El Dorado Water Reliability Project Draft EIR Public Meeting

El Dorado County Water Agency

Today's Public Meeting Objectives

- Common understanding of the El Dorado Water Reliability Project (Proposed Project) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Receive public and agency comments on the content of the Draft EIR

Agenda

- Draft EIR Overview
  - Proposed Project
  - Approach to the Analysis
  - Environmental Impact Conclusions
  - Alternatives Analysis
- CEQA Process
- Public Comment Period

Need for Proposed Project

- There is insufficient long-term water supply to serve the land uses and economic development that may occur on the West Slope, as envisioned in the adopted General Plan.

- Proposed Project would help meet some, but not all, of the projected water demands associated with planned municipal, industrial, and irrigated agricultural beneficial uses.

Proposed Project Objectives

- Secure water rights available from the upper American River system through State Filed Applications 5644 and 5645 to make as much progress as possible toward meeting the long-term water demands associated with the land use and economic development on the West Slope, consistent with the County's adopted General Plan

- Maximize the use of existing Upper American River Project (UARP) facilities to store and divert new water supply from the South Fork American River at the White Rock Powerhouse and/or at Folsom Reservoir, consistent with the 2005 El Dorado-SMUD Cooperation Agreement

Proposed Project

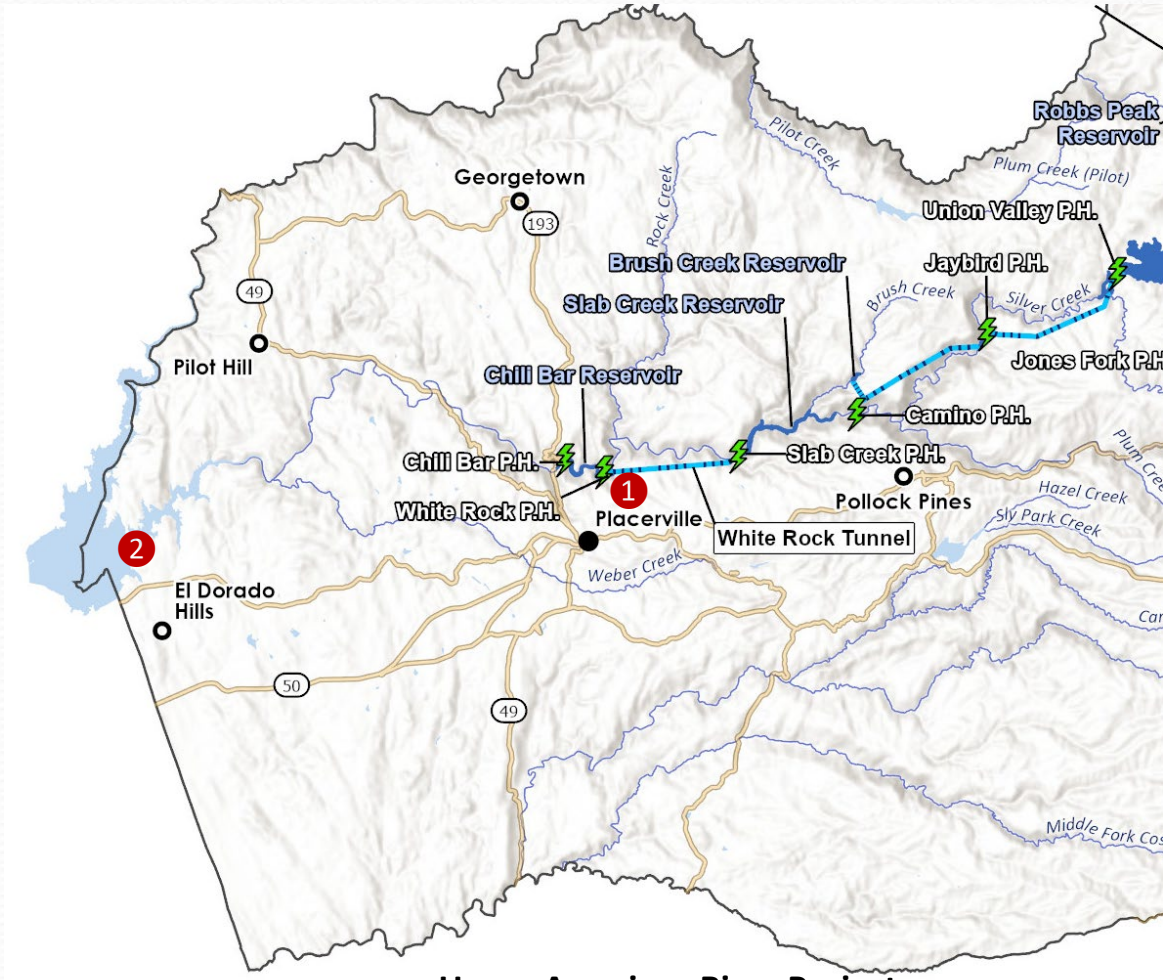
Secure assignment of State Filed Applications for surface water rights up to 40,000 acre-feet/year

Divert water through and storage in SMUD's existing Upper American River Project facilities

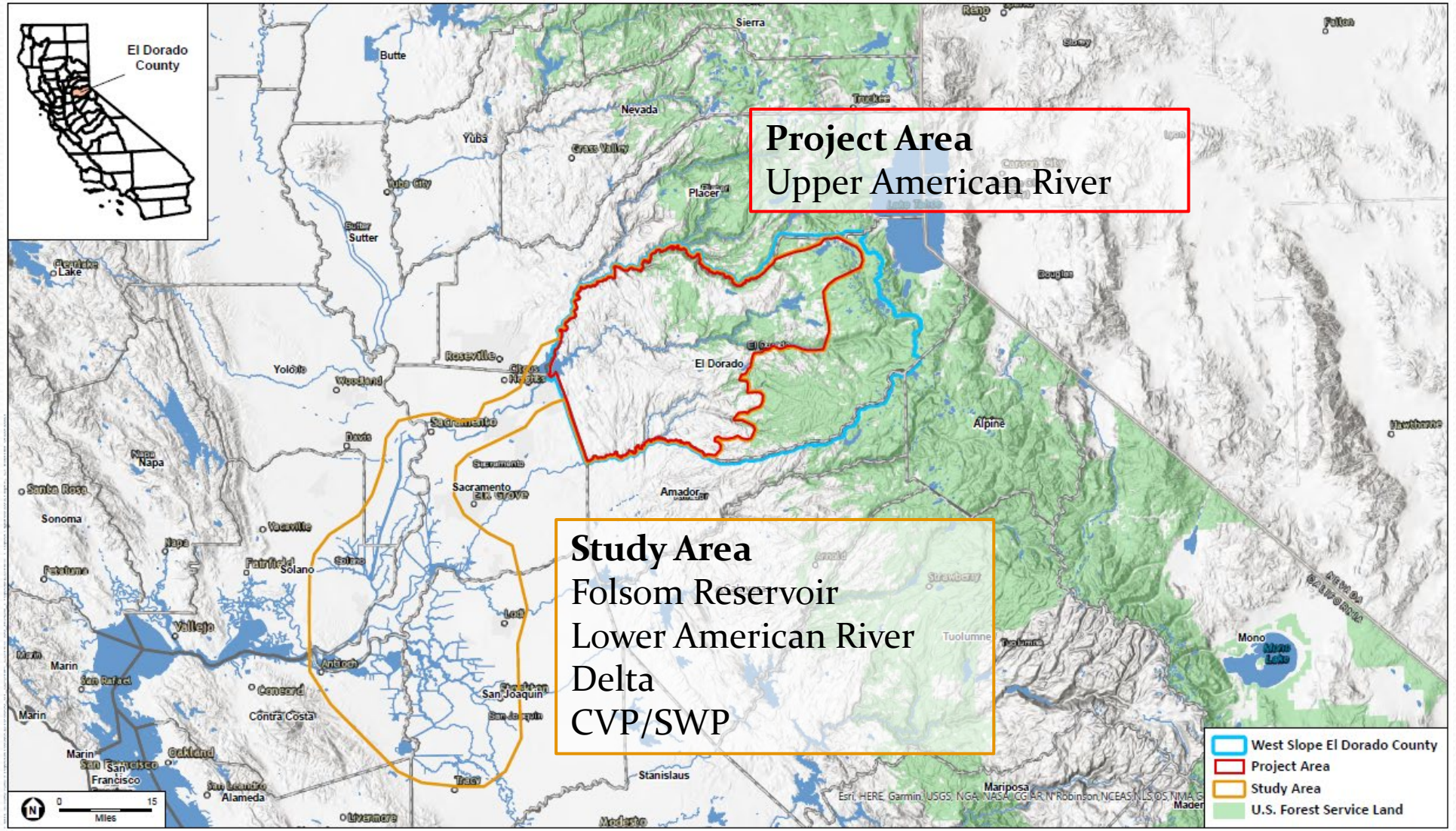
- ❶ SMUD's White Rock Powerhouse penstock (up to 100 cfs)
- ❷ EID's Folsom Lake Intake Facility (up to 100 cfs)

Max combined diversions for both diversion points (❶ and ❷) is 100 cfs

Use this surface water to help meet some of the projected water demand



Geographic Scope of Analysis



Approach to the Analysis in the Draft EIR

- **Diversion-Related Effects:** Evaluates potential environmental effects associated with diversion of up to 40,000 afy of water
- **Indirect Effects:** Evaluates at a program-level potential indirect environmental effects associated with:
  - Use of Proposed Project water to support planned growth on the West Slope consistent with the adopted General Plan
  - Construction and operation of future water supply infrastructure needed to use and distribute Proposed Project water
- **Cumulative Effects:** Evaluates potential cumulative environmental effects associated with Proposed Project and reasonably foreseeable projects

Environmental Impact Conclusions:

Direct Impacts *(associated with diversion of water)*

No Impact	Less than Significant Impacts
• Tribal Cultural Resources • Historical Resources	• Water Supply • Surface Water Quality • Aquatic Biological Resources • Terrestrial Biological Resources • Recreation (Water-Related) • Energy Production • Greenhouse Gas Emissions • Cumulative Impacts - Diversion Related

Environmental Impact Conclusions

- **Indirect Effects – Use of water on the West Slope**
  - Where the General Plan EIR concluded that an impact from approved planned growth would be significant and unavoidable, the Draft EIR conservatively reaches the same conclusion
- **Indirect Effects - Construction and operation of future water supply infrastructure**
  - Concluded significant and unavoidable largely because the specific location of development of infrastructure and water use on the West Slope is currently unknown
- **Cumulative Effects**
  - Did not substantially affect the impacts associated with Proposed Project

Alternatives Analysis

Two alternatives evaluated

- No Project Alternative – future water demands would be met, to the extent practicable, by existing supplies
- 30 TAF Alternative – Agency pursues reduced 30,000 acre-foot amount of additional surface water supply with same diversion and delivery approach as Proposed Project.

Environmentally Superior Alternative

- 30,000 acre-feet Alternative
  - Slightly less overall impact
  - However, would not substantially reduce less-than-significant impacts associated with Proposed Project

Alternatives Analysis, cont.

- Additional alternatives considered:
  - Groundwater
  - Stormwater capture
  - Surface water diversion from the Consumnes River

- Rejected from further consideration because they would not provide sufficient, sustainable additional water supply to serve long-term water need in Project Area

Additional Informational Analyses

- **Appendix F - Climate Change**
  - Evaluates the Proposed Project under future (2040) climate and hydrology.
  - Climate change shifts runoff with earlier peak flows, which result in lower reservoir storage especially in dry years.
- **Appendix H - Full Water Forum Agreement (WFA) Diversions Sensitivity Analysis**
  - Evaluates the Proposed Project under higher future lower American River withdrawals up to the limits allowed under the WFA.

Under both scenarios, the Proposed Project has minimal additional impacts on water resources and water temperatures. All direct impacts remain “less than significant.”

CEQA Process

CEQA Process

- Agency is the CEQA Lead Agency
- Agency will consider all comments received on the Draft EIR and prepare a Final EIR that will include:
  - Written responses to comments on Draft EIR
  - Any text changes to the Draft EIR
  - Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), if applicable
- Agency Board of Directors will consider certifying the EIR and approving the Proposed Project

CEQA Schedule

- Public comment period on the Draft EIR
  - October 15 through December 9, 2024 (55 days)
  - Comments due no later than December 9, 2024, 5 p.m. PDT

- Agency to consider certifying EIR and approving the Proposed Project – anticipated Spring 2025

Document Availability

- Online:
  - https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/edwateragency/Programs-Projects/Water-Security/El-Dorado-Water-Reliability-Project
- During normal business hours at the:
  - El Dorado County Water Agency office
  - El Dorado County Planning office
  - El Dorado County Library – Placerville, CA
  - Folsom Public Library – Folsom, CA

Public Comments

1. Provide verbal comments at today's meeting
2. Submit written comments no later than December 9, 2024, 5 p.m. PDT
   - **Email:**
     edcwa@edcgov.us

     Please use "EDWRP DEIR Comments" in the subject line
   - **Mail:**
     El Dorado County Water Agency
     1107 Investment Blvd, Suite 240
     El Dorado Hills, CA 95762