

Public Review Notice

The Greenwood Lake Water Treatment Plant Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft FONSI are available for review on the EPA Region 9 website at the following URL:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/nepa/epa-generated.html#georgetown>

The EA and FONSI are also available at:

- EPA Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3901.
Contact Ae-ran Davis at 415-972-3570 or by e-mail (davis.ae-ran@epa.gov)
- The office of Georgetown Divide PUD (6425 Main Street, Georgetown, CA)
- Georgetown public library (6680 Orleans St. Georgetown, CA)

The public comment period runs from June 12 to July 27, 2007. Comments should be sent to Ae-ran Davis, USEPA Region 9, Nonpoint Source Office (WTR-3), San Francisco, CA 94105-3901 (e-mail: davis.ae-ran@epa.gov) or faxed to the attention of Ae-ran Davis at (415) 947-3537.

The EPA will consider and respond to all comments submitted on the proposed EA and FONSI. Concurrently the EPA is consulting with the State Historic Preservation Office with respect to compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and, informally, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The EPA will not take final action on the FONSI prior to the expiration of this comment period, and EPA's review and response to any comments received.

This FONSI is final upon signature by the U.S. EPA, Region 9, Regional Administrator. If this FONSI is signed, it will not be recirculated for review, but will be available to any individual upon request.

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Greenwood Lake Water Treatment Plant and Treated Water Pipeline Project

Proposed Action and Location:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has issued a Special Appropriation grant in the amount of \$1,433,600 to assist the Georgetown Divide Public Utilities District (GDPUD), El Dorado County, California, in improving its drinking water facilities. The proposed project is construction and operation of (1) a new water treatment plant (WTP) located at Greenwood Lake and (2) a treated water pipeline approximately three miles in length connecting the proposed treatment plant to the existing GDPUD treated water distribution system. The proposed Greenwood Lake WTP would replace the existing Auburn Lake Trails WTP.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve treated water quality to meet new standards for small water systems, to reduce energy costs, and to improve emergency supplies. The proposed action accomplishes these purposes by installing improved treatment processes for microbial and other source water contaminants, siting the facility at an elevation adjacent to the storage reservoir (Greenwood Lake) to take advantage of gravity flow through the pipeline, and adding treatment capacity to address emergencies such as fires.

The proposed WTP structures and facilities would be located west of Greenwood Lake and would include the following components:

- Treated water storage clearwell tank painted forest green or similar color at the northern edge of the site;
- Treatment plant building near the center of the site;
- Standby power building south of the treatment plant building;
- Backwash water supply pump station building next to the clearwell tank;
- Raw water pump station along the west boundary;
- Two backwash recovery ponds on the south side of the site;
- A 20,000 gallon holding tank between the treatment plant and backwash ponds;
- Site improvements including a paved maintenance driveway, a leach field; and
- Piping the Georgetown Divide Ditch through the WTP site.

A six-foot high chain link fence would encompass most of the parcel that includes Greenwood Lake and the proposed WTP site. This proposed security fence would protect the water quality of Greenwood Lake and ensure compliance with Department of Health Services standards. Portions of the GDPUD property and the margins of Greenwood Lake have historically been used by equestrians. The existing horse trail access would be retained, and where necessary realigned around the proposed WTP and Greenwood Lake areas outside of the fenced area.

It is anticipated that the new facility, which will replace the existing Auburn Lakes WTP, will be licensed to operate at 3.0 million gallons per day (mgd), a capacity increase over 2.3 mgd at the existing plant. This added capacity could serve limited new development, which is consistent with growth addressed in the El Dorado County Plan.

Environmental Consequences

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed action. Detailed analyses of the project are contained in the EA. The following resource areas are examined in the EA: Air Quality, Biological Resources (including threatened, endangered, and sensitive species), Cultural Environment, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use, Noise, Population, Housing and Growth Inducement, Recreation, Transportation and Traffic, and Cumulative Effects.

The EA lists mitigation measures relating to potential impacts for the following resource topics: Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Environment, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Hydrology and Water Quality. Most potential adverse impacts are short term and construction-related. In coordination with an Environmental Impact Report on the proposed project (pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act); mitigation commitments reducing impacts to levels of “insignificance” will be incorporated into the FONSI. The project will be constructed in compliance with required air quality and water quality permits addressing such issues as fugitive dust, potential for naturally occurring asbestos, site-erosion, and storm water. No impacts are anticipated to special status species or to cultural resources, but appropriate advance surveys and surveillance during construction will be provided. To offset loss of access by wildlife to the reservoir and water supply ditch, wildlife ‘bubblers’ will be installed.

Finding (proposed)

Based on the analysis contained in the EA, including commitments to mitigation measures, EPA has determined the action will not have a significant impact on the quality of the environment, and that there is not need to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. Consequently, EPA is issuing a mitigated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Wayne Nastri
Regional Administrator
EPA, Region 9

Date