



## Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

# **DITCH LINING PROGRAM**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Georgetown Divide Public Utility District (District) provides domestic treated water, irrigation water, stock water and incidental power and serves the communities of Georgetown, Cool, Pilot Hill, Auburn Lake Trails, Greenwood, Garden Valley, Kelsey and other surrounding rural areas. The District's water supply system includes water treatment facilities, a network of treated water storage tanks, pumping and distribution facilities, and a raw water storage and delivery system.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **Q. Does the District have water rights? What are the conditions of the water rights?**

A. Yes, the District has both impound and diversion water rights on Pilot Creek. The District's water rights state that the water must be used to provide irrigation, domestic and stock water, and incidental power as their sole purpose.

#### **Q. Where does our water come from?**

A. A system of approximately 70 miles of open ditches/canals and closed conduits (pipelines, culverts and tunnels) are used to convey raw water from the Stumpy Meadows Reservoir to the District's two water treatment plants (Walton Lake Treatment Plant and Sweet Water Treatment Plant) and to our irrigation water customers.

#### **Q. How is our Water Supply regulated?**

A. The District operates under a State-issued Public Water System Permit and is subject to a lengthy list of regulatory requirements enforced by the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Public Health, and other regulatory agencies such as the Public Utilities Commission, Local Area Formation Commissions, as well as county government. In compliance with water conservation and drought planning requirements to establish guidelines for efficient water use, the District has prioritized and implemented various water saving projects, including the concrete-lining sections of its raw water conveyance system.

#### **Q. How does the District maintain the ditches?**

A. District field crews routinely clear ditches/canals of vegetation and repair areas that are leaking. The District employs seven canal operators, with each operator responsible for monitoring and maintaining about 10 miles of ditch.

#### **Q. What does the District do to repair leaks?**

Small leaks left unrepaired often develop into large leaks which can cause a significant failure of the ditch system. The Canal Operators seal small leaks by hand.

The District seals larger leaks and problematic sections of ditches with concrete. These efforts are done to conserve water, increase the stability of the system, protect water quality and reduce the potential of a ditch failure to ensure reliable water delivery to all customers. Through past studies and the regular inspection of the ditch system, the District has identified and prioritized repairs and upgrades for both the raw water and treated water systems to reliably meet customer water demands.

**Q. Does the District’s conveyance system supply area creeks?**

**A.** Sometimes, but not intentionally. The conveyance system has large sections of ditch that are lined with dirt and operational spill sites. Dirt lined sections of the conveyance system tend to seep, and spill sites are operated intermittently to control flows during all operational periods. Both areas have the potential of occasionally supplying area creeks with additional flow.

**Q. Are ditch lining projects completed in compliance with environmental regulations?**

**A.** Yes. The District’s ditch lining projects qualify for Categorical Exemption 15301, Existing Facilities, Class 1, which consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency’s determination.  
<https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I089D09DBD6F34EDABE82C98F345D938A?viewType=FullText&origi>

**DISTRICT DITCH LINING PROJECTS**

The ditch lining projects listed below have been included in the District’s CIP and represents the District’s efforts to address years of deferred ditch maintenance and repairs to reduce leaks and seepage to meet water conservation requirements, increase system stability, and protect water quality.

**CABY Ditch Lining Project:** This project involved the concrete-lining of approximately 10,500 linear feet of ditch to reduce seepage, increase stability and decrease water supply outages within the District’s existing water conveyance system. Annual water savings was calculated to be approximately 600-acre feet. The project work area was broken into five sections through the communities of Kelsey, Georgetown, and Cool. Grant funding of \$860,894 was received as part of the Water Conservation, Supply Reliability, and Environmental Protection Project associated with the Cosumnes American Bear Yuba (CABY) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The District is subject to requirements of the Grant Agreement, including a monitoring plan and an annual post performance report for three years after the completion of the project. Information on this project can be found at <https://www.gd-pud.org/files/43cbb9b2c/FINAL+10889+Project+4+GDPUD+Project+Completion+Report+COMPLETE.pdf>.

<b>Total Cost:</b> \$938,830	<b>Notice of Exemption Filed:</b> 10/24/2016	<b>Date Completed:</b> 12/5/2018
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**Kelsey, Spanish Dry Diggins, and Cherry Acres Ditch Lining Project –** The District made emergency repairs to the three canals totaling 850 linear feet of ditch requiring 85.9 cubic yards of concrete. This project was funded from the District’s Capital Facility Charge account.

<b>Total Cost:</b> \$38,687	<b>Notice of Exemption Filed:</b> 7/16/2018	<b>Date Completed:</b> 8/6/2018
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**2018 Main Canal Reliability Project -** This project consisted of lining a section of the Main Ditch identified as a priority segment in the 2002 Water System Reliability Study. This section of the Main Ditch delivers raw water to the Sweet Water Treatment Plant and irrigation water customers. This section was an earthen canal that was prone to erosion and leakage. The improvement was made to 2,500 linear feet of ditch between Spanish Dry Diggins Road and Taylor Mine Outlet. This project was funded through the District’s Capital Improvement Program fund.

<b>Costs:</b> \$708,677.60	<b>Notice of Exemption Filed:</b> 4/24/2020	<b>Date Completed:</b> 4/17/2020
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**Annual Ditch Lining Program -** This Annual Program is expected to begin after the end of the 2020 irrigation season and will consist of the annual concrete lining of various segments of canals and ditches as prioritized by District staff.

<b>Estimated Costs:</b> \$200,000	<b>Planned Completion:</b>
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**Future project - Upcountry Ditch Rehabilitation –** As funding becomes available, this Project will improve a section of the Main Ditch identified as a priority segment in the 2002 Water System Reliability Study. This is a segment of the only conveyance facility that delivers raw water from Stumpy Meadows Reservoir to both water treatment plants and irrigation water customers. It is an earthen canal that is prone to slope failures and leakage. Anticipated improvement is to stabilize the adjacent slope and replace 250 feet of earthen canal with a pipe.

<b>Estimated Total Costs:</b> \$ 1,191,000	<b>NOE Filed:</b>	<b>Planned Completion:</b> 2022
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