

MOUNTAIN COUNTIES WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION**EL DORADO COUNTY
GEORGETOWN DIVIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES DISTRICT****PRELIMINARY****DESCRIPTION**

The Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District (GDPUD) service area is in the northern part of El Dorado County on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada foothills, approximately 45 miles northeast of Sacramento, California. The service area straddles a ridge called Georgetown Divide, which separates the drainage basin of the Middle Fork American River and Rubicon River on the north from the South Fork American River on the south. The service area ranges in elevation between 800 and 3,500 feet and encompasses approximately 75,000 acres with water service to approximately 30,000 acres. The GDPUD sphere of influence is 173,000 acres. GDPUD furnishes treated agricultural and subagricultural uses through approximately 70 miles of ditch and over 200 miles of pipeline.

EXISTING WATER SUPPLY

The present source of water for GDPUD is surface water from the Stumpy Meadows Project located on Pilot Creek on the Middle Fork American River watershed. Stumpy Meadows Reservoir has a storage capacity of 20,000 acre-feet and usable pool of 18,800 acre-feet.

WATER DEMAND

In 1997, GDPUD's water demand was approximately 9,400 acre-feet. The net water demand for agricultural use is not expected to increase. Future increases in water demand are expected in the urban (treated) water demand and in the subagricultural use.

SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SUPPLIES

The supplemental water to meet increasing water demands will be derived from a reduction in conveyance losses and from new supplies. New supplies, most probably, will have to be pumped from the North Fork American River downstream of the Auburn Dam site. Options available for new supplies include a water service contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) under PL-101-514, and arrangements with other entities having water rights in the American River Basin including the City of Sacramento, Placer County Water Agency, and the East Bay Municipal Utility District.

PROBLEMS/CONSTRAINTS

The problems or constraints for GDPUD to meet its increased water demands are as follows:

1. Environmental -- Environmental constraints are anticipated for implementing programs for water conservation and new water supply. Reducing seepage losses along existing ditches may be an issue to the extent some area wetlands have become established. Routing additional water from the American River Basin will be an issue.
2. Legal -- Obtaining a water service contract from the USBR, obtaining water rights, or executing agreements with other agencies to provide supplemental water from the North Fork American River will be time-consuming and difficult to accomplish, even though the water needs are small in relation to the average annual runoff from the basin of more than 2.7 million acre-feet.
3. Financial -- The cost to implement measures to reduce losses along GDPUD's ditch system will cost in excess of \$3 million. The cost to construct facilities to pump water from the North Fork American River is approximately \$11 million.