

Georgetown Divide Recreation District

Agency Profile

The Georgetown Divide Recreation District (District) was formed in 1988 under the Public Resources Code §5780 et seq. to provide recreational sites, facilities and programs. The District is located in the Georgetown Divide portion of El Dorado County, serving the communities of Georgetown, Garden Valley, Greenwood, Cool, Coloma, Pilot Hill and Kelsey.

The District is empowered to provide parks and recreation and public transportation services; however the District only currently offers parks and recreation.

While the District encompasses many of the historic communities of the Divide, its service area does not extend to Lotus, whose residents often utilize the District's facilities. The District's Board of Directors has expressed an interest in annexing Lotus and the surrounding community so that the District can encompass all Divide residents. In addition, the District has been identified as a possible successor agency to assume the operation and maintenance of the Kelsey Cemetery should the Kelsey Cemetery District's Board of Directors decide to suspend operations because of financial difficulties.

Land Use Character

The District serves approximately 412 square miles, which is mostly rural, except for the communities listed above. Land uses include low-density and rural residential, open space, agriculture and timber production.

Level of Service

Although the District is empowered to provide public transportation services, according to the General Government Services II Municipal Services Review, adopted by the Commission on December 5, 2007, and the General Government Services I Municipal Services Review, scheduled to be considered by the Commission on February 27, 2008, the District does not provide any services other than parks and recreation. Therefore, the Commission should consider public transportation powers as authorized but not currently utilized by the District.

The District maintains a total of six parks, covering 160 acres. Park facilities include a baseball field, a historic park, various playground equipment, barbecue and picnic areas, grassy areas, trails and open space. The District of the 37 miles of trails the District maintains, 25 miles are developed and 12 are currently undeveloped. In addition, the District has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management to add an additional 83 acres to their Regional Park, which would consist of new equestrian facilities.

Commission's Policies and Guidelines

LAFCO Policy 4.4 requires the Commission to review the following topics before making sphere of influence determinations. The Commission's review of general government services addressed these requirements as noted below. All citations are from the Final *General Government Services / Municipal Services Review* (GGSI), scheduled to be considered by the Commission February 27, 2008.

1. Service capacity, level and types of services currently provided by the agency, and areas where these services are provided

Refer to the GGSI MSR pages 2.15-1 to 2.15-2, "Section III – Infrastructure;" and pages 2.6-8 to 2.15-8, "Section X – Infrastructure."

2. Financial capabilities and costs of service

Refer to the GGSI MSR page 2.15-5, "Section IV – Financing and Rate Restructuring," and "Section V – Cost Avoidance Opportunities;" and page 2.15-8, "Section X – Financing Constraints and Opportunities," "Section X – Rate Restructuring," and "Section X – Cost Avoidance Opportunities."

3. Topographic factors and areas of social and economic interdependencies

Refer to the GGSI MSR page 2.15-1, "Section I – Setting."

4. Existing and planned land uses, land use plans and policies, consistency with county and city general plans, and projected growth in the affected area

Refer to the GGSI MSR page 2.15-1, "Section I – Setting;" and "Section II – Growth and Population;" and page 2.15-8, "Section X – Growth and Population."

5. Potential effects on agricultural and open space lands

The 2004 General Plan directs unincorporated growth to already existing population centers, or "community regions," such as the Georgetown and Cool areas. Although the District contains agricultural parcels, it is unlikely that the services provided by the District would induce urban growth or the premature conversion of that parcel to urban uses. Even considering the proposed sphere expansion, there should be no additional impacts to that parcel or the surrounding areas.

6. A description of the services that will be provided to any areas which may be added to the sphere and the timing and method for funding expansion of facilities or services

Refer to the GGSI MSR pages 2.15-1 to 2.15-2, "Section III – Infrastructure;" and page 2.15-8, "Section X – Infrastructure."

7. An analysis of the effects of a proposed sphere of influence on other agencies and their service capabilities:

Expansion of the proposed sphere of influence to include all parcels within the Kelsey Cemetery District would allow the District to explore future options for becoming a successor agency for the cemetery district. Refer to Determination 2

below for additional information. In addition, expansion of the District's sphere of influence to the Lotus community and surrounding area would allow the District to encompass all communities within the Georgetown Divide.

DETERMINATIONS

In determining the sphere of influence for each local agency, Government Code §56425(e) requires the Commission to consider and prepare a written statement of determinations with respect to four factors. Staff recommends the following determinations for updating the sphere for the District:

1. *The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open space lands.*

Present land uses within the District range from low-density and rural residential to agricultural production and open space. Planned land uses are anticipated to remain the same as current land uses.

2. *The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.*

Present needs for public facilities and services are currently being met. Probable needs for public facilities and services are not currently anticipated to vary from present needs, as future demands are expected to remain the same.

The Kelsey Cemetery District (KCD), which maintains one historic cemetery in Kelsey, has serves an area which is almost coterminous with the southern boundaries of the District. The KCD has experienced financial difficulties in the recent past and its board has discussed the possibility of dissolution and transferring operations to a successor agency in the future. Although this option is merely speculative at this point, the District's General Manager stated that it would be something that could warrant further discussion. In order for the District to take over cemetery responsibilities, it would first have to be converted into a Community Services District in order to add public cemetery services to its list of empowered services. In addition, the District's southern boundaries would have to be expanded on the southeastern most tip so that it includes parcels within KCD but outside of the District.

In addition, the District has expressed an interest in expanding to Lotus so that it can better serve all residents on the Georgetown Divide. Given that there are currently no park and recreation service providers in that area, extending the sphere of influence would not place the District in competition with another public agency.

The expansion of District boundaries south to the South Fork of the American River would be a logical extension of service boundaries, given the topographical area. Expansion of the sphere of influence would allow the District to pursue an extension of services or an expansion into other services in the future, if its governing board chose to do so.

3. *The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.*

The present capacity of public facilities provided is adequate to serve the existing community.

4. *The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the Commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.*

The District serves various communities on the Georgetown Divide, including the towns of Georgetown, Cool, Coloma, Pilot Hill and Garden Valley. The areas proposed for inclusion are located directly south of the district, outside of any established community boundaries. There are no social or economic communities of interest that require further Commission consideration of this issue for the sphere update.

Based upon the information contained in this document, it is recommended that the Georgetown Divide Recreation District Sphere of Influence be expanded south to the South Fork of the American River to include all parcels contained in the Kelsey Cemetery District and include the community of Lotus and surrounding area, as shown in the map labeled "Exhibit A" and attached to Resolution L-2008-19.