

El Dorado Irrigation District

Agency Profile

The El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) was formed in 1925 and serves an area of approximately 220 square miles on the western slope of El Dorado County. The District's Sphere of Influence (SOI) encompasses an additional 376 square miles, with the majority located to the northwest and south of the District's current boundaries. EID is empowered to provide the following services:

- Water
- Wastewater
- Hydroelectric Power
- Parks and Recreation

EID provides domestic and agricultural water service throughout its contiguous service area, treated water to the remote communities of Outingdale and Strawberry and wholesales treated water to the City of Placerville. In addition to water service, EID also provides wastewater collection, conveyance, treatment and disposal services within three wastewater service areas: El Dorado Hills, Deer Creek, and Motherlode. The Deer Creek and El Dorado Hills Wastewater Treatment Plants produce recycled water that meets Title 22 standards and is primarily used for golf courses, landscape irrigation, as well as single family residential irrigation in communities where recycled water is available.

Land Use Character

EID serves a large portion of the western slope of El Dorado County, particularly in areas that are developed or developing such as the City of Placerville and unincorporated communities along the Highway 50 corridor where significant growth is expected, including El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, Shingle Springs, Diamond Springs, and El Dorado. The estimated population within EID's service area was 92,400 in 2005; this is projected to increase to 142,560 by 2030. This yields an average annual growth rate of 2.2 percent, although it should be noted that growth in the areas closer to Sacramento County will be higher than areas in the eastern portion of the District.

EID's service area includes a variety of land uses, although the majority of the area is designated as residential, including rural, low, medium, and high densities. EID serves the commercial uses along Highway 50 and pockets of industrial uses. There is limited open space and the agricultural lands are generally concentrated on the periphery of the District's boundaries. EID serves several communities designated in the General Plan as Rural Centers; these communities are expected to have higher intensity development than other rural areas.

Level of Service

Water

EID provides water for domestic, commercial/industrial, agricultural, and irrigation use through five water treatment plants and 36 storage reservoirs. The District's primary sources of water supply include the District-owned and operated Jenkinson Lake, Project 184 Forebay, Folsom Lake, and pre-1914 ditch water rights. The water system within EID's contiguous service area includes storage, conveyance, treatment and distribution facilities as well as a separate ditch system that serves some agricultural irrigation accounts. The satellite systems that serve Strawberry and Outingdale include water treatment, storage, and distribution facilities. EID currently has water supplies of 70,200 acre feet per year, with a firm yield of 60,550 acre feet and a safe yield of 58,753 acre feet.

EID has three primary water service zones within its contiguous service area; the Eastern Region includes Lotus/Coloma, Swansboro, Camino, Pleasant Valley, Sly Park, Pollock Pines, North Placerville, and South Placerville; the Western Region includes Bass Lake, Cameron Park, Shingle Springs, Logtown, Diamond Springs, and El Dorado; and the third zone is the El Dorado Hills service area. EID also has two satellite service areas for Outingdale and Strawberry. The ditch system that serves irrigation customers is separate from the domestic system. The District's water system infrastructure includes storage, conveyance, treatment, and distribution systems for both treated and untreated water.

Wastewater

In addition to water service, EID also provides wastewater collection, conveyance, treatment and disposal services within three wastewater service areas: El Dorado Hills, Deer Creek, and Motherlode. The District operates two wastewater treatment plants and three satellite systems, along with the related collection and conveyance systems. The two main treatment plants serve the El Dorado Hills/Cameron Park areas and produce recycled water that meets Title 22 standards and is used for golf courses, landscape irrigation and single family residential irrigation in communities where recycled water is available. The three local treatment facilities include a septic system that serves Gold Ridge Forest and facilities with primary treatment, ponds, and spray fields that serve Rancho Ponderosa and Camino Heights.

Hydroelectric Power

EID's Project 184 is a 21-megawatt hydroelectric plant on the South Fork of the American River. The Project includes four storage reservoirs, diversion dams, conveyance facilities, penstock, a powerhouse with two generators, and a switchyard. EID sells the power generated on the open market and does not provide any retail electric utility service.

Parks and Recreation

EID operates numerous recreational facilities, inside and outside of its service boundaries, which offer a variety of recreation opportunities such as camping, picnic areas, barbeque pits, boating, fishing, swimming, biking, hiking and equestrian trails.

District recreational facilities include the Sly Park Recreation Area/Jenkinson Lake, Forebay Reservoir, Echo Lake, Lake Aloha, Pyramid Creek/Horsetail Falls, Silver Lake, Silver Lake West Campground and Caples Lake.

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 water services as well as general government services addressed these requirements as noted below. All citations are from the Final *West County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Municipal Services Review* (Parks and Recreation MSR), adopted by the Commission July 28, 2004; the Final *Water, Wastewater and Power Municipal Services Review* (Water MSR), adopted January 30, 2008; and the Final *Government Services I Municipal Services Review* (GGSI MSR) adopted February 27, 2008.

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

Water, Wastewater and Power Services – Refer to the Water MSR pages 3-5 to 3-19, “Section 3.3 – Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies;” and pages 3-25 to 3-26, “Section 3.12.2 – Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies.”

Parks and Recreation Services – Refer to the GGS I MSR pages 2.12-2 to 2.12-6, “III Infrastructure;” page 2.12-12, “X Municipal Service Review Determinations: Infrastructure.”

Refer to the Parks and Recreation MSR page 85, “Table 5: Park Area By Agency;” page 87, “Location;” pages 88 to 89, “Underserved Areas;” and pages 25 to 27, “El Dorado Irrigation District.”

2. *Financial capabilities and costs of service*

Water, Wastewater and Power Services – Refer to the Water MSR pages 3-19 to 3-20 “Section 3.4 – Financing Constraints and Opportunities;” pages 3-20 to 3-21, “Section 3.5 – Cost Avoidance Opportunities;” pages 3-21 to 3-23, “Section 3.6 – Opportunities for Rate Restructuring;” page 3-27, “Section 3.12.3 – Financing Constraints and Opportunities,” and “Section 3.12.4 – Cost Avoidance Opportunities;” and 3-28, “Section 3.12.5 – Opportunities for Rate Restructuring.”

Parks and Recreation Services – Refer to the GGSI MSR pages 2.12-7 to 2.12-8, “IV Financing and Rate Restructuring;” page 2.12-8, “V Cost Avoidance Opportunities;” and page 2.12-12, “X Municipal Service Review Determinations: Rate Restructuring” and “X Municipal Service Review Determinations: Cost Avoidance Opportunities.”

Refer to the Parks and Recreation MSR pages 25 to 27, “El Dorado Irrigation District;” and page 134, “Table 9: Agency Expenditures Per Capita.”

3. *Topographic factors and areas of social and economic interdependencies*

Water, Wastewater and Power Services – Refer to the Water MSR pages 3-1 to 3-3, “Section 3.1 – Overview” and pages 3-4 to 3-5, “Section 3.2 – Growth and Population Projections.”

Parks and Recreation Services – Refer to the GCSI MSR page 2.12-1, “I Setting: Area Served.”

Refer to the Parks and Recreation MSR page 87, “Location;” pages 88 to 89, “Underserved Areas;” page 99, “Land Use Character;” and pages 25 to 27, “El Dorado Irrigation District.”

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*

Water, Wastewater and Power Services – Refer to the Water MSR pages 3-4 to 3-5 “Section 3.2 – Growth and Population Projections;” and page 3-26, “Section 3.12.1 – Growth and Population.”

Parks and Recreation Services – Refer to the GCSI MSR page 2.12-1, “I Setting: Area Served;” pages 2.12-1 to 2.12-2, “II Growth and Population;” and 2.12-12, “X Municipal Service Review Determinations: Growth and Population.”

Refer to the Parks and Recreation MSR pages 97 to 102, “Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area;” and pages 25 to 27, “El Dorado Irrigation District.”

5. *Potential effects on agricultural and open space lands*

EID serves a variety of land uses, from urban and suburban centers to rural residential communities and agricultural and open space areas. EID’s current Sphere of Influence stretches across a large portion of the County and includes many areas of undeveloped land that have yet to be converted from open space to more urban uses. As a water purveyor, many agricultural operations contract with EID to receive irrigation water, either in treated or in raw form. While the treated services provided by the District may be considered to induce urban growth, LAFCO has the discretion to approve or disapprove annexations into the District based on a variety of factors, including the potential effects on agricultural and open space lands. This provides control over the potential premature conversion of agricultural land to urban uses that could occur as a result of the availability of water and wastewater services.

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*

Water, Wastewater and Power Services – Refer to pages the Water MSR 3-5 to 3-19, “Section 3.3 – Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies;” and pages 3-25 to 3-26, “Section 3.12.2 – Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies.”

Parks and Recreation Services – Refer to the GGS I MSR pages 2.12-2 to 2.12-6, “III Infrastructure,” and page 2.12-12, “X Municipal Service Review Determinations: Infrastructure.”

Refer to the Parks and Recreation MSR pages 17 to 20, “Infrastructure, Facilities, Services;” pages 20 to 21, “Infrastructure, Plans, Capacity;” page 85, “Table 5: Park Area By Agency;” page 87, “Location;” pages 88 to 89, “Underserved Areas;” and pages 25 to 27, “El Dorado Irrigation District.”

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

Water, Wastewater and Power Services – Refer to pages the Water MSR 3-5 to 3-19, “Section 3.3 – Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies;” and pages 3-25 to 3-26, “Section 3.12.2 – Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies.”

Parks and Recreation Services – Refer to the GGS I MSR pages 2.12-8 to 2.12-10, “VII Government Structure and Management Efficiencies;” and page 2.12-12, “X Municipal Service Review Determinations: Government Structure Options.”

Refer to the Parks and Recreation MSR page 127, “Government Structure and Cost Effectiveness;” and pages 25 to 27, “El Dorado Irrigation District.”

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 El Dorado Irrigation District:

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

EID covers extensive areas of El Dorado County. Land uses include residential, commercial, agricultural and others. Land uses within the District change based on planning within individual communities located within the District’s boundaries. EID is involved in development planning and has the opportunity to review and provide input regarding planned projects.

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

Most of the projected residential, industrial and commercial demand for water, wastewater and, where applicable, recycled water services will be along the General Plan’s “community regions.” These are the areas where the County will channel most of its growth; however, as underground water storage areas dry up because of climactic conditions, it is very possible that demand to tap into EID’s water system will increase from single parcel landowners. In addition, an increase for raw and irrigation water may also increase from the agricultural sector such as wineries and other operations proliferate in the County, particularly in the south region.

For parks and recreation service, EID is not the sole provider of recreational facilities within its area and recreation services are provided as an accessory service; therefore, there is no identified need for facilities.

Demand for EID's hydropower will probably increase exponentially because of the State's new directives that 20% of California's electrical power be generated from renewable sources. This should provide EID with a stable source of revenue that has the potential to become very lucrative over the years.

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

EID is the only public water purveyor in the central western region of El Dorado County. Its current supply of water, wastewater capacity and recycled water, where available, should be sufficient to meet most of the projected growth in the County General Plan. However, while its sphere of influence is large, it is not probable that it can expand in the next 10 to 20 years to encompass all of the large geographic area contained within it, given its current resources.

The recreational facilities of the District have been sufficient to meet the demands of the local and regional population to date, although population growth in the region will continue to increase demands on existing facilities.

EID's capacity and infrastructure to generate hydropower should be sufficient to provide a reliable source of electrical power on the open market.

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 covers extensive areas within El Dorado County. Annexations of individual properties and larger subdivisions occur regularly. The District did not indicate any specific areas planned for annexation in the near future, nor the need for sphere of influence or boundary adjustments.

Based upon the information contained in this document, it is recommended that the El Dorado Irrigation District Sphere of Influence be updated to affirm its current sphere, as shown in the map labeled "Exhibit A" and attached to Resolution L-2008-25.