



EL DORADO WATER RELIABILITY PROJECT NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE COUNTY'S GENERAL PLAN

El Dorado County Water Agency (EDCWA) is working to secure additional water to support the County's vision to protect and enhance a rural agricultural way of life through its proposed El Dorado Water Reliability Project (EDWRP). This project will ensure the county has a resilient, long-term water supply for the vibrant community development along the Hwy 50 corridor as well as planned agricultural growth on the West Slope.

This additional surface water is needed as the West Slope is dominated by geologic formations that store negligible groundwater. Securing additional surface water resources now is essential for ensuring the county is prepared to meet growing future water demands consistent with the adopted El Dorado County General Plan.

Planning Shows Water Supply-Demand Imbalance on County's West Slope

EDCWA evaluated current and future water demands for municipal, industrial, rural and agricultural needs, including the approximately 140 small water systems in the county that serve residents, school districts, and recreation areas, and more. Factoring planned growth, water conservation, anticipated regulatory changes, and climate change impacts, EDCWA's analysis found that the projected need for additional long-term water supplies for the West Slope ranges from an average 60,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) to 86,000 AFY under varying climate change conditions.

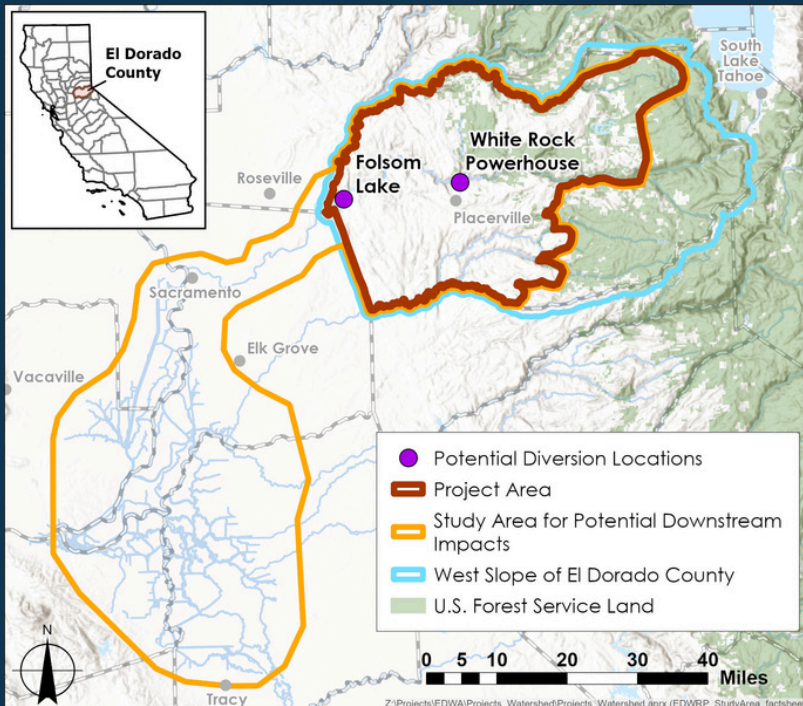
EDCWA's analysis shows that additional water is needed to fulfill the land uses identified in the County's adopted General Plan. As such, EDCWA is working to secure surface water rights of up to 40,000 AFY from the upper tributaries of the American River. This surface water would help meet some, but not all, of the projected water demands associated with planned domestic, municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses identified in the County's adopted General Plan.

California water law protects water in the geographic area where water originates to meet existing and future water supply needs within that area.



El Dorado County Water Agency Working to Secure the County's Water Future

EDCWA is the El Dorado Designated Representative on behalf of the County of El Dorado, El Dorado Irrigation District, and Georgetown-Divide Public Utility District consistent with the 2005 El Dorado-SMUD Cooperation Agreement. As the lead agency, EDCWA is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to meet the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The EIR is designed to evaluate the potential environmental effects of securing surface water rights from the upper American River and its tributaries.



The project area is within the West Slope of the county and the study area includes areas downstream that are being analyzed for potential impacts by the proposed water diversions including Folsom Reservoir and the Lower American River.

Consistent with the 2005 El Dorado – SMUD Cooperation Agreement, the surface water would be stored and diverted at SMUD’s existing Upper American River Project (UARP) facilities and delivered to two locations: SMUD’s White Rock Powerhouse Penstock and the El Dorado County area of Folsom Lake where the South Fork American River meets the upper reach of the reservoir.

Future Water Delivery Infrastructure

To deliver additional water to the West Slope, new infrastructure would likely be needed to store, treat, or distribute the water. The location, design, construction, and operation of this future new water supply infrastructure is not known at this time and will involve additional development and analysis. Impacts of the construction and operation of this future infrastructure would be evaluated in future environmental analyses conducted by lead agencies when such projects are proposed.

Public Participation Encouraged in Environmental Review Process

EDCWA developed a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the EIR and published it in December 2017. The NOP was circulated for comment for 55 days and two public scoping meetings were held in January 2018. The public scoping meetings provided a forum for the public to learn about the proposed project and provide comments on the proposed scope of the EIR analysis. Comment letters received in response to the NOP were considered during preparation of this Draft EIR.

There are additional opportunities to participate in the environmental review process during the public review period of the Draft EIR which is from October 15, 2024 to December 9, 2024. Information about the Draft EIR and ways to participate are available at edwateragency.org/Programs-Projects/Water-Security/El-Dorado-Water-Reliability-Project

Contact

El Dorado County Water Agency
edcwa@edcgov.us
(530) 621-5392
edwateragency.org

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