operation of the storage reservoirs is essential to capture the maximum amount of runoff, minimize spillage from the reservoirs, and ensure there is



**Attachment 1**

sufficient volume available in the reservoirs to accommodate runoff during the spring snow melt and storm events. The Proposed Project would help manage these water resources for the region.

### **1.3 Purpose and Need**

As water demand within NID's service area increases, events such as drought and climate change create imminent challenges for NID in maintaining a sustainable water system. According to NID's Raw Water Master Plan, studies indicate that the margin between average watershed runoff volume and demand is diminishing (NID 2011). Increased future demands in the service area will result in increased demand on water storage and greater draw down of NID's reservoirs, especially during summer months when there is little natural runoff. As a result, NID is considering their current practices regarding surplus sales, purchased contract water, and carryover storage, as well as climatic changes that impact the natural runoff volume, all of which are becoming increasingly more important.

NID has determined that its current water system is over-reliant on runoff from the annual mountain snowpack, resulting in an urgent and greater need for mid elevation storage to capture runoff from rain storms as well as snow storms. The Proposed Project's location is at a site that was initially identified in 1926 as part of an early NID reconnaissance project on the Bear River and found to be a superior water storage location. The region's climate and precipitation patterns are changing, bringing more rain and less snow resulting in an increase in the need for mid-elevation storage within NID's water system.

The Proposed Project location may be even more valuable to NID today than in 1926. Designed as a storage recovery project, rather than an expansion project, the Proposed Project would provide drought-mitigation and recapture water lost due to changing climate and reduced snowpack. The Proposed Project would also allow NID to continue to meet existing water delivery commitments and to bring more flexibility in meeting the future water supply needs of customers in all parts of NID's service area.

According to NID's Raw Water Master Plan, reservoir storage is a key issue. Water management recommendations in the plan include the investigation into the potential to increase water storage, a recommendation that has become increasingly important as the impacts of climate change emphasize the need for storage capacity to accommodate changes in the type, timing, and intensity of precipitation (NID 2011).

The Proposed Project would directly benefit the southern portions of NID's service territory, including the Placer County service areas. Upstream areas in Nevada County would also benefit from NID's future ability to route more water from the mountains down the Yuba River/Deer Creek watershed and less down the Bear River side. The Proposed Project would increase maximum water storage available to NID's service customers from 280,000 to 390,000 acre-feet, helping to ensure a stable future water supply (NID 2015b).

**Attachment 1**

## **1.4 Proposed Project**

### **1.4.1 Regional Setting**

As stated in the introduction, the Proposed Project would be located on the Bear River, between the existing Rollins and Combie reservoirs. The Bear River, Rollins Reservoir, and Combie Reservoir are all located along the eastern boundary of NID's service territory and cover southern Nevada County and western Placer County.

Within NID, most of the water supply begins as snow and as the snowpack melts, seven mountain division reservoirs capture the runoff. Water then flows through the Bowman-Spaulding Canal, via Fuller Lake, to Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) Lake Spaulding. It is then routed down the South Yuba/Chalk Bluff Canal to Scotts Flat Reservoir and the Nevada City-Grass Valley area (Deer Creek watershed), or down the PG&E Drum Canal along the Bear River where it is used to generate power for NID and PG&E before supplying customers in southern Nevada and Placer Counties.

NID supplies water to nearly 25,000 agricultural and treated water customers within its boundaries. A network of seven water treatment plants provide treated water to service areas. Other users outside the NID service area are supplied surplus raw water.

### **1.4.2 Project Site and Description**

The Proposed Project would extend upriver from just above the existing Combie Reservoir for slightly over six miles to a point west of the Town of Colfax, approximately two miles downstream of the existing Rollins Dam (see Figure 1, Project Location and Vicinity Map).

The Proposed Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir as well as the construction of a new dam and associated facilities. The dam types considered include roller-compacted concrete and rockfill. The anticipated water depth at the dam would be approximately 255 feet and the height of the dam would be approximately 275 feet. It is also anticipated that low impact public recreational opportunities (e.g. 5 mile per hour maximum speed on the reservoir, pedestrian trails, swimming, and kayaking) would be included with the Proposed Project. A new raw water pipeline would be installed within Dog Bar Road in NID's service area. A pump station, tank, and extraction wells/pump intake area would also be constructed in the northern portion of the reservoir. Figure 2 shows the location of these proposed facilities.

NID holds several senior pre-1914 water rights to the Bear River and has additional post-1914 water rights (NID 2015b) acquired over time. NID filed an application for the annual appropriation of 221,400 acre-feet of water from the Bear River with the State Water Resources Control Board in August 2014 for the Proposed Project. NID owns several hundred acres of land along the river, and more than 1,200 acres within the Project Study Area (approximately 34 percent of the area within the Project Study Area). NID land is mainly located on the Nevada County side of the river, whereas state land and PG&E/Stewardship Council land is located on the Placer County side. Several private properties are located in the Project Study Area as well thus; some acquisitions and easements on private land would be required for implementation of the Proposed Project. Figure 2 shows the Project Study Area and land ownership.

#### 1.4.3 Environmental Setting

Elevations in the Project Study Area range from 1,620 feet above mean sea level (amsl) at the southern end to 1900 feet amsl at the northeastern end. The Upper Bear River watershed, below the snowline, is dominated by mixed-conifer forest in the higher elevations. In the lower elevations of the watershed, there is a gradual change in the vegetation to a dryer zone of Gray Pines, Blue Oaks, and Valley Oaks in grasslands and agricultural lands. In the limited riparian zones of the Bear River in the lower elevations, the vegetation consists of oak-spotted hillsides, Buckeyes, Spicebush, Willows, and other shrubs.

A number of special-status plant and wildlife species have the potential to occur within the Project Study Area. These include two federally listed species (the valley elderberry longhorn beetle and California red-legged frog), four state species of special concern (the foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, coast horned lizard, and tri-colored blackbird), and four sensitive plant species (Brandegge's clarkia, inundated bog-clubmoss, Stebbin's phacelia, and Nisenan manzanita).

Soil conditions and quality in the Project Study Area will be evaluated for remnant mercury and measures will be proposed to handle, treat, and/or remove remnant mercury where necessary.

Ninety eight parcels in the Project Study Area contain built resources (buildings, structures, or objects). Several of these parcels contain private, single-family homes. Based on assessor parcel data of these 98 parcels, three buildings may be more than 50 years old.

Dog Bar Road crosses the Bear River west of Eden Valley and provides the only public connection between Placer County and Nevada County within the Project Study Area.

#### 1.4.4 Schedule

The Proposed Project is currently in the planning phase and will be moving into the design and implementation phase in early 2016. NID recently initiated environmental documentation and compliance under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). NID anticipates that the Proposed Project will require preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) per the CEQA Guidelines, with an estimated completion date in 2017. Additional permits and approvals would be required for the Proposed Project in addition to CEQA compliance. These permits and approvals are listed below in Section 1.4.5. Assuming NID obtains all permits and approvals, NID anticipates construction to start in 2021. NID is estimating that construction of the Proposed Project will take approximately two to three years and the Project will be open and functional by 2023.

#### 1.4.5 Anticipated Permits and Reviews

A summary of the anticipated permits and approvals that may be required for the Proposed Project is provided below in Table 1. Agencies with jurisdiction over those permits or approvals would consider the information provided in the EIR in determining under what conditions to issue permits or approvals.

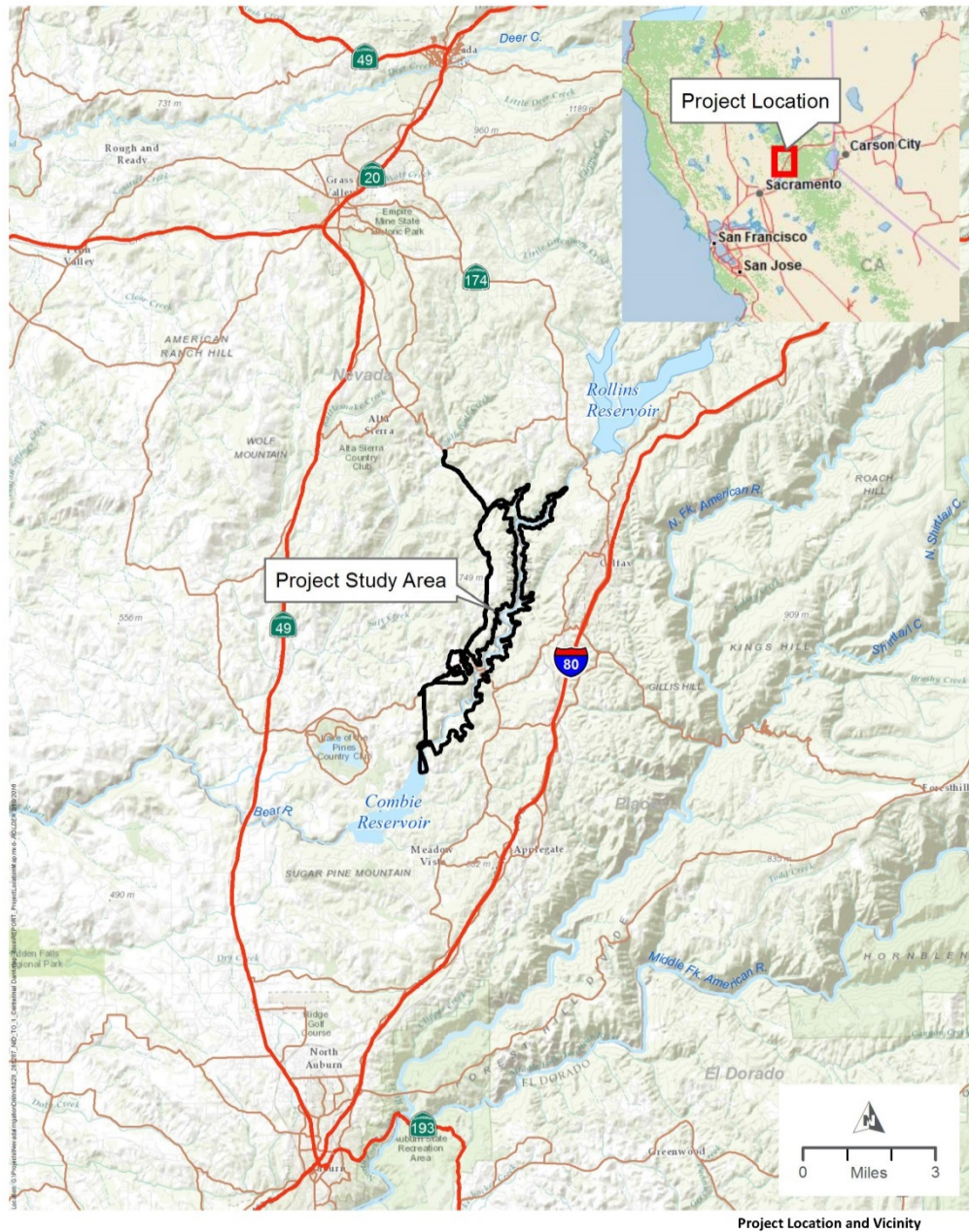


**Attachment 1**

**Table 1. Summary of Anticipated Permits and Approvals**

Agency	Type of Approval
<b><i>Federal</i></b>	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit
National Marine Fisheries Service	Section 7 Consultation for Federal Endangered Species Act compliance
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 Consultation for Federal Endangered Species Act compliance
State Historic Preservation Officer	Section 106 Compliance for the National Historic Preservation Act,
<b><i>State</i></b>	
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Consultation for State Endangered Species Act compliance Streambed Alteration Agreement (CDFG code1602)
California Native American Heritage Commission	Consultation for effects on Native American burials or artifacts
Regional Water Quality Control Board	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activities Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification
<b><i>Local</i></b>	
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District and Placer County Air Pollution Control District	Consultation for Authority to Construct Permits

Attachment 1

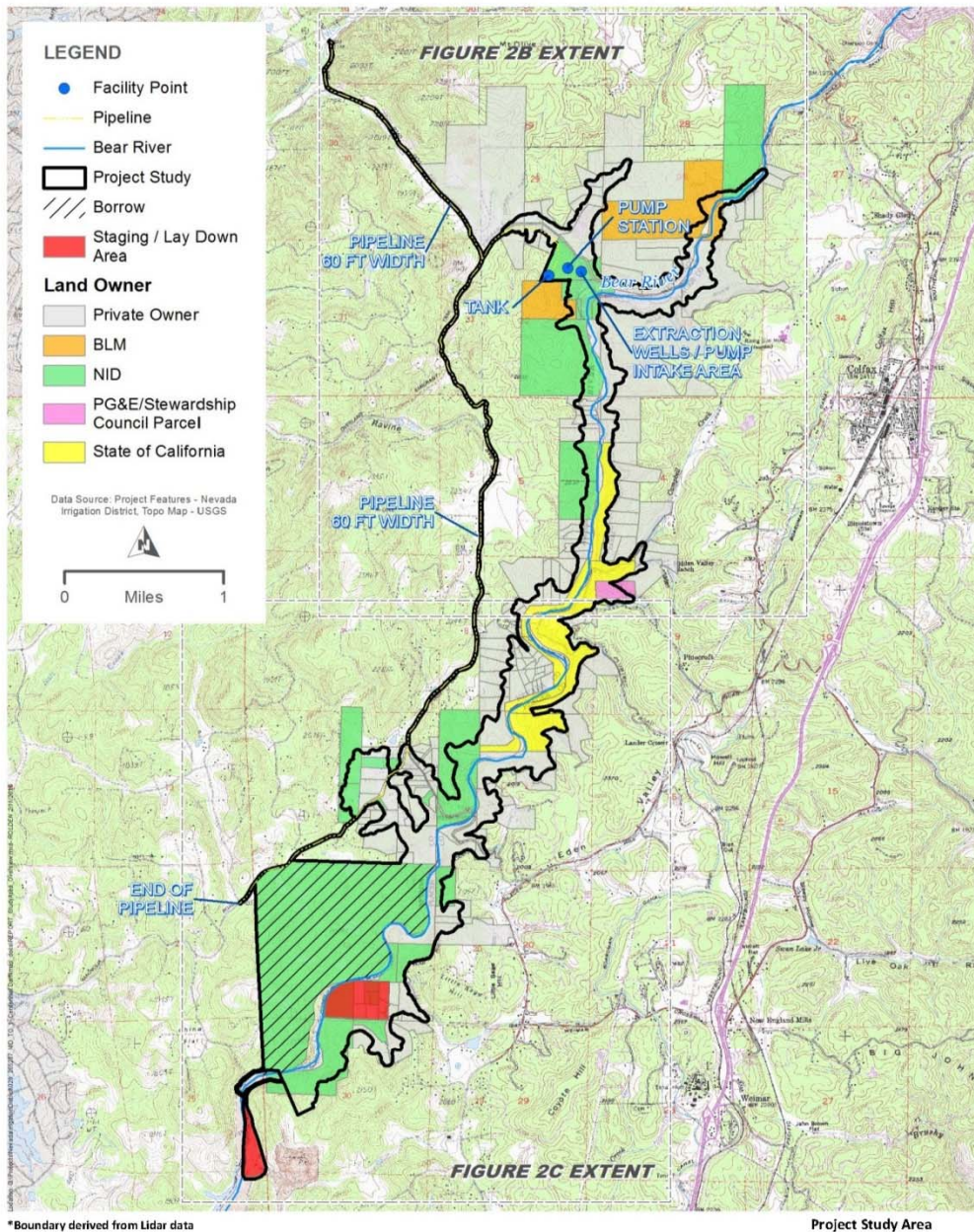


Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 1



Attachment 1



\*Boundary derived from Lidar data

Project Study Area

Figure 2A



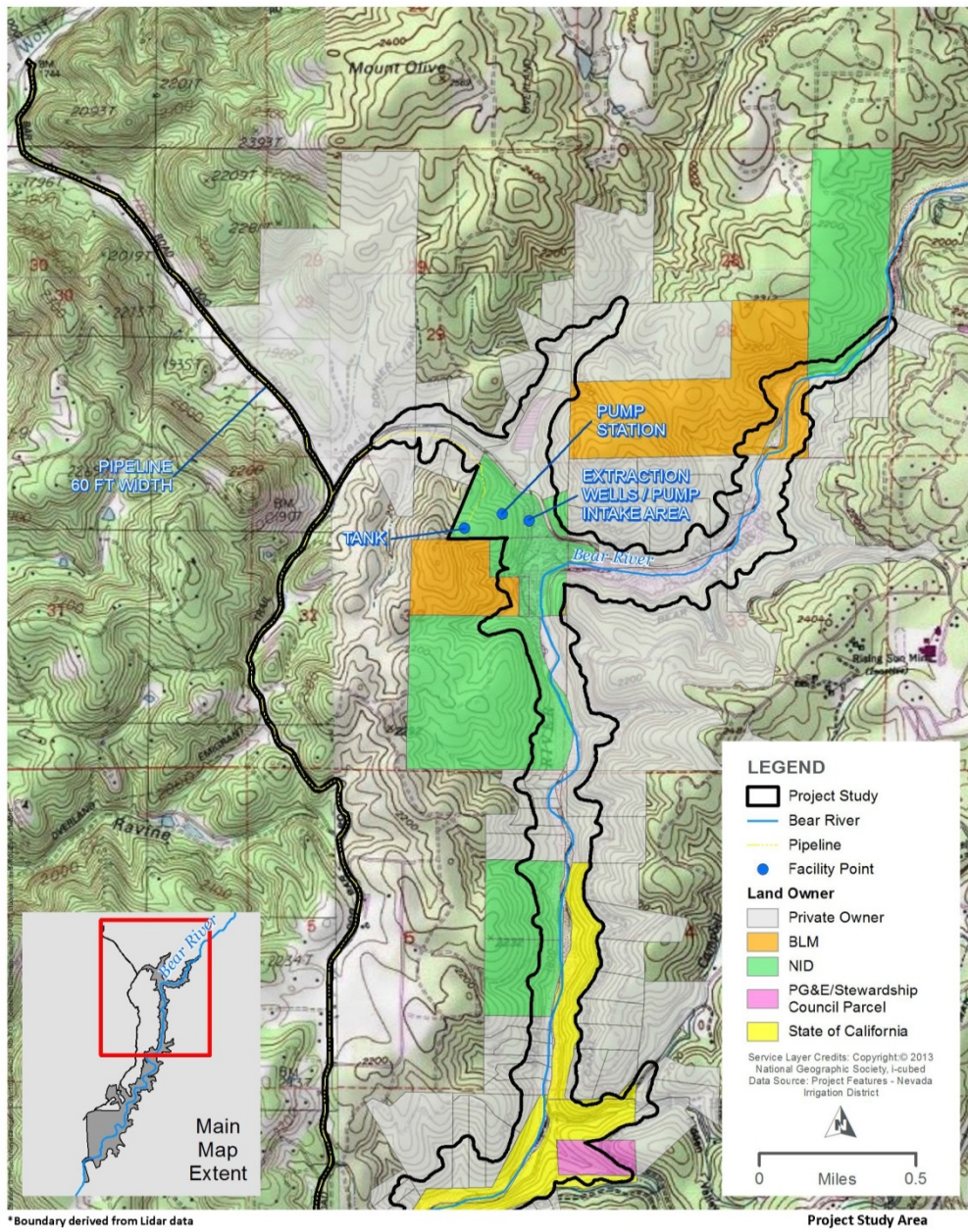


Figure 2B



Topographic map of the Project Study Area. The map shows the Bear River flowing through the area, with a pipeline running parallel to it. The pipeline is labeled "PIPELINE 60 FT WIDTH" and "END OF PIPELINE". The map includes contour lines, roads, and various land ownership areas. A legend in the bottom right corner defines the symbols used.

**LEGEND**

- Project Study Area (Black outline)
- Borrow Area (Hatched pattern)
- Staging / Lay Down Area (Red fill)
- Bear River (Blue line)
- Pipeline (Yellow line)
- Land Owner**
  - Private Owner (Light gray fill)
  - NID (Green fill)
  - State of California (Yellow fill)

Service Layer Credits: Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, I-cubed  
Data Source: Project Features - Nevada Irrigation District

0 Miles 0.5

**Project Study Area**

12

- Nevada Irrigation District. 2015a. About NID. Available online:  
<<http://nidwater.com/about-nid/>>. Accessed October 20, 2015.
- . 2015b. Centennial Reservoir Project. Available online:  
<<http://nidwater.com/parker-dam-and-reservoir-project/>>. Accessed  
December 7, 2015.
- . 2011. Raw Water Master Plan Update, Phase 2. Available online:  
<<http://nidwater.com/planning/master-plan-2/>>. Accessed October 20,  
2015.
- . 2008. Pure Mountain Water Brochure. Available online:  
<<http://nidwater.com/planning/master-plan-2/>>. Accessed October 20,  
2015.

The following ad was published in the *Auburn Journal*, *Sacramento Bee*, and *The Union's* February 16, 2016, editions. The actual ad size varied per each publication's guidelines.

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION



# CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR

COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY

### NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR PROJECT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is preparing an Environment Impact Report (EIR) for the Centennial Reservoir Project. NID will serve as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

#### PROJECT OVERVIEW

NID is proposing to implement the Centennial Reservoir Project (Proposed Project) to provide drought and climate change-mitigation, meet projected future water supply needs, and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers. The Proposed Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir on the Bear River between the existing Rollins and Combie reservoirs. The Proposed Project would extend upriver from just above the existing Combie Reservoir for slightly over six miles to a point west of the Town of Colfax, approximately two miles downstream of the existing Rollins Dam.

NID has determined that its current water system is over-reliant on runoff from the annual mountain snowpack, resulting in an urgent and greater need for mid elevation storage to capture runoff from rain storms as well as snow storms. The region's climate and precipitation patterns are changing, bringing more rain and less snow resulting in an increase in the need for mid-elevation storage within NID's water system. The proposed reservoir is designed as a storage recovery project, rather than an expansion project. The Proposed Project would provide drought-mitigation and recapture water lost due to changing climate and reduced snowpack. The Proposed Project would also allow NID to continue to meet existing water delivery commitments and more flexibility in meeting the future water supply needs of customers in all parts of NID's service area.

The Proposed Project would involve construction of a new dam and associated facilities. The anticipated water depth at the dam would be approximately 255 feet and the height of the dam would be approximately 275 feet. NID anticipates that low impact public recreational opportunities (e.g. 5 mile per hour maximum speed on the reservoir, pedestrian trails, swimming, and kayaking) are also anticipated to be included with the Proposed Project.

A number of water supply operation alternatives as well as alternative dam sites and types have been/are being considered and the effect of these alternatives on the environment and NID's service area will be analyzed in the EIR.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

Two public scoping meetings will be held to present information about the Proposed Project and NID's decision-making processes and to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting dates, times, and locations are as follows:

**GRASS VALLEY**  
**Wednesday, March 9, 2016**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Holiday Inn Express**  
**121 Bank Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945**

**AUBURN**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2016**  
**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Forest Lake Christian High School**  
**12515 Combie Road, Auburn, CA 95602**

#### SUBMITTING COMMENTS

A Notice of Preparation to prepare an EIR pursuant to CEQA was submitted to the State Clearinghouse on February 16, 2016. Written comments and suggestions concerning the Proposed Project must be received by NID no later than March 17, 2016 to:

**Lisa Francis Tassone, Board Secretary, Nevada Irrigation District**  
**1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945**  
**Phone: 530-273-6185 ext. 222 | Fax: 530-477-2646**  
**tassone@nidwater.com | www.centennialreservoir.org**



The following ad was published in the *Auburn Journal's* March 6, 2016, edition as well as the *Sacramento Bee* and *The Union's* March 7, 2016, editions. The actual ad size varied per each publication's guidelines.

## **NOP PUBLIC MEETINGS & EXTENDED COMMENT PERIOD**



**CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR**  
COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY

### **NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR PROJECT, PUBLIC MEETINGS AND EXTENDED COMMENT PERIOD**

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID), the Lead Agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), officially launched the environmental process for the proposed Centennial Reservoir Project on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, with a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). NID is proposing to implement the Centennial Reservoir Project (Proposed Project) to provide drought and climate change-mitigation, meet projected future water supply needs, and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers. The Proposed Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir on the Bear River between the existing Rollins and Combie reservoirs as well as a new dam and associated facilities.

#### **PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Two public scoping meetings will be held to present information about the Proposed Project and NID's decision-making processes and to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting dates, times, and locations are as follows:

#### **GRASS VALLEY**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2016**

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Holiday Inn Express**

**121 Bank Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945**

#### **AUBURN**

**Thursday, March 10, 2016**

**6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

**Forest Lake Christian High School**

**12515 Combie Road, Auburn, CA 95602**

#### **EXTENDED COMMENT PERIOD**

A Notice of Preparation to prepare an EIR pursuant to CEQA was submitted to the State Clearinghouse on February 16, 2016. Receipt of comments and suggestions on the preparation of the EIR has been extended from the original deadline of March 17 to April 18, 2016. Comments concerning the Proposed Project must be received by NID no later than April 18, 2016 to:

**Lisa Francis Tassone, Board Secretary, Nevada Irrigation District**

**1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945**


**Phone: 530-273-6185 ext. 222 | Fax: 530-477-2646**

**tassone@nidwater.com | [www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)**

Visit **[www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)** for more information on the project or to view a copy of the NOP.



The following postcard was mailed on February 12, 2016, to about 1,110 residents and stakeholders.



# CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR

## COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID), the Lead Agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will officially launch the environmental process for the proposed Centennial Reservoir Project on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, with a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). NID is proposing to implement the Centennial Reservoir Project (Proposed Project) to provide drought and climate change-mitigation, meet projected future water supply needs, and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers. The Proposed Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir on the Bear River between the existing Rollins and Combie reservoirs as well as a new dam and associated facilities.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS**

Two public scoping meetings will be held to present information about the Proposed Project and the CEQA process. Participants will have the opportunity to hear a brief presentation and provide views on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR. A stenographer will be present to record all public comments provided during the meeting.

<p><b>GRASS VALLEY</b>          Wednesday, March 9, 2016          6:00 - 8:00 p.m.          Holiday Inn Express          121 Bank Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945</p>	<p><b>AUBURN</b>          Thursday, March 10, 2016          6:00 - 8:00 p.m.          Forest Lake Christian High School          12515 Combie Road, Auburn, CA 95602</p>
--	--

**GET INVOLVED!**

Comments and suggestions on the preparation of the EIR are invited from all interested parties from **February 16 to March 17, 2016**. Written comments must be received by NID no later than March 17, 2016 to:

Lisa Francis Tassone, Board Secretary  
 Nevada Irrigation District  
 1036 W. Main Street  
 Grass Valley, CA 95945  
 Phone: 530-273-6185 ext. 222  
 Fax: 530-477-2646  
 tassone@nidwater.com  
[www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)


*For more information about meeting special accommodations (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternate formats, etc.), please contact Julia Spiess Lewis at (916) 658-0144 or [julia@perrycom.com](mailto:julia@perrycom.com).*

*Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TDD at (800) 735-2922 or 711.*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH C/O HDR  
 2379 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE  
 SUITE 200  
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95833

PRESORTED  
**FIRST CLASS**  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 SACRAMENTO, CA  
 PERMIT 1890

The following postcard was mailed on March 7, 2016, to about 1,110 residents and stakeholders.



# CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR

COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) AND EXTENDED COMMENT PERIOD

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID), the Lead Agency for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), officially launched the environmental process for the proposed Centennial Reservoir Project on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, with a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). NID is proposing to implement the Centennial Reservoir Project (Proposed Project) to provide drought and climate change-mitigation, meet projected future water supply needs, and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers. The Proposed Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir on the Bear River between the existing Rollins and Combie reservoirs as well as a new dam and associated facilities.

## EXTENDED COMMENT PERIOD

Receipt of comments and suggestions on the preparation of the EIR has been extended from the original deadline of March 17 to April 18, 2016. Written comments must be received by NID no later than April 18, 2016 (see other side for more information on comments submittal).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH C/O HDR  
2379 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE  
SUITE 200  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
PERMIT 1890



### GET INVOLVED!


Comments and suggestions on the preparation of the EIR are invited from all interested parties from **February 16 to April 18, 2016**. Written comments must be received by NID no later than April 18, 2016 to:

Lisa Francis Tassone  
Board Secretary  
Nevada Irrigation District  
1036 W. Main Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Phone: 530-273-6185 ext. 222  
Fax: 530-477-2646  
tassone@nidwater.com  
[www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)

The following message was distributed to the e-mail list (called an *e-blast*) on February 16, 2016, to 521 contacts.

View online | Forward to a friend



## CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR

COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY

**Project Update**

### Nevada Irrigation District Asks for Public Input on Proposed Reservoir Project

***Centennial Reservoir Project will provide water for local farms, clean drinking water and green energy***

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is hosting a series of local meetings in early March to ask the public for input on the Centennial Reservoir Project as they announce the first steps in planning, financing and construction with the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Centennial project will use the most advanced science and technology available to provide water for local farms, develop lower elevation storage and deliver clean, green energy to Nevada and Placer County residents.

"The Centennial Reservoir Project is a critical part of the solution to the area's current and future water needs, including agriculture, drinking water, recreation, energy and wildlife protection," said NID General Manager Rem Scherzinger. "The Centennial Reservoir will collect water for our community and enhance our agricultural legacy."

The proposed reservoir is designed as a storage recovery project that involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir on the Bear River as well as construction of a new dam and associated facilities. The Centennial Project will extend upriver from just above the existing Combie Reservoir for slightly more than six miles to a point west of the Town of Colfax, approximately two miles downstream of the existing Rollins Dam. It is anticipated the project will cost between \$200-\$300 million.

NID will hold two public scoping meetings to present information about the proposed project, NID's decision-making processes and to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR.

"We know the community has questions and that some have concerns they'd like to share," said Scherzinger. "We want to address these concerns and move forward with this reliable form of water delivery to support our community's needs now and in the future."

The dates and times of the two public scoping meetings are:



<b>Grass Valley</b> March 9, 2016 6:00-8:00 p.m. Holiday Inn Express 121 Bank Street	<b>Auburn</b> March 10, 2016 6:00-8:00 p.m. Forest Lake Christian High School 12515 Combie Road
--	---

NID is accepting written comments through March 17, 2016. Comments can be sent to NID Board Secretary Lisa Francis Tassone, 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

More information can be found on Centennial Project's new website, <http://www.centennialreservoir.org>.

Follow Centennial Project's Facebook and Twitter accounts for updates.



# # #


 Like us on Facebook
  Follow us on Twitter

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The following e-blast was sent on March 7, 2016, to 647 contacts.

[View online](#) | [Forward to a friend](#)





# CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR

COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY

## Project Update

### Nevada Irrigation District Extends Public Comment Period on Centennial Reservoir Project Notice of Preparation

**Additional 30 days given in response to public requests**

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) extended the public comment period for the Centennial Reservoir Project Notice of Preparation (NOP) of Environmental Impact Report (EIR) from the original deadline of March 17 to April 18, 2016. NID is taking this action in response to requests from the public asking for additional time to submit comments.

"The public has been responding to our call for input on the Centennial Reservoir Project, a major effort in the solution to the area's current and future water needs," said NID General Manager Rem Scherzinger. "These comments are necessary to Centennial Reservoir's planning and development to ensure this project meets the needs of our community."

NID, the Lead Agency for the California Environmental Quality Act, first requested public input on this step in the planning, financing and construction of the Centennial project last month.

NID will hold two public scoping meetings to present information about the proposed project to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the scope and content of the EIR.

Public scoping meeting details:

<b>Grass Valley</b> March 9, 2016 6:00-8:00 p.m. Holiday Inn Express 121 Bank Street	<b>Auburn</b> March 10, 2016 6:00-8:00 p.m. Forest Lake Christian High School 12515 Combie Road
--	---

NID is proposing to implement the Centennial Reservoir Project to provide drought and climate change-mitigation, meet projected future water supply needs, and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers. The Project involves the construction of a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir as well as construction of a new dam and associated facilities, on the Bear River between the existing Rollins and Combie reservoirs. The Project will extend upriver from just above the existing Combie Reservoir for slightly more than six miles to a point west of the Town of Colfax, approximately two miles downstream of the existing Rollins Dam. The NID anticipates the project will cost \$200 to \$300 million.

The Centennial project will use the most advanced science and technology available to provide water for local farms, provide drought and climate change-mitigation, meet the region's future water supply needs and improve water supply reliability for NID's customers.



NID will accept written comments through April 18, 2016. The public can send comments to NID Board Secretary Lisa Francis Tassone, 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945. The original deadline to submit comments was March 17, 2016.

NID anticipates the Draft EIR will be available for a 45-day public review and comment period in early 2017. All interested parties are encouraged to respond to the NOP and provide a current address for notifications regarding the Draft EIR.

Visit Centennial Project's new website - <http://www.centennialreservoir.org> - for more information.

Follow Centennial Project's Facebook for updates.

###



 Like us on Facebook  Follow us on Twitter


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The following e-blast was sent on April 4, 2016, to 680 contacts.

[View online](#) | [Forward to a friend](#)





# CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR

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## Thanks and We Need Your Input

Nevada Irrigation District (NID) would like to thank all those who attended the Centennial Reservoir Project's Environmental Scoping Public Meetings in March. The meetings were held in Grass Valley on March 9th and Auburn March 10th. Thank you also to those who have submitted comments on the proposed project.



The meeting transcripts and presentation - both of which summarize the project and the meeting's specifics - are now available to view on the project's website:

- NOP Scoping Meeting Presentation
- NOP Scoping Meeting Transcript

NID is accepting comments through April 18, 2016. Please send your comments to:

Lisa Francis Tassone  
Board Secretary  
Nevada Irrigation District  
1036 W. Main Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
[tassone@nidwater.com](mailto:tassone@nidwater.com)

Again, we appreciate the community's participation in this project. Thank you!

 [Like us on Facebook](#)  [Follow us on Twitter](#)

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## Appendix B: Scoping Meeting Materials

The following is a copy of the meeting handout that was provided at the scoping meetings.



# CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR

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**GRASS VALLEY**  
Wednesday, March 9, 2016  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Express  
121 Bank Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

**AUBURN**  
Thursday, March 10, 2016  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
Forest Lake Christian High School  
12515 Combie Road, Auburn, CA 95602

### Welcome Guide | Thank you for attending the Public Scoping Meeting!

The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) welcomes you to the Scoping Meeting for the Centennial Reservoir Project.

#### Today, you can:

- Learn about the project and environmental process
- Provide comments on the environmental scope by filling out a speaker card, comment card or dictation to the court reporter

### Meeting Format | Presentation and Public Comment Period

Please take a moment to review the boards and then take a seat for the presentation. NID and their team will present and provide details on the proposed project and the environmental review/analysis process. Following the presentation, we will hold a public comment period. Please fill out a speaker card if you wish to provide comments during the comment period tonight. Otherwise, you are welcome to fill out a comment card or dictate your comments to the court reporter.

<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	Sign In / Review display boards
<b>6:15 p.m.</b>	NID Presentation
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Public Comment Period
<b>8:00 p.m.</b>	End of meeting

### Environmental Overview | California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

NID is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed project. As part of the CEQA Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process, NID must disclose to the public any potentially significant environmental impacts that may result from project implementation as well as ways to prevent or minimize these impacts through development of alternatives and mitigation measures. The CEQA process encourages public participation throughout development of the EIR.

### EIR Subject Areas | EIR Sections and/or Technical Studies

- |  |                                   |                                 |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ▪ Aesthetics                                   | ▪ Geology and Soils               | ▪ Mineral Resources             |
| ▪ Air Quality                                  | ▪ Greenhouse Gas Emissions        | ▪ Noise                         |
| ▪ Agriculture and Forestry Resources           | ▪ Hazards and Hazardous Materials | ▪ Population and Housing        |
| ▪ Terrestrial and Aquatic Biological Resources | ▪ Hydrology and Water Quality     | ▪ Public Services               |
| ▪ Cultural Resources                           | ▪ Land Use and Planning           | ▪ Recreation                    |
| ▪ Tribal Cultural Resources                    |                                   | ▪ Transportation and Traffic    |
|  |                                   | ▪ Utilities and Service Systems |

### **Access to NOP** | Visit [www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)

The NOP for the project can be reviewed on the project website at [www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org).

### **Comments on Environmental Scope** | Due Monday, April 18, 2016

The Notice of Preparation was released on February 16, 2016. Responsible and trustee agencies as well as other interested parties including the general public are asked to review and provide comments on the scope of the Environmental Analysis prior to the end of the formal public comment period on Monday, April 18, 2016.

Anyone wanting to comment can:

- Fill out a comment card and leave it with us tonight
- Provide verbal comments to the Court Reporter
- Email comments via the project website:  
[www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)  
[feedback@centennialreservoir.org](mailto:feedback@centennialreservoir.org)
- Submit comments to:  
*Lisa Francis Tassone, Board Secretary*  
*Nevada Irrigation District*  
*1036 W. Main Street*  
*Grass Valley, CA 95945*  
*Phone: 530-273-6185 ext. 222*  
*Fax: 530-477-2646*  
[tassone@nidwater.com](mailto:tassone@nidwater.com)

### **Quick Tips** | Providing Substantive Comments

When crafting comments for submission, objectively evaluate the project environmental scope and avoid submitting opinion comments. Substantive comments that are backed by factual support can lead to changes in the environmental review of the project. Draft comments in a manner which will allow the lead agency to review and consider during the environmental analysis.

- Be specific
- Identify concerns
- Include suggestions for improvement
- Submit comments before deadline

### **Next Steps following Scoping Period** | spring 2016 – early 2017

Upon close of the public scoping comment period, NID will review all substantive written and oral comments received and consider them during the development of the environmental scope and EIR. Next, NID will initiate the environmental studies and analysis and begin preparation of the EIR. The Draft EIR will be circulated to the public for review and comment prior to being finalized.

Up-to-date project information at: [www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)

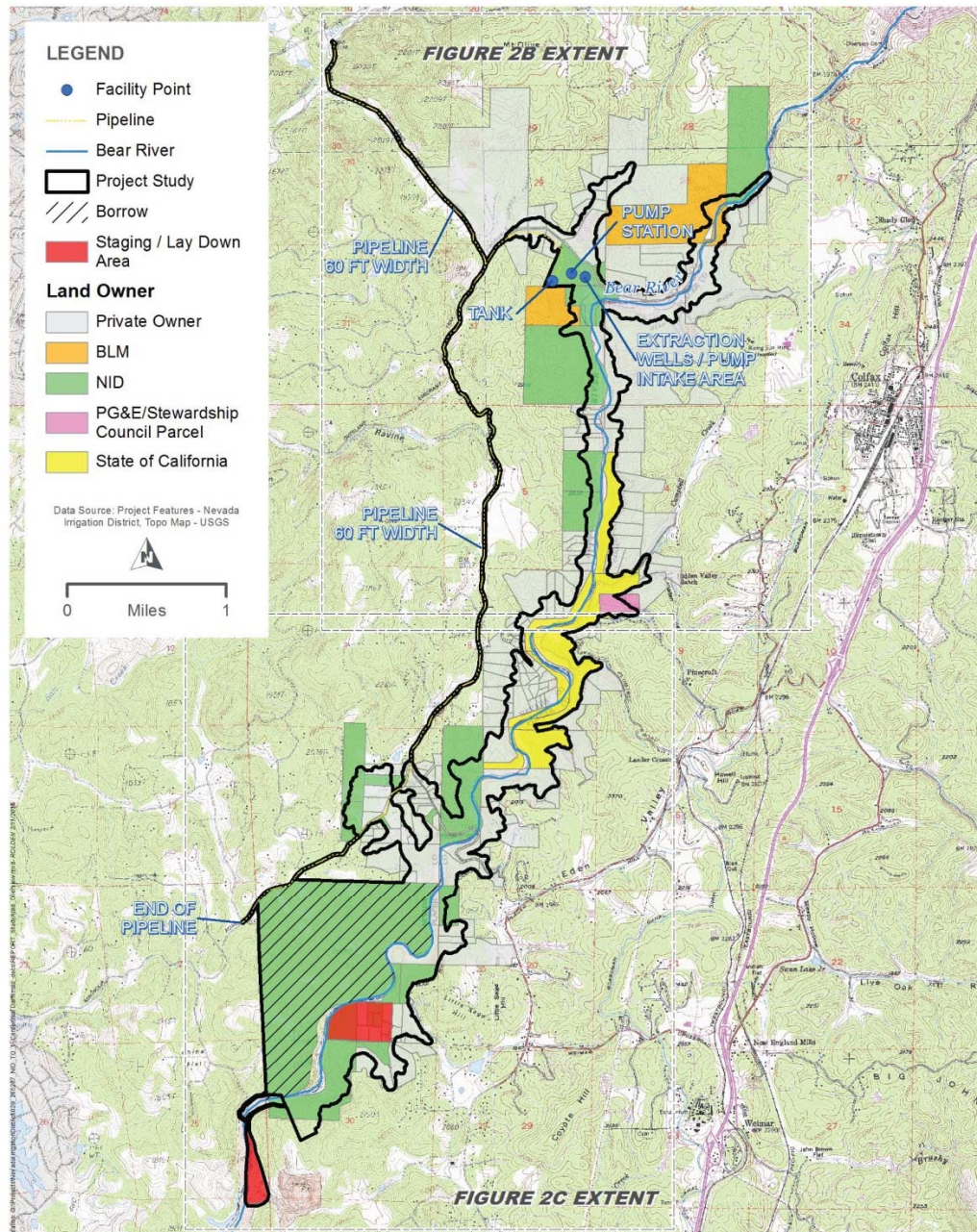
The following is a copy of the scoping meeting speaker card that was provided to people who requested to speak at the meeting.

<b>SPEAKER CARD</b> Please Print	
Name:	
Email:	
	<b>CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR</b> COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY <a href="http://www.centennialreservoir.org">www.centennialreservoir.org</a>



The following is a copy of the display boards from the scoping meetings.

## Study Area - Overview

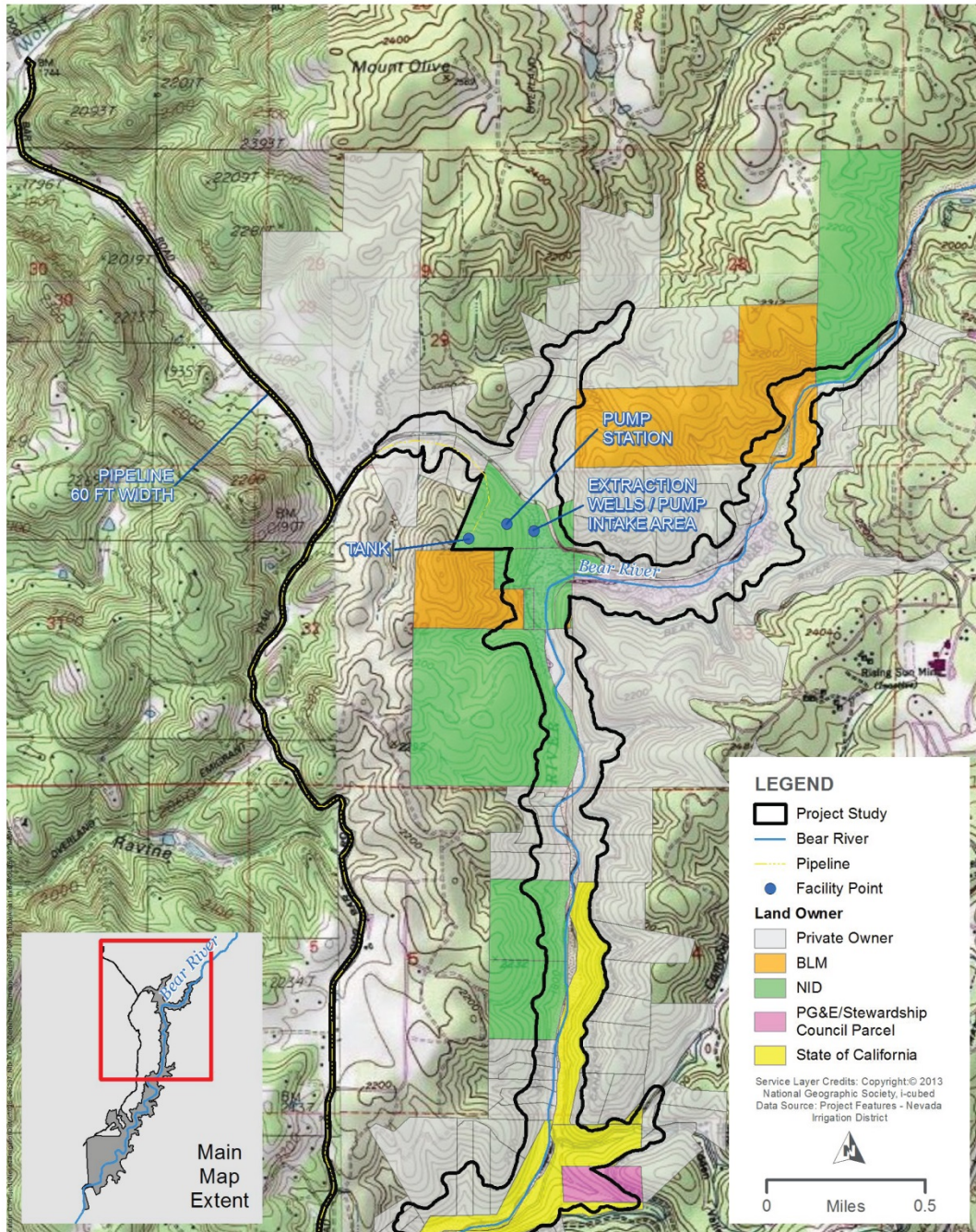


**CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR**  
COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY

[www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)



## Study Area - Figure 2B



**CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR**  
COMMUNITY • AGRICULTURE • SUSTAINABILITY

[www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)



Topographic map of the Bear River area in Nevada, showing the proposed pipeline route, project study area, borrow area, staging/lay down area, and land ownership. The map includes contour lines, elevation markers, and a legend.

**PIPELINE 60 FT WIDTH**

**END OF PIPELINE**

**Bear River**

**Legend:**

- Project Study Area** (Black outline)
- Borrow Area** (Hatched pattern)
- Staging / Lay Down Area** (Red)
- Bear River** (Blue line)
- Pipeline** (Yellow line)
- Land Owner**
  - Private Owner (White)
  - NID (Green)
  - State of California (Yellow)

**Main Map Extent**

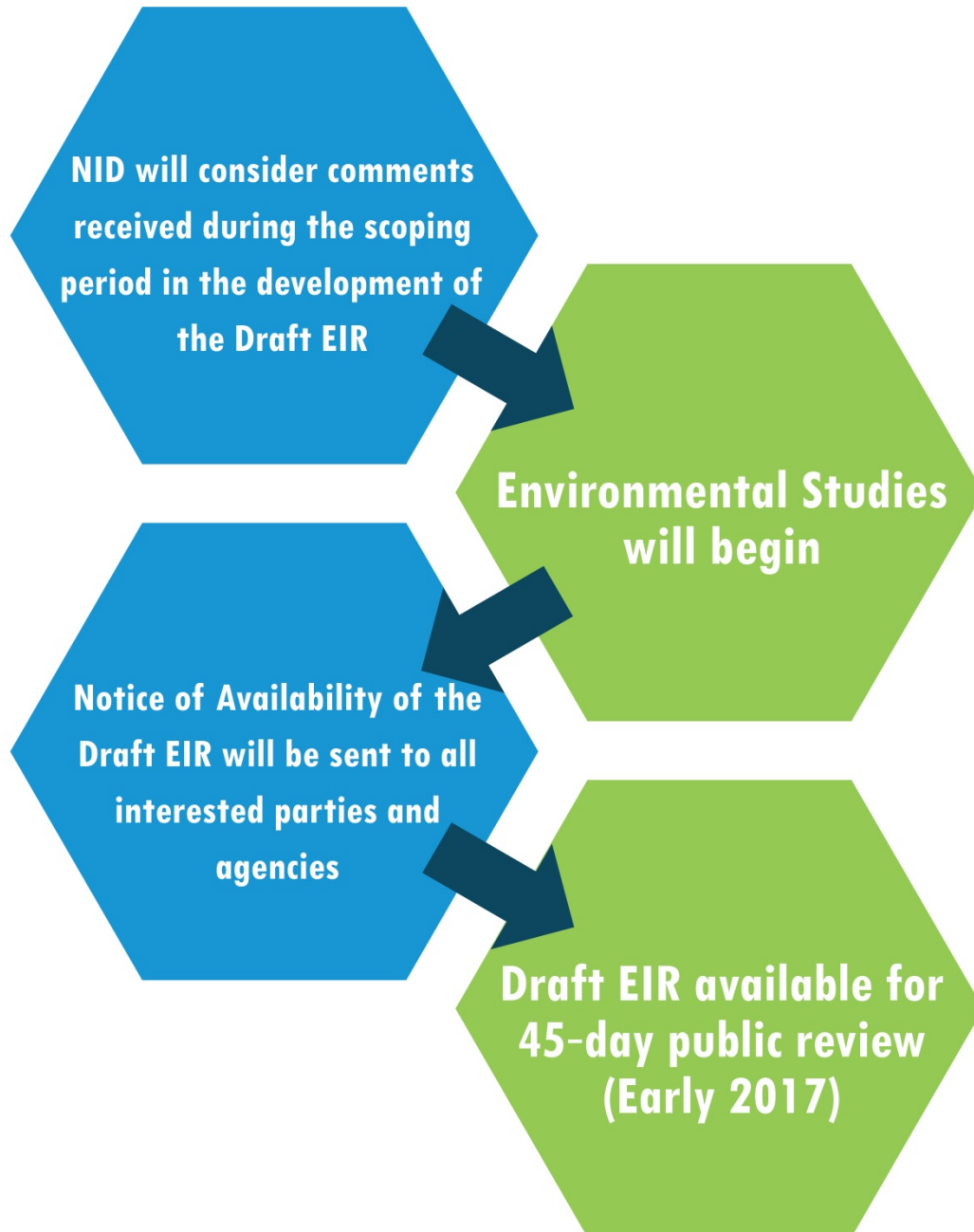
Service Layer Credits: Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed Data Source: Project Features - Nevada Irrigation District

0 Miles 0.5



**[www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)**

## Next Steps/Schedule



**CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR**  
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## Comments Submittal

**Comment Period: February 16 to April 18**

**Send written comments and suggestions to:**

Lisa Francis Tassone  
Board Secretary  
Nevada Irrigation District  
1036 W. Main Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Phone: 530-273-6185 ext. 222  
Fax: 530-477-2646  
tassone@nidwater.com

**Questions should be addressed to:**

Doug Roderick, P.E.  
Nevada Irrigation District  
Phone: 530-271-6866  
Fax: 530-477-2646  
roderick@nidwater.com

**Committed to providing timely information  
using a number of tools:**



Briefings/  
Large Meetings



Regular e-mails



Direct Mailings



Multi-Media  
Coordination



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The following is a copy of the PowerPoint presentation that was presented at the scoping meetings.

## Public Scoping Meetings

### GRASS VALLEY

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express

121 Bank Street

Grass Valley, CA 95945

### AUBURN

Thursday, March 10, 2016

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Forest Lake Christian High School

12515 Combie Road

Auburn, CA 95602



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## Agenda

- Welcome / Meeting Format
- Ground Rules / Quick Tips
- CEQA Scoping Meeting
- Project Details
- Study Area
- Environmental Issues / Concerns
- Anticipated Permits and Approvals
- Project Communications
- Next Steps / Schedule Review



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## Ground Rules/Quick Tips

### MEETING FORMAT

6:15 pm – Presentation

7:00 pm – Public Comment Period

*To provide input this evening, fill out a speaker card or comment card or visit the court reporter*

#### Quick Tips on submitting comments on environmental scope:

- Objectively evaluate project environmental scope
- Avoid submitting opinion comments
- Be specific
- Identify concerns and interests
- Include suggestions for improvement
- Submit comments before deadline

Comments at this phase of the CEQA process should focus on the scope of the environmental analysis to ensure nothing is missed and concerns and interests can be considered.



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## California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

- Informs decision-makers and public of potential environmental effects
- Increases public understanding and participation in environmental review process
- Discloses potential impacts to environment
- Identifies measures to avoid impacts and mitigation measures to reduce impacts



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## CEQA Scoping Process

- Provide information on Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Process
- Identify environmental issues for analysis in EIR
- Solicit community input
- NID is seeking comments on the Proposed Project and range of:
  - Actions
  - Alternatives
  - Significant effects
  - Mitigation measures

*Scoping is the first step. This meeting is for community input on the environmental review process.*



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## CEQA Process/Schedule



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## NID Background



### NID formed in 1921:

- Independent Special District operated by and for the landowners
- Primarily supplies water for irrigation, municipal, domestic, and industrial purposes
- Boundaries include Nevada, Placer, and Yuba counties



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## NID Background



- Water collection on over 70,000 acres of mountain watershed within the Yuba River, Canyon Creek, Bear River, and Deer Creek watersheds
- Owns and operates extensive water delivery system including:
  - Reservoirs
  - Canals
  - Water Treatment Plant Network



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## Project Background

- Water supply system is “store and release”  
*Snow melt and rain storage / released during dry seasons*
- Water supply relies on snowmelt and rain to fill storage reservoirs
- Irrigation season demand is primarily met by reservoir storage
- Water rights for this project set in 1927
- In 2014, NID supported \$105M of agricultural revenue within Nevada and Placer counties
- The environment is NID’s single largest customer
- Environmental releases almost equal to treated water demand



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## Project Purpose & Need

### NEED:

- As water demand increases, anticipated climate change and periodic drought create imminent challenges for maintaining a sustainable water system
- NID evaluated current practices and recent climatic changes that have impacted the natural runoff volume
- The margin between average watershed runoff volume and demand is diminishing  
*Source: NID Raw Water Master Plan*
- Current water system is over-reliant on runoff from the annual mountain snowpack  
*During summer months there is diminishing natural runoff*



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## Project Purpose & Need

### NEED (cont.):

- Increased future demands = Greater draw down of NID's reservoirs
- Resulting in urgent and greater need for mid elevation storage to capture runoff from rain and snow storms

### PURPOSE:

*NID is proposing to implement the Centennial Reservoir Project (Proposed Project) to provide:*

- Drought and climate change-mitigation
- Meet projected future water supply needs
- Improve water supply reliability for NID's customers



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## Project Description

### The Proposed Project will:

- Construct a new 110,000 acre-foot reservoir
- Located on Bear River
  - Between Rollins and Combie reservoirs
  - Extending upriver from just above Combie Reservoir to two miles downstream of Rollins Dam (west of Colfax)
- Just over six miles long



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## Project Description

- Considering roller-compacted concrete and rockfill dam options  
*Anticipated water depth of 255 feet with height at 275 feet*
- Low impact public recreational opportunities  
*5 mph maximum speed on the reservoir, pedestrian trails, swimming, and kayaking*
- Installation of new raw water pipeline within Dog Bar Road
- Construction of pump station, tank, and extraction wells/pump intake area in northern portion of reservoir



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## Benefits

**The Centennial Reservoir Project will provide economic, environmental, and social benefits including:**

- Improved water supply reliability
- Enhanced groundwater recharge
- Managed flows from the reservoir for aquatic species protection
- Enhanced carbon sequestration
- A six-mile long firebreak
- Enhanced water resources to support local food production
- Development of a reservoir that will provide both recreational activity and fish habitat



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## Environmental Issues/Concerns

Resource Areas to be evaluated for impacts:



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## Anticipated Permits and Approvals

Agency	Type of Approval
<b>Federal</b>	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit
National Marine Fisheries Service	Section 7 Consultation for Federal Endangered Species Act compliance
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 Consultation for Federal Endangered Species Act compliance
State Historic Preservation Officer	Section 106 Compliance for the National Historic Preservation Act
<b>State</b>	
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Consultation for State Endangered Species Act compliance
	Streambed Alteration Agreement (CDFG code 1602)
California Native American Heritage Commission	Consultation for effects on Native American burials or artifacts
Regional Water Quality Control Board	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activities
	Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification
<b>Local</b>	
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District and Placer County Air Pollution Control District	Consultation for Authority to Construct Permits

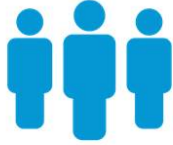


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## Project Communications

Committed to providing timely information using a number of tools:



Briefings/Large meetings



Regular e-mails



Direct Mailings



Multi-Media Coordination

Project Specific Website: [www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org)

Email: [feedback@centennialreservoir.org](mailto:feedback@centennialreservoir.org)



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## Next Steps/Schedule



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# Stay Involved!

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## Appendix C: Scoping Commenters

Copies of the court reporter transcripts, comment cards, letters, and emails submitted during the scoping comment period are provided on NID's Centennial Reservoir website at [www.centennialreservoir.org](http://www.centennialreservoir.org) in response to the scoping deadline of April 18, 2016. The following is a list of agencies and individuals who submitted comments. Note that some commenters submitted more than one comment using different methods; each commenting party is listed once even if they submitted more than one comment.

### Agencies

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
City of Colfax  
Contra Costa Water District  
Midway Heights County Water District  
Native American Heritage Commission  
Nevada County (Community Development Department)  
Placer County (Board of Supervisors)  
Placer County (County Executive)  
Placer Hills Fire Protection District  
South Sutter Water District  
State Clearinghouse  
State Water Resources Control Board  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Individuals and Nongovernmental Organizations

Adams, Ph.D., David	Baker, Elmer & Carol
Albert, Heinrich	Ball, Jeff
Albright, Charles	Ballinger, Shirley
Alcala, Dagan	Balzer, David & Sandra
Allen, Miriam	Barnett, Gary
Altman, David A.	Barhydt, Laura
American River Watershed Institute (signed by Otis Wollan)	Barlow, Randall
American Rivers (signed by Maxwell Odland and Jeff Odefey)	Barrilleaux, James
Anderson, Mark	Barry, W. James
Anderson, Michael	Beard, Lora & Larry
Anderson, Patrina	Becky
Anderson, Paul	Bega, Joan
Archer, Robert	Benham, Betty
Armbruster, George	Bennet, Graham
Armstrong, John	Bernardo, Gregory C.
Arvay, Carol	Boas, Lorel
Babich, Michael	Boden, Thompson
Bailey, Mary Lou	Brady, Carol J.
	Branson, Tom
	Branstrom, Ph.D., Robert



Brewer, Belinda  
Brisson, Janet  
Brouelette, Greg  
Brown, Rick & Jackie  
Bruns, Dixie  
Burgess, Donna  
Burnett, Peter  
Burns, David  
Butts, Everett D.  
California Native Plant Society (signed by  
Denise Della Santina)  
Campbell, Patricia  
Chaplin, Linda  
Charischristou, Becky  
Chmel, Cathy  
Coe, James R.  
Connor, John Michael  
Cook, Kris  
Coppin, Joe  
Coulter, Matthew  
Crawford, Lynn  
Crawford, P.  
Crebbin, Jennifer  
Crum, Timothy J.  
Curin, Richard & Stephanie  
Dahl, Bonnie J.  
John Deam  
DeLacy, Elena  
Dennis  
DeWald, LaKenna  
Dewitt, Elizabeth  
Dondro, Richard  
Dooley-Miller, Shannon  
Dunlap, Donna Ann  
Eaton, Shawn  
Ebert, Erik  
Edgar, Russell  
Ellenbogen, Susan  
Fahlen, Fred  
Fee, Justin  
Fee, Kevin  
Feldman, Stewart  
Flynn, Rose Suehead

Foothills Water Network (signed by Traci  
Sheehan Van Thull and others)  
Frager, Bruce  
Franklin, Albert  
Frizzell, Randall  
Fryer, Wilton  
Gaber, Emily  
Garcia, Evan  
Garcia, Patricia  
Gilbert, Nancy  
Gilman, David  
Giuliani, Ed  
Glessner, Justin  
Graf, Susan  
Groghan, Roger  
Groos, Andreas  
Guenzer, Charles  
Haines, Linda Louise  
Harless, Jeannie  
Havener, Mark  
Heuer, G.P.  
Hickson, Caroline  
Hill-Weld, Michael  
Hitchcock, Ralph  
Hooper, Charles L.  
Hopkins, Susan  
Howes, Lee  
Hunt, Luke  
Hunt, Ralph & Barbara  
Huryn, Chris  
Hustead, Cody  
Iknoian, Therese (and Michael Hodgson)  
Illgner, Jeff  
Ingram, Genevieve  
Ishii, Emma F.  
Jansen, Sandy  
Janusz, Leslye  
Jeffcoat, Ted (and Marsha George)  
Jeffries, Bob  
Jensen, Hannah  
Johansen, Rich  
Johnson  
Johnson, Burna  
Johnson, Clifford

Johnson, Scott  
Jones, Lauren  
Jordan, Larry  
Jorgensen, Eric  
Kack, V.  
Kannegaard, Elizabeth  
Kennedy, Joseph  
Krage, Chet & Diane  
Lester, Theresa  
Lewis, Michael  
Liden, Devon  
Livingston, Mildred  
LoBue, Jim  
Lose, Sarah  
Love, Susan  
Lowry, George  
Luckinbill, Debbie & Jim  
Ludgate, Robert  
Mack, Gale  
Main, Margaret Huntley  
Mateo, Carmen  
McCoy, Lisa  
McKaig, Maggie  
McManus, Mike  
McNaughton, Gregory  
Mead, Karen  
Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council  
(signed by Mike Walker)  
Meadow Vista Trails Association (signed by  
Sherri Bloomfield and others)  
Menconi, Tom  
Meran, William & Diane  
Meylor-Hopper, Cathy  
Millar, Beatrice & Peter J.  
Millar, Laurie  
Miller, Elizabeth  
Mooney, Donald  
Mullin, Jeff  
Munn, Barbara (and Ron Wigart)  
Nelson, Allison  
Netto, Paul  
Neubert, David  
Nicholas  
Nicholson, Judith

OBerg, Jennifer Lee  
Okunami Family  
Olander, J. Chris  
Olsen, Linda  
Olson, Angela  
Olson, Vernon  
Olswang, Mary  
Orloff, Leah  
Ormonde, Aislinn  
Pasner, Mike  
Perry, Karen & Jordan  
Petersen, Leigh  
Piasente, Mark  
Piette, Thomas & Mary  
Pool, Alicia C  
Protect American River Canyons (PARC)  
(signed by Tim Woodall)  
Rademacher, Ila  
Ramos, Jr., Clifford R.  
Raskin, Samuel  
Rawlings, Stuart  
Reed, Ann  
Reiner, Gene L.  
Rinderneck, Janna  
Riquelmy, Alan  
Rivenes, Don & Barbara  
Roby, Donald & Betty  
Roche, W. Martin  
Russell, Gayle  
Ruth, Lela  
Ryan  
Ryland, David  
Satterlee, Lauren & Rick  
Savage, Dan  
Scarmon, George & Jeanne Clark  
Schmeiske, David  
Schmeiske, Shannon  
Schramm, Steve  
Schreiber, Trish  
Scourtes, Katherine  
Shuttleworth, Alan  
Shuttleworth, Dale & Jay  
Shykowski, Jason

Sierra Club, Placer Group (signed by Carol Love)  
Sierra Club, Nevada Group (signed by Barbara Rivenes)  
Sierra Streams Institute (signed by Joanne Hild)  
Sihner, Chris & Kathy  
Simpson, Mariah  
Sindel, Kathy  
Singer, Tom  
Sisson, Janet  
Sivila, Mary & Michael  
Smith, Rick  
Snodgrass, Rondal & Julie Carville  
Soltero, Evelyn  
Soto, Don  
Soto, James D.  
South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL)  
Sprunck, David & Cheri  
Stempel, Mark  
Stephens, Harriet  
Stockwin, Will  
Strom, Peter & Tone  
Stroud, Amy  
Suarez, Dianna D.  
Suddjian, Bob  
Sunshine Valley Homeowners Association (signed by Patrick Holten)  
Suter, Robert  
Sweeney, Bob  
Sweeney, Laurie

Tetrault, Sammy  
Tinker, Sonika (with Christian Pedersen)  
Toschi, Jaxson  
Trimble, Dave & Kim  
Underwood, Kenneth  
Vaccaro, Barry & Suzanne  
Vasquez, Michael  
Vierra, Heidi & Samantha  
Vierra, Cary & Tim  
Vodden, Leslye  
Vossler, F. & Herb  
Vossler, Mr. & Mrs.  
Wait, Dawn  
Wallace, Anne  
Warner, Callan  
Warner, Gary  
Wauters, William M.  
Weber, Kathleen  
Whipple, Lonna  
Wieczorek, Daniel & Connie  
Wolf Creek Community Alliance (signed by Jonathan Keehn)  
Wood, Colin  
Wood, Rose  
Wright, Andrew  
Wright, Andy  
Wright, Kim  
Wyeth, Karen & Harry  
Yates, Kevin  
Zauss, Michael

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