

## **Public Outreach**

### **ATTENDEES**

A total of eight members of the public attended the public workshop on February 12 at the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors Meeting Room.

### **FORMAT/PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

The public workshop was held from 6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. The workshop format consisted of a brief presentation of the Water Resources Development and Management Plan objectives and an outline of the second part of the workshop, which included four different workstations where the project team members were available to provide information about the project. Comment boards and handouts were available to the public. Maps of the county water purveyors' respective service areas were on display at each station.

Many of the representatives from the coordinating committee for the plan staffed the workstations. This coordinating committee constitutes officials from the El Dorado County Water Agency (EDCWA), five county water purveyors, the agricultural commission, and the county planning and surveying departments. EDCWA and the Agricultural Commission managed workstation one. Representatives from the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) met with residents at workstation two. Grizzly Flats Community Services District and Georgetown Public Utility District (GDPUD) officials fielded residents' comments at workstation three, and South Tahoe Public Utility (STPUD) District representatives staffed workstation four. Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD), also a member of the coordinating committee, did not send a representative to the workshop; TCPUD data were represented through handouts and a map for the interested public.

### **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Linda Tucker, representing public outreach consultant Lucy & Company, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the project team. She stated that the plan was of a first of its kind effort by EDCWA and the five local water purveyors to provide a comprehensive plan for securing future water supply, prevent against future drought, and to maintain the quality of life county residents currently enjoy. She told the group that the purpose of the meeting was two-fold: first, to provide a brief overview of the plan and the background that led to its development; and second, to allow residents to meet in a one-on-one setting with their local water purveyors to share their comments and concerns, and ask questions regarding the future water supply for El Dorado County.

## **OVERVIEW**

Linda then turned the time over to Lonnie Curtis, general manager for EDCWA, to provide a brief overview and background of the project. Lonnie prefaced his comments by stating that this meeting was not about issues regarding the county general plan or SMUD, but specifically to deal with water planning. He also stressed to the group that water planning does not dictate growth in the county; however, the county must plan for growth that is certain to come. The county general plan regulates growth. Lonnie then introduced the plan as a joint effort with five county water purveyors to meet three primary objectives: provide an adequate water supply, project and meet future demands on the water supply, and enhance water reliability.

In order to provide an adequate water supply the county must address surface sources (rivers and lakes), water rights (keeping more water here before it goes to the valley), and other alternatives. He told the group that these issues, especially water rights, are on the top of water planners' lists this year.

The second objective to be met by the plan is projecting and meeting future demands on the water supply. Lonnie listed many demands on the water supply that must be met in a strategic, well-planned manner. Some of these include: resource stewardship, agricultural, municipal, commercial, industrial and institutional, other (including recreational and environmental), and drought.

Third, in light of possible future drought, various demands and increasing water quality regulations, the plan must make strides toward increasing water reliability. The county proposes to accomplish this through storage (in both on- and off-stream reservoirs), drought protection (maintaining a reserve water supply in case of severe drought or emergency), and growth responsibility.

Lonnie then outlined that the county has identified the need for this plan, and that, when the plan is adopted, implementation will take place in a planned manner. He also told the group that public involvement, such as tonight, will be considered and noted in the draft plan. He encouraged the public to continue to attend meetings and stay involved.

## **OUTLINE OF WORKSTATIONS**

John Enloe, representing engineering consultant ECO:LOGIC, then outlined the rest of the evening, which included four workstations. He told the group that the project team hoped to receive public input on data and proposed alternatives. The presentation then concluded and the public joined the coordinating committee representatives at the workstations for one-on-one dialogue.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**

A summary of written comments, questions and suggestions received at the workshops via discussions held with coordinating committee members is recorded below (a complete list of attendees appears at the end of this summary).

**The following comments were addressed to members of the coordinating committee.**

- C:** High residential growth concerns farmers who worry that they may lose water supply in order to accommodate for greater municipal use.
- Q:** How does EID plan to reserve water for future agricultural use?
- Q:** How does EID assess water demands?
- C:** Concern was raised about the trend of agricultural land (acreage) being used for non-restricted materials.
- Q:** As a follow-up to the last comment, which groups does this classification include? Organic? Small farms?
- C:** Concern was raised over both inside and outside agricultural preserves (overlays) and purveyor current service areas.
- C:** GDPUD must find and secure new supply to meet 2025 demand and beyond.
- C:** Diversion from South Fork Rubicon River makes the most sense economically.
- C:** Steven Proe, secretary for El Dorado County Taxpayers for Quality Growth, would like a DRAFT of the Plan on the EDCWA Web site. He also would like further follow-up, so that he can comment on more specific details of the plan.
- C:** An issue was raised about small agricultural ponds throughout the County. Based on current estimates, there are approximately 400 ponds with a combined capacity of 5000 AF. The ponds are currently used to help meet small, private irrigation requirements.
- C:** Another potential water supply option was discussed, involving an aquifer storage and recovery program in cooperation with Sacramento and/or Amador County. In years of surplus water supplies, EDC water would be stored in the groundwater aquifer. During drought years, EDC banked water would be withdrawn from the aquifer for downstream uses, and a like amount of water would be available upstream, i.e. Folsom Reservoir, for diversion and use.

**ATTACHMENT****Attendees**

Steve	Proe	El Dorado County Taxpayers for Quality Growth P.O. Box 854 Greenwood, CA 95635	(530) 823-1662	trails@d-web.com
Polly	Rosen	390 Jane Drive Placerville, CA 95667	(530) 295-3330	
Grant	Macomber, Attorney		(530) 823-5038	
John	MacCready	Sierra Vista Winery 456 Cabernet Way Placerville, CA 95667	(530) 622-7221	
Andrew	Werner	Layne Water D&S 5700 Wilshire Placerville, CA 95667	(530) 646-0367	awerner@laynewater.com
John	Caswell	Farm Bureau 2457 Caswell Road Placerville, CA 95667	(530) 622-7773	
Jim	Kimmel	USDA-NRCS 100 Forni Road Placerville, CA 95667	(530) 295-5630	
Doug	Leisz	Citizens for Water 2399 Kingsgate Road Placerville, CA 95667	(530) 626-3377	dleisz@d-web.com

**Project Team Members Attending**

Lonnie Curtis	EDCWA
Bill Hetland	EDCWA
Dave Witter	EID
Hank White	GDPUD
Rick Hydrick	STPUD
Harry Dunlop	Grizzly Flats CSD
Kim Wilson	Agricultural Commission
Joe Alessandri	ECO:LOGIC
Jim Roberts	EDCWA Consultant
John Enloe	ECO:LOGIC
Georgette Lorenzen	EPS
Linda Tucker	Lucy & Company
Jeff Chandler	Lucy & Company

### **Other Agency/Government Representatives**

Bob Diekon	GDPUD Director
Hy Victor	GDPUD Director
Bill Snodgrass	Agricultural Commission
Mark Egbert	ED County & GT Divide RCD