

## **7.11 Socio-Economic Resources**

### **7.11.1 Overview**

This section discusses socio-economic resources in Yuba and Sierra counties, the two counties in which the vast majority of Yuba County Water Agency's (YCWA or Licensee) Yuba River Development Project (Project) is located<sup>1</sup> (99.6% of the Project Area<sup>2</sup> is within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project Boundary).<sup>3</sup>

In addition to this overview, Section 7.11 is divided into two parts: Section 7.11.2 discusses socio-economic conditions in Yuba and Sierra counties, including population patterns, towns and cities, population density and housing, household income, ethnicity, education, labor force, and industry; and Section 7.11.3 discusses Project-specific information related to socio-economic resources.

The Project Vicinity<sup>4</sup> is located at the northern end of California's famed Mother Lode region, which shaped the region's economy in the mid to late 1800's. Since the end of the California gold rush, the economic base has grown to include timber and tourism with mining playing a greatly reduced role in the counties' economic viability.

The eastern portion of the Project Vicinity is accessed from Marysville by California State Highway 20 via County Road 8 (Marysville Road) and State Route 49 to Camptonville.

### **7.11.2 Socio-Economic Conditions in Yuba County**

The Project Area is located approximately 45 miles northeast of the city of Marysville in eastern Yuba County. Some Project facilities are easily accessed via State Route 49 or County Route E 20, while other Project facilities are more remote. A portion (55%) of the land within the FERC Project Boundary is United States-owned land managed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (Forest Service) as National Forest System (NFS) land within the Tahoe and Plumas national forests (TNF and PNF, respectively). Land use, management, and ownership in the Project Area are discussed in the Land Use section of this Preliminary Information Package (Section 7.10).

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<sup>1</sup> Approximately 98.3 percent of the total area within the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project Boundary (7,804.9 acres) is located in Yuba County and 1.3 percent is located in Sierra County. A *de minimis* (31.8 or <0.4% of the area within the Project's FERC Project Boundary) is located in Nevada County: about 31.7 acres near Our House Diversion Dam and 0.1 acre near Narrows 2 Powerhouse.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this document, Project Area is defined as the area within the FERC Project Boundary and the land immediately surrounding the FERC Project Boundary (*i.e.*, within about 0.25 mile of the FERC Project Boundary).

<sup>3</sup> The FERC Project Boundary is the area that Licensee uses for normal Project operations and maintenance, and is shown on Exhibits J, K, and G of the current license.

<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of this document, the Project Vicinity is defined as the area surrounding the Project on the order of a United States Geological Survey (USGS) 1:24,000 topographic quadrangle.

### 7.11.2.1 Population Patterns

#### Population Size

The population of Yuba County is 60,219 people (US Census Bureau 2000). Since 1990, Yuba County's population increase has been approximately 3.3 percent, which is lower than the 13.8 percent population increase experienced in the state of California for the same period. The California Department of Finance has forecasted that by the year 2020, Yuba County's population will reach close to 97,580 residents.

#### Towns and Cities

The city of Marysville is the county seat of Yuba County. With a population of 12,268 in 2000, Marysville is the largest community in the county. The nearest major population center outside the county is Sacramento (2008 population estimated at 474,470), located about 50 miles to the south. The unincorporated town of Camptonville, with a population of approximately 670 persons in 2000, is located about 5 miles east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir.

#### Population Density and Housing Distribution

With a population of 60,219 residents, 22,636 housing units, and a land area of 630 square miles, Yuba County has 95.6 residents and 36 housing units per square mile (US Census Bureau 2000). From 1980 to 1990 and 1990 to 2000, the population of Yuba County increased by 17.1 and 3.0 percent, respectively. During those two same periods, the number of housing units also increased at 11.1 percent and 6.5 percent, respectively. From 1960 to 2000, Yuba County experienced a housing unit increase of greater than 77.9 percent.

**Table 7.11.2-1. Summary of Yuba County population and housing units, 1960-2000.**

County	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960
Population	60,219	58,228	49,733	44,736	33,859
Housing Units	22,636	21,245	19128	14135	12724

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1960 - 2000 Census

While not directly stated in Table 7.11.2-2, the greatest number of individuals in Yuba County is between the ages of 18 and 65. These age groups within the county have similar distributions as they do in the state of California.

**Table 7.11.2-2. Summary of Yuba County by age group, 2000.**

Population: Age	Yuba County	California
Persons under 5 years old	5063	2,486,981
Persons under 5 years old, percent	8.0	7.3
Persons under 18 years old	14,151	9,249,829
Persons under 18 years old, percent	23.0	27.3
Persons 65 years old and over	6368	3,595,658
Persons 65 years old and over, percent	10	10.6

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2000.

Households/Family Distribution and Income

Table 7.11.2-3 summarizes household units (*i.e.*, number of units, net change for a given period, and percent change for a given period), homeownership rate, median home value, income, and poverty for Yuba County. County data are also compared to the same data available for the state of California.

**Table 7.11.2-3. Summary of household units and income in Yuba County and the state of California.**

Household Information	Yuba County	California
Housing units, 2006	27,072	13,174,378
Housing units, net change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006	4436	959,828
Housing units, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006	20.0	8.0
Homeownership rate, 2000	54.1	56.9
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	\$89,700	\$211,500
Households, 2000	20,535	11,502,870
Persons per household, 2000	2.87	2.87
County, Median household income, 2000	\$30,460	\$47,493
Per capita income, 1999	\$14,124	\$22,711
Persons below poverty, 2000	2,444	4,706,130
Persons below poverty, percent, 2000	16.3	14.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 and 2006 Census. State of California, Department of Finance 2008

Ethnicity

When compared to the state of California, Yuba County is relatively homogeneous with respect to ethnic diversity. The county is predominantly White, with persons of Hispanic or Latino origin being the second largest group. Table 7.11.2-4 provides a summary of population by race for Yuba County and the state of California.

**Table 7.11.2-4. Summary of population by gender and race in Yuba County and the state of California, 2000.**

Population: Gender/Race	Yuba County	California
Female persons, percent	49.6	50.2
White persons <sup>a</sup>	42,537	20,170,059
Black or African American persons <sup>a</sup>	1,904	2,263,882
American Indian and Alaska Native persons <sup>a</sup>	1,569	333,346
Asian persons <sup>a</sup>	4,519	3,697,513
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons <sup>a</sup>	123	116,961
Persons reporting some other race <sup>a</sup>	5,989	5,682,241
Persons reporting two or more races	3,578	1,607,646
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin <sup>b</sup>	10,449	10,966,556
Total population	60,219	33,871,648
White persons, percent <sup>a</sup>	70.6	59.5
Black or African American persons, percent <sup>a</sup>	3.2	6.7
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent <sup>a</sup>	2.6	1.0
Asian persons, percent <sup>a</sup>	7.5	10.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent <sup>a</sup>	0.2	0.3
Persons reporting some other race, percent <sup>a</sup>	9.9	16.8
Persons reporting two or more races, percent	5.9	4.7
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent <sup>b</sup>	100.0	32.4
Language other than English spoken at home, percent age 5+	21.9	39.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

<sup>a</sup>. Includes persons reporting only one race. <sup>b</sup>Hispanics may be of any race; therefore, Hispanics are also included in applicable race categories.

### Education

A total of 71.8 percent of Yuba County’s population is educated through high school with 10.3 percent of the population having obtained a Bachelor’s degree or higher. When compared to the state of California, Yuba County has a lower percentage of high school graduates and individuals with a Bachelors degree or higher (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).<sup>5</sup>

### Labor Force

Initially, all of Yuba County’s settlements and economy were based on the discovery of gold in the middle 1800’s. Today, Yuba County has a diverse economic base and labor force that includes agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation, utilities, trade, finance, insurance, real estate services, and government. According to the California Employment Development Department (EDD), the annual average unemployment rate in Yuba County was 5.9 percent during 2001 (EDD 2005), which is higher than the state of California’s average of 5.3 percent (US Census Bureau, 2000).

### Industry

In 2005, the largest employment sectors in Yuba County were: 1) Services and Professional; 2) Government; 3) Retail; and 4) Construction (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2005). The Accommodation and Food sector had the greatest earnings for the county (Table 7.11.2-5).

**Table 7.11.2-5. Summary of industry statistics for Yuba County.**

Industry	Yuba County	
	Number of Employees	Earnings (\$1000)
Agriculture	1,347	2007 – 19,681
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	1,407	3,400
Construction	1,886	72,597
Manufacturing	1,830	44,876
Transportation & Public Utilities	1,239	28,197
Real Estate, Finance, Insurance	659	Real estate: 12757
		Finance and insurance: 12972
Wholesale Trade	701	Confidential
Information Services	400	11,531
Retail Trade	2,662	53,709
Professional and Technical Services	1,626	41,891
Education, Health and Social Services	4,133	1,064
Other Services	1,284	23,644
Government & Public Administration	1,049	648,949

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2005.

## **7.11.3 Socio-Economic Conditions in Sierra County**

The Project Area is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Downieville in western Sierra County. New Bullards Bar is accessible from State Route 49 via Marysville Road. A portion of the land within the FERC Project Boundary is United States-owned land managed by the Forest

<sup>5</sup> A total of 76.8 percent of the state of California’s population is educated through high school with 26.6 percent of the population having obtained a Bachelor’s degree or higher.

Service within the TNF. Land use, management, and ownership in the Project Area are discussed in the Land Use Section of this Preliminary Information Package (Section 7.10).

### 7.11.3.1 Population Patterns

#### Population Size

The population of Sierra County is 3,555 people (US Census Bureau 2000). Population growth within Sierra County has been extremely low; and since 2000 has been dominated by migration out of the county. The California Department of Finance has forecast that by 2015, Sierra County's population will reach close to 3,589 residents.

#### Towns and Cities

There are only two incorporated towns in Sierra County, as it is a rural area. Downieville is the county seat of Sierra County and is located at an elevation of 2,900 feet. Loyalton is the only other incorporated city within Sierra County with a population of 862 (US Census Bureau 2000). The nearest major population center outside the county is Sacramento, located about 60 miles to the southwest.

#### Population and Housing Distribution

With a population of 3,555 residents, 2,202 housing units, and a land area of 953 square miles, Sierra County has 3.7 residents and 2.3 housing units per square mile (U.S. Census Bureau 2000). From 1980 to 1990 and 1990 to 2000, the population of Sierra County increased by 7.4 and 7.0 percent, respectively. During those two same periods, the number of housing units increased at a rate of 12.7 and 1.7 percent, respectively. From 1960 to 2000, Sierra County experienced a population and housing unit increase of greater than 30 percent (Table 7.11.3-1).

**Table 7.11.3-1. Summary of Sierra County population and housing units, 1960 - 2000.**

County	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960
Population	3,555	3,318	3,073	2,365	2,247
Housing Units	2,202	2,166	1,893	1,551	1,495

Source: United States Census Bureau, 1960 - 2000 Census.

While not directly stated in Table 7.11.3-2, the greatest number of individuals in Sierra County falls between the age of 18 and 65. These age groups within the county have a similar distribution as the State of California.

**Table 7.11.3-2. Summary of population in Sierra County by age group, 2000.**

Population: Age	Sierra County	California
Population under 5 years old	147	2,486,981
Persons under 5 years old, percent	4.1	7.3
Persons under 18 years old	828	9,249,829
Persons under 18 years old, percent	23.3	27.3
Persons 65 years old and over	629	3,595,658
Persons 65 years old and over, percent	17.7	10.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

### Households/Family Distribution and Income

Table 7.11.3-3 summarizes household units (*i.e.*, number of units, net change for a given period, and percent change for a given period), homeownership rate, median home value, income, and poverty for Sierra County. County data are also compared to the same data available for the state of California.

**Table 7.11.3-3. Summary of household units, homeownership, home value, and income in Sierra County and state of California.**

Household Information	Sierra County	California
Housing units, 2006	2,272	13,140,388
Housing units, net change, 04/01/00 to 01/01/06	70	590,153
Housing units, percent change, 04/01/00 to 01/01/06	3.08	4.83
Homeownership rate, 2000	70.7	56.9
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2000	128,600	\$211,500
Households, 2000	1,520	11,502,870
Persons per household, 2000	2.28	2.87
County, Median household income, 2000	\$35,827	\$47,493
Per capita income, 1999	\$24,585	\$22,711
Persons below poverty, 2000	397	4,706,130
Persons below poverty, percent, 2000	11.3	14.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Census. State of California, Department of Finance, 2008.

### Ethnicity

When compared to the state of California, Sierra County is relatively homogeneous with respect to ethnic diversity. The County is predominantly White, with persons of Hispanic or Latino origin being the second largest group. Table 7.11.3-4 provides a summary of population by race for Sierra County and the state of California.

**Table 7.11.3-4. Summary of population by gender and race in Sierra County and the state of California for 2000.**

Population: Gender/Race	Sierra County	California
Female persons, percent	49.5	50.2
White persons <sup>a</sup>	3,348	20,170,059
Black or African American persons <sup>a</sup>	7	2,263,882
American Indian and Alaska Native persons <sup>a</sup>	67	333,346
Asian persons <sup>a</sup>	6	3,697,513
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons <sup>a</sup>	3	116,961
Persons reporting some other race <sup>a</sup>	37	5,682,241
Persons reporting two or more races	87	1,607,646
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin <sup>b</sup>	213	10,966,556
White persons, percent <sup>a</sup>	94.2	59.5
Black or African American persons, percent <sup>a</sup>	0.2	6.7
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent <sup>a</sup>	1.9	1.0
Asian persons, percent <sup>a</sup>	0.2	10.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent <sup>a</sup>	0.1	0.3
Persons reporting some other race, percent <sup>a</sup>	1.0	16.8
Persons reporting two or more races, percent	2.4	4.7
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent <sup>b</sup>	6.0	32.4
Language other than English spoken at home, percent age 5+	6.3	39.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census.

<sup>a</sup> Includes persons reporting only one race. <sup>b</sup>Hispanics may be of any race; therefore, Hispanics are also included in applicable race categories.

Education

A total of 85.2 percent of Sierra County’s population is educated through high school with 17.2 percent of the population having obtained a Bachelor’s degree or higher. When compared to the state of California, Sierra County has a higher percentage of high school graduates and a lower percentage of individuals with a Bachelors degree or higher.

Labor Force

Initially, all of Sierra County’s settlements and economy were based on the discovery of gold in the middle 1800’s. Today, the county has a small, yet diverse, economic base and labor force that includes construction, mining, manufacturing, transportation, utilities, trade, finance, insurance, real estate services, and government. According to the EDD, the annual average unemployment rate was 4.9 percent for Sierra County during 2000 (EDD 2005), which is slightly higher than the state of California’s average of 4.3 percent (US Census Bureau 2000).

Based on average monthly labor statistics from the EDD for the period of 1990 through 2006, the months of September and October have the lowest unemployment rate for Sierra County.

Industry

As shown in Table 7.11.3-5, in 2005, Government and Public Administration was the largest employer in Sierra County and provided the greatest earnings (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2005).

**Table 7.11.3-5. Summary of industry statistics for Sierra County, 2005.**

Industry	Sierra County	
	Number of Employees	Earnings (\$1000)
Farm Employment & Mining	76	1,775
Construction	113	3,855
Manufacturing	57	3,039
Transportation & Public Utilities	N/A <sup>a</sup>	68 (transportation) <sup>a</sup>
Wholesale Trade	N/A <sup>a</sup>	N/A <sup>a</sup>
Retail Trade	N/A <sup>a</sup>	N/A <sup>a</sup>
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	N/A <sup>a</sup>	N/A <sup>a</sup>
Education and Healthcare Services	52 (education) <sup>b</sup>	1,291
Other Services	N/A <sup>a</sup>	N/A <sup>a</sup>
Government & Public Administration	457	19,868

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2005.

<sup>a</sup> Not shown to avoid disclosure of confidential information.

<sup>b</sup> Less than ten jobs

**7.11.4 Project-Specific Information**

YCWA is a public agency formed under the Yuba County Water Agency Act (West’s Water Code App. §§ 84-1 – 84-28) with the goals of providing water supplies to and flood protection for Yuba County.

#### 7.11.4.1 Staffing

YCWA is located in Marysville, California, and has about 30 employees. Approximately 20 employees work directly on the Project on a day-to-day basis, and are headquartered near the Project in Dobbins, California. The Project office includes administrative offices, warehouses, and machine shop facilities. The employees that work directly on the Project are dispatched from the main office in Dobbins to the Project each day.

#### 7.11.4.2 Annual Fees

Licensee pays over \$1.5 million each year to federal, State, and local governments for Project-related services. Table 7.11.4-1 provides a list of these annual fees.

**Table 7.11.4-1. Federal, state, and local agencies Licensee pays annually for Project-related services.**

Agency	Description	Approximate Annual Payment
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Use of Federal Land	\$290,000
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Administration	\$635,000
United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service	Recreation Collective Agreement	\$300,000
United States Army Corps of Engineers	Use of USACE's Englebright Reservoir	\$100,000
United States Geological Survey	Stream Gaging	\$30,000
California Division of Safety of Dams	Dam Safety	\$100,000
California State Water Resources Control Board	Water Rights	\$50,000
California Air Quality Control Board	Use of Generators - Standby	\$2,000
Yuba County Sheriff's Department	Law Enforcement	\$30,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,537,000</b>

#### 7.11.5 List of Attachments

None.