

# Georgetown Divide Public Utility District

Domestic Water

Irrigation Service

On-Site Waste Disposal

GDPUD Newsletter

January-February 2023

## THE BOARD RECEIVES A REPORT ON STORM IMPACTS TO THE DISTRICT'S INFRASTRUCTURE

The Board of Directors held its first meeting of 2023 on January 10, and received a report on storm impacts and the status of the District's water transfer refill agreement. General Manager Nicholas Schneider reported the recent storms have allowed the District to fulfill obligations in the refill agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation related to the temporary water transfer of 2,000 acre-feet to the Westlands Water District. A water transfer is a voluntary sale of water proposed and initiated by willing sellers who have legal rights to a supply of water to an interested buyer. This Water Transfer Sale Agreement was approved by the Board on May 12, 2020, at a market price of \$350 per acre foot for a gross revenue of \$700,000. With the consulting cost of \$76,800 and associated legal counsel fees, the net revenue for the District was \$623,200. This revenue was utilized to offset Capital Improvement Plan costs for the District, this included, in part, the lining of canals and tank recoating. Due to this transfer, the cost for these projects did not have to be paid for out of the District's general budget fund. The District was able to utilize the excess water that was present in Stumpy Meadows Reservoir to help reduce the potential future financial burdens on the community here on the Divide.

In order for the District to replace the 2,000 acre-feet sold, the conditions in the Delta needed to be in excess and the American River had to be releasing flood water through Folsom Dam. Schneider reported it was confirmed by the Department of Water Resources the Delta reached excess conditions on January 1 and the Dam has been

releasing flood water since December 27. Operations Manager Adam Brown confirmed that Stumpy Meadows Reservoir is at full capacity and began spilling late December 31, 2022. Board President MacDonald stated, "Given the public concern about the 2020 Board's action to approve the water transfer and the numerous inquiries that followed, it is a relief that the refill obligation has been met. A community workshop and forum will be held in the future to educate the public and respond to the customer questions about the water sale/transfer process."

Last December, the Board authorized the general manager to issue a request for proposals for a consultant to develop a water transfer policy to guide future water transfer opportunities. A Professional Services Agreement is expected to come before the Board for approval at the February 14 meeting. This will ensure that the District's Board of Directors and the community have a clear understanding should a water transfer ever happen in the future. It will also set up more favorable language to ensure no harm to the District.

Brown also reported that the field work demand has increased due to the storms. District crews have been responding to breaks, meter repair/replacement, and numerous after-hours call outs. Crews have been busy ensuring waste gates are open, so the water has a place to go and to limit blockages in the system. With the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency, Staff is documenting required field work that will be necessary to complete following the series of storms. A preliminary damage assessment has been submitted to California Office of Emergency Services for potential funding reimbursements.



District crew repairing a break near Northside School.



Road closure due to erosion being monitored by District crew.



Storm water flowing over new flume cover purchased with grant funds.



Georgetown Divide Public Utility District  
P.O. Box 4240 – 6425 Main Street  
Georgetown, CA 95634

### 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

Mitch MacDonald, President  
Donna Seaman, Vice President  
Mike Thornbrough, Treasurer  
Michael Saunders, Director  
Robert Stovall, Director

Nicholas Schneider, 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)

#### APPLY TO SERVE ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The District is accepting applications from individuals interested in serving the community through an appointment to the Board's Finance Committee. The committee's primary role is to assist the Board in reviewing the District's financial information and to make recommendations related to finances and budgeting. No special training is needed to serve on the committee; a general knowledge of public agency budgeting is helpful, but not required. The committee, an advisory body, reports to the Board of Directors and meets the last Thursday of each month, and more often if needed, or as requested by the Board. The Committee is comprised of no less than three (3) and no more than seven (7) members with rotating two-year terms. There are currently four (4) vacancies. Interested parties are asked to submit their resume/qualifications to the District by e-mailing General Manager Nicholas Schneider at [gm@gd-pud.org](mailto:gm@gd-pud.org).

### 2023 LEADERSHIP FOR THE GDPUD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of December 13 began with the acceptance of the November 8 General Election Results followed by the Oath of Office for re-elected and newly elected Directors. El Dorado County Superior Court Judge Gary Slossberg administered the Oath of Office to Michael Saunders who was re-elected to a second term; Donna Seaman, an appointed Director who was elected to her first full term after being appointed in February of 2021; and Robert Stovall, a former member of the Finance Committee who was elected to fill the seat that opened when Director Gerry Stewart chose not to run for reelection.

The Board chose new officers for the coming year, Mitch MacDonald will be stepping into the role of President, while Donna Seaman will be assuming the Vice President role. Mike Thornbrough will remain the Treasurer for the District.

Board President MacDonald stated, "I am honored to have the opportunity to serve at the gavel. We have developed a great team of motivated and enthusiastic staff, community volunteers, and Board members that work synergistically well together as a cohesive team. I want to thank Director Saunders for being an outstanding role model in leadership and for encouraging me to prepare for the responsibilities of the office."



*Pictured above (left to right): Michael Saunders, Donna Seaman, Robert Stovall and Judge Gary Slossberg.*

Directors Stovall and MacDonald were appointed to serve as liaison members to the Finance Committee with Directors Seaman and Thornbrough as liaison members to the Irrigation Committee. The Board also reaffirmed the following Ad-Hoc committees and assigned Directors to each committee:

- Grants Committee: Stovall and Saunders
- Policy Committee: Seaman and Saunders
- Audit Committee: Thornbrough and Saunders
- Labor Negotiations: MacDonald and Thornbrough