USPS Tracking Receipt for Letter sent to GDPUD General Manager & Board Members Signed for by Daryl Creeks 11/15/2020

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| SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION  Complete Items 1, 2, and 3.  Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.  Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.  Article Addressed to:  CHORALTOWN DIVIDE  Public UTITY DISTRICT  CHORALTOWN, CA 95634 | A. Signature  X. S. M. H. D. Z.  B. Received by (Printed Name)  Dayl Creeks  D. Is ellivery address different for If YES, enter delivery address                             | C. Date of Delivery    1 / 16 / 20 20  om item 1? Yes   |
| 9590 9402 2494 6306 2931 81  2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) 7019 0700 0001 2103 937   | 3. Service Type  Adult Signature Adult Signature Restricted Delivery Certified Mail® Certified Mail Restricted Delivery Collect on Delivery Collect on Delivery Insured Mail | ☐ Priority Mail Express®☐ Registered Mail™☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery☐ Return Receipt for Merchandiss ☐ Signature Confirmation ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery |
| PS Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053   |  | Domestic Return Receipt   |

Copy of letter is attached:

November 12, 2020

Georgetown Divide Public Utility District 6425 Main Street Georgetown, CA 95634

TO: Interim General Manager Jeff Nelson Board President Dave Souza Board Vice President Michael Saunders Board Treasurer Cynthia Garcia

Board Member David Halpin Board Member Dane Wadle Board Member-Elect Mike Thornbrough Board Member-Elect Mitch MacDonald

## **Immediate Remedy Requested**

RE: 5861 State Highway 193, Georgetown
GDPUD Account #CLA0048 & Account #CLA0049

Dear General Manager and GDPUD Board Members,

Add our names to the growing list of community members who are questioning if the District adequately assessed the environmental impact of guniting of the irrigation ditch and/or did so without appropriate environmental review.

The referenced property has been a part of the Georgetown community since the 1930s when the original home was built here, and was owned by Delbert and Edye Beam from the 1970s into the 2000s. Delbert, Edye, and brothers Gary Beam and Ronnie Beam created Beam Field just north of the GDPUD offices, and started the Divide Recreation Society. The Delbert Beam Memorial Scholarship was created in his honor. An additional legacy left by the Beams are the 2 year round ponds on the property we now own that have been here for a half century. The story goes that the Beam boys, using the same type of equipment with which they built Beam Field, dug out the ponds in the 1970s, filled by water from an underground spring. The spring also filled an artesian well adjacent to the south pond, which was the home's original water source before connection to GDPUD treated water, evidenced by the now shut-off piping still in place.

As of November 6th, just 36 days after the irrigation water was shutoff for the season, our property's ponds were rapidly draining away and the water level in the artesian well had dropped 21 inches. Now 6 days later they're even lower.

## This Rapid Loss is Unprecedented, and frankly we are panicked.

The pond's drainage pipes, installed to prevent overflow and drain under Highway 193 and normally just above the water line, are now exposed some 2 feet above it (North Pond left photo, South Pond right photo).



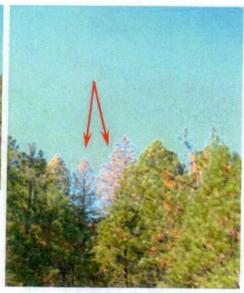


We are also seeing treetops on neighboring properties turning brown. Not the random branches turning color that indicates disease, but full-on top-to-bottom solid browning indicative of complete tree death.



These changes are alarming and do not bode well for community fire mitigation.

Since the guniting of the ditch that runs through our property is the only different factor from any other year, it is apparent that the guniting has interfered with naturally occurring water flows that

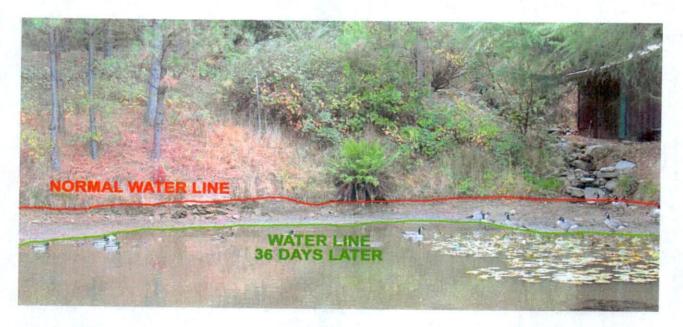


have existed since before there was a Georgetown Divide Public Utility District and are habitat to fish, nesting geese and ducks, and deer as well as other wildlife. With the extreme rate that our property's ponds are draining away (normal evaporation would occur at a less noticeable rate), and that their water levels had remained constant through both plenty and drought years (known by our own experience and supported with information from prior owners and neighbors), it is apparent that these ponds are the middle ground of a much larger ecological system. The past month's water depletion illustrates that the water flow into our ponds through historic underground springs/seepages enabled the ponds to act as reservoirs, with their water continuing across Hwy 193 as headwater sources to creeks such as the Empire Creek or others (locations indicated by researching Divide maps dating back to 1873).

Without remedy, we surmise that as our ponds continue to drain, watersheds downstream may disappear as well. Additionally, the pond's importance to area habitats are indicated by their inclusion in the eWRIMS GIS mapping of National Wetlands Inventory, a program of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, as shown below:

eWRIMS GIS Layers Filter Layers... Filter Hydrologic Units 5861 State Hwy 193 Watersheds parcel 061-441-014-000 Hydrography (highlighted) RUSSING CT Natural Resources NWI (Areas) NOTE: 2 NWI (National Wetlands Inventory) Areas are shown on our property per eWRIMS which corresponds to the 2 ponds located here

SOURCE: https://waterrightsmaps.waterboards.ca.gov/viewer/index.html?viewer=eWRIMS.eWRIMS\_gvh#



In light of the issues and concerns we've raised, we request that GDPUD immediately review and act on remedying our pond problem, as well as respond to these questions:

- I. What criteria were used to determine that the section of irrigation ditch located on our property was to be gunited?
- 2. What assessments were made of the impact of guniting on area streambeds?
- 3. Can the community count on GDPUD to appropriately review this growing community issue, and our property specifically, to determine what course(s) of action can be taken to remedy the problems caused by guniting, and to protect our community from further environmental degradation and increased fire susceptibility?

We are prepared to investigate any and all avenues available to us to protect the value of both our property and its habitat from this issue's impact.

Sincerely,

Kristy McKay

&

Virginia Clark

Owners, 5861 State Highway 193, Georgetown CA 95634

## ADDITIONAL PROPERTY IMAGES 5861 State Highway 193, Georgetown, CA NOVEMBER 2020











## **Kelly Molloy**

From:

Kristy M <kct@juno.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 12:48 PM

To:

Kelly Molloy

Subject:

Re: 12-8-2020 GDPUD Board Meeting - Public Comment Document

Hello Kelly,

Checking to see that you received my message this morning and that the document has been added to today's Board Meeting record as requested, since I haven't heard back from you.

Thank you, Kristy McKay

> Kristy M <mailto:kct@juno.com> Tuesday, December 08, 2020 10:07 AM Hello Kelly,

- Please include the attached 5-page document to today's meeting materials as part of the permanent record.
  - Please email it to each of the current board members and to both board members-elect.
  - 3. Please email me a copy of the most current/revised agenda, including the hot link to the Zoom meeting.

Thank you, Kristy McKay

"A candle is a small thing.
But one candle can light another.
And see how its own light increases,
as a candle gives its flame to the other."

~ Moshe Davis ~