

**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING OF
THE IRRIGATION COMMITTEE**

6425 Main Street,
Georgetown, California 95634

TUESDAY, June 17, 2025, 2:00 P.M.

Irrigation Committee

Kristy McKay, Chair
Fran Todd, Vice Chair
Carla Sutton, Secretary
Alexandra Duarte

Ray Griffiths
Bill Threlkel
John Onusko

Board of Directors Liaison

Donna Seaman
Mike Thornbrough

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.

NOTICE: This meeting will take place in the Board Room of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, located at 6425 Main Street in Georgetown, and will be open to the public. This meeting will be open to all members of the public. As a courtesy, and technology permitting, the public may also choose to observe and participate via video conference. In the event of a disruption to Zoom for any reason, Zoom may be disabled, and remote participation may be suspended or eliminated without notice. Remote participants are encouraged to attend in person rather than via Zoom to ensure their opportunity to participate in the meeting. Zoom is a courtesy to the public, but the District cannot guarantee against any interruption or disruption of the meeting to Zoom participants. Members of the public may attend in person or may opt to participate in the meeting via video conference at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81129039058?pwd=c2t4d3NnUXZzb1dNVjczQzQzS21JUT09>

Meeting ID: 811 2903 9058 and **Password: 800609** or via teleconference by calling **1-669-900-6833** and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment. Please note that any person attending via teleconference will be sharing the phone number from which they call with the committee and the public.

How to Submit Written Public Comment

Written public comment submissions should be received by noon on the day of the meeting. All written comments received will be distributed to the Committee, identified as written public comment for the applicable agenda item(s), and made available for inspection upon request, but will not be read aloud during the meeting. Unless otherwise exempt, please note that personal information provided in communications may be subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

- **By Email:** Send your comment to jbuckle@gd-pud.org
- **By Mail:** Address your comment to the Clerk of the Board, 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, CA 95634

Please state the meeting date and agenda item number(s) your public comment(s) apply to. For further information, please contact the Office/Finance Manager at jbuckle@gd-pud.org.

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 3. PUBLIC FORUM** - Any member of the public may address the Irrigation Committee on any matter within the jurisdictional authority of the Irrigation Committee. Public members desiring to provide comments must be recognized by the Committee Chair and speak from the podium. Comments must be directed only to the Irrigation Committee. The public should address the Irrigation Committee members during the public meetings as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or Member, followed by the Committee member's individual last name.

The Irrigation Committee will hear communications on matters not on the agenda, but no action will be taken. No disruptive conduct shall be permitted at any Irrigation Committee meeting. Persistence in disruptive conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the Chair, of that person's privilege of address.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

5. INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

6. ACTION ITEMS

A. Develop a Forum Date and Location for Customer Irrigation Survey Feedback

- **Possible Action:** Develop recommendations for survey outreach material and a location to hold a public forum for irrigation customers

B. Review Irrigation Season Application Suggested Change.

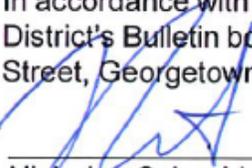
- **Possible Action:** Approve the changes and refer final recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval.

7. IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND REPORTS

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING

- 9. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT** - The Irrigation Committee set the 3rd Tuesday for regular committee meetings during the Irrigation season, and as needed or directed by the Board. The next regular Irrigation Committee meeting will be on August 19, 2025.

In accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2(a), this agenda was posted on the District's Bulletin board at the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District office, at 6425 Main Street, Georgetown, California, on June 12, 2025.



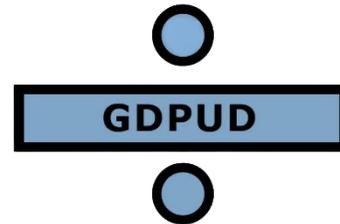
Nicholas Schneider, General Manager

6-12-25

Date

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, contact the District Office by telephone at 530-333-4356 or by fax at 530-333-9442. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

REPORT TO IRRIGATION COMMITTEE
MEETING OF June 17, 2025
AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. A.



AGENDA SECTION: ACTION ITEMS

SUBJECT: Irrigation Customer Survey

PREPARED BY: Nicholas Schneider, General Manager

Approved By: Nicholas Schneider, General Manager

BACKGROUND

During the March 18, 2025 and the April 18, 2025, Irrigation Committee Meetings, the group expressed interest in continuing to explore the development of a customer survey gathering feedback from District customers. Furthermore, at the April 15, 2025 meeting it was proposed to facilitate a public forum to discuss this issue.

DISCUSSION

Previously, the District conducted a customer survey during the fall of 2018. Customers were able to respond both digitally and via mail. Of the 403 active customer accounts at the time, 41 responses were submitted digitally and 12 through the mail.

The possibility of conducting a new survey was discussed during the October 10, 2023, Committee meeting. Due to the low response rate previously, the discussion determinations turned to alternate forms of customer outreach. The discussion included exploring the feasibility of offering year-round irrigation service and extending service on ditch runs to allow water delivery beyond the traditional season dates.

The Committee may develop additional ideas for a customer survey and provide staff with direction regarding the focus and outreach strategies.

Potential Questions for the Survey:

1. How long have you been an irrigation customer?
2. How much irrigation water are you currently being served?
3. What do you use your irrigation service for?
4. How satisfied are you with your service overall?
5. Was the application process simple and was the form easy to fill out?
6. How would you improve the application process?
7. Is the current Irrigation Ordinance is fair and reasonable?
8. Would you make any changes to the Ordinance?
9. What billing cycle do you feel is best for all customers?
10. Do you have any suggestions for improving the irrigation service?

Questions for the Survey posed at the April 15 Committee meeting:

1. What do you use your irrigation service for
 - a. Livestock
 - b. Landscape/garden
 - c. Defensible space
 - d. Agriculture
 - e. Ponds
2. How can your irrigation service be improved?

FISCAL IMPACT

This is dependent upon Committee determinations and Board approval. Potential expenses include printing, postage, and staff time.

CEQA ASSESSMENT

This is not a CEQA project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Irrigation Committee of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District (GDPUD) evaluate the potential benefits and challenges of conducting a customer survey and determine what questions the survey should contain.

ALTERNATIVES

The Committee may consider the potential alternatives:

1. Request Revisions- Direct staff to revise the proposed survey or outreach plan.
2. Reject the Proposal- Decide not to move forward with a customer survey at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2018 Survey Results

SURVEY RESPONSES (41 total responses received)

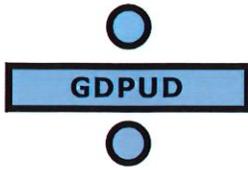
1	How long have you been an irrigation customer				Responses	%
	Answer Choices	Not a current irrigation customer			3	7.32%
		Less than 6 months			0	0.00%
		1 year to less than 3 years			4	9.76%
		3 years to less than 5 years			2	4.88%
		5 years or more			31	75.61%
		Skipped question			1	2.44%
					41	100.00%
2	How much irrigation water are you currently allocated?				Responses	%
	Answer Choices	None			3	7.32%
		1/2 miner's inch			8	19.51%
		1 miner's inch			20	48.78%
		1.5 miner's inch			1	2.44%
		2 miner's inch			7	17.07%
		2.5 to 4 miner's inch			1	2.44%
		5 miner's inch			0	0.00%
		6 to 10 miner's inch			1	2.44%
		More than 10 miner's inch			0	0.00%
		Skipped question			0	0.00%
					Total	41 100.00%
3	For what purpose do you (or would you) use your service? (Total responses 52)				Responses	%
	Answer Choices	Pasture			15	28.85%
		Animals/Stock			7	13.46%
		Orchard, Garden, Other			30	57.69%
		Skipped question			0	0.00%
					Total	52 100.00%
4	How satisfied are you overall with your service?				Responses	%
	Answer Choices	Do not have irrigation Service			3	7.32%
		Very satisfied			7	17.07%
		Satisfied			17	41.46%
		Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied			4	9.76%
		Dissatisfied			4	9.76%
		Very dissatisfied			3	7.32%
		Skipped question			3	7.32%
					41	100.01%
5	Do you have any suggestions for improving the irrigation service? (18 responses)					
		my issue is the cost of irrigation water				
		Allow for half inch rates for current customers. The water flows good and the ditch levels are pretty consistent.				
		Yes, repair leaks, install pipes and secure water. Make sure that users bear the cost of the service.				
		Maybe fix the leaks and stop people from getting free irrigation.				
		Maintain water level high enough in ditch so that it is always available. This year has been great.				
		I am satisfied with the service but extremely disappointed in the board decision to increase the rates so high without being able to present a plan of what they are going to do with the additional funds. There was talk of what they are thinking of doing but no actual plan.				
		Spread the payments out across the year				
		Stop people from taking water illegally				
		No.				
		Obviously wish we could figure out a way to pipe it. Then I'd only need 1/2 inch.				

	Lower the monthly rates	
	This response is for both potable and irrigation waters, the district must have a way to stop the overflowing of the ditches especially during storm related times and times of repairs to the ditches and adjacent lands. You have demonstrated that this is possible as demonstrated by your Emergency Ditch work at the beginning and of the previous month gunite work of this month, the depositing of the many discharges to adjacent customer lands impacts must be controlled to prevent these discharges from impacting public state and federal properties including District Facilities by using additional settling pods, and other methods that will controlling the silt and sedimentation from impacting downstream properties and waterways of the state and federal lands.	
	Stop the leaks on my property...it is doing damage.	
	GDPUD should be responsible for making sure that the water is not blocked by debris in the ditch.	
	Clean the ditches out on a regular basis, like they did years ago by hand. You now have equipment to help, use it!	
	Mid-May to Mid-October as service timeframe?	
	My ag water was put in long before ALT was even constructed. I feel like I am now subsidizing the expanded public water system. Isn't fair.	
	No	
	Have flexibility on start/end date of irrigation season depending on late rainy season, Stumpy's levels, etc.	
	Yes - pipe as much as possible/practical. 1) If gunnite is only solution use welded wire or rebar reinforcement --Fibermesh is not reinforcement. Unreinforced gunnite is ruined by livestock and tree roots and equipment. 2) Newsletter (quarterly) - show costs and revenues; honor "Employee of the Quarter"; tips for customers (i.e. settig up a holding/sediment tank) - customer ranch photos; surplus equipment for sale... 3) Roll Back - hold at \$154/mi. for 3 years then at \$308/m.i. if necessary) 4) Hydro generation - Goals	
	Pipe the canals. Filter some portion of irrigation water.	
	Maybe filter the piped water? Adjust the time period of irrigation according to the season. Reduce the rates to reduce fire danger so more customrs can afford irrigaiton water. As you can see--subscribers are down from 2017.	
	Send renewal notice to each customer to get a yes or no for the same service as the previous year.	
	Improve customer service, clean the ditches and extend season. Lower the rates!! Why aren't true costs posted on the website?	
	Extend season thru Oct (6 month season) when water is available.	
	Yes. Spread the prop 218 increase over 10 years rather than 5 years. The project costs presented last year were "WAG's" and not supported by actual engineering and construction estimates.	
	Section 3, item g is useless if you won't enforce it. My property was on wait list 10+ years waiting for water to be available before I got water. May enforcement of 3g would be a benefit.	
	Spread billing over 12 months. Extend season through October.	
	Use drones to check ditches for damage, repairs, and water theft; could eliminate some payroll, benefits & CalPERS. Allow paid for water to be used off parcel to help protect against wildfires. Give payment options to users with the 100% extreme fee increase. Irrigation service dollars used only to maintain canals not treatment plants treated water user dolars to be used for both. We receive no benefits of treated water still must use wells.	
	Skipped question	4

6	The application process was simple, and the form was easy to complete.					
	Answer Choices	Strongly agree			7	17.07%
		Agree			12	29.27%
		Neither agree nor disagree			12	29.27%
		Disagree			1	2.44%
		Strongly disagree			1	2.44%
		Skipped question			8	19.51%
					41	100.00%
7	How would you improve the application process?					
	Don't understand this question - application process for what?					
	Doesn't apply. I have no idea what this question is for? Application for wat??					
	Have my parcel # prefilled as I give it to you every year. I have more than one parcel and need to look it up each time.					
	haven't had to apply, just renew each year, seems fine. Online would be nice.					
	so long ago I really do not remembe but I think it was easy.					
	computerize the applications					
	I've been a customer so long I don't remember a process.					
	Wouldn't					
	Provide a way to give input by the public on each and every question including files and pictures, not just what the District puts down. How can you separate the Ditch water that is a mutual use facility/ There is not any reasoning, or project description for this survey given by the District, a Nexis on the way or who requested this survey is required as a possible decision that may be controlled by the Clean Watr Act and/or NEPA and CEQA California Environmental Quality Act. notice of intent and additional relevant CEQA guidelines. The current Irrigation Ordinance must e at the beginning of the survey so the public can reference this document. There must be a clear understanding and definition of the Present Rules and Regulations as different methods have been used by the District as it chooses on any particular day/season.					
	Make it online and not needed if the service doesn't change.					
	Not sure-ben a customer since the later 1970's.					
	NA I applied over 30 years ago					
	Na					
	We rent from the account holder, so did not participate in the application process, but we are the ones					
	Communicate to new customer - costs for installation of "weir" or other measuring device is their 1 time expense.					
	Roll over year to year customers.					
	Not applicable. System was installed and entirely paid for by neighborhood and hundreds of hours of labor by neighbors. One year later turned over to GDPUD - one plus mile of pipe and two reducing stations - Rt 86.					
	Skipped question					
8	The current Irrigation Ordinance is fair and reasonable.					
	Answer Choices	Strongly agree			4	9.76%
		Agree			9	21.95%
		Neither agree nor disagree			9	21.95%
		Disagree			6	14.63%
		Strongly disagree			4	9.76%
		Skipped question			9	21.95%
					41	100.00%
9	What changes would you make to the Ordinance?					
	Extend the irrigation season through October. Provide an option to spread the payments over a full year.					

	Need to see the ordinance.
	Current and proposed rates are extremely high. Evaluate a rate reduction. Allow small low use customers the option of 1/2 inch of water service.
	None
	I don't know what the ordinance is. I have received notices about changes but nothing that states the ordinance
	How would I know...I don't see the Ordinance!
	I have to Strongly Disagree because you have not explained what the "irrigation Ordinance" is.
	Not sure what the ordinance is???
	new water rate is too high and is slated to go much higher. Keep rate the same ow or lower which I know will not happen.
	none
	lower cost
	Would help to have had the ordinance published prior to this.
	Lower monthly rates
	A copy of the Ordinance must be included in this Survey, before truly meaningfl tatements can be made to enable survey participants to respond to this statement.
	A lien should be applied 90 days after a bill was due. Not based on a government fiscal year.
	Give other options to pay. Lower the prices.
	Haven't seen current ordinance.
	Cost of ag water is way too much. Seasonal limitations put into place 15 years ago were bad enough. Cost increases are ridiculous.
	None
	1) Have protocol in place for dealing with stolen water. 2) Clarify who is allowed to walk on GDPUD easements through Private Property (so homeowners/residents have something to refer to when people (general public) use the ditch easement as a walking path). 3) Please ban the use of pesticides/herbicides on the GDPUD easement -- by workers or the people who maintain personal property. There are people who try to garden as organically as possible, and use it for livestock (we use it for gardening, and would consider doing it for livestock, except for possibility of pesticide/herbicide contamination.
	Section 1(f) - Allow sharing with neighbors - not for profit/one parcel # billing/paying. Section 1(g) - District not to resell off Divide; Section 1(l) No livestock allowed (cattle, horses, llamas, alpacas); Section 1(?) - 1st written notice by Board - then "failure to comply" termination; Section 3(c) - change "must be" to "may be used...) 24/7; Section 3(i) - Allow sharing w/neighbors (similar to 1(f) - not for rofit by customer; Section 3(l) - Costs for measuring devide is paid by customer initially upgraded devices are exense of GDPUD; Section 4(b) - voluntary pre pay year round is acceptable.
	Ordinance is old and need to simplify as necessary.
	Allow adjoining parcels owned by one customer to be irrigated with owner's existing allocation, even though the water may be assigned to only one of the parcels (without apply for Board permission).
	Somewhere in it there should be some guidelines as to the pay structure and expenses of the district personnel, its benefits, CalPERS, etc. Perhaps something about outsourcing some of the canal mainenance and repairs to ct down on those ongoing expenses. Perhaps investigate drone use--seems to work well for other government agencies.

		It would be helpful to specify what happens when a property is sold which has irrigation water, does the same right to the water transfer from the old owner to the new owner automatically? Hank White told me several years ago the right to the water did indeed transfer to the new owner and I assume that is demonstrated by the priority system for approval of applications - Priority 1 Application for irrigation service to parcels that received irrigation service during the immediate past irrigation season. The assume the key word is parcel not property owner.
10	How do you think this change will improve the irrigation services?	
		The hot summer weather is lasting well into the fall. Some customers might find alternate payment options easier to budget.
		reducing cost will allow more people to utilize irrigation water.
		Revenue will be gained. Revenues were lost this year because the new higher charges for irrigation water forced many customers to reduce or stop their irrigation water purchases.
		N/A
		?
		we will be able to afford the water.
		I don't know what the change being proposed is.
		Haven't yet seen the proposed ordinance.
		Lower monthly rates
		Unknown without the additional information that should be in this survey. Purpose of this study must be given and the potential impacts that may occur.
		It won't. It will just piss off more customers.
		Not sure which "change" you are referring to here. If it's regarding my suggestion to oves the service dates, I would say that this will help bridge the water a little later into the Fire season.
		Great already.
		1) There will be a mechanism in place that will make it easier to address theft of water, so ongoing issues can be curtailed more promptly and we (people who live next to the ditch) don't have to maintain as high a level of vigilance because of people cutting through this property to access the GDPD ditch to steal water. 2) This would give residents greater credibility where general public use of the ditch trail has caused privacy or safety concerns. 3) This would reduce the likelihood of pesticide/herbicides making it into the ag water that people use for food and livestock.
		- Sharing will promote more green hence reduce wildfire potential (Section 1(f) & 3(i); --Livestock (i.e. cattle & horses, llama, alpaca = accelerated erosion; Measuring device - should only be initial expense to new customers; Prepay - allows budgeting new rates - year round.P70
		Added money for new customers to system.
		It will help to level out fluctuations in flow at various points. It will help the property owner with fire protection. It would eliminate the Board approval step. Some Board members have acted in a punitive or negative way to some requests...depending on who submitted it.
		At some point in time GDPUD must look at ways to control ongoing expenses for the costs and retirements of all employees past and future.



GEORGETOWN DIVIDE Public Utility District

P.O. Box 4240, Georgetown, CA 95634-4320
Phone (530) 333-4356 – www.gd-pud.org

Seasonal Irrigation Service Application

To request irrigation service for the 2025 season, this **COMPLETED APPLICATION**

Must be received at the District office **NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2025**

- Irrigation Service generally runs May to October
- Specific start/end dates are determined and announced in April of each year based upon water availability, among other factors.
- Operating dates may also be adjusted at any time during the season with notice.
- Irrigation allotments require 24 hours per day usage.
- Irrigation services accounts are billed bi-monthly in advance.
- Billing will be adjusted accordingly if temporary shutoffs last more than 3 days or if the season is shortened or lengthened.
- Priority is given to accounts that were active in the immediate past season; then to parcels active within the past 5 years; then to new applications. **Supply is limited and the District may not be able to honor all requests.**

2025 Seasonal Irrigation Rates Schedule	
1/2 Miner's Inch (pipelines only)	\$88.46 per month
1 or more Miner's Inch	\$176.92 per Miner's Inch per month
1/2 Miner's Inch (out of district)	\$145.19 per month
1 or more Miner's Inch (out of district)	\$290.38 per Miner's Inch per month
1 Miner's Inch (M.I.) is EQUAL TO:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊙ 11.22 gallons / minute ⊙ 16,157 gallons / day ⊙ 2,500,000 gallons per 5-month season ⊙ 67.3 gallons / hour ⊙ 494,000 gallons / month

-----Clip on dotted line and return bottom half-----

2025 SEASONAL IRRIGATION SERVICE APPLICATION – Return by 3/1/2025

All information must be provided in the required field below for application to be considered complete.		Please Check One:
Assessor's Parcel #		<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL No Changes (Same as Last Year)
Billing Name		
Service Address		<input type="checkbox"/> RENEWAL Change Requested From : ____" to ____"
City & Zip		
Phone #		
Email		OFFICE USE ONLY: <input type="checkbox"/> WSP <input type="checkbox"/> INCODE
Billing Address		
City, State Zip		

Irrigation Water Use

- Do you supply a pond with irrigation water? Yes No
- Is your property served by treated water? Yes No

- Total # Acres Managed: _____ Total Acres Irrigated: _____
- Type of Crop & Acreage: Remede?
- Type of Livestock: _____

***By signing & returning this form, I am renewing my contract for Irrigation Water for the 2025 season in accordance with Ordinance 2023-04.**

Applicant Signature & Date