

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY

RESOLUTION NO. 26-52

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY  
SUPPORTING NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S PROPOSITION 4 FUNDING:  
2026 DAM SAFETY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE LOCAL ASSISTANCE  
SOLICITATION

**WHEREAS,** The Nevada Irrigation District, formed in 1921, is a California independent special district and is governed by a five-member board of directors elected from five regions within the District's 287,000 acre service area; and

**WHEREAS,** The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) is a diversified water resource agency that supplies both treated drinking water and raw water to more than 28,000 homes, farms and businesses in Nevada, Placer and Yuba Counties; and

**WHEREAS,** NID operates a diverse and interconnected multi-watershed system of 29 reservoirs, with a total storage capacity of 280,000 acre-feet, and a distribution system of more than 500 miles of canal and over 400 miles of treated water pipe; and

**WHEREAS,** NID conveys both treated and raw water to serve customers within western Nevada County, inclusive of the City of Grass Valley; and

**WHEREAS,** The Scotts Flat Reservoir, with a capacity of 48,500 acre-foot, is a critical mid-elevation reservoir to the regional convenience of the Nevada Irrigation District's water infrastructure system; and

**WHEREAS,** the District's Nevada County customers, including those within the community and surrounding vicinity of Grass Valley, rely on the safe operation of Scotts Flat Reservoir for regional water storage & conveyance; and

**WHEREAS,** the Scotts Flat Dam and Spillway are part of NID's FERC-licensed Project No. 5930 and is classified as High Hazard due to the potential for loss of life in the event of failure; and

**WHEREAS,** the Scotts Flat Spillway is a crucial safety feature; it protects the earthen rock-fill infrastructure from serious erosion during spill events; and

**WHEREAS,** the Reservoir's circa 1940 slab concrete spillway has experienced recurring spall damage over time and after the flood flows of 2017, regulatory agencies have assessed spillway infrastructure throughout the state, including at Scotts Flat; and

**WHEREAS,** the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) have determined that the Scotts Flat Spillway must be replaced; and

**WHEREAS,** between 2018-2025, in consultation with regulatory agencies DSOD and FERC, the Nevada Irrigation District awarded more than \$2.8 million in preparation work for the Spillway's eventual replacement, including site exploration, conceptual design studies, hydraulic modeling and final design; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated construction is set to begin in 2027 with estimated costs as high as \$55 million over a three-year construction window; and

**WHEREAS**, the District's small number of water rate payers throughout its service territory are disproportionately obliged to bear the cost of the total project; and

**WHEREAS**, the District seeks to apply to DWR's Proposition 4 Solicitation "Dam Safety & Climate Resilience Local Assistance" grant program to help offset the project cost to its rate payers, including treated and agricultural customers within western Nevada County including the City of Grass Valley; and

**WHEREAS**, On May 27, 2026, the NID Board of Directors conducted a public hearing to adopt Proposition 218-compliant water rates for 2027 through 2031 and in the adopting Resolution No. 2026-26, the Board of Directors included guidelines that would be considered each year before approval of the water rates implemented annually; and

**WHEREAS**, The Resolution No. 2026-26 guidelines direct NID staff to "...aggressively look for external sources of revenue...including private/public partnerships, government grants..."; and

**WHEREAS**, A successful award to NID of DWR's Proposition 4 Solicitation "Dam Safety & Climate Resilience Local Assistance" grant may help offset future water rate increases for the District's treated and agricultural raw water customers throughout its service territory, including those customers within western Nevada County including the City of Grass Valley.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRASS VALLEY DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City Council hereby approves Resolution 2026-52
2. The City Council supports NID's application for DWR's Proposition 4 Solicitation "Dam Safety & Climate Resilience Local Assistance" grant funding to assist in offsetting costs related to the Scotts Flat Spillway Replacement Project.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Grass Valley City Council on the 10th day of March, 2026, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Councilmembers  
NOES: Councilmembers  
ABSTAIN: Councilmembers  
ABSENT: Councilmembers

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Mayor of the City of Grass Valley

Attest:

Approved as to form:

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City Clerk of the City of Grass Valley

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City Attorney for the City of Grass Valley