



# Media Release

## El Dorado County Water Supplies Projected to Fall Short *Newly Adopted Report Concludes*

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**Contact: Dave Eggerton  
General Manager  
530/621-5392**

**PLACERVILLE**--El Dorado County is expected to be short water supplies needed to fulfill the County's long-term vision, according to a new report unanimously adopted yesterday by the El Dorado County Water Agency, the County's chief water supply planning agency.

The report, completed as an update to the water agency's 2007 Water Resources Development and Management Plan, finds that El Dorado County's western slope is expected to be short approximately 69,000 acre-feet of water per year at full build-out (projected to occur after 2075 under a medium-growth scenario) even considering state-mandated water conservation.

"The analysis clearly shows that current water supplies will not be enough to meet projected demands and sustain the County's vision outlined in the voter-approved General Plan," said General Manager Dave Eggerton.

In 2005, voters approved the El Dorado County General Plan, which described a collective long-term vision for maintaining the County's rural character and lifestyle, natural beauty and environmental quality while ensuring economic vitality.

New supplies are important to supporting projected growth consistent with the General Plan, jobs and increased economic activity, as well as to preserving and enhancing agriculture in El Dorado County, the report concludes, whose expansion as envisioned in the County's 2004 General Plan is unlikely without new water supplies.

"Our County is home to family-run farms that are invaluable to our economy and environment," Eggerton said. "Our farming families have close connections to the land and a history of stewardship. Most of the average farm is preserved as natural terrain, providing habitat for wildlife, as well as spectacular scenery. However, the continued viability of our agricultural industry would be at risk without additional water supplies."

The report's other significant findings include:

- Under climate change, the County is projected to need between 5 and 10 percent more water supplies because of increased demand from warmer temperatures, snowpack melting and water running off earlier in the season, making it more difficult to capture for later use, and more frequent droughts.
- New supplies will be needed even with additional significant water conservation in the County.
- The 2007 plan projected the need for 182,000 acre-feet per year compared to the new projection of 149,000 acre-feet per year under full build out.
- There is a need to pursue options to augment future water supplies and achieve greater water conservation to support the El Dorado County General Plan.

The report draws its conclusions by analyzing updated water demand and supply reports from the El Dorado Irrigation District, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District and Grizzly Flats Community Services District. The report also considers new state water conservation requirements and the potential effects of climate change on El Dorado County's water supply.

The report was prepared by water agency engineering staff with support from Atkins North America, Inc. and Maddaus Water Management. It was reviewed by El Dorado Irrigation District, Georgetown Divide Public Utility District, Grizzly Flat Community Services District and El Dorado County Planning management and staff.

The report will be used to provide El Dorado County with water supply and demand information for the County's West Slope areas as it meets its Public Water Supply Planning Ordinance obligations and is an important foundational document for water supply projects and water conservation initiatives being pursued by the El Dorado County Water Agency. The updated plan can be viewed at [www.edcgov.us/water/index.html](http://www.edcgov.us/water/index.html).

### **About the El Dorado County Water Agency**

*The El Dorado County Water Agency (EDCWA) is a long-term water planning organization dedicated to ensuring that El Dorado County has adequate water supplies through protecting existing water supplies, securing new water rights and promoting water conservation. EDCWA was established in 1959 and also operates the El Dorado Water & Power Authority, a joint powers authority comprised of EDCWA, El Dorado County and El Dorado Irrigation District.*

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