

MOUNTAIN COUNTIES WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

CALAVERAS COUNTY

PRELIMINARY**DESCRIPTION**

Public water supplies in Calaveras County are served by five water purveyors: Calaveras County Water District; Calaveras Public Utilities District; Union Public Utility District; City of Angels; and Valley Springs Public Utility District. Calaveras County encompasses an area of 657,920 acres covering more than 50 miles of valleys, foothills, and mountain peaks, from Comanche Reservoir on the west to Bear Valley on the east. The topography ranges from approximately 200 feet msl in the northwest region to a peak of 8,170 feet msl near Alpine County. Twenty-three percent of the county is in public ownership. The existing population of nearly 40,000, is projected to more than double by 2020.

EXISTING WATER SUPPLY

The majority of the water supplied by the public water purveyors is from the North Fork Stanislaus and Mokelumne river systems with some from the Calaveras system at New Hogan Reservoir. Entitlements to meet long-term needs are available in the form of water rights, contracts, and agreements involving the North Fork Stanislaus, Mokelumne, and Calaveras rivers.

WATER DEMAND

The existing water demand served by public water purveyors, including agricultural use, is nearly 12,000 acre-feet per year. A substantial increase is expected to accommodate the future population. A significant increase is anticipated for agricultural use associated with an emerging wine-producing industry as well.

SUPPLEMENTAL WATER SUPPLIES

Entitlements exist to meet future water demands, however, a significant investment in new infrastructure will be required. Supplies from the North Fork Stanislaus River can be effectively utilized to meet a major part of the increased demands. Agreements with other parties including East Bay Municipal Water District, Amador County, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and other downstream water users could facilitate this effort.

PROBLEMS/CONSTRAINTS

The problems or constraints for Calaveras County to meet its increased water demands include the following:

1. Environmental -- Environmental issues are anticipated for implementing projects for conveyance of water within the County.
2. Legal -- Agreements will be needed among various parties to facilitate executing arrangements that provide for the most effective utilization of the water resources available.
3. Financial -- The cost to construct water conveyance facilities to make effective use of the supplies available is approximately \$20 million.