

Initial Study for the
El Dorado Water & Power Authority
Supplemental Water Rights Project

October 2008



EL DORADO
WATER & POWER
AUTHORITY

El Dorado Water & Power Authority
3932 Ponderosa Road, Suite 200
Shingle Springs, California 95682

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Initial Study Contents

This Initial Study contains the following sections:

Section 1 – Introduction

This section provides a brief overview of the Initial Study, a description of the CEQA environmental review process, public scoping meeting(s), and CEQA lead agency contact information.

Section 2 - Project Description

This section discusses the background of the proposed project, various project elements, and project objectives.

Section 3 - Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This section contains a summarization of the environmental factors potentially affected by the proposed project.

Section 4 – Determinations

This section contains a summarization of the CEQA determinations of the proposed project made by the lead agency.

Section 5 – Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

This section contains the Basic Project Information and the environmental checklist identifying the various environmental resources that could be affected by the proposed project and discusses whether the project's effects on resources/issues are potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, less than significant, or have no impact.

Section 1 – Introduction

This Initial Study was prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (as amended) (California Public Resources Code 21000 et. Seq.) and, in accordance with the State Guidelines for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA Guidelines) (California Code of Regulations, title 14, Section 15000 et seq.). The El Dorado Water & Power Authority (EDWPA) is seeking a water right to make consumptive use of water originating from American River sources including water stored and released from Loon Lake Reservoir, Union Valley and Ice House Reservoirs and certain direct diversions from the upper Rubicon River (tributary to the Middle and North Fork American Rivers) and Silver Creek (tributary to the South Fork American River). All of these reservoirs have been used by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) for approximately 50 years for hydroelectric power generation in its FERC Project No. 2101, also known as the Upper American River Project (UARP) located in El Dorado County, California.

The proposed project is to establish permitted water rights allowing diversion of water from the American River basin to meet planned future water demands in the EID and GDPUD service areas and other areas located within El Dorado County that are outside of these service areas. EDWPA will be filing with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, petitions for partial assignment of each of State Filed Applications 5644 and 5645, and accompanying applications allowing for the total withdrawal for use of 40,000 AFA, consistent with the diversion and storage locations allowed it under the El Dorado-SMUD Cooperation Agreement.

The potential environmental effects associated with the implementation of the Supplemental Water Rights Project including its potential indirect effects are addressed in this Initial Study. EDWPA is the CEQA lead agency for this document.

This Initial Study is to be circulated for public review and comment. All comments on the Initial Study should be submitted in writing to EDWPA no later than **5:00 pm on Friday December 5, 2008**. In addition, two Public Scoping Meetings and Workshops will be held at the locations shown below on **November 12 and 17, 2008**. All interested parties are encouraged to attend and participate in the Public Scoping Meetings and Workshops. All comments on the Initial Study and those presented during the Public Scoping Meetings will be reviewed and taken into consideration as part of the EDWPA CEQA environmental review and approval process for this project.

Public Scoping Meetings and Workshops

November 12, 2008

From 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Building "C"

2850 Fair Lane Court

Placerville, California

November 17, 2008

From 6:30 - 8:30 pm

SMUD Auditorium

SMUD Headquarters Building

6201 S Street

Sacramento, California

As the CEQA lead agency, EDWPA has discretion on how to consider the collective information generated for this project and to determine the appropriate compliance documentation. As a first step, this Initial Study has been prepared. Based on the findings of the Initial Study and, in consideration of other information made available to it, EDWPA has chosen to proceed with an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15082 states that when a decision is made to prepare an EIR, the lead agency must prepare a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to inform all responsible agencies of that decision. The purpose of the NOP is to provide responsible agencies and interested persons with sufficient information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects to allow the agencies to identify the information the EIR should include in order to meet the agency's needs. This early input will foster meaningful assessment by EDWPA as to the scope and content of the information and analyses to be included in the EIR.

For this Initial Study, please submit all written comments to:

Tracey Eden-Bishop, P.E.
Water Resources Engineer
El Dorado Water & Power Authority
3932 Ponderosa Road, Suite 200
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Section 2 – Project Description

Project Objective

The proposed project is to establish a permitted water right to allow diversion of water from the American River basin to meet future water demands, consistent with the El Dorado County 2004 General Plan, in the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) and Georgetown Divide Public Utility District (GDPUD) service areas and other areas located within El Dorado County that are outside of these service areas. The water right permit being requested is for a take of up to 40,000 acre-feet annually (AFA).

Project Need

Local water purveyors have a continuing obligation to exert reasonable effort to augment their available water supply in order to meet the projected demand in their service areas as embodied in adopted general plans. Accordingly, EDWPA, EID and GDPUD have a continuing obligation to exert reasonable effort to augment available water supply to meet the increasing demands from population growth and development approved by other governmental entities (e.g., El Dorado County) that have the power to make land use decisions.

Location of the Project

The Supplemental Water Rights Project is located on the South Fork and North Fork of the American River and its tributaries in El Dorado County (**Figure 1**). Folsom Dam is located in Sacramento County, and Folsom Reservoir is located in Sacramento, El Dorado and Placer Counties. The Supplemental Water Rights Project service area is illustrated in **Figure 1**.

Project Operation

Two points of withdrawal for use are proposed. The White Rock Powerhouse Penstock which was first licensed in 1957 and is owned and operated by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and Folsom Reservoir (operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) at or near the existing EID Folsom Reservoir pumping facilities. GDPUD, as discussed below, has no direct diversion facilities on the South Fork American River or Folsom Reservoir and, accordingly would rely on an exchange with an upstream purveyor. Water available for withdrawal at White Rock Powerhouse Penstock and Folsom Reservoir under the proposed project will be consistent with the operational conditions set forth in the UARP Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license conditions. So long as the UARP is operating as a hydroelectric project, the availability of any portion of the 40,000 AFA depends on any combination of the following sources of water:

- a) Water not originating from storage but used for meeting UARP FERC License required minimum flows below Slab Creek Reservoir;
- b) Water not originating from storage but directly diverted for power production at UARP facilities and to meet EDWPA delivery requirements; and
- c) Water released from storage in Loon Lake, Union Valley, and Ice House Reservoirs for power production or meeting instream flows or to meet EDWPA delivery requirements.

EID would take its diversion either at the turnout from the White Rock Penstock or at, or near, its current intake facility on Folsom Reservoir. GDPUD, with no current diversion structure on Folsom Reservoir, would plan to enter into an exchange agreement with an upstream water right holder (Placer County Water Agency, for example) and take its diversion of water at the existing American River Pump Station. In turn, the exchanging agency would divert water from Folsom Reservoir at the existing urban water supply intake at Folsom Dam. Under the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) example, Middle Fork Project (MFP) water rights, held by PCWA would be exchanged for a negotiated portion of this current newly acquired water right from GDPUD. Such an exchange would require a subsequent SWRCB action as a petition for change in Place of Use would need to be filed by PCWA to authorize MFP use within El Dorado County.

No new facilities are being proposed as part of this project.

Section 3 – Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

As a new water right project, the project has the potential to affect hydrologic and aquatic-related resources in its source area as well as within the broader Central Valley Project/State Water Project (CVP/SWP). The potential effects of implementing the proposed project are, therefore, categorized under two broadly defined geographic areas: the upper American River basin and, Folsom Reservoir and the downstream environs which include the lower American River, connected CVP/SWP waterbodies (including the upper Sacramento River), including the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Bay-Delta).

The environmental analysis to support the proposed project will address the potential direct hydrologic and water-related resources using a project-level of analysis. Impacts to secondary, service-area-related resources, however, will be dealt with more generally. This latter category represents the indirect effect of a new water allocation which, when delivered, has the potential to affect resources within its place of use. It also includes those construction-related activities, to the extent that the necessary facilities and their site footprints and operations are reasonably known at this time. For new water diversion/allocation projects, this latter category of potential impacts is typically considered secondary or indirect (of the water diversion project), but nevertheless important considerations in a comprehensive environmental review. Much of the analysis for indirect service area resources have been recently evaluated in the EIR for the El Dorado County General Plan.

Water-related resource effects may result from the full implementation (and diversion) of the proposed new water right permit. Potential effects to water-related resources would include those specifically tied to hydrology (e.g., instream flows, water temperatures, reservoir carryover storage, ramping flows, bypass flows), associated water quality, and related resources such as fisheries and riparian vegetation/species. Where State and/or federally listed species are concerned, potential impacts become especially important. From a mass balance perspective, potentially affected water-related resource effects also include those to water supply, hydropower generation potential, increased pumping requirements (based on reservoir level) and flood control operations. Local and regional stakeholder agreements such as the Sacramento Water Forum, with its Purveyor Specific Agreements and the pending Lower American River Flow Management Standard (FMS) will be important considerations as to how this project might affect local water resource allocations.

The proposed points of withdrawal for ultimate use associated with this project would occur either at the White Rock Powerhouse Penstock or farther downstream at Folsom Reservoir. The net hydrologic effect would be a depletion of up to 40,000 AFA, depending on water year type, within that portion of the

South Fork of the American River between the White Rock Powerhouse Penstock, Folsom Reservoir, and points downstream. Locally, Folsom Reservoir, among its other functions, releases water necessary to maintain downstream flows within the lower American River and also to provide for seasonal thermal benefits from its coldwater pool for the various sensitive life cycle stages of listed salmonids. Coldwater pool dynamics in Folsom Reservoir, therefore, are an important environmental issue that warrants thorough evaluation.

To the extent that Folsom Reservoir and, thereby, the lower American River could be affected by the project, the potential effects on fisheries habitat (flow) and water temperature on federally listed Chinook salmon critical habitat, steelhead, and green sturgeon critical habitat will be evaluated in addition to those species considered of *management concern* by the Department of Fish & Game. System-wide effects to other CVP/SWP watercourses and resources including the Delta will also be examined. EDWPA is aware of the ongoing developments related to water-related resource issues throughout the CVP/SWP (and those affecting the Folsom Reservoir and the lower American River) including, but not necessarily limited to the Lower American River Flow Management Standard, Sacramento River Water Reliability Study (SRWRS), Water Forum Agreement, pending CVP Operating Criteria and Plan (OCAP) Biological Opinions, pending Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan update, Folsom Reservoir's Joint Federal Project (FDS/FDR), and the proposed Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The EIR analysis, as it pertains to downstream effects, will carefully consider all of these ongoing technical and regulatory matters.

As a CVP facility, Folsom Reservoir's operations are important in the overall operation of the coordinated CVP/SWP. The effect of this project on these coordinated operations will be addressed through hydrologic modeling using CALSIM II, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation/California Department of Water Resources' operational and planning model for the CVP/SWP.

CALSIM II modeling (with an expanded historic record) and its related water temperature and early life-stage salmon mortality modeling along with updated, state-of-the-art automated temperature selection criteria and coldwater pool modeling of Folsom Reservoir will provide the necessary hydrologic and environmental data output to assess all relevant water-related resources within the potential area of effect. Reservoir storage, water surface elevations, seasonal instream flows, water temperatures, Delta outflow, X2 position (i.e., near bottom 2 part per thousand isohaline), as well as established flow and temperature targets from Biological Opinions will be assessed. The EIR will also rely on the most up-to-date CALSIM II modeling assumptions (Common Assumptions) and demand baselines accepted by federal and State agencies as well as local/regional water interests.

As noted, secondary or indirect environmental effects related to the delivery and use of this new water supply within the service areas of EID and GDPUD will be assessed with considerable reliance on the EIR prepared for the recent El Dorado County General Plan. This new water supply is intended to meet projected demands within the western slope of El Dorado County and is consistent with the anticipated level of growth and necessary facilities (along with their expected environmental effects) in the project area as set out in the County's General Plan.

The CEQA environmental checklist below provides a standard evaluation tool to help identify a project's potential adverse environmental impacts. This checklist identifies and evaluates potential adverse environmental impacts that may be created by the proposed project. This Initial Study is intended to satisfy the requirement of CEQA Guidelines section 15082, subdivision (a)(1)(C), that a Notice of Preparation identify the "probable environmental effects" of a proposed project.

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology & Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards/Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Traffic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

Section 4 – Determination

This section presents the determination that the El Dorado Water & Power Authority (EDWPA) concluded that, based on the results of the environmental review presented in this Initial Study, the preparation of an EIR is required in order to meet the environmental review requirements for the proposed project under CEQA.

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

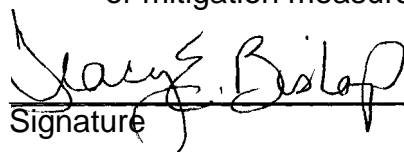
I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. []

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared..... []

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.[X]

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated". An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. []

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project. []


Signature

October 23, 2008
Date

Tracey Eden-Bishop
Printed Name

El Dorado Water & Power Authority
For

Section 5 – Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

Basic Project Information

1. Project Title: **Supplemental Water Rights Project**
2. Lead Agency Name & Address: **El Dorado Water & Power Authority
3932 Ponderosa Road, Suite 200
Shingle Springs, California 95682**
3. Contact Person & Phone Number: **Tracey Eden-Bishop, P.E.,
Water Resources Engineer
(530) 621-7668**
4. Project Location: **El Dorado County; El Dorado Irrigation District
and Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
service areas, SMUD Upper American River
Project (UARP), Folsom Reservoir, South Fork
American River, North Fork American River and
White Rock Powerhouse Penstock (see Figure 1)**
5. Project Sponsor's Name & Address:
**El Dorado Water & Power Authority
3932 Ponderosa Road, Suite 200
Shingle Springs, California 95682**
6. General Plan Designation: **Various.**

Within the intended service areas of EID and GDPUD and including those areas identified as “favorable areas”, General Plan land use designations include: low-, medium- and high-density residential, commercial, industrial, public services (e.g., firehouses, schools), agricultural, open space, parklands, research and development, natural resource, rural residential, tourist, recreational, and areas designated as Important Biological Corridors.
7. Zoning: **Various. All 32 Zone Districts as identified in the General Plan are included in the project service areas with the exception of TPZ (Timber Preserve Zone) and MR (Mineral Resources).**
8. Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary).

The proposed project is to establish permitted water rights allowing diversion of water from the American River basin to meet planned future water demands in the EID and GDPUD service areas and other areas located within El Dorado County that are outside of these service areas. EDWPA will be filing with the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, petitions for partial assignment of each of State Filed Applications 5644 and 5645, and accompanying applications allowing for the total withdrawal for use of 40,000 AFA, consistent with the diversion and storage locations allowed it under the September 2005 El Dorado-SMUD Cooperation Agreement.

It is premised on the reliance on certain UARP facilities which, are necessary in order to develop a supplemental water supply for EDWPA as outlined in the Cooperation Agreement between EDWPA and SMUD. EDWPA will ultimately hold the new water right, if approved by the SWRCB. A subsequent agreement between EDWPA and its two member entities, EID and GDPUD, will be developed that will convey water under the water right to these water purveyors.

EID would take its diversion either at the turnout from the White Rock Penstock or at, or near, its current intake facility on Folsom Reservoir (Figure 2). GDPUD, with no current diversion structure on Folsom Reservoir, would plan to enter into an exchange agreement with an upstream water right holder (Placer County Water Agency, for example) and take its diversion of water at the existing American River Pump Station. In turn, the exchanging agency would divert water from Folsom Reservoir at the existing urban water supply intake at Folsom Dam. Under the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) example, Middle Fork Project (MFP) water rights, held by PCWA would be exchanged for a negotiated portion of this current newly acquired water right from GDPUD. Such an exchange would require a subsequent SWRCB action as a petition for change in Place of Use would need to be filed by PCWA to authorize MFP use within El Dorado County.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings).

The water deliveries made available by this project will be used to serve domestic, municipal, industrial and irrigation purposes. The surrounding land uses define, generally, the western and central portion of El Dorado County. Development on the west slope is concentrated near the western county line and along U.S. 50, with several large-scale residential and commercial developments in the process of building and approved plans for additional future development. The density of residential and commercial development gradually decreases and the amount of open space (agricultural fields and forestland) increases heading east from the

foothills to the Sierra Nevada summit. The City of Placerville, located approximately 15 miles from the west county line, is the only incorporated city on the west slope.

Lands on the west slope of the county are considered the most valuable for agriculture because of the area's gentler slopes and richer soils. Historically, grazing of cattle and other livestock was the primary economic contributor in El Dorado County. Recently, production of fruit (including wine grapes) and nuts has become a major contributor to the county's agricultural production value.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement).

The El Dorado Water & Power Authority is a joint power authority including the El Dorado County Water Agency, El Dorado Irrigation District, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, and El Dorado County. As a new water right application filed with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), this project will require approval by the SWRCB Division of Water Rights. For water taken from Folsom Reservoir, a Warren Act contract will be required from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation necessitating the completion of the requisite NEPA, federal Endangered Species Act (Section 7), and NHPA Section 106 compliance. No federal environmental compliance documentation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has been initiated.

An amendment to SMUD's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the UARP may be required.

As noted previously, for GDPUD to take delivery of water under the proposed project, an exchange agreement will be considered with an existing upstream water right holder (PCWA for example). Such an exchange would require future SWRCB action to approve a change in POU for PCWA's Middle Fork Project water rights, allowing it to be used in El Dorado County. PCWA would be the petitioner (before the SWRCB) on any such Change in POU request.

Accordingly, the SWRCB, El Dorado County Water Agency, EID, GDPUD, SMUD and PCWA represent Responsible Agencies under CEQA. The California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) represents a Trustee Agency under CEQA. Potential federal agency approvals may be required, depending on the ultimate project chosen, and could include the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, FERC, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service), and the U.S. Forest Service.

No new facilities are proposed under the proposed project. As noted previously, however, new facilities, infrastructure, and related appurtenances will be required to ultimately deliver water to EID and GDPUD as well as areas outside those service areas within El Dorado County. Required project-specific approvals for facility construction would occur in the future. For this project, no Section 401 or 404 Clean Water Act permits or CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreements are required.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

The following designations are used in the Environmental Checklist to describe the level of potential project impacts associated with the proposed project:

Potentially Significant Impact: An impact that could be significant without the imposition of effective mitigation. If any potentially significant impacts are identified, an EIR must be prepared.

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated: An impact that requires mitigation to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

Less-Than-Significant Impact: Any impact that would not be considered significant under CEQA relative to identified standards.

No Impact: The project would not have an impact.

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the Lead Agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, potentially significant unless mitigation is incorporated, or less than significant. A “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

- 4) “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The Lead Agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, “Earlier Analyses,” may be cross-referenced).

- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures, which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

This Initial Study does not identify any mitigation measures that might render potentially significant effects less than significant. Rather, such measures will be developed as part of the process of preparing the EIR.

Referenced Documentation

Considerable documentation exists that defines, discusses and presents the various environmental and human related resources within El Dorado County and the likely effects to those resources resulting from future growth as approved by the County General Plan. These documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this Environmental Checklist and include the following:

El Dorado County, General Plan (adopted July 19, 2004)

El Dorado County, General Plan Draft EIR (May, 2003)

El Dorado County, General Plan Final EIR (January 13, 2004)

El Dorado County, Oak Woodland Management Plan

El Dorado County, Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) – various informational items

El Dorado County Water Agency, Water Resources Development and Management Plan (2007)

	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	Potentially Significant Impact			

I. AESTHETICS

Would the proposal:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Create light or glare? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

The proposed project, as defined, does not include any new infrastructure or appurtenances that would require construction at this time. Moreover, no land clearing or egress with highway or road right-of-ways would be involved. No direct project impact, therefore to any scenic vistas or scenic highways are anticipated as a result of the project, nor would the project create any light or glare. As a new water right acquisition, no permanent physical changes to the existing landscape would result, however, the direct effects of water withdrawals from the South Fork of the American River or Folsom Reservoir may affect water levels (either instream or reservoir water surface elevations) which, depending on their timing and magnitudes, may impart some aesthetic effect. The proposed hydrologic modeling (e.g., CALSIM II and ResSIM), would ascertain the significance of this potential effect which will be addressed in the EIR.

With future planned growth, the El Dorado General Plan acknowledges a reduction in the amount and quality of contiguous open space and scenic views and resources in the county. With higher absolute development levels throughout the county, rural areas would have a larger number of dispersed parcels, along with accompanying increases in roads, land clearing, houses, and accessory structures. This increase in the built environment would result in degradation of the visual character of these open, rural areas. Additionally, with new development, the increased need for services could increase the likelihood that power lines, and public utility distribution and transmission facilities would infringe on scenic viewsheds. As development intensifies in the county, the lack of state-designated scenic highway status on SR 49 could also result in the visual degradation of this corridor.

	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Potentially Significant Impact				

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.

Would the proposal:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

As noted in the El Dorado County General Plan Update EIR, the county has approximately 273,619 acres of soils classified as suitable for agricultural uses, although not necessarily in agricultural production. This represents approximately 24 percent of the county's 1,145,385 acres. The California Department of Conservation's (DOC) Division of Land Resource Protection estimates that, in 2000 (the most current year for which data are available), 89,675 acres of this land (8 percent of the county) was classified as Important Farmland. Important Farmland includes the categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance as defined by the DOC.

The remainder, or 183,944 acres, of the 24 percent of land considered suitable for agriculture is categorized as Grazing Land. Concentrations of Important Farmland are found in the areas near or around Cool, Georgetown, Pollock Pines, Pleasant Valley, and Somerset.

The county has intentionally worked to protect agricultural lands from development pressures by participating in the State of California's Williamson Act program and enacting a Right to Farm Ordinance and Ranch Marketing Ordinance that provide incentives for farmers to remain in business. A 2000 field report from the DOC's *Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program* (FMMP) identified several areas where such downgrading has occurred. Although no areas were identified in which Prime Farmland, Farmland of State Importance, or Unique Farmland had been reclassified to Urban and Built-up Land, several areas were downgraded from Prime, Statewide, or Unique Farmland to Farmland of Local Importance or Grazing Land.

In El Dorado County, a gradual downgrading of soil suitability for the highest quality of agricultural uses is occurring. The loss or reclassification of Important Farmland and other agricultural acreage shows that farmland with high-quality soils is shifting activities away from intensive agriculture and toward other, more developed uses. During 1998-2000, for example, some 374 acres of agricultural land were converted to Urban and Built-up Land, including 137 acres of Farmland of Local Importance. In similar fashion, 85 acres of Prime Farmland, 41 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance, and 230 acres of Unique Farmland were converted to Farmland of Local Importance (primarily as a result of updating and refining the boundaries of Williamson Act parcels.)

The proposed project, as defined, does not involve any land conversions or proposed land use changes that would reduce or otherwise change the existing acreage under any of the FMMP designations for important agricultural lands. Nevertheless, this project, representing the removal of one obstacle to growth (namely, the provision of a new long-term firm water supply) has the potential to indirectly affect agricultural lands. General Plan policies and ordinances, where diligently applied and made part of the decision making process for new land development projects, will help ensure that these valued lands remain in production, farming activities stay profitable, and the county can meet its multiple resource objectives within the existing spatial mosaic of land uses. Even so, the project's indirect effects could include the loss of agricultural lands, so this issue will be addressed in the EIR.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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III. AIR QUALITY

Would the proposal:

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|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create objectionable odors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

As noted previously, the proposed project does not involve the construction of any facilities, infrastructure, or appurtenances that typically result in temporary direct point source emissions of potentially harmful pollutants. Likewise, no long-term facilities are associated with this project. Accordingly, the project's direct effects would not violate any air quality standards, expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, above current conditions, or have the ability to create any objectionable odors.

Hydrometeorology (e.g., changes in exchange mechanisms – saturated vapor pressure gradients) as a result of increased diversions, either instream or in Folsom Reservoir would be unaffected, relative to current conditions, as long as a free standing water surface remained. Atmospheric moisture and air temperature would, therefore, not be altered in any significant manner. The project's indirect effects, however, would include construction-related and operational air pollutant emissions associated with approved growth in El Dorado County as planned under the 2004 General Plan and served by water from the project. These indirect effects will be addressed in the EIR.

For example, it is recognized that development under the General Plan would result in construction emissions of ROG, NOx, and PM10, as well as long-term emissions from development related activities. El Dorado County is currently designated as a nonattainment area with respect to the state and national ozone (1-hour) standards, the national ozone (8-hour) standard, and the state PM10 standard. Thus, daily construction emissions anticipated in the future would potentially result in or contribute to a violation of applicable NAAQS or CAAQS. Future development is also recognized under the General Plan as resulting in the significant

exposure of sensitive receptors to toxic air emissions that exceed current standards. The type and level of toxic air emissions would depend upon the nature of the land use, the individual facility, and on the methods and operations that involve toxic air emissions. Activities involving the long-term use of diesel-powered equipment and heavy duty trucks, such as gravel mining and landfill activities are of particular concern. Typically, potential toxic impacts occur in the following situations: (1) sources of toxic air emissions are located near existing sensitive receptors (e.g., schools, residential dwellings, hospitals), and (2) sensitive receptors are located near existing sources of toxic air emissions.

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the proposal result in impacts to:

- | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Locally designated species (e.g. heritage trees)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Locally designated natural communities (e.g. oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Wetland habitat (e.g. marsh, riparian and vernal pool)? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

As a new water allocation, which would ultimately result in increased diversions from the American River watershed, relative to current conditions, the proposed project would have the potential to affect aquatic resources, both within the area of origin, as well as downstream. Of notable concern are the federally listed fish species and their critical habitats (e.g., various critical habitats for certain runs of Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, delta smelt, and green sturgeon critical habitat) in the downstream waterways that constitute the CVP/SWP, including the fragile Bay-Delta. While only two of the Chinook salmon runs are actually listed under the federal Endangered Species Act (i.e., Sacramento River winter-run – Endangered and Central Valley spring-run – Threatened, both fall and late-fall runs are designated Species of Concern). The critical habitats and instream conditions necessary for all Chinook salmon runs make any effects to this species an important consideration in this environmental review.

In the upstream areas (e.g., Upper American River watershed), altered flow regimes have the potential to affect fisheries and aquatic resources. Introduced fishes are most prevalent in reservoirs or lakes where stocking occurs for sport fishing. The Department of Fish & Game has an active trout stocking program in the high mountain lakes and large reservoirs in or near wilderness areas, primarily on National Forest lands. Non-native game fish in El Dorado County include brook trout, brown trout, kokanee salmon, and lake trout. Lahontan cutthroat trout, a native species, is stocked by the Department of Fish & Game to sustain its population. Also,

rainbow trout populations in El Dorado County are derived from mixed hatchery and native origin.

Native fishes found in El Dorado County streams include hardhead, Sacramento pikeminnow, Sacramento sucker, California roach, speckled dace, and sculpin. Rainbow trout populations in El Dorado County are a hybrid of native and stocked populations. Special-status species include plants and animals in the following categories:

- ♦ species listed or proposed for listing as Threatened or Endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or the California Endangered Species Act (CESA);
- ♦ species considered as candidates for listing as Threatened or Endangered under ESA or CESA;
- ♦ wildlife species identified by CDFG as Species of Special Concern;
- ♦ wildlife species identified by USFWS as Species of Concern;
- ♦ plants listed as Endangered or Rare under the California Native Plant Protection Act;
- ♦ animals fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code;
- ♦ plants on CNPS List 1B (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) or List 2 (plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere). The CNPS lists are used by both CDFG and USFWS in their consideration of formal species protection under ESA or CESA.

A total of 29 special-status plant species have been documented in the County. Of these, six are state or federally listed as Threatened, Endangered, or Rare: Stebbins' morning-glory, Pine Hill ceanothus, Pine Hill flannelbush, El Dorado bedstraw, Layne's butterweed, and Tahoe yellow cress. The remaining 24 special-status plants are on CNPS List 1B or List 2. Several special-status plants are restricted to the Pine Hill soil formation in western El Dorado County.

The Pine Hill formation, which ranges in elevation from 453 to 2,060 feet msl, is an area between Cameron Park and Salmon Falls that supports seven special-status plant species: Stebbins' morning-glory, Pine Hill ceanothus, Pine Hill flannelbush, El Dorado bedstraw, Layne's butterweed, El Dorado mule-ears, and Red Hills soaproot. With the exception of Red Hills soaproot, these plants are restricted chiefly to gabbro-derived soils and are collectively called *gabbro soil plants*.

El Dorado County has, and continues to participate in, programs and initiatives with various federal and State wildlife agencies to address the potential effects (and potential loss of) listed or special-status terrestrial species (e.g., plants). Ongoing urban development has prompted several

initiatives towards the long-term protection and preservation of these valued resources. The Pine Hill Preserve (PHP) is a collaborative effort among numerous federal, State and local partners including, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, El Dorado County, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, El Dorado County Water Agency, El Dorado Irrigation District, American River Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game, and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The PHP was established to protect rare native plants in El Dorado County that occur on a particular soil type known as gabbro soils. The PHP will continue to be considered in development proposals and projects by the County and included in evaluations of water needs, where relevant. The PHP is located adjacent to Green Valley Road and generally stretches from Folsom Reservoir in the north to Highway 50 in the south. The PHP contains a total of 4,122 acres with a high diversity of native plants; however, only 3,276 of these acres are included in an area designated for the recovery of five federally listed plants. Separated into five groups of lands, the PHP is made up of the:

- Cameron Park Unit (to the south)
- Pine Hill Unit (centrally located)
- Penny Lane Unit (east of Pine Hill)
- Martel Creek Unit (west of Pine Hill), and
- Salmon Falls Unit (to the north).

El Dorado County's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) represents another example of the County's efforts to preserve biological resources. An initial inventory and mapping for the INRMP was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 1, 2008, consistent with General Plan Measure CO-M. The INRMP is a transparent process where the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Stakeholders Advisory Committee (ISAC) provides recommendations to County staff, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors in defining the important habitats of the County and in the ongoing implementation of the INRMP. On May 6, 2008 the Board of Supervisors also adopted the Oak Woodland Management Plan (OWMP) and its implementing ordinance, to be codified as Chapter 17.73 of the County Code. The primary purpose of this plan is to implement the Option B provisions of Policy 7.4.4.4 and Measure CO-P

The County recognizes the importance of protecting and maintaining native vegetation and, in particular, landmark or heritage trees. This is noted in OBJECTIVE 7.4.5 of the General Plan. It is the County's policy to request that a tree survey, preservation, and replacement plan be filed with the County prior to issuance of a grading permit for discretionary

permits on all high-density residential, multifamily residential, commercial, and industrial projects. To ensure that proposed replacement trees survive, a mitigation monitoring plan should be incorporated into discretionary projects when applicable and shall include provisions for necessary replacement of trees.

The County also advocates the preservation of native oaks wherever feasible. All proposed development activities shall be reviewed where such trees are present on either public or private property. To ensure that oak tree loss is reduced to reasonable acceptable levels, the County has committed to developing and implementing an Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance. The proposed project relies on these and other ongoing programs and commitments of the County as the necessary offsetting mitigation for indirect effects related to development, evaluated previously, as part of the General Plan Update.

In terms of special-status wildlife, a total of 51 special-status wildlife species are known to occur in El Dorado County based on database inventories such as the CNDDDB. Many such species observations in the CNDDDB, however, have not been field verified since their original entry. Of these, 10 species are state or federally listed as Threatened or Endangered and include: vernal pool fairy shrimp, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Lahontan cutthroat trout, California redlegged frog, willow flycatcher, American peregrine falcon, bald eagle, bank swallow, California wolverine, and Sierra Nevada red fox. The remaining 41 species are considered as California Species of Special Concern by CDFG and/or federal Species of Concern by USFWS.

Valley-foothill riparian habitat is typically found at lower elevations (i.e., below 3,000 feet msl elevation) in western El Dorado County. It is found along many of the rivers and streams that flow through the valleys and rolling foothills in this region. Plant diversity within valley-foothill riparian habitat varies considerably depending upon hydrological factors, soils, and other environmental conditions. Waterways potentially affected by the project in El Dorado County support this habitat. Additionally, important riparian habitat is also found within the lower American River and as part of Shaded Riverine Aquatic Cover (SRAC), elsewhere along various CVP waterways.

Most of the development pressure in El Dorado County is likely to occur in the foothills near the U.S. 50 corridor. Through the 2025 planning horizon, it is likely that wildlife habitat below the 2,000-foot contour line and closest to the highway corridor would be most affected. Major habitat types above the 4,000-foot contour line would generally not be significantly affected because little development is expected to occur in this region where the majority of land is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service (e.g., El Dorado National Forest).

Important wildlife habitat is found throughout the county. Large contiguous blocks containing multiple habitat types have the potential to support the highest wildlife diversity and abundance. Special-status wildlife occurs in both large and small blocks of habitat, while some large mammals and other species that have large home ranges are generally found only on large undisturbed parcels.

The EIR will address not only the potential effects on aquatic species related to the proposed water diversion but also the indirect biological effects associated with planned development to be served by project water.

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the proposal:

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|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Disturb unique paleontological resources? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Disturb unique archaeological resources? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Cause substantial effects on historical resources? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Without the disturbance of any land areas, the proposed project does not have the potential to directly adversely affect either paleontological, archaeological, or historical resources that are situated on land. Within the waterbodies of Folsom Reservoir, downstream on the lower American River, and elsewhere throughout the CVP/SWP, including the Bay-Delta, however, cultural resources may be affected by changing water levels resulting from project diversions, although the magnitude of such hydrological changes would be very small. Changes in water surface elevations can result in either increased inundation or desiccation of cultural resources at or near the active waterline. Additionally, where existing cultural resources are increasingly exposed to water surface fluctuations (either through inundation or desiccation), the increased wave action may result in physical damage to already highly fragile sites. Hydrologic modeling using CALSIM II output data and established methods of addressing these resource-specific thresholds will determine the potential effect of the proposed project on cultural resources within or along waterbodies.

The proposed project does not purport to change, alter or amend in any way, current governance or regulations involving access or use of lands of any kind. Existing religious and/or sacred uses of lands within the potential area of effect would remain unchanged. Still, the indirect, growth-related effects of the project include effects on cultural resources due to ongoing approved development. The EIR will examine both direct and indirect effects on cultural resources.

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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IV. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:

a) Fault rupture?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Landslides or mudflows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading or fill?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Subsidence of the land?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expansive soils?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Unique geologic or physical features?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project as defined, does not involve any new construction activities, changes in land use, zoning, residential preference location, or new facility implementation. No increased threats to humans or infrastructure as a result of improper facility siting on active faults, unstable slopes, or flood prone areas would occur.

One fault, part of the Rescue Lineament–Bear Mountains fault zone, is classified as a well located late-Quaternary fault; therefore, it represents the only potentially active fault in the county. All other faults located in El Dorado County are classified as pre-Quaternary (i.e., inactive).

Residents would not be exposed to any *new* potential impacts involving fault rupture, seismic disturbance, or mass wasting processes (e.g., landslides, mudflows, liquefaction, etc.). Mudslides do occur in El Dorado County, and are typically related to the saturation of high angle slopes where the unconsolidated overburden, once saturated, overcomes the cohesive strength and shear stress threshold of the overburden with its

bedrock base. Such conditions, however, are unassociated with the proposed project. These events typically occur after prolonged rains.

The project, isolated from the Pacific Ocean is not located in a tsunami zone; there is no threat to persons from tsunamis. Seiches, while a potential in lakes and reservoirs, typically occur when steep side slopes surrounding a waterbody are violently disturbed, either by seismic activity or mass wasting processes. The rapid displacement of water caused by the landslide, rotational slump, or slab failure causes seiches. Waterbodies in the project area do not possess the typical sideslope heights characteristic of and necessary to induce massive water displacement through failure. The seiche risk is considered minimal and, moreover is unassociated with any activities of the proposed project. No active volcanic activity exists within El Dorado County.

As noted, the project does not involve any excavation, grading or fill activities commonly associated with construction activities and, as such, would not increase or affect current erosion rates in any location.

Land subsidence is not common in El Dorado County; karst topography or peatlands where groundwater is copiously pumped from the underlying aquifers or phreatic zone, represents the typical physiography conducive to land subsidence or sink holes. Conversely, areas with a high clay content (e.g., montmorillonite) which, under saturation, can result in significant swelling can result in structural damage to *in situ* infrastructure. Neither geologic condition exists in El Dorado County.

The General Plan acknowledges that El Dorado County does not support many of the geologic and soil features or conditions that would result in environmental effects. Future discretionary development would be subject to site review and would be required to prepare a geotechnical study that would identify potential geologic hazards and would condition approval on addressing these hazards into site design, if feasible. However, nondiscretionary development would also be allowed to develop in areas subject to geologic hazards without sufficient county review or the preparation of a geotechnical study. Therefore, future residents could be exposed to such risks as landslides and avalanche hazards. Moreover, while policies that restrict development on steep slopes, would limit erosion impacts, many agricultural activities are not subject to the Grading Ordinance. As a result, there is the potential for increased erosion throughout the county. This could lead to future cumulative erosion impacts within the county.

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VII. HAZARDS/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the proposal involve:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The proposed project, as defined, would not directly involve the use of, need for, or handling of hazardous substances of any kind. No construction activities are proposed under this project, therefore, no opportunity or likelihood of accidental explosion or release of hazardous materials would occur. With no new facility operations involving hazardous materials, the likelihood of increased health hazards to humans or exposure to existing sources of potential health hazards would be less-than-significant. The project, as the acquisition of a new water right, would not affect land use, impose flammable materials on at-risk areas, or expose existing vegetation to flammable sources.

The General Plan acknowledges, however, that in the future, an increase in development in the county would increase the handling of hazardous materials, particularly at commercial and industrial developments that may occur on land designated Industrial, Commercial, and Research and Development. Handlers of hazardous materials would be required to be in compliance with existing laws, regulations, and programs, therefore, the future cumulative impact is considered less than significant.

New residential development would increase the use and disposal of household hazardous materials in the county, and the potential for an

increase in the occurrence of illegal disposal of household hazardous wastes would increase correspondingly. While the General Plan includes policies to reduce the potential for this activity, it cannot control illegal human behavior. Thus, illegal disposal cannot be eliminated or be shown to be substantially reduced.

The frequency of incidents of accidental releases would also increase due to an increase in the number of operations that would handle and transport hazardous materials. While the response and remediation capabilities of the response agencies would be expected to increase so that the risk associated with individual incidents would be contained, the overall number of people that may be exposed to hazardous materials would increase due to the higher frequency of accidental release incidents, the greater number of residents, and their closer proximity to transportation corridors and businesses.

Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VIII. HYDROLOGY/WATER QUALITY

Would the proposal result in:

a) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) Impacts to groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed project involves the approval to withdraw or divert water that would otherwise remain within the natural waterways (e.g., American River and/or Folsom Reservoir). The project would, therefore, change the amount of surface water in these waterbodies consistent with the proposed diversion patterns. By extension, it is conceivable that currents

or the course or direction of water movements could be altered at various site specific locations within these waterbodies.

The project does not, however, purport to change any land uses that would affect surface infiltration rates, or subsequent percolation that would influence surface runoff. No changes to the snowpack would occur as a direct result of this project. Intuitively, new diversion projects, to the extent they remove water from waterbodies and watercourses tend to have a beneficial effect on flood control. This project would not expose persons to increased flooding risks.

While the proposed project would not result in a discharge of any kind into waterbodies and so, would not affect surface water quality in this typical manner, water diversions are a recognized threat to ambient water temperature. Radiative heating of a water column is more effectively and efficiently achieved where there is less water (i.e., less heat transfer required). Increased water temperatures in reservoirs or waterways can and do impart adverse effects to aquatic wildlife, primarily anadromous fish whose various life-cycles are highly sensitive to thermal changes.

El Dorado County, due to its subsurface geology, does not support widespread groundwater resources. The geology of the west slope of El Dorado County is principally hard crystalline or metamorphic rock that underlies a thin soil or isolated alluvial cover. Groundwater is highly localized and can be found in fractures below the ground surface. The characteristics of the fracture system that affect the ability of water users to develop groundwater resources include the size and location of the fractures, the interconnection between the fractures, and the amount of material that may clog the fractures. In addition, the width of fractures generally decreases with depth. Recharge, movement, and storage of water in fractures of hard rock are, therefore, limited.

In the future, population and employment growth identified in the General Plan would increase surface water demand and the likely reduction of surface water availability. The General Plan acknowledges that, as a result of likely reductions in the anticipated levels of service to surface water customers, and the inability of water purveyors to fully serve new development when faced with constrained supplies, such a condition, from a water supply perspective, would be considered significant.

The General Plan EIR also notes that existing commercial, industrial, and agricultural businesses would likely experience reductions in production, income, and employment (especially water-intensive businesses including irrigated agriculture, food processing, and the electronics industry) in the future without new water supplies. To meet the increased demand associated with population and employment growth within their service

areas, water purveyors would need to develop new sources of surface water supply. This is acknowledged in the El Dorado County General Plan; the General Plan EIR further recognizes that such new water supply projects and their related infrastructure would, however, result in physical environmental impacts.

The El Dorado County General Plan and its EIR acknowledge the importance of new water right acquisitions and water transfers. Many water right holders, however, are found “downstream” of EID and GDPUD, and/or are hydrologically connected via the CVP. Uncertainty exists regarding what, if any, new infrastructure would be needed to put the transferred water to use, that is the manner with which EID and/or GDPUD implement a genuine water transfer.

In general, however, water right transfers, including any new diversion, pumping, conveyance, or other infrastructure that may be needed to put the transferred water to use, can cause potential environmental impacts. Water right transfers are also known for their complex legal issues, and potential “third party effects.” Third party effects can occur when the seller in a water rights transaction transfers some or all of their rights out of a watershed, to the purchaser of the rights, who may be located in a different watershed. Water users downstream of the seller, who often hold rights that are “junior” to those of the seller and depend upon the return flow from water put to use by the upstream water rights seller, can experience a reduction in available water supplies.

Similar reductions in supply can occur when the seller in a water rights transaction sells some of their groundwater rights and such rights leave the groundwater basin. Water supply reductions in both situations can cause major and adverse income, employment, and other socioeconomic impacts on individual water users, their businesses, or the communities in which they live.

The General Plan notes that, in the future, a substantial increase in the demand for county groundwater will occur. Although General Plan policies would help avoid or reduce some of the impacts, they may not reduce impacts to a less-than-significant level. There remains much uncertainty surrounding the availability of groundwater in the county.

		Significant		
Potentially	Unless	Less Than		No
Significant	Mitigation	Significant		Impact
Impact	Incorporated	Impact		

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the proposal:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Conflict with general plan designation or zoning? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g. impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The proposed project, as defined, does not purport to change any land uses, alter zoning, or influence residential location. Existing communities in terms of their design, physical arrangement, or infrastructure would not be affected by this project. The project is intended to be consistent with the El Dorado County General Plan. Within the General Plan, there is the anticipation and full expectation that, as the county continues to grow, additional services will be required, not the least of which includes potable water service.

Increased development in the future could lead to greater amounts of scattered residential subdivision in rural areas; however, the General Plan policies in place would continue to ensure consistency with established plans and policies. The lack of a policy promoting cooperation with adjacent jurisdictions, however, could lead to such inconsistencies. The policies and land use map of the General Plan focus high-density development into Community Regions and Rural Centers while allowing the Rural Regions to remain primarily available for natural resource management and low-intensity uses.

Potential incompatibility would result from several sources: the potential for delayed implementation of standards and policies to result in interim or short-term incompatibilities; the definition of the Low-Density Residential designation as compatible with agricultural activities; the lack of a compatibility review in the County's approval process for land use on all projects; the potential for government buildings in incompatible areas of Rural Regions; and the range of uses permitted in Rural Regions that could conflict with each other or with adjacent uses (e.g., ranch marketing, agriculture, residential, timber production, mining).

The land use map and General Plan policies identify no instances where planned roadways, railways, or other infrastructure would physically divide an existing community. Nearly contiguous urban boundaries along the western portion of U.S. 50 (in Rescue, Cameron Park, Shingle Springs, Diamond Springs, and Placerville), however, could create the potential for development to be dispersed between these areas, leading to a loss of community character for these towns.

Development at 2025 would generally be of sufficiently low intensity to retain community character. At buildout, these communities could experience intensified development that could be sufficiently dispersed to degrade community character. Similar dispersed development could result in the Rural Regions.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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X. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the proposal:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Electricity on the west slope of El Dorado County is supplied by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). PG&E owns and operates electricity infrastructure in El Dorado County and throughout Northern California that includes power lines, powerhouses, and substations. PG&E owns and operates one Powerhouse in El Dorado County located at Chili Bar on the South Fork American River. As part of the UARP, SMUD owns and operates 11 powerhouses in El Dorado County. EID owns and operates the Akin Powerhouse located upstream of Slab Creek Reservoir on the South Fork American River. Lastly, a newly renovated powerhouse operates on the GDPUD water supply ditch near Georgetown in El Dorado County.

The proposed project would not directly affect or otherwise conflict with any energy conservation plans; the General Plan assumed and accounted for future growth that would generate new demands for energy use. According to PG&E, existing electricity infrastructure would not be sufficient to serve the projected growth through 2025. PG&E has, however, indicated that it would be able to provide the additional transmission infrastructure necessary to provide electricity services in the county.

El Dorado County contains a wide variety of mineral resources. Both the USGS and California Geological Survey (CGS) have evaluated the potential locations and production capacity of various types of extractive resources throughout the county. Metallic mineral deposits, gold in particular, are considered the most significant extractive mineral resource and the 1849 California "Gold Rush" originated from gold discovered in El Dorado County. Other metallic minerals found in the county include silver,

copper, nickel, chromite, zinc, tungsten, mercury, titanium, platinum, and iron. Nonmetallic mineral resources include building stone, limestone, slate, clay, marble, soapstone, sand, and gravel. This project would not affect the nature, state, accessibility, or future value of these resources since no changes to land uses or zoning are proposed that would affect lands supporting these resources.

Moreover, of the 16 regulated mines in the county that have been assigned a California Mine ID number by the State Office of Mine Reclamation, only eight are active mine operations, five have been reclaimed, two are idle, and one has been closed per County order to cease and desist mining operations. Surface mines are regulated by the state of California by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), PRC § 2710 et seq., and through the County's land use permitting process. Their intent is to protect identified mineral resources, recognizing that the extraction of mineral resources is essential for the economic well-being of the state.

The General Plan allows for certain residential and nonresidential development in areas that may contain important mineral resources. Based on the urban nature of certain types of development (e.g., paving and structures creating impervious surfaces) and the fact that mining operations cannot be located within a buffer area (10,000 feet) of existing residences because of existing County Ordinance, future development in the county could potentially preclude the exploration for and extraction of mineral resources.

The expected level of development in important mineral resource areas through 2025 has not been determined because the land use forecasts were not projected on a parcel-by-parcel basis. The development of new mineral resource operations in proximity to other urban-type land uses (e.g., residential, commercial, research and development, public facility) could potentially result in land use incompatibilities based on the range of environmental effects that may be generated by mining operations, such as noise, air emissions, light/glare, heavy truck traffic, disturbance of biological resources, disturbance of cultural resources, and degradation of water quality. These same incompatibilities can also arise when urban uses are developed in proximity to existing mining operations.

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XI. NOISE

Would the proposal result in:

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) | Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies increases in existing noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) | Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) | A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) | A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Several sources of noise that could affect local communities are present within El Dorado County. These sources include noise generated from stationary activities (e.g., commercial and industrial uses), aircraft operations, and traffic on major roadways and highways. Ambient noise levels in many portions of the county are defined primarily by traffic on major roadways, including but not limited to U.S. Highway 50 (U.S. 50) and State Routes (SRs) 49, 193, and 89.

Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending upon the nature or phase of construction (e.g., demolition/land clearing, grading and excavation, erection). Noise generated by construction equipment, including earth movers, material handlers, and portable generators, can reach high levels. Depending on the activities conducted and the time of day during which construction activities occur, nearby noise-sensitive land uses could experience noticeable increases in average daily ambient noise levels. This could be especially acute if construction activities were to occur during evening or nighttime hours when people are more sensitive to noise. No construction activities are proposed under this project, therefore, no opportunity for increased noise levels would occur.

The County's General Plan and environmental impact evaluations have assessed and considered noise-related impacts under a variety of future growth scenarios. Various mitigation measures are in place to account for expected noise generating activities concomitant with anticipated future growth. Some of these include:

- ♦ 5.10-1(a): Limit Noise-Generating Construction Activities
- ♦ 5.10-1(b): Establish Truck Routes to Minimize Truck Noise at Noise-Sensitive Land Uses
- ♦ 5.10-2(a): Protect Noise-Sensitive Land Uses from Unacceptable Noise Levels Caused by New Transportation Noise Sources
- ♦ 5.10-3: Protect Noise-Sensitive Land Uses from Unacceptable Noise Levels Caused by Stationary Noise Sources

This project would not directly increase noise levels from existing or anticipated levels or, expose humans or sensitive receptors to severe noise levels. Since growth served by water from the project will involve noise impacts, however, the EIR will address these indirect noise-related effects.

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the proposal:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g. through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

The proposed project, by definition, would not directly affect population or housing within the County. As one obstacle to growth, albeit an important one, water availability and access to service can, however, indirectly influence where, when, and in some cases, how, certain development projects (e.g., commercial, industrial, and residential) are approved. The 2004 El Dorado County General Plan, together with its various planning ordinances and zoning maps represents the results of the local planning process and govern the locale and type of future development within the County. Expanded water service is an accepted necessity to meet the anticipated population increases within the County into the future. This project is not in conflict with those planning assumptions and in fact facilitates implementation of the General Plan.

The General Plan, however, recognizes that growth through population influx and expansion will occur. Along with population growth are all of the associated facilities, infrastructure, and services required to support that increased population. Water service, including its infrastructure, is acknowledged as being related to growth; its provision removes one obstacle to approved growth. These indirect project consequences will be addressed in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant	No Impact
	Potentially Significant Impact		Less Than Significant Impact	

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for a new or altered government services in any of the following areas:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Fire protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Police protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Schools? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Other governmental services? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The proposed project would not directly affect any public services within the County with the exception of public water service. The facilities, activities, and personnel typically associated with such public services as fire protection, police, emergency assistance, schools, road maintenance, etc. would not be directly affected by this new water right acquisition; such public services and their levels of service are more directly influenced by new development, which is itself a function of population growth.

Increasing public water service, however, would have the effect of requiring new water infrastructure (e.g., diversion conveyance pipelines, distribution pipelines, booster/pump stations, various associated pipeline appurtenances, as well as a corresponding level of wastewater infrastructure). Such service and infrastructure requirements have been addressed programmatically by the El Dorado County General Plan and EIR. Site-specific projects where new infrastructure is proposed, would undertake their own separate and independent environmental reviews and permitting requirements. To the extent that the generalized environmental effects of such facilities can be predicted currently in light of reasonably available information, they will be addressed in the EIR, as will indirect, growth-related effects relating to public services.

	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant	No Impact
	Potentially Significant Impact		Less Than Significant Impact	

XIV. RECREATION

Would the proposal:

- a) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities such that physical deterioration of the the facility would occur or be accelerated?

- b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment?

The demand for new neighborhood and regional parks as well as the anticipated use pressures on existing parks would remain unchanged as a direct result of this project. Again, the El Dorado County General Plan and EIR evaluations carefully considered the various population growth scenarios that would directly influence the demands for such recreational services. These issues will be addressed to the extent relevant in the project EIR.

Insofar as water-related recreational activities are concerned, however, the proposed project may affect specific activities and associated facilities in certain waterbodies and waterways. Whitewater rafting is a recognized and popular recreational activity in El Dorado County. To the extent that a new diversion may occur, as defined by the proposed project, at the White Rock Powerhouse Penstock, that portion of the South Fork of the American River from the diversion to Folsom Reservoir could experience depleted flows over the long-term. Hydrologic modeling will determine the magnitude and frequency of any such change in anticipated flows along this stretch of the South Fork of the American River during the high recreation use months. In any case, this project would not affect minimum releases at SMUD facilities, as prescribed in the FERC requirements for the UARP. Additionally, since this project could result in a net depletion to storage in Folsom Reservoir and associated downstream waterways, relative to current conditions, the effect that such a decrease in storage and, therefore, water surface elevations, could have on reservoir recreational activities (e.g., swimming, boating, wake boarding, water skiing, fishing) and facilities (e.g., boat launching ramps, concession stands, boat rentals) may represent an environmental impact. Again, hydrologic modeling will determine the magnitude and frequency of these changes in reservoir water surface elevations over the long-term, relative to current conditions. The EIR will address all of these issues.

	Potentially Significant	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XV. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC.

Would the proposal result in:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

The proposed project, as described, would not directly affect transportation or circulation, traffic routes, preferred travel corridors, emergency access, parking demand or parking facilities. Levels-of-service along primary and secondary arterials within the County would remain unaffected by the project. Transportation and related traffic issues and planning considerations have been previously established in the

General Plan planning process and evaluated for impacts in the General Plan EIR.

The General Plan EIR recognizes that levels of service conditions, as a result of increasing population, are projected to degrade in the future, causing the potential for inconsistencies with relevant General Plan policies. For example, congestion on the roadway segments projected to operate at LOS F could be severe enough to adversely affect adjacent roadways in El Dorado County, Sacramento County, and the city of Folsom. When LOS F conditions occur during a peak hour, the traffic demand would exceed available capacity. Such conditions would create problems such as queuing at intersections, which can extend into adjacent intersections and onto adjacent roadways, thus compounding operational problems in a corridor and potentially affecting roadways that would otherwise operate acceptably. When this occurs, peak-hour conditions can extend for multiple hours, resulting in peak-hour spreading. State Highway 50, the key inter-county thoroughfare, has and continues to experience high traffic volumes; while the County has addressed this issue in their most recent General Plan and associated EIR and several policies exist attending to these issues, transportation levels and traffic congestion will continue to present an important issue as the County develops.

The General Plan also notes the projected insufficiency of open spaces at park-and-ride lots and the anticipated increased in demand for transit service. Such increase would exacerbate existing transit capacity.

The project cannot and does not purport to directly change any existing land uses that would affect vehicular, cycling or pedestrian traffic. Even so, by providing water for planned growth, the project will facilitate that growth. For that reason, the indirect transportation-related effects associated with growth will be addressed in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the proposal:

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid and hazardous waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

The proposed project would engender coordination with wastewater providers (in this case EID itself). Wastewater in the County is treated by two types of treatment systems: (1) EID Wastewater Treatment Plants connected to EID's wastewater collection system of pipelines and lift stations, and (2) onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS). OWTS

are either connected to individual residences and nonresidential buildings in areas not served by the EID collection system, or are small, community collection and disposal systems that also rely upon septic tanks and onsite, underground disposal using leach fields and other types of soil absorption systems. One such system is operated by GDPUD.

The County operates the Union Mine Septage Treatment and Disposal Facility. This facility accepts septage from OWTS throughout the county, treats it, and disposes the waste byproducts. The septage is comprised of material contained within septic tanks and is a small fraction of the total wastewater treated by septic tanks and dispersed of in leach fields.

The El Dorado Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and the Deer Creek WWTP are the two wastewater treatment facilities operated by EID. New development would generate additional wastewater flows that would need to be treated and conveyed by EID's wastewater collection system and treated at either the El Dorado Hills or Deer Creek WWTPs. Wastewater treatment represents a linked activity to water supply, but share a common similarity in that it too is driven by population demand, growth, and development all of which is controlled by the provisions of the General Plan.

Projections of increased future wastewater flows are primarily based on population projections associated with planned development projects (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.) within EID's wastewater treatment and collection system service area and EID data on customer connections and a unit of measurement EID uses for planning purposes (Equivalent Dwelling Units). Wastewater treatment capacity at EID's wastewater treatment facilities continue to increase and EID has kept pace with these continual demand increases.

It is anticipated that a number of improvements, beyond capacity increases, are and will be continually needed at each WWTP to meet existing and expected waste discharge requirements, as set by the Central Valley RWQCB. Examples of these improvements both past and current include those below.

- ♦ Treatment to resolve total mass daily load limitations for zinc, and aluminum and/ or elimination of zinc orthophosphate for corrosion control in the potable water system and alum in the potable water and wastewater treatment processes.
- ♦ Ultraviolet light disinfection to reduce effluent salinity resulting from the use of sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfide in the treatment process (currently in place at the Deer Creek WWTP, and under construction at the El Dorado Hills WWTP.)

- ♦ Potential lining of the El Dorado Hills WWTP secondary effluent storage pond if groundwater contamination is discovered in recently installed groundwater monitoring wells.

As analyzed in EID's Recycled Water Master Plan, the use of recycled (or reclaimed) water in the County is expected to increase in the future. As use of recycled water increases, WWTP discharges are expected to decrease because the recycled water treated at the WWTPs is pumped and conveyed to golf courses, public parks, etc., or used for residential and commercial landscape watering. While future demand for recycled water is expected to increase, it is difficult to estimate the increased demand that will be satisfied by recycled water because of the lack of seasonal storage facilities that would store treated water through the winter for use during the irrigation season. Current housing/real estate market volatility make it even more difficult to precisely forecast future recycled water use and demand.

Similar to wastewater treatment, increase in stormwater drainage capability is closely tied to new development.

The proposed project represents but one element in the County's overall buildout water needs. While an important new water entitlement, planning forecasts into the future, based on General Plan projections for population at ultimate buildout, indicate that additional water supplies above and beyond this project would be needed. The County, through the El Dorado County Water Agency, has carefully investigated these water needs. As part of its 2007 Water Resources Development and Management Plan (WRDMP), several ongoing and pending water projects have been identified by the El Dorado County Water Agency to plan for and ultimately acquire the necessary new water entitlements and facilities to meet the County's long-term demands. This current project (i.e., for 40,000 AFA of new water) is only one component of the County's long-term demand needs which, approximate 120,000 AFA by buildout.

Solid waste management is under the jurisdiction of the County through its Environmental Management Department (EMD) and the County Waste Management Task Force. These activities are coordinated with the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB).

There are no solid waste disposal sites in El Dorado County. Once collected, solid waste generated on the west slope (including recyclable materials) is taken to the Material Recovery Facility (MRF)/transfer station at Diamond Springs. Recyclable materials are separated from the waste stream at the MRF. From the MRF, un-recyclable solid waste is taken to Lockwood Landfill in Nevada for disposal.

Solid waste is generated by industrial, commercial, institutional, residential, and other types of land uses. In the unincorporated portion of El Dorado County, most of the solid waste is generated by residential land uses. In 2000, the residential waste stream accounted for 61.5% of the total waste stream in the unincorporated portion of the county, with the remaining 38.5% generated by nonresidential sources. Based on a total waste stream of 81,575 tons in 2000, the unincorporated portion of El Dorado County generates 2.2 pounds of waste per resident per day and 4.2 pounds per day per employee per day (CIWMB 2002).

All of these issues related to indirect, growth-related impacts will be addressed in the EIR.

	Potentially Significant	Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Potentially Significant	No Impact
	Potentially Significant Impact		Less Than Significant Impact	

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? [X] [] [] []

- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.) [X] [] [] []

- c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? [] [X] [] []

The mandatory findings of significance at this stage of the project, that is, prior to full evaluation, are such that potentially significant impacts must be disclosed. The proposed project has the potential to affect certain natural and human-related resources in a significant manner. These have been discussed in this document by individual resource area. As a new water right project, it is not surprising that the potentially significant environmental effects are related to hydrological conditions, both in the natural environment (e.g., reservoirs and waterways) and human environment (e.g., water supply, wastewater, etc.).

Changes in reservoir and riverine hydrology also have the potential to affect aquatic species and associated riparian or near-shore wildlife and flora. Where these species are considered sensitive and, therefore, listed under federal or State endangered species legislation (e.g., Chinook salmon and steelhead in the lower American River) or, Species of Concern, the importance to fully assess these potential impacts is that much greater. The current condition of many listed fish species

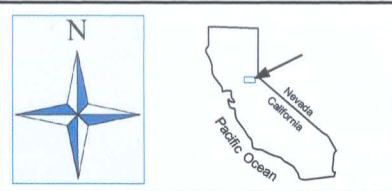
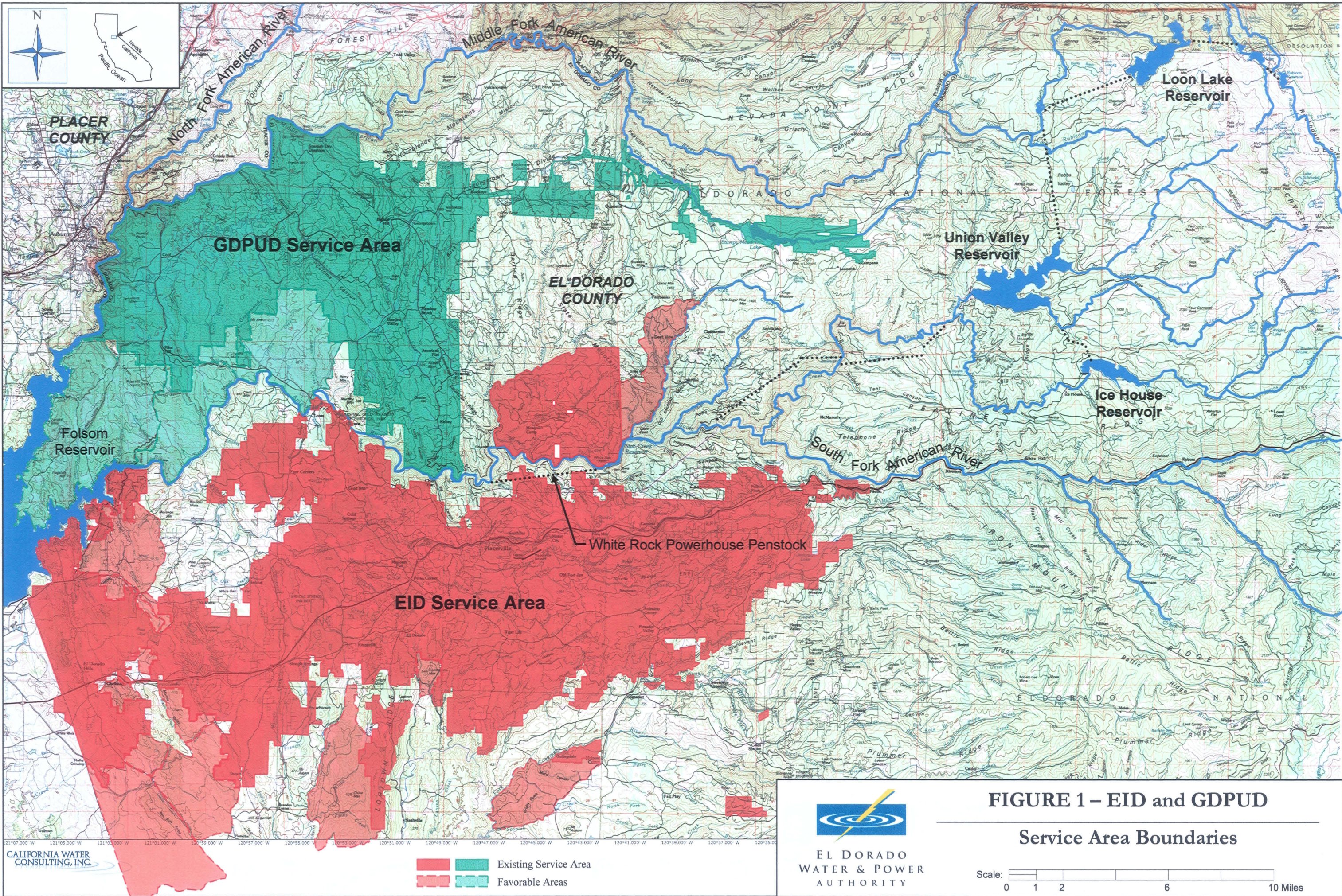
throughout the Central Valley (e.g., Chinook salmon and delta smelt) are such that, even under existing conditions, recovery, let alone sustainability, is severely threatened and perhaps even doubtful. This past year's sportfishing ban on salmon in all Central Valley rivers, an occurrence never before made by the State Fish & Game Commission supports this contention. Moreover, the ongoing CVP-OCAP litigation under Judge Oliver Wanger's court and the pending Biological Opinions on delta smelt, Chinook salmon, and steelhead in light of accepted pelagic organism decline (POD) in the delta and the existing conditions known to affect many of California's waterways make the identification of any definitive impact threshold difficult at this time.

Accordingly, any exacerbation of adverse effect can be considered a potentially significant effect to these species. Anticipated consultations with the Department of Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service) throughout the development of this project will help ascertain the precise level of impact and feasible mitigation measures that might be available and effective.

Additionally, it is acknowledged that new water diversions may also affect existing water supply allocations, hydropower generating capabilities, instream flows and reservoir water surface elevations related to waterborne recreational activities (e.g., whitewater rafting, boat launching, fishing, etc.), as well as ambient water quality through water temperature changes. Hydrological stationarity, that is, reliance on a prescribed historical record, has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years as atmospheric forcings and perturbations (regardless of cause) are being noted and increasingly tested in the hydrological sciences.

Climate change effects, both as an added consequence of this project and the effect of climate change on the ability of this project to meet its projected needs are important cumulative impact considerations and will be addressed in the EIR. Hydrologically, the effects of climate change on future water availability will be assessed through surrogate modeling applications (e.g., CALSIM II adjusted model output without applying General Circulation Models/Regional Circulation Models (GCM/RCM) downscaled meteorologic inputs). From a causal perspective, the collective effects of the increased population served by this new water supply and the facilities and services that it would require, will also be assessed. Greenhouse gas (GHG) loadings will be modeled based on the population and activity projections made in the General Plan.

Finally, as discussed earlier, among the indirect, growth-related effects of the project are the continuing effects on terrestrial biological resources as a result of ongoing development. These effects will also be addressed in the EIR.



PLACER COUNTY

GDPUD Service Area

EL DORADO COUNTY

EID Service Area

White Rock Powerhouse Penstock

Union Valley Reservoir

Loon Lake Reservoir

Folsom Reservoir

Ice House Reservoir

FIGURE 1 – EID and GDPUD

Service Area Boundaries



- Existing Service Area
- Favorable Areas

121°07.000 W 121°05.000 W 121°03.000 W 121°01.000 W 120°59.000 W 120°57.000 W 120°55.000 W 120°53.000 W 120°51.000 W 120°49.000 W 120°47.000 W 120°45.000 W 120°43.000 W 120°41.000 W 120°39.000 W 120°37.000 W 120°35.000 W

CALIFORNIA WATER CONSULTING, INC.

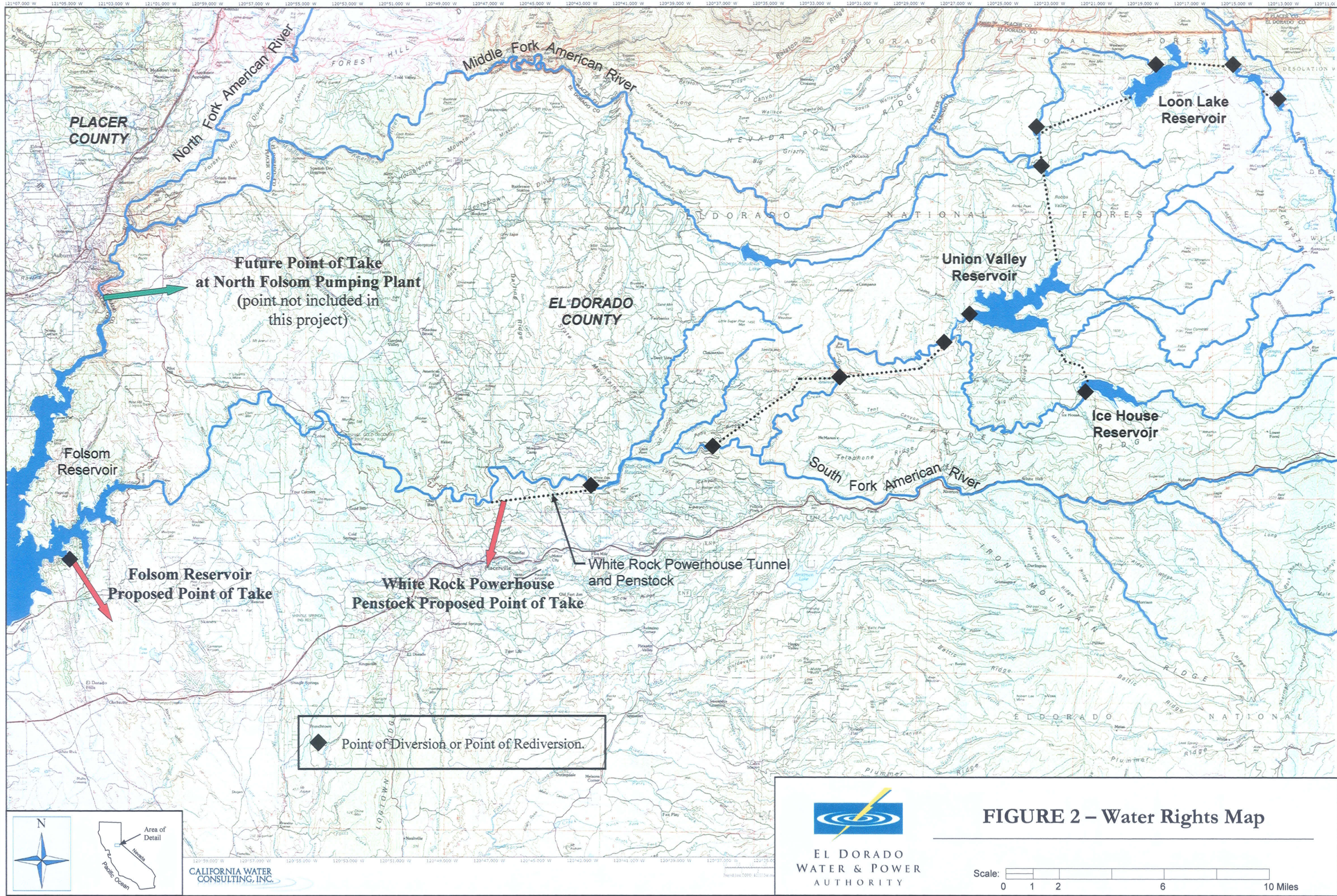
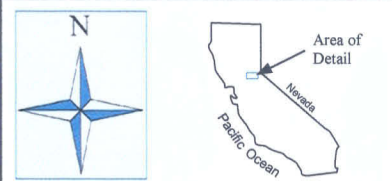


FIGURE 2 – Water Rights Map



**CALIFORNIA WATER
CONSULTING, INC.**