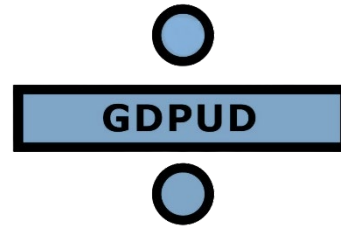


REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Meeting October 14, 2026

Agenda Item No. 12



AGENDA SECTION: ACTION ITEMS

SUBJECT: Consider Approving the Coast Share Agreement with the Regional Water Authority for the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program in the Amount of \$8465.00.

PREPARED BY: Nicholas Schneider, General Manager

Approved By: Nicholas Schneider, General Manager

BACKGROUND

The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program is a public water agency-proposed alternative for the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board) Draft Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan Update). The State Board's other alternative, referred to as the regulatory pathway, provides a program of unimpaired flow on tributaries to the Sacramento River.

The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) Program and Unimpaired Flow approaches represent two fundamentally different frameworks for improving river ecosystems in California. HRL is a voluntary program that provides flow contributions, a systemwide governance structure, habitat projects, and funding for water and science. In contrast, the regulatory pathway only focuses on a 35 to 75 percent unimpaired flow (UIF) being provided by each tributary for Delta contributions.

DISCUSSION

Within the American River region, reservoir operators will provide the water in three AN and BN water years out of the eight-year term of the HRL. The four reservoir operators in the American River include El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Georgetown Divide PUD (GDPUD), and Foresthill PUD (FPUD). Non-reservoir operators, mostly below Folsom Lake, are responsible for participating in this regulatory effort through groundwater contributions. In return, agencies that participate have their water rights protected under the HRL.

To facilitate this program the RWA has put together and subscription program for all American River operators to participate in. They are a neutral party in this program and they serve as technical advisors and will provide a clearing house once the full program is approved. This approval only covers the cost sharing agreement (attached). This is not an approval to participate in the full HRL program.

FISCAL IMPACT

This program will ultimately include water being provided will be compensated to the agencies at \$290 per acre-foot of water. This program could benefit the District to an approximate net of \$1.3M of revenue for eight years of the program.

This agreement and invoice will cost approximately \$8465.00 and will allow the District to continue to pursue entrance into the HRL program.

CEQA ASSESSMENT

This is not a CEQA project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Board of Directors of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District (GDPUD) approve this invoice and agreement and provide direction to the staff to continue to pursue an agreement to participate in the HRL Program.

ALTERNATIVES

Detail alternative actions available to the Board, i.e. (a) Advise staff to stop working toward a water transfer.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Cost Share Agreement
2. Cost Share Letter from RWA
3. Cost Share Invoice