

# Georgetown Divide Public Utility District



GDPUD Newsletter September 2023



## Georgetown Fire Seeking Local CERT Recruits, Meeting September 9th.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is a nationally supported, locally implemented initiative. Before, during, and after disasters, CERT volunteer teams perform basic response activities, including checking on neighbors, supporting emergency operations centers, and helping to manage traffic and crowds. The CERT Team will be utilized to reach all areas of our Divide communities to provide disaster/wildfire preparation information and to assist during disasters. If you would like to know how to become a member or to find out more, please contact the CERT Coordinator at: <https://www.geofire.org/contact-us>.

## 400 Yards from the Source

Within 400 yards of the Stumpy Meadows Reservoir sits the location at which the Mosquito Fire touched the burn scar of the King Fire. Standing as a reminder of the realities of living in fire country are a few singed pines next to a now brushy and treeless slope. This spot denotes the intersection of two adverse historic events which have altered the geography of the area. Recent events have demonstrated a pressing need for resiliency and redundancy in the water system that serves our vulnerable and rural communities.

The Stumpy Meadows reservoir stands as the only water source serving the 11,000 residents of the Divide. Impacts from fire and the siltation (buildup) in the system are challenges as the clean-up from the Mosquito Fire damage continues. This time it was manageable and through the hard work of GDPUD crews, the water has been running continuously despite fire impacts. What happens next time? Slopes prone to erosion now surround the headwaters of the supply. How will future events change the community water system? Will the negative impacts have a cascading effect rendering the reservoir out of order for a time, leaving the community without a water source? These are the questions that must be considered when serving and protecting the Divide. The District strives to provide a safe, consistent, and reliable water supply for the region. This includes the development of redundancy within our current system. Staff at the District will continue to explore any and all options to ensure our community will continue to thrive.

### ***APPLY TO SERVE ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE***

The District invites interested customers to apply for public member positions on the Finance Committee and the Irrigation Committee.

The Finance Committee will soon be participating in the audit review process and hopes to fill the current openings on the committee. The primary role of the Finance Committee is to assist the Board in the review of District financial information and to make recommendations to the Board on matters related to the District's finances and budget. The committee, an advisory body, reports to the Board and meets at least quarterly, and more often, if necessary. The Committee is chaired by Andy Fisher, and the Board Liaison members are Director Robert Stovall and President Mitch MacDonald.

The Irrigation Committee was recently established by the Board to advise them on matters related to irrigation services. The Directors appointed to the Committee are Donna Seaman and Mike Thornbrough. Interested irrigation customers are invited to apply.

Persons interested in applying for an appointment to either the Finance Committee or the Irrigation Committee are asked to submit **a letter of interest with a resume** by email to the General Manager at [nschneider@gd-pud.org](mailto:nschneider@gd-pud.org). Applications can also be delivered by mail, or in person, to the District Office, 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, CA 95634.

For additional information, please contact Elizabeth Olson, Executive Assistant, by email at [ea@gd-pud.org](mailto:ea@gd-pud.org) or leave a message at (530) 333-4356.



Chimney Flat Line Replacement

### Fall 2023 Operational Update Adam Brown-Operations Manager

District operations encompass approximately 112 square miles in which critical infrastructure delivers treated and irrigation water supply to nearly 10,000 residents of the Divide communities. The water supply originates within the Pilot Creek Watershed which is stored in Stumpy Meadows Reservoir which is currently at 122% of average. Water is subsequently released into District infrastructure that includes 70 miles of raw water conveyance canal and two water treatment plants that utilize a 200-mile treated water distribution network. A dedicated and critical group of certified operators work tirelessly to provide Divide communities with a continuous high-quality and reliable water supply by completing system maintenance and repairs.

In addition to routine operations and maintenance, the District develops long-term planning in order to respond to infrastructure deficiencies. In the beginning of 2022, the District completed the Automated Meter Project which provides detailed and accurate water use information, funded by a low-interest state loan and grant funding. The project includes a water use portal. To register follow this link: <https://gdpud.watersmart.com/index.php/welcome>. The District is nearing completion of a system-wide *Water Conditions Assessment and Water Reliability Study* (Study) with the primary purpose of evaluating the water systems' capabilities and resiliency. The Study will be utilized to develop a 20-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Completion of these projects will be critical to maintain a continuous high-quality and reliable water supply.

While long-term planning is critical to the future resiliency of the District, projects are continuously being completed to ensure continuous and high-quality water deliveries. These near-term projects include:

- Storage Tank Lining;
- Water Line Replacement;
- Canal Lining;
- Hydrant Flushing;
- Pressure Regulating Valve Replacement/Maintenance; and
- Various Infrastructure Improvements

The District is also actively responding to challenges resulting from the 2022 Mosquito Fire which impacted approximately seven miles of the upper canal. Immediate responses included maintaining water flows, road mitigation, and infrastructure hardening. Due to the emergency, the District has applied for numerous funding opportunities intended to provide delivery resiliency into the future. Current operational concerns along the impacted area include preparations for winter season to include erosion control and road mitigation. In summary operations at the District strive for a proactive approach to ongoing Capital Improvement Projects and response to natural disasters with the ultimate goal to maintain a reliable and high-quality water supply to the Divide communities.

### GDPUD awarded \$1,192,220 in CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants

The Board of Directors of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District (GDPUD) announces selection as recipients of the CAL FIRE Prevention Grant Program. The District has been awarded \$1,192,220 to be utilized for the FIRE SAFE on the Divide project. The project will reduce fuels on 230 acres in the communities of Cool, Greenwood, Georgetown, and Garden Valley. GDPUD infrastructure will be used to create protective fire breaks throughout the region adjacent to homes and evacuation routes.

Forest Resource Collaborative (FRC) assisted GDPUD with preparing the Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention grant application. The mission at FRC is to support forestry projects that improve economic, social, and environmental opportunities on the Georgetown Divide.

The communities on the Divide have been granted further protection from severe wildfire risks with the award of this much-needed CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant.



El Dorado County received additional LIHWAP funding. Effective immediately, assistance for families with past-due water and wastewater bills is available. The LIHWAP program will remain open until December 31, 2023. Visit [www.edcgov.us/humanservices](http://www.edcgov.us/humanservices) for more information.



GDPUD thanks Forest Resource Collaborative for grant support.

