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El Dorado Water Agency Continues Vital Support for Rural and Small Water Systems in El Dorado County

PLACERVILLE, Calif. – The El Dorado Water Agency (EDWA) and County of El Dorado (County) are continuing to work closely to address the ongoing drought and water shortages impacting small water systems in rural areas of the County.

On the West Slope of the County, a substantial portion of private land, which is designated by the County’s General Plan for economic development, is not served by a major water provider. Small water suppliers in these areas typically rely on surface water from small streams, or from vulnerable and low-yield, fractured rock groundwater aquifers. These small systems are especially susceptible to the impacts of drought. Many of these small water systems face other challenges as well, such as limited funding required to maintain or replace aging water system infrastructure.

“EDWA recognizes that our County’s rural and small water systems are vulnerable to droughts. They don’t have the resources to proactively plan or reinforce their water systems for an extended drought,” said EDWA Board Member and County Supervisor George Turnboo. “EDWA’s objective is to help strengthen our small water suppliers’ ability to weather and improve supply reliability during future droughts and other water shortage events.”

EDWA’s ongoing assistance, in coordination with the County, focuses on working with the small, rural water suppliers to update water resource plans, seek funding support for system improvements, and help to ensure compliance with new and evolving regulations.

These efforts closely align with the Agency’s 2019 Water Resources Development and Management Plan (WRDMP), which also serves as the County’s required Countywide Water Management Plan. Specifically, two of the Resource Management Strategies (RMS) outlined in the WRDMP directly address droughts and water shortages (RMS-7 Improve Drought Preparedness and Responses), and advocating to improve affordability and accessibility to water supplies (RMS-8: Ensure All Residents Have Water Accessibility and Affordable Water). The Agency’s support is also consistent with its overarching mission to ensure that El Dorado County has adequate water to serve its multiple needs now and in the future.

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About the El Dorado Water Agency

The El Dorado Water Agency celebrates more than 60 years of water resource planning and management, dedicated to ensuring that El Dorado County has adequate and affordable water to maintain economic prosperity, protect the environment, and support the rural-agriculture way of life for today and in the future. El Dorado Water Agency is a public agency created under the 1959 El Dorado County Water Agency Act.