

## **7.11 Socio-Economic Resources**

### **7.11.1 Overview**

This section describes socio-economic resources pertinent to Yuba County Water Agency's (YCWA or Licensee) Yuba River Development Project (Project). The Project is located on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada on the main stem Yuba River; the North Yuba River; and the Middle Yuba River, including Oregon Creek, a tributary to the Middle Yuba River. The majority (98.3 percent) of the total area within the existing Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project Boundary<sup>1</sup> is in Yuba County with *de minimis* portions in Sierra and Nevada counties, 1.3 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively. A little more than half (55 percent) of the area within the existing FERC Project Boundary is located on National Forest System (NFS) land managed by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service) as the Plumas and Tahoe national forests (PNF and TNF, respectively). Land use, management, and ownership in the Project Area are discussed in the Land Use section of this Pre-Application Document (PAD) (Section 7.9).

In addition to this overview, Section 7.11 has three more sections: Section 7.11.2 Socio-Economic Conditions in Yuba County; Section 7.11.3 Socio-Economic Conditions in Sierra County; and Section 7.11.4 Project-Specific Information. The first two sections describe 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. Nevada County attributes are not described as it has so little acreage within the existing FERC Boundary, it has no communities proximate to the project's facilities. Section 7.11.4 discusses Project-specific information related to socio-economic resources.

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

The Project Area<sup>2</sup> is located approximately 45 miles northeast of the city of Marysville in eastern Yuba County. Project facilities are easily accessed from Marysville by California State Highway 20 via County Road 8 (Marysville Road) and State Route 49 to Camptonville. Population patterns of Yuba County are summarized, below.

#### **7.11.2.1 Population Size**

The population of Yuba County was 60,219 people in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000). Interim data from the U.S Census Bureau and the California Department of Finance (CDOF 2010) indicate that in 2005 and 2010 population in Yuba County, respectively are 67,221 and 73,380. Between 1990 and 2000, Yuba County's population grew by approximately 3.3 percent, which is

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<sup>1</sup> The existing FERC Project Boundary is the area that Licensee uses for normal Project operations and maintenance, and is shown in Exhibits G, J, and K of the current license.

<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) and includes Project-affected reaches between facilities and downstream to the next major water controlling feature or structure, the United States Army Corps of Engineers' Daguerre Point Dam.

lower than the 13.8 percent population increase experienced in the state of California for the same period. The population increase between 2000 and 2010 in Yuba County was approximately 22 percent, much higher than the 7.6 percent for the state of California. The California Department of Finance has forecasted that by the year 2020, Yuba County's population will reach close to 97,580 residents.

### 7.11.2.2 Towns and Cities

The city of Marysville is the county seat of Yuba County. Marysville is the largest community in the county with a population of 12,268 in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000) and 12,867 (CDOF 2010) in 2010; an increase of about 5 percent. The nearest major population center outside the area is Sacramento (2008 population estimated at 474,470), located about 40 miles to the south. The unincorporated town of Camptonville is located about 5 miles east of New Bullards Bar Reservoir, with a population of approximately 670 in 2000 and 712 in 2010. This increase represents a growth rate of approximately 6 percent.

### 7.11.2.3 Population Density and Housing Distribution

With 73,380 residents, 28,244 housing units, and a land area of 630 square miles, Yuba County has 117 residents and 45 housing units per square mile (CDOF 2010). From 1980 to 1990, from 1990 to 2000, and from 2000 to 2010 the population of Yuba County increased by 17.1, 3.3, and 22 percent, respectively. During these two periods, the number of housing units also increased at 11.1 percent, 6.5 percent and 25 percent, respectively. From 1960 to 2010, Yuba County experienced a housing unit increase of approximately 122 percent.

**Table 7.11.2-1. Summary of Yuba County population and housing units, 1960-2010.**

County	2010	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960
Population	73,380	60,219	58,228	49,733	44,736	33,859
Housing Units	28,244	22,636	21,245	19,128	14,135	12,724

Source: US Census Bureau 2000; CDOF 2010

As shown in Table 7.11.2-2, most of the Yuba County population (33,228, or 55 percent) is between the ages of 18 and 65. Age groups within the county have similar distributions to the state of California.

**Table 7.11.2-2. Summary of Yuba County by age group, 2009.**

Population: Age	Yuba County	California
Persons under 5 years old	6,490	2,772,125
Persons under 5 years old, percent	8.9	7.5
Persons under 18 years old	21,294	9,425,224
Persons under 18 years old, percent	29.2	25.5
Persons 65 years old and over	6,928	4,139,706
Persons 65 years old and over, percent	9.5	11.2

Source: US Census Bureau 2010

#### 7.11.2.4 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	4,436	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: US Census Bureau 2000; CDOF 2008.

#### 7.11.2.5 Ethnicity

Yuba County is generally less ethnically diverse than the state of California. 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 for the year 2000, at this time updated data to the level of detail provided below will be available from the U.S. Census Bureau in May 2011.

**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>1</sup>	42,537	20,170,059
Black or African American persons <sup>1</sup>	1,904	2,263,882
American Indian and Alaska Native persons <sup>1</sup>	1,569	333,346
Asian persons <sup>1</sup>	4,519	3,697,513
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander persons <sup>1</sup>	123	116,961
Persons reporting some other race <sup>1</sup>	5,989	5,682,241
Persons reporting two or more races	3,578	1,607,646
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin <sup>2</sup>	10,449	10,966,556
Total population	60,219	33,871,648
White persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	70.6	59.5
Black or African American persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	3.2	6.7
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	2.6	1.0
Asian persons, percent <sup>1</sup>	7.5	10.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent <sup>1</sup>	0.2	0.3
Persons reporting some other race, percent <sup>1</sup>	9.9	16.8

**Table 7.11.2-4. (continued)**

<b>Population: Gender/Race</b>	<b>Yuba County</b>	<b>California</b>
Persons reporting two or more races, percent	5.9	4.7
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent <sup>2</sup>	17.4	32.4
Language other than English spoken at home, percent age 5+	21.9	39.5

Source: US Census Bureau 2000

<sup>1</sup> Includes persons reporting only one race.

<sup>2</sup> Hispanics may be of any race; therefore, Hispanics are also included in applicable race categories.

### 7.11.2.6 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 lower percentages of high school graduates and individuals with a Bachelors degree or higher (US Census Bureau 2000).<sup>3</sup>

### 7.11.2.7 Labor Force

Initially, all of Yuba County’s settlements and economy were based on the discovery of gold in the middle 1800s. 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 for Yuba County in 2000 was about 8 percent. Comparitively, the average unemployment rates for 2005 and 2009 were, respectively, about 9 percent and 17 percent (EDD 2010). These rates are higher than those for the state of California, which had an approximately 5 percent unemployment rate for years 2000 and 2005, and an 11 percent rate for 2009.

### 7.11.2.8 Industry

Yuba County is located at the northern end of California’s famed Mother Lode, which shaped the region’s economy in the mid to late 1800s. 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 county’s economic viability. In 2005, the largest employment sectors in Yuba County were 1) Government; 2) Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities; 3) Education and Health Services; and 4) Natural Resources and Mining (EDD 2005). The Government 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, 2005.**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Yuba County</b>	
	<b>Number of Employees</b>	<b>Earnings</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	1,234	\$31,249,000
Construction	840	\$34,371,000
Manufacturing	992	\$33,705,000

<sup>3</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.

**Table 7.11.2-5. (continued)**

Industry	Yuba County	
	Number of Employees	Earnings
Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities	2,173	\$67,018,000
Information Services	208	\$8,790,000
Finance, and Insurance	431	\$15,120,000
Professional and Business Services	1,046	\$36,620,000
Education and Health Services	1,857	\$87,855,000
Leisure and Hospitality	1,223	\$13,951,000
Other Services	509	\$7,843,000
Government (Federal, State and Local)	6,831	\$279,374,000
Unclassified	2	\$43,000

Source: EDD 2005

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

The Project Area is located approximately 20 miles southwest of the town of Downieville in Sierra County. Population patterns of Sierra County are summarized, below.

#### **7.11.3.1 Population Size**

The population of Sierra County was 3,555 in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000), 3,492 in 2005 and 3,303 in 2010 (CDOF 2010). The population in Sierra County has declined approximately 7 percent since 2000.

#### **7.11.3.2 Towns and Cities**

Sierra County is a rural county. There is one incorporated town in Sierra County, Loyalton, and one unincorporated town, Downieville. Downieville is the county seat and is located at an elevation of 2,900 feet.

Loyalton had a population of 862 in year 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000) and 825 in 2010 (CDOF 2010), a decrease of about 4 percent. Downieville had a population of slightly over 300 people in year 2000 and 206 in 2010 a decrease of approximately 30 percent. The nearest major population center outside the county is Sacramento, located about 60 miles to the southwest.

#### **7.11.3.3 Population Density and Housing Distribution**

With a population of 3,302 residents, 2,096 housing units, and a land area of 953 square miles, Sierra County had 3.5 residents and 2.2 housing units per square mile in 2010. (CDOF 2010). From 1980 to 1990, from 1990 to 2000, and from 2000 to 2010, the population of Sierra County increased by 7.4, 7.0 percent, and decreased 7.0 percent respectively. During those same periods, the number of housing units increased at a rate of 12.7, 1.7 percent and 4 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 - 2010.**

County	2010	2000	1990	1980	1970	1960
Population	3,303	3,555	3,318	3,073	2,365	2,247
Housing Units	2,296	2,202	2,166	1,893	1,551	1,495

Source: U S Census Bureau 2000; CDOF 2010

The data in Table 7.11.3-2 show that most of the Sierra County population (2,027, or 57 percent) falls between the ages of 18 and 65. These age groups within the county have a similar distribution to the state of California.

**Table 7.11.3-2. Summary of population in Sierra County by age group, 2009.**

Population: Age	Sierra County	California
Population under 5 years old	114	2,772,125
Persons under 5 years old, percent	3.6	7.5
Persons under 18 years old	571	9,425,224
Persons under 18 years old, percent	18.0	25.5
Persons 65 years old and over	594	4,139,706
Persons 65 years old and over, percent	18.7	11.2

Source: US Census Bureau 2010

### 7.11.3.4 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 comparable to that for the state of California.

**Table 7.11.3-3. Summary of household units, homeownership, home value, and income in Sierra County and the 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: US Census Bureau 2000; CDO 2008

### 7.11.3.5 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 for the year 2000, at this time updated data to the level of detail provided below will be available from the U.S. Census Bureau in May 2011.

**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: US Census Bureau 2000

<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.

### 7.11.3.6 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 Bachelor’s degree or higher.

### 7.11.3.7 Labor Force

Initially, all of Sierra County’s settlements and economy were based on the discovery of gold in the mid-1800s. 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 was slightly higher than the state of California’s average of 4.3 percent (US Census Bureau 2000).

### 7.11.3.8 Industry

As shown in Table 7.11.3-5, in 2005, Government was the largest employment sector in Sierra County and provided the greatest earnings (EDD 2005). The second largest employment and earnings sector was Natural Resources (forestry) and Mining.

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

Industry	Sierra County	
	Number of Employees	Earnings
Natural Resources & Mining	63	\$2,197,000
Construction	38	\$1,355,000
Manufacturing	46	\$2,117,000
Trade, Transportation & Public Utilities	69	\$1,485,000
Financial Activities	13	\$430,000
Education and Health Services	39	\$850,000
Leisure and Hospitality	82	\$1,030,000
Other Services	27	\$333,000
Government (Federal and Local)	366	\$12,263,000

Source: EDD 2005

## 7.11.4 Project-Specific Information

The YCWA is a public agency formed under the Yuba County Water Agency Act (California Water Code App. §§ 84-1 – 84-28) with the goals of providing water supplies to and flood protection for Yuba County. Currently, YCWA’s primary functions are development and sale of hydropower, flood control, fisheries enhancement, recreation, conservation and storage of water, wholesale of water to member districts, and water transfers (YCWA 2010). In Table 7.11.2.5 above, YCWA is part of Yuba County’s “government” employment sector.

### 7.11.4.1 Staffing

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

### 7.11.4.2 Annual Fees

Licensee pays over \$1.5 million each year to federal, State, and local governments for Project-related support 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 Collection 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.

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