

# Georgetown Divide Public Utility District



Domestic Water

Irrigation Service

On-Site Waste Disposal

GDPUD Newsletter

March-April 2022

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### AUTOMATED METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

#### [What is AMR?](#)

The Automated Water Meter Reading (AMR) is the technology of automatically collecting consumption, diagnostic, and status data from devices with the ability to store and transfer data to a central database for billing purposes.

#### [Why is the District implementing an AMR Project?](#)

The implementation of AMR is a result of many factors as detailed below:

1. The existing mechanical water meters have far exceeded their service life with an average age of more than 33 years, resulting in an approximate 25 percent recording inaccuracy;
2. Current meter reading techniques require significant staff resources from the field to the office staff; and
3. Water regulations require the District to accurately track water use and water loss.

#### [How is the AMR project being funded?](#)

Funding for the AMR project is being generated from two sources as detailed below:

1. In July 2021 the District secured a low interest loan totaling \$1,726,046 through the California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF); and
2. In August the District secured a grant totaling \$500,000 through the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant Program.

Customers will **not** see any AMR-associated charges on their bill.

#### [When does the AMR project begin and when is it expected to be completed?](#)

In September 2021, the District Board of Directors approved a contract with Ferguson Waterworks for the implementation of the AMR project. The completion of the AMR Project will occur in phases as follows:

1. Existing water meter audit. This phase of the project has been in progress and was completed.
2. Meter installation. This phase of the project is scheduled to begin May 2022 and expected to continue through July 2022.

#### [How does the installation work?](#)

One week prior to installation the customer will be notified by Ferguson Waterworks of scheduled meter replacement. District contractors will remove the existing meter and replace it with new meter. Often this is completed without removing the meter box, but if damaged, the meter box will also be replaced. The installation process is completed in approximately 30-40 minutes.

#### [If I notice a problem after installation, whom should I contact?](#)

If you notice a problem after installation, please call the GDPUD office at (530) 333-4356.

#### [How does the AMR system work?](#)

Water meters internally record and store consumption data. District staff will regularly collect the data using drive-by radio technologies for transfer to District billing software.

#### [What information is transmitted, and is my account information secure?](#)

The AMR system only transmits the water meter readings, the meter identification number and diagnostic information to verify the equipment is operating correctly. **Personal customer information is not transmitted.** For additional security, the data is encrypted and transmitted over a privately licensed radio frequency channel.

#### [How will I know if my water bill is accurate?](#)

The meters are tested by the manufacture and comply with the American Water Works Association standards. Meter software is programmed to flag any unusual use data, often associated with a break, for customer notification.

#### [Will I be able to read my own meter?](#)

Meters are equipped with digital display to facilitate in personal reading.

#### [Is the AMR technology safe?](#)

AMR technology will not negatively affect your health. The wireless portion of the system is operated per Federal Communications Commission rules, and will not interfere with other radio frequencies in the area. The transmitters use one-quarter the power of a cellphone transmission.

#### [How long will this device work?](#)

The life expectancy of the devices installed in the field is a minimum of 20 years. Periodic inspection and maintenance will be performed to ensure all devices are performing as expected.

If you have any questions regarding this project and the installation process, please contact the District's Operations Manager, Adam Brown at (530) 333-4356, ext. 110.



**PREVIEW OF UPCOMING BOARD MEETING**

The Board of Directors will consider the following items during the regular Board meeting of April 12, 2022:

- Proposed FY 2022-23 Budget
- Projected Water Year and Annual Water Supply Demand Assessment
- Applications for 2022 Irrigation Season

The complete agenda will be posted on the website.

**AMR is coming to your neighborhood!**



The Automated Meter Replacement (AMR) project is primed to begin installation of the new meters in May and will run through July, 2022. The WaterSmart customer software will be available in the coming month. This software will allow customers, who register for the program, the ability to manage their usage and billing.

Look inside to learn more about the Automated Meter Replacement Project



**Georgetown Divide Public Utility District  
 MISSION STATEMENT**

It is the purpose of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District to:

- Provide reliable water supplies.
- Ensure high quality drinking water.
- Promote stewardship to protect community resources, public health, and quality of life.
- Provide excellent and responsive customer services through dedicated and valued staff.
- Ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability are observed by balancing immediate and long-term needs.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Michael Saunders, President  
 Mitch MacDonald, Vice President  
 Mike Thornbrough, Treasurer  
 Donna Seaman, Director  
 Gerry Stewart, Director

Adam Coyan  
 General Manager  
 Email: [gm@gd-pud.org](mailto:gm@gd-pud.org)

◆  
**Phone: (530) 333-4356**  
**Fax: (530) 333-9442**  
**Website: [www.gd-pud.org](http://www.gd-pud.org)**

**REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF  
 FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 OPERATING BUDGET**

The Board of Directors established the following schedule for the review and adoption of the FY 2022-2023 Operating Budget. Details will be posted on the website and emailed to customers who have registered to receive District emails.\*

March 24, 2022 @ 3:30 PM GDPUD Board Room & Zoom	Finance Committee (FC) reviews General Manager's working draft of budget.
April 12, 2022 @ 2 PM GDPUD Board Room & Livestream	Board of Directors Meeting receives GM proposed budget and FC recommendations.
April 26, 2022 @ 4:30 PM Georgetown School Library	Joint Board and Finance Committee Budget Workshop. This workshop will also be available through a webinar. Details to follow.
May 10, 2022 @ 2 PM GDPUD Board Room & Livestream	Board of Directors Meeting to review draft budget and provide staff direction.
June 14, 2022 @ 2 PM GDPUD Board Room & Livestream	Board of Directors Meeting to consider adoption of Final Budget

\*Call the District Office to register for the customer email list.

For additional information, contact Adam Coyan, General Manager, at (530) 333-4356 or by email [gm@gd-pud.org](mailto:gm@gd-pud.org).

**2022 IRRIGATION SEASON**

Ordinance 2005-01 establishes the rules and regulations for irrigation service in the District. The 2022 Irrigation Season will begin May 1 and end September 30, 2022. Applications are considered for approval using the following priority system:

- Priority 1:** Parcels that received service during the immediate past season;
- Priority 2:** Parcels with the most recent active irrigation service account during previous ten (10) seasons; and
- Priority 3:** Applications for new irrigation service.

The Board of Directors will consider the approval of applications for irrigation service for the 2022 season during the regular Board meeting of April 12, 2022. For additional information, contact the District Office at (530) 333-4356.