
The El Dorado Hills Handbook

2003 Edition

*The definitive source of information about the community
of El Dorado Hills, California*

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1	Overview of <i>The El Dorado Hills Handbook</i> Project
	What is <i>The El Dorado Hills Handbook</i>? 12
	Contents of the <i>Handbook</i> 14
	Format of the <i>Handbook</i> 14
	About the <i>Handbook</i> 's authors 15
	How the <i>Handbook</i> was written 15
	What is the future of <i>The El Dorado Hills Handbook</i>? 16
Chapter 2	The Community of El Dorado Hills
	Fast facts about El Dorado Hills 19
	Location 19
	Name 19
	Land area 20
	Climate 20
	Population 21
	Government structure 21
	Villages 23
	Frequently asked questions 26
	Isn't El Dorado Hills incorporated? 26
	Isn't El Dorado Hills in Sacramento County? 26
	What is the telephone area code for El Dorado Hills? 26
	What is the zip code for El Dorado Hills? 27
	Does El Dorado Hills have its own school district? 27
	Do the schools in El Dorado Hills all follow the same schedule? 27
	What is the boundary line between the two elementary school districts serving El Dorado Hills? 28

How many builders are currently working in El Dorado Hills?	28
What is the “yellow house controversy” all about?	28
What are the El Dorado Hills rocks and who owns them?	29
Is El Dorado Hills as hot as “they say” it is during the summer?	30
Are there a lot of wild animals around the newly developed areas of El Dorado Hills?	30

Chapter 3

Community Resources

Emergency services 35

Utilities 37

Newspapers and other periodicals 38

Newspapers 38

Other periodicals 41

Schools and other educational organizations 42

K-12 public schools and district offices 42

Private schools 46

Other educational organizations 47

Parks and swimming pools 48

Libraries 53

Airports 55

Other services and agencies 56

Museums, historical sites, and historical associations 60

Other points of interest 64

Commercial organizations and enterprises 67

Real estate organizations 70

Contacting your government representatives 74

El Dorado Hills Community Services District 74

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors 74

State assemblyman 74

State senator 75

Governor 75

U. S. representative 75

	U. S. senators	76
	President	76
	Registering to vote	77
	For more information	78
	Maps	78
	Books, pamphlets	79
Chapter 4	Community Yearbook	
	Fortieth anniversary celebration	82
	Other community photographs	86
Chapter 5	Historical Overview	
Chapter 6	Native Peoples	
	The native way of life	94
	How they were organized	94
	How they lived	94
	What they ate	95
	Destruction of the native way of life	98
	How the Indians live today	99
	Glossary	102
	For more information	103
	Suggested field trip	103
	Organizations	103
	Books	104
Chapter 7	The Spanish and Mexican Periods	
	Spanish control of California	108
	Early exploration in the Sierra	108
	Mexican land grants	109
	Manifest destiny and the war with Mexico	110
	California statehood	110
	For more information	111

Books 111

Chapter 8

The Gold Rush Period

The lure of gold 115

The art and science of gold mining 116

How gold gets deposited on the surface of the earth 116

How gold is taken from the ground 117

Overview of the California Gold Rush 120

The discovery of gold 120

Mining efforts move downstream 121

Californians flock to the gold fields 122

Non-Californians arrive in the gold fields 122

Life in the mining camps 123

End of the gold frenzy 124

How California was governed during the Gold Rush 125

El Dorado Hills' role in the Gold Rush 126

Early Clarksville 126

Highways 127

Mail delivery and freight services 129

Passenger travel by stagecoach 129

Pony express 130

Inns along the highways 132

Inns along White Rock Road and Highway 50 133

Inns along Green Valley Road 137

Railroads 139

Summary of key events 141

Glossary 142

For more information 144

Organizations 144

Books, pamphlets 144

Chapter 9

The Ranching Period

Clarksville settles down 152

Agricultural endeavors	154
Other economic endeavors	156
Hardscrabble existence	157
Pioneer families	159
Sketches of pioneer families	159
Clarksville pioneer family reunions	162
Cemeteries in the El Dorado Hills area	163
For more information	166
Organizations	166
Books	166

Chapter 10

Real Estate Development

A brief history of development in El Dorado Hills	170
The original vision	170
Development in the 1960s	171
Development in the 1970s	173
Development in the 1980s	173
Development in the 1990s	174
Real estate development today	175
Probable future development	180
Land currently protected from development	182
Key events, 1950s - 2002	183
“The men of El Dorado Hills”	186
For more information	188
Organization	188
Book	188

Chapter 11

Natural History and Environment

Overview	190
Geologic history of the western Sierra	190
Seismic activity	193
Rocks and minerals	193

Soils and land use 196

Water 197

Creeks, watershed 197

Water supply 197

Native plants 198

Cultivated plants 200

Native animals 201

Glossary 202

For more information 204

Suggested field trips 204

Organizations 208

Books, pamphlets, reports, and CDs 208

Note 211

Chapter 12

Neighboring Communities

Cameron Park 215

History, profile 215

Claims to fame, points of interest 215

Folsom 218

History, profile 218

Claims to fame, points of interest 219

Latrobe 225

History, profile 225

Claims to fame, points of interest 226

Placerville 228

History, profile 228

Claims to fame, points of interest 229

Prairie City 232

History, profile 232

Claims to fame, points of interest 233

Rescue 235

History, profile 235
Claims to fame, points of interest 235

Shingle Springs 238

History, profile 238
Claims to fame, points of interest 238

For more information 239

Books 239
Internet sources 239

Chapter 13

Issues

Water 243

Where does our water come from? 243
EID historical and operational profile 247
How have EID problems become a regional issue? 248
What role is Project 184 playing in recent water controversies? 251
Current pressures on the EID 253
EID operational and strategic plans 254
Recycled water: A bright spot in the local water picture 254
For more information 259
Note 259

Growth 260

Air pollution 261
Transportation/Traffic 262
For more information 264

Asbestos 265

Asbestos studies in El Dorado County 266
Newspaper coverage about recent asbestos scares 266
For more information 269

Incorporation 271

LAFCO and the El Dorado Hills incorporation efforts 271
Planning efforts toward a vote on “cityhood” 271
The Incorporation Committee sues LAFCO 272
Other nearby cities involved in incorporation efforts 273

Chapter 14

For more information 273

Cultural Resources

A note about cultural resources in El Dorado Hills 276

Prehistoric resources 277

Historic resources 277

Albert's shrine revisited 279

For more information 284

Organizations 284

Plans and reports 284

Afterword

Dedications 288

Acknowledgements 288

Errata 289

Index

CHAPTER 1

Overview of *The El Dorado Hills* Handbook Project

What is <i>The El Dorado Hills Handbook</i> ?	12
<i>Contents of the Handbook</i>	14
<i>Format of the Handbook</i>	14
<i>About the Handbook's authors</i>	15
<i>How the Handbook was written</i>	15
What is the future of <i>The El Dorado Hills Handbook</i> ?	16

What is *The El Dorado Hills Handbook*?

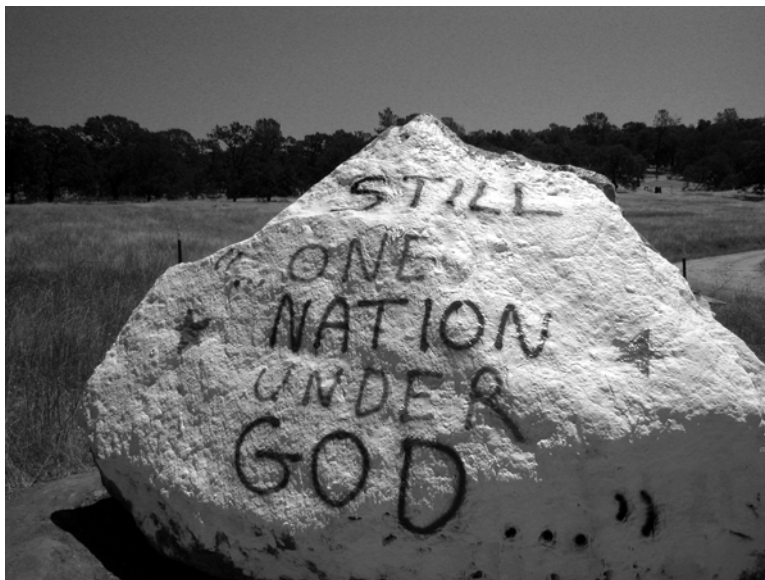
When we moved to El Dorado Hills in November 2001, we were full of enthusiasm for our new home, a community we considered one of the most beautiful and well planned that we had ever seen. We loved the rolling hills, the attractive homes, the well-appointed schools, and the obvious care that had been taken in creating the landscaping and nature trails.

We were impressed with the vision shown by people like Allan Lindsey (the “founder” of El Dorado Hills) and William (Bill) Parker (controlling partner of Serrano, the part of El Dorado Hills where we live), and how much they seem to genuinely care about the community and its future.

We set out to learn as much as possible about El Dorado Hills and the Sierra foothills both because we were curious about our new surroundings, and so that as the real estate developers finish their work and move on, we will be ready to help take stewardship of this special place. We began to investigate our new surroundings and to develop a list of questions we ought to be able to answer if we were to succeed in the role of “good citizens.”

Questions like:

- Would it be a good idea for El Dorado Hills to incorporate?
- Is there a plan to ensure that El Dorado Hills will have enough water in the years ahead?
- Will the widening of Highway 50 succeed in relieving the early-morning and late-afternoon traffic congestion?
- Is development on the western slope of El Dorado county putting an unfair burden on other parts of the county?
- What are the key similarities and differences between El Dorado Hills and our neighboring communities?
- What role did El Dorado Hills play in the Gold Rush?
- What happened in El Dorado Hills between the Gold Rush and 1962, when the real estate boom began?
- Why is the soil in our back yard so poor and rocky?
- Are there any earthquake faults in the El Dorado Hills area?
- In what month should we start watching for rattlesnakes when we walk on the nature trails?
- What’s the history and significance of the El Dorado Hills rock(s)?



One of the El Dorado Hills rocks

We searched for information from all available sources, for example, local TV and radio stations, local and regional newspapers, area and state libraries, real estate offices, homeowners associations, chambers of commerce, various governmental agencies, and community Web sites.

Answers to many of our questions weren't easy to come by—especially when prerequisites for understanding often seemed to be 10 or 20 years of reading the *Sacramento Bee*, the *Placerville Mountain Democrat*, *El Dorado Hills Village Life*, and the *El Dorado Hills Telegraph*.

But we kept looking, and slowly some answers began to emerge.

As we formulated questions and collected answers, the following thought occurred to us: *Aren't other new residents (and there are a lot of them, and more expected) wondering about many of the same kinds of things we are? And, Why not write it all down so others can benefit from our curiosity, persistence, and hard work?*

We took the challenge, wrote it down, and *The El Dorado Hills Handbook* is the result.

We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed writing it.

Contents of the *Handbook*

The *Handbook* begins with an overview of the community that includes:

- Fast facts about topics like climate, government structure, and village organization
- Community resources (for example, key commercial and government organizations, parks, schools, and points of interests)
- Contact information for government representatives
- A community yearbook

The book also contains sections on:

- Social history (divided into key historical periods like Spanish and Mexican, Gold Rush, ranching, and real estate development)
- The natural history and environment of El Dorado Hills and the surrounding area
- Key local and regional issues (for example, water and transportation)
- Short descriptions of neighboring communities like Cameron Park, Folsom, and Latrobe
- Information about prehistoric and historic resources in the community

Each section contains sources of additional information (books, maps, pamphlets, reports, and over 200 links to relevant Web sites).

The *Handbook* is fully indexed and contains over 100 pictures and maps.

The authors believe the book will be interesting and useful to both new and established residents of the community, and to anyone doing research about El Dorado Hills, El Dorado County, and the western slopes of the Sierra.

Format of the *Handbook*

The entire *Handbook* is available as a 300-page book in printed format.

In addition, excerpts from the *Handbook*, including links to over 200 Web sites, are available as a free community resource at:

www.eldoradohillshandbook.com

About the *Handbook's* authors

Anna van Raaphorst-Johnson is president/principal of VR Communications, Inc., a communications consultancy specializing in technical, scientific, business, and intercultural communications. She is the author of many books and papers dealing with technical and scientific topics, and several white papers and articles on cultural and demographic issues.

Richard H. Johnson is an independent consultant, former senior technical staff member at IBM, and secretary of VR Communications. His expertise includes technical areas like storage management, peripherals, and sub-systems, and also scientific areas like physics, geology, and the environment.

How the *Handbook* was written

To produce the first edition of The El Dorado Hills Handbook, the authors:

- Conducted extensive research using a large number of printed and online sources, including books, pamphlets, brochures, Web sites, and newspaper and magazine articles
- Interviewed and consulted with a number of local and regional business leaders, government leaders, and residents
- Drove, biked, and walked most of the major and minor roads and pathways in the community, taking hundreds of photographs along the way

The primary sources of information for the book, as well as resources for further investigation, are listed in the “For more information” sections at the end of each chapter or major section.

What is the future of *The El Dorado Hills Handbook*?

It is the authors' intention to revise the *Handbook* every year. We hope others in the community will contribute to this effort.

Future editions of the *Handbook* will be updated to:

- Reflect changes in the community
- Include a section containing interviews with El Dorado Hills residents, local and regional government officials, and commercial and business leaders
- Include additional local and regional issues
- Include additional photographs, maps, and drawings

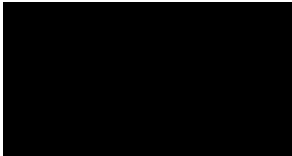
Periodically (and more frequently than new editions of the book) we also expect to update and expand the companion Web site:

www.eldoradohillshandbook.com

Some of the profits from *The El Dorado Hills Handbook* will be donated to historical preservation efforts, including the following, which we hope can become a reality in the near future:

- An indoor/outdoor museum to house historically relevant artifacts and memorabilia collected from what open spaces remain in the El Dorado Hills area and from local residents. We would like to see the museum located at or near the site of the new El Dorado Hills branch of the El Dorado County Library.
- A reference collection, created and maintained by professional librarians and archivists, of printed material and photographs relevant to the history of El Dorado Hills.
- An El Dorado Hills "day in the life" project, in which local writers and photographers (including students at local schools) produce a historically significant "community snapshot" on a given day (not yet determined) in the first half of 2003.
- An ongoing El Dorado Hills oral history project, in which historically relevant memories of local residents, merchants, business people, and real estate developers are digitally preserved for the benefit of future generations.

We cordially invite additional ideas and active community participation in these and other similar projects. Contact information for the authors is on the back of the title page.



CHAPTER 2

The Community of El Dorado Hills

Fast facts about El Dorado Hills 19

Location 19

Name 19

Land area 20

Climate 20

Population 21

Government structure 21

Villages 23

Frequently asked questions 26

Isn't El Dorado Hills incorporated? 26

Isn't El Dorado Hills in Sacramento County? 26

What is the telephone area code for El Dorado Hills? 26

What is the zip code for El Dorado Hills? 27

Does El Dorado Hills have its own school district? 27

Do the schools in El Dorado Hills all follow the same schedule? 27

What is the boundary line between the two elementary school districts serving El Dorado Hills? 28

How many builders are currently working in El Dorado Hills? 28

What is the "yellow house controversy" all about? 28

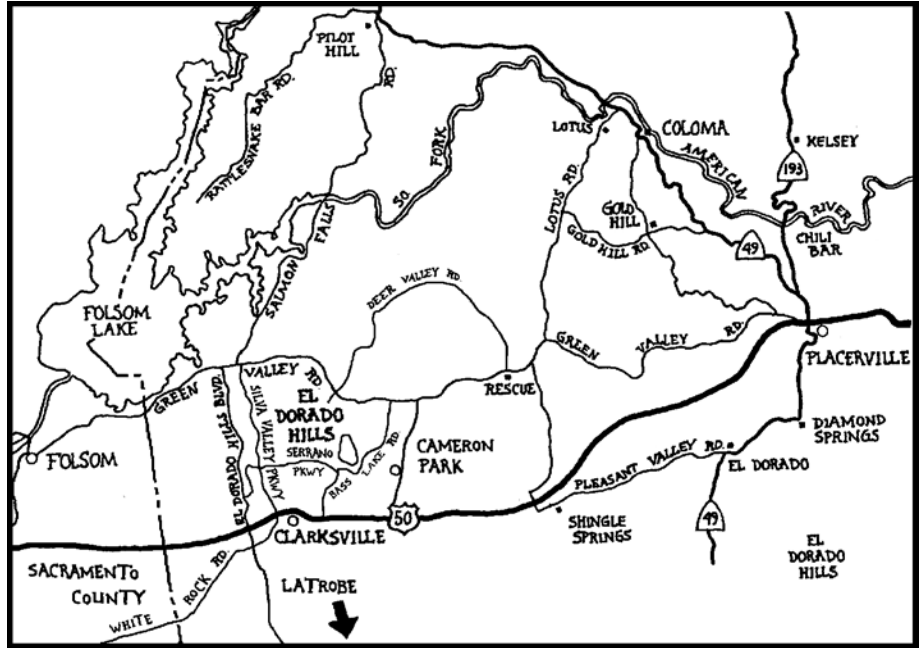
What are the El Dorado Hills rocks and who owns them? 29

Is El Dorado Hills as hot as “they say” it is during the summer? 30
Are there a lot of wild animals around the newly developed areas of El Dorado Hills? 30

Fast facts about El Dorado Hills

Location

El Dorado Hills is located about 30 miles east of Sacramento and 20 miles west of Placerville, on the western slopes of the Sierra.



El Dorado Hills, California, and surrounding communities (overview)

The map above is meant to provide overview information only. For a list of more detailed maps of El Dorado Hills and El Dorado County that are given away or available for purchase, see “Maps” on page 78.

Name

The name “El Dorado Hills” was chosen by real estate developers because they believed it captured the spirit of the Gold Rush and the miners who crossed the foothills on their way to the Mother Lode country.

El dorado means “the gilded one” or “the golden one” in Spanish. A persistent legend in Central and South America told of a king so wealthy that he had himself gilded every morning and washed off every night (so the gold

wouldn't disturb his rest). The legend inspired adventurers to search the New World for gold.

Land area

The land area of El Dorado Hills is approximately 8.6 square miles (10,000 acres), all within El Dorado County.

El Dorado County has been referred to as the Switzerland of America, and while such reference is no disparagement to Switzerland, it is a question whether or not it accords full justice to El Dorado County.

—Historic road map titled “Sacramento to Salt Lake City by way of Placerville,” published by the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce

The boundaries of El Dorado Hills are difficult to define with precision, because they have not been designated through a city incorporation process. The community is often defined as “the homes and businesses served by the El Dorado Hills Community Services District,” but people sometimes also include additional “areas of influence.”

The Sacramento county line is a definitive community boundary to the west.

Climate

In El Dorado Hills, the hottest month is July and the coldest is January. The average maximum temperature for July is about 95 degrees, and for January it is 54 degrees.

December is the month with the lowest average minimum temperature: a little over 35 degrees.

The average yearly rainfall is about 26.6 inches. The maximum yearly rainfall¹ is about 41.9 inches. The wettest month is January, with about 5.5 inches on average.

1. That is, the single year of heaviest rainfall on record.

Some frost is common in the winter months, but it rarely snows in El Dorado Hills.

The prevailing winds are southerly except in November, when they are northerly. The northerly winds can be very dry.

The nearest climatological stations are at Folsom Dam (northwest of El Dorado Hills) and Lehman Ranch (southeast of El Dorado Hills).

Population

The population of El Dorado Hills was “a mere handful” of people in 1963, 10,500 in 1990, and about 21,000 today.

The current growth rate is about 1,000 people per year. Approximately 350 new housing units are completed every year.

The ultimate population of El Dorado Hills is estimated to be at least 60,000.

According to a report written by consulting organizations EDAW and Economic Planning Systems Inc. and presented to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors in March 2000, El Dorado Hills will probably have nearly twice as many people employed by local businesses as Placerville (41,000 vs. 21,000) by the year 2025.

Government structure

El Dorado Hills is an unincorporated community in El Dorado County.² The community is represented by three supervisors on the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors (see “El Dorado County Board of Supervisors” on page 74 for the names of the current supervisors and how to contact them).

Community services are provided by either El Dorado County or the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD), which was created by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on May 21, 1962.

El Dorado County provides the following services to El Dorado Hills:

- Police and fire services
- Vector control (control of diseases that are carried from one organism to another—for example, mosquito abatement programs would be part of a typical vector control organization)

2. El Dorado County has only two incorporated cities: Placerville and South Lake Tahoe.

- Animal control
- Library services



Robert B. Cima Memorial Fire Station on Francisco Drive

The CSD provides:

- Treated water, recycled water, and sewer services
- Park, recreation, and open space services
- Enforcement of CC&Rs (through its Design Review Board), once a development is built out
- Management of street lighting and landscaping
- Garbage collection (contracted out to a private franchise)
- Cable TV services (contracted out to a private franchise)

For more information about the CSD and the celebration marking its 40 years of service to El Dorado Hills, see “Fortieth anniversary celebration” on page 82.

Villages

El Dorado Hills is informally divided into villages, which were established at the time the homes in a particular area were built.³ Current villages in El Dorado Hills are listed below.

Villages north of Green Valley Road:

- Arroyo Visa
- Green Valley Acres
- Lake Hills Estates (also known as Lake Village or Hills of El Dorado)
- Marina Village
- Oak Creek Hills
- Summit Village
- Waterford Village

Villages between Green Valley Road and Highway 50, and east of El Dorado Hills Boulevard:

- Green Ranch
- Highland Village
- Oak Tree Village
- St. Andrews Village
- Stonegate Village
- The Serrano development, including villages A, B, D1, D2, D3, H, I, J, K1, K2, K3, K4, L, and M1

Villages between Green Valley Road and Highway 50, and west of El Dorado Hills Boulevard:

- Crown Village
- Franciscan Village
- Governor Village
- La Cresta
- Lakeridge Oaks
- Park Village
- Ridgeview Village

3. For information about the village concept, see “The original vision” on page 170.

Villages (or “areas”) south of Highway 50 (not served by the El Dorado Hills Community Services District):

- Clarksville
- Springfield Meadows, which has its own Community Services District (Web site: www.smcsd.org)

The following developments are reviewed by the El Dorado Hills CSD Design Review Board (DRB).

- Arroyo Del Rio Bass
- Copper Hills Apartments
- Crescent Hills
- Crescent Ridge
- Crown Valley
- Crown
- Equestrian
- Fairchild
- Francisco Oaks
- Governors West
- Green Valley Hills
- Hills of El Dorado (also known as Bass Lake)
- La Cresta (excluding Lots 233 to 246)
- Marina
- Marina Woods
- Oakridge
- Park (units 1 through 7, excluding 2)
- Parkview Heights
- Rancho Dorado
- Ridgeview East
- Ridgeview Equestrian
- Ridgeview Village Estates
- Sterling Ranch
- Stonegate Village
- Stoneridge
- Windsor Point

- Winterhaven
- Woodridge (amenities only)

Frequently asked questions

This section contains some common misconceptions and frequently asked questions about El Dorado Hills.

Isn't El Dorado Hills incorporated?

No, El Dorado Hills is an unincorporated community, although there have been recent efforts to incorporate.⁴

Most of El Dorado Hills' community services (like garbage collection, cable TV, street lightings, and recreation services) are supplied by the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD).

Fire and police services are supplied by El Dorado County.

For more information about how El Dorado County is governed and who supplies community services, see "Government structure" on page 21.

Isn't El Dorado Hills in Sacramento County?

No, although El Dorado Hills is close to the Sacramento County line, it is completely within El Dorado County, which stretches to the east all the way to South Lake Tahoe and the Nevada state line.

What is the telephone area code for El Dorado Hills?

The area code for El Dorado Hills is 916. Downtown Sacramento and other parts of the Sacramento metropolitan area are also in the 916 area code.

To the north and east of us is the 530 area code. To the south is 209.

We are fortunate that Folsom and Sacramento share our area code, but it is a source of annoyance to many El Dorado Hills residents that Cameron Park and Placerville do not. As new residents soon discover, calls to many El Dorado County offices are long distance.

4. For more information about the incorporation effort, see "Incorporation" on page 271.

What is the zip code for El Dorado Hills?

The zip code for the entire community—including post office boxes rented in the El Dorado Hills Post Office on Post Street south of Highway 50—is 95762.

Does El Dorado Hills have its own school district?

No, El Dorado Hills public K-12 schools are in three different districts: El Dorado Union High School District, Rescue Union School District, and Buckeye Union School District. These districts already existed when real estate development began in El Dorado Hills in the late 1950s.

For more information about the schools in El Dorado Hills, see “Schools and other educational organizations” on page 42.

Do the schools in El Dorado Hills all follow the same schedule?

No, even within a given district the schedules may not be the same. Some schools follow a year-round schedule, and some are on a traditional calendar.

The list of schools in “Schools and other educational organizations” on page 42 tells which are which. For additional information, contact the relevant district.

What is the boundary line between the two elementary school districts serving El Dorado Hills?

The approximate boundary follows the same north-south line as the tall electrical lines that bisect El Dorado Hills. These lines are near Appian Way on the east side of town and between Crown and Governor drives on the west side of town.

For more precise information, contact the Buckeye or Rescue school districts. Phone numbers and Web sites for the districts are listed in “Schools and other educational organizations” on page 42.

How many builders are currently working in El Dorado Hills?

There are three production-home builders working in The Promontory, 9 in Serrano, and many others building both production and custom homes elsewhere in El Dorado Hills. For a partial list, and how to get more information, see “Real estate organizations” on page 70.

What is the “yellow house controversy” all about?

Because the “yellow house” controversy (see “The infamous yellow house controversy.” on page 58) has gotten so much press coverage, many people outside the area (and as far away as Europe) have heard about our CC&Rs and the Design Review Board (DRB) that enforces many of them in the community.

The Community Services District (CSD) got CC&R authority through Ballot Measure B, which was approved by voters in 1983.

The CSD has produced a pamphlet explaining its enforcement role. For more information, contact the El Dorado Hills CSD at 933-6624.

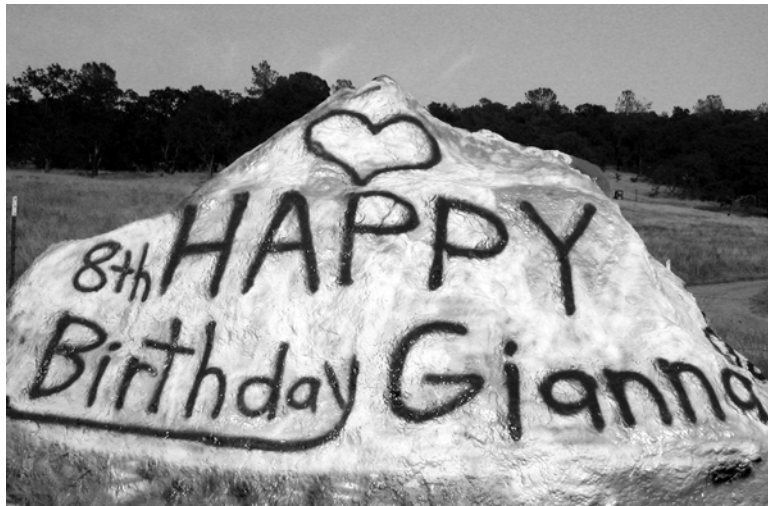
What are the El Dorado Hills rocks and who owns them?

The rocks, which are located on the east side of El Dorado Hills Boulevard, near Wilson Drive, started out as one rock—a community bulletin board of sorts with painted messages ranging from “Still One Nation Under God” to “Happy Sweet 16th Birthday, Mary Ann.”

A controversy erupted when some patriotic members of the community “co-opted” (in the eyes of the students who tend to post the most messages) the rock for September 11-type slogans.

A truce was reached when a second rock was brought in to supplement the original one.

The community takes a *laissez faire* attitude to ownership and control of the rocks.



One of the El Dorado Hills rocks

Breakouts soccer team and the El Dorado Hills rock. A photo in the August 28, 2002 edition of *Village Life* showed the Breakouts soccer team gathered around the rock, which had been freshly painted with a “Go Breakouts” sign. The accompanying text explained that the “rock run” is a Breakouts tradition—they run from the El Dorado Hills Golf Course to the rock, where they paint the team’s name, pose for photos, and then run on to their practice field.

Is El Dorado Hills as hot as “they say” it is during the summer?

In July and August, the weather is not only hot (with a number of days over 100 degrees), but it also can be smoggy.⁵

Longtime local residents claim the worst weather months are August and January (when winter winds and rain can be fierce).

In general, the weather is simply somewhat less temperate than the Bay Area, where many new residents of El Dorado Hills come from. Most newcomers, wherever they come from, seem to adapt after a single season.

Are there a lot of wild animals around the newly developed areas of El Dorado Hills?

Usually people who ask this question are particularly worried about snakes (especially rattlesnakes).

Yes, rattlesnakes sometimes do appear uninvited in back yards (or even garages), but certainly not all year. They seem to first appear in late April or May, and they aren’t nearly as visible from late summer on (and probably not at all during the winter months).

Some non-poisonous snakes also sometimes make an appearance—these include gopher snakes and whipsnakes.

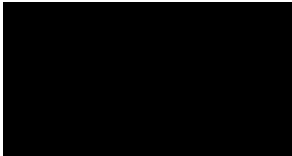
Other birds and animals sometimes spotted in the area include deer, jackrabbits, river otters, coyotes, wild turkeys, hawks, herons, and bitterns.

Mountain lions and bears are rare, but they have been seen recently near homes in the El Dorado Hills area.

5. For more information about air pollution, see “Air pollution” on page 261.



Whipsnake (non-poisonous snake) on a hiking path in El Dorado Hills



CHAPTER 3

Community Resources

Emergency services	35
Utilities	37
Newspapers and other periodicals	38
<i>Newspapers</i>	38
<i>Other periodicals</i>	41
Schools and other educational organizations	42
<i>K-12 public schools and district offices</i>	42
<i>Private schools</i>	46
<i>Other educational organizations</i>	47
Parks and swimming pools	48
Libraries	53
Airports	55
Other services and agencies	56
Museums, historical sites, and historical associations	60
Other points of interest	64
Commercial organizations and enterprises	67
Real estate organizations	70
Contacting your government representatives	74

<i>El Dorado Hills Community Services District</i>	74
<i>El Dorado County Board of Supervisors</i>	74
<i>State assemblyman</i>	74
<i>State senator</i>	75
<i>Governor</i>	75
<i>U. S. representative</i>	75
<i>U. S. senators</i>	76
<i>President</i>	76
Registering to vote	77
For more information	78
<i>Maps</i>	78
<i>Books, pamphlets</i>	79

Emergency services

Table 1 lists emergency services available in the El Dorado Hills area. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

In a life-threatening emergency, always call 911 first.

Table 1. Emergency services

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Emergency services (all are supplied by El Dorado County)		
Animal Control	Placerville: Coolwater Creek Road	530-621-5795
Fire Department	El Dorado Hills Boulevard at Lassen Lane	933-6623
Sheriff	Placerville: Fair Lane	530-621-5655 www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/sheriff
Sheriff (Local Substation)	El Dorado Hills Boulevard at Governor Drive	933-2578
Hospitals		
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center	Folsom: Iron Point Road	Information: 817-5200 www.kaiserpermanente.org Closest office to El Dorado Hills. No emergency services available.
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center	Roseville: Eureka Road	Advice: 784-4050 Emergency services available.
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center	Rancho Cordova: International Drive and Morse Avenue	Advice: 631-3040 Emergency services available on Morse Avenue.
Marshall Hospital	Placerville	530-622-1441 www.marshallhospital.org
Mercy Hospital	Folsom	983-7400 www.mercysacramento.org
Mercy General Hospital	Sacramento	453-4545 www.mercysacramento.org
Sutter General Hospital	Sacramento	454-2222 or 800-478-8837 www.go.sutterhealth.org
Sutter Memorial Hospital	Sacramento	454-3333 or 800-478-8837 www.go.sutterhealth.org



Firefighters and fire truck at Station 84 on Francisco Drive

New fire station targeted to begin construction in spring 2003. According to an August 14, 2002 article in *Village Life*, the fire department's board of directors voted on July 31 to move forward with a new fire station and administrative center on El Dorado Hills Boulevard across from Wilson Boulevard. The new station, which will cost approximately \$5 million, will replace the station now located at the corner of Lassen Lane and El Dorado Hills Boulevard.

Utilities

Table 2 lists local and regional utilities serving the El Dorado Hills area. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 2. Utilities

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Cable (AT&T Broadband) Franchisee for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District.		888-262-6300 www.attbroadband.com
Broadband Internet (AT&T Broadband) Franchisee for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District.		888-262-6300 www.attbroadband.com
DSL (Pacific Bell)		800-609-7030 www.pacbell.com
Garbage collection (Waste Management, El Dorado Disposal) Franchisee for the El Dorado Hills Community Services District.		530-626-4141
Gas and electric service (PG&E)		800-743-5000 www.pge.com
Phone service (Pacific Bell)		800-310-2355 www.pacbell.com
Satellite service (DirecTV)		800-347-5288 www.directv.com
Water and sewer (El Dorado Irrigation District)	Placerville: Mosquito Road	530-622-4513 www.eid.org

Recognition of El Dorado Hills' growth and influence. The *old* SBC Pacific Bell phone book (July 2001 edition) was titled "Fair Oaks, Folsom & Roseville" and in fine print, "El Dorado Hills, Orangevale, Citrus Heights and Antelope." However, the *new* phone book (July 2002) illustrates recognition of El Dorado Hills' growth and increasing influence in the greater Sacramento area: the title is now "Fair Oaks, Folsom & El Dorado Hills," with Roseville shoved down into the fine print.

Note: The other phone book used by El Dorado Hills residents is titled "El Dorado Area" and is published by TransWestern Publishing.

Newspapers and other periodicals

Newspapers

Table 3 lists local and regional newspapers. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 3. Local and regional newspapers

Name, publishing information	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Local Newspapers		
<i>Village Life</i> Published every Wednesday by Life Newspapers, LLC, a member of the McNaughton newspaper family.	Governor Drive	933-9001 Publisher: James Webb. General Manager: Allison C. Perkes. Editor: Leslie Shirley Vandever.
<i>El Dorado Hills Telegraph</i> Published every Wednesday by Gold Country Media.	Folsom: Natoma Street	985-2581 www.thefolsomtelegraph.com Publisher: Wendy Davidson. Editor: Gloria Beverage.
Regional Newspapers		
<i>Mountain Democrat</i> Published Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. A McNaughton newspaper.	Placerville: Broadway	530-622-1255 www.mtdemocrat.com Publisher: James C. Webb. Editor: Michael E. Raffety. For information about the history of the Mountain Democrat, see "Placerville" on page 228.
<i>Sacramento Bee</i> Published daily. A McClatchy newspaper.	Sacramento	321-1000 www.sacbee.com Publisher: Janis Besler Heaphy. Editor: Rick Rodriguez.

History of *Village Life*. El Dorado Hills’ *Village Life* newspaper began as a newsletter published by the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) and called “Voice of the Villages.”

The newsletter (a monthly publication) contained items like minutes of CSD meetings, schedules of activities sponsored by the CSD, community news, and public service announcements. It also contained advertising by local businesses.

The first editor was Velma Gambles, the second full-time CSD employee. Gambles also wrote articles and produced the newsletter using a hand-cranked mimeograph machine.

In 1994, the CSD hired Kari Wise to publish the newsletter. The CSD retained the name “Voice of the Villages,” and the new newspaper was called *Village Life*.

In 1997, Wise sold *Village Life* to McNaughton Newspapers, publishers of the *Placerville Mountain Democrat* and other newspapers in the Sacramento and Davis areas. *Village Life* became a weekly paper.

Leslie Shirley Vandever, the current editor of *Village Life*, was hired into that position in 1998.

Alison Perkes is the general manager of Life Newspapers, which also includes *Cameron Park Life*.

Village Life is delivered to every home in the El Dorado Hills 95762 zip code. The paper is also available for free pick-up in several locations around El Dorado Hills. Circulation is 9,400.



Mountain Democrat

Other periodicals

Table 4 lists other local and regional periodicals. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 4. Other periodicals

Name, publishing information	Location	Phone, URL, notes
<i>Around Here Magazine</i> Published quarterly by WestWord. Covers the western Sierra hills of El Dorado County.	Shingle Springs	530-676-4373 www.aroundheremagazine.com
<i>California Journal</i> Monthly analysis of politics and government. Published by StateNet.	Sacramento: K Street	444-2840 www.statenet.com/news/calj
<i>Comstock's Business</i> Published by Comstock Publishing Inc.	Sacramento	www.comstocksbusiness.com
<i>El Dorado County Farm Trails</i> Published by the El Dorado County Farm Trails Association.	Placerville	530-647-2363 www.edc-farmtrails.org
<i>El Dorado County Visitors' Guide</i> Published by the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce.	Placerville	800-457-6279 www.eldoradocounty.org
<i>El Dorado Hills Chamber 2002 Member Directory</i> Published by the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce.	Governor Drive	933-1335 www.eldoradohillschamber.org
<i>Sacramento Business Journal</i> Published by American City Business Journals, Inc.	Sacramento	447-7661 www.bizjournals.com/sacramento
<i>Sacramento Magazine</i> Published monthly by Sacramento Magazines Corporation.	Sacramento	800-588-1684 www.sacmag.com

Schools and other educational organizations

K-12 public schools and district offices

Table 5 on page 43 lists K-12 public schools and other educational organizations in and around El Dorado Hills. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.



Marina Village Middle School (in the Rescue District)

Table 5. K-12 public schools and district offices

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Rescue Union School District (K-8, serves the north side of El Dorado Hills)		
Rescue Union School District	Rescue: Bass Lake Road	933-0129 www.rescue.k12.ca.us
Jackson Elementary School Traditional-year school.	Francisco Drive	933-1828
Lake Forest Elementary School Year-round school.	Salisbury Drive	933-0653
Marina Village Middle School Year-round school.	Francisco Drive	933-3993
Buckeye Union School District (K-8, serves the south side of El Dorado Hills)		
Buckeye Union School District A challenge district.	Shingle Springs	985-2183 www.buckeye.k12.ca.us
Oak Meadow Elementary School	Silva Valley Parkway near Serrano Parkway	Targeted to open July 2003. Contact the Buckeye School District for more information.
Rolling Hills Middle School Year-round school.	Silva Valley Parkway at Harvard Way	933-9290 http://buckeye.k12.ca.us/rollingh/rhhome.htm
Silva Valley Year Round Elementary School Year-round school.	Golden Eagle Lane at Silva Valley Parkway	933-3767 http://buckeye.k12.ca.us/silva
William Brooks Elementary School Traditional-year school.	Park Drive	933-6618 http://buckeye.k12.ca.us/brooks/brooks.html
High schools (9-12)		
El Dorado Union High School District	Placerville: Missouri Flat Road	530-622-5081 www.eduhsd.k12.ca.us
Independence Continuation High School	Diamond Springs: Pleasant Valley Road	622-7090
Oak Ridge High School Traditional-year school.	Harvard Way	933-6980 ig2.eduhsd.k12.ca.us
Shenandoah High School Charter school. School-based learning with real-world experiences.	El Dorado: Koki Lane	530-622-6212 ig2.eduhsd.k12.ca.us/shenandoah/shenandoah.html

K-12 schools testing and ranking information. California public schools have been ranked yearly since Proposition 98 (Classroom Instructional Accountability and Improvement Act) passed in 1988. Sample “report card” information for three schools is listed below; for complete information for all the schools in the El Dorado Hills area, see the California Department of Education’s “star” site (or contact the school districts listed in Table 5 on page 43):

<http://star.cde.ca.gov>

Sample scores (2001 data):

Oak Ridge High School received the highest ranking statewide from the California API, placing it among the top 10% of all California high schools.

Rolling Hills Middle School was named a California Distinguished School, placing it among the top 7% of all California middle schools

Silva Valley Year Round Elementary School received the highest ranking statewide from the California API, placing it among the top 10% of all California elementary schools.



Silva Valley Elementary School (in the Buckeye district)



Oak Meadow Elementary School (In the Buckeye district, targeted to open 2003)

Private schools

Table 6 lists private schools in and around El Dorado Hills. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 6. Private schools

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Children's World Learning Centers	Francisco Drive	941-0358 www.childrensworld.com
Community Services District Preschool (Kids Korner)	Harvard Way	933-4540
Golden Hills School (K-8)	Suncast Lane	933-8413 www.ghs.edu
KinderCare Learning Center	Raley's Shopping Center off El Dorado Hills Boulevard	939-0391 Serves infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarteners. Also provides after-school care.
La Petite Preschool	Golden Foothills Parkway	933-5726
Montessori Manor	Francisco Drive	933-2420
The Phoenix Schools	Robert J. Mathews Parkway	933-7308
St. Stephen's Child Development Center	Olson Lane	933-3714

Other educational organizations

Table 7 lists other educational organizations in and around El Dorado Hills. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 7. Other educational organizations

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
State Department of Education		
California State Department of Education Public school testing and ranking results are available from the “star” site, and also from the individual schools listed in “K-12 public schools and district offices” on page 42.	Sacramento: Along the American River near the Howe Avenue interchange on Highway 50	319-0791 http://star.cde.ca.gov www.cde.ca.gov
County Office of Education		
El Dorado County Office of Education	Placerville: Green Valley Road	530-622-7130 www.edcoe.k12.ca.us
Cosumnes River College (community college)		
El Dorado Center	Placerville: Campus Drive	530-642-5644 www.crc.losrios.edu
Folsom Lake College Center	Folsom: Clarksville Road	608-6500 www.flc.losrios.edu
California State University		
California State University at Sacramento (CSUS)	Sacramento: Howe Avenue	278-6011 www.csus.edu

Parks and swimming pools

Table 8 lists public parks and swimming pools in El Dorado Hills (all are managed by the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) unless otherwise indicated). Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

A list of parks and their amenities is available from the CSD Web site at www.edhcsd.org/parks/amen/amen.htm.

Table 8. Parks and swimming pools

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Parks north of Green Valley Road		
Waterford Park	Waterford Village, Carnelian Circle at Bairsley Place	
Parks between Green Valley Road and Highway 50, east of El Dorado Hills Boulevard		
Allan H. Lindsey Park	Serrano development: Silva Parkway at Entrada Street	
Art Weisberg Park	Corner of Francisco and Pendleton drives	
Bass Lake Field	Bass Lake Road	Access by permit only. For information about the proposed Bass Lake Regional Park, see "Bass Lake Regional Park." on page 51.
Brooks Gym	William Brooks Elementary School, Park Drive	
El Dorado Hills Archery Range	El Dorado Hills Boulevard between Woedee Drive and Wilson Drive	Privately-controlled facility.
El Dorado Hills Community Park	El Dorado Hills Boulevard between St. Andrews Drive and Harvard Way	
Jackson School	Jackson Elementary School, Francisco Drive	Exercise track.
New York Creek Nature Trail	Southern end begins/ends in the Com- munity Park along Harvard Way across from Oak Ridge High School. Northern end begins/ends near Art Weisberg Park.	
Oak Knoll Park	Hills of El Dorado subdivision, Alyssum Circle off Bass Lake Road	
Overlook Park	Green Valley Hills Village, Kensington Drive off Sebastian Court	

Table 8. Parks and swimming pools

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
St. Andrews Park	El Dorado Hills Boulevard at Francisco Drive	
Village Green Park	Serrano development, Serrano Parkway at Silva Valley Parkway	
Parks between Green Valley Road and Highway 50, west of El Dorado Hills Boulevard		
Bertelsen Park	Park Village, Arrowhead Drive and Redwood Lane	
Kalitheia Park	Gillett Drive at Powers Drive	
Parkview Heights Park	Parkview Heights, Governor and Ridgeview Drives	
Reid White Memorial Ponds at Governor Park	Governor Village, Governor Drive and Merriman Lane	Formerly Duck Ponds Park.
Ridgeview Park	Ridgeview Village, Ridgeview Drive between Patterson Way and Glen Ridge Way	
Ridgeview Unit 7 Park	Ridgeview Village, Powers Drive and Julie Ann Way	
Steven Harris Park	St. Andrews Village, Tam O'Shanter Drive	Formerly Tennis Court Park.
Wild Oaks Park	El Dorado Hills Boulevard between Francisco Drive and Brittany Way	
William C. McCabe Memorial Softball Field	Park Village, adjacent to William Brooks Elementary School, Redwood Lane	Formerly Bertelsen Field.
Swimming pool		
El Dorado Hills Community Pool	El Dorado Hills Boulevard at Harvard Way	933-4579



El Dorado Hills soccer players
(photo courtesy of Serrano Associates)

Sports programs in El Dorado Hills. Sports programs (particularly soccer, baseball, and basketball) are very popular in El Dorado Hills.

The El Dorado Youth Soccer League Web site is www.eldoradoysl.com.

For more information about soccer or other sports programs, contact the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) recreation number at 614-3216, or one of the schools or school districts listed in “Schools and other educational organizations” on page 42.

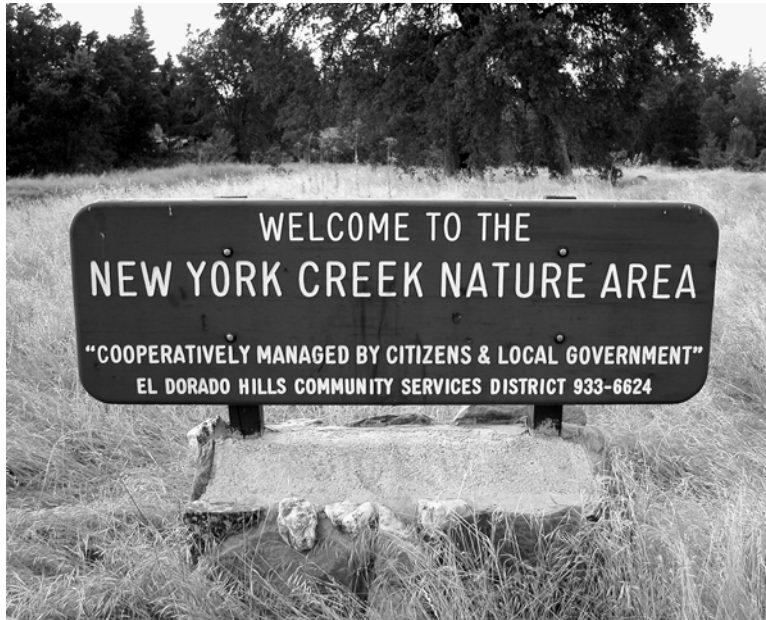


Play equipment in Kalitheia Park

Skatepark planned for summer 2003. According to an October 9, 2002 article in *Village Life*, the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD) plans to construct a skatepark in the community park north of the CSD offices.

Bass Lake Regional Park. A December 26, 2001 article in the *El Dorado Hills Telegraph* described (and included a preliminary master plan for) a proposed 41-acre Bass Lake Regional Park. The project was subsequently approved by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, and plans for the park are being refined.

Future work in the Bass Lake area will also include a realignment of the northern part of the road, and a connection between the north end of Serrano Parkway and Bass Lake Road. Bass Lake Road will connect to Green Valley Road in a different place: just east of the new middle school in the Rescue District.



Entrance to the New York Creek Nature Trail

The Jedediah Smith bike trail. The Jedediah Smith bike trail is one of the most popular places in the area around El Dorado Hills for walking, jogging, rollerblading, and biking, especially on the weekends. The trail runs from Folsom (Rainbow Bridge area) to Sacramento (Discovery Park)—a total of about 33 miles. The trail follows the American River and crosses it at several points.

Libraries

Table 9 lists local and regional libraries. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 9. Libraries

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
California State Library	Sacramento: N Street, Capitol area	654-0183 www.library.ca.gov
El Dorado County: Main branch	Placerville: Fair Lane	530-621-5540 www.eldoradolibrary.org
El Dorado County: Cameron Park branch	Cameron Park: Country Club Drive	530-621-5500 www.eldoradolibrary.org
El Dorado County: El Dorado Hills branch	Oak Ridge High School: Harvard Way	933-6982 www.eldoradolibrary.org Librarian: Jeff Carr For information about the new El Dorado Hills Library, see below.
Friends of the Library: El Dorado Hills branch		Barbara Charleton: 933-2311
Sacramento Public Library	Sacramento: 828 I Street	264-2770 www.saclibrary.org

New El Dorado Hills library targeted to break ground in spring 2003. After many years of planning, the new El Dorado Hills branch of the El Dorado County library is targeted to break ground in spring 2003. Plans for the library have been reported in all the local and regional newspapers, including a July 10, 2002 article in the *El Dorado Hills Telegraph* that shows a proposed floor plan.

The library will be located next to the Serrano Visitor's Center, which is at the corner of Silva Valley and Serrano parkways.

Until the new library is complete, the El Dorado Hills branch will continue to share space with the Oak Ridge High School Library, on Harvard Way.

For more information about construction plans, contact the Friends of the Library organization, which is listed in Table 9.



El Dorado County Library (Main branch in Placerville)

Airports

Table 10 lists local and regional airports. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 10. Airports

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Cameron Park Airpark	Cameron Park	676-8316 Private airport. North-south runway 4,000 feet long. Elevation approximately 1,300 feet.
Mather Field	Sacramento: Mather Field	366-6300 www.matherfield.com Air cargo, business and corporate jets.
Sacramento Executive Airport	Sacramento: Freeport Boulevard	875-9035 General aviation, used by private and corporate aircraft.
Sacramento International Airport (SMF)	Sacramento: On the north-east side off Interstate 5	929-5411 http://airports.saccounty.net Major commercial flights.
Georgetown Airport	Georgetown	530-333-0810 www.usneighbor.org/georgetownairport Community airport. North-south runway 3,000 feet long. Elevation 2,600 feet.
Placerville Airport	Placerville: Airport Road	530-622-1125 Community airport. East-west runway 4,200 feet long. Elevation approximately 2,600 feet.
South Lake Tahoe Airport	South Lake Tahoe	530-542-6180 www.laketahoeairport.com Community airport with some commercial flights. North-south runway 8,500 feet long. Elevation 6,300 feet.

Other services and agencies

Table 11 lists other services and agencies (governmental and non-governmental). Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 11. Other services and agencies

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
U. S. Government services		
United States Post Office	Post Street	800-275-8777
California state agencies and services		
Caltrans (District 3 Traffic Operations)		530-741-4211 www.dot.ca.gov/dist3 Comprises 11 counties in Northern California.
California State Department of Motor Vehicles	Folsom, Placerville	800-777-0133 www.dmv.ca.gov
Regional agencies and services		
Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)	Sacramento: S Street	457-2264 www.sacog.org Regional planning and transportation agency for El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties.
1800commute.org		www.1800commute.org Online ride matching. Sponsored by SACOG.
50corridor.com	Folsom: Turnpike Drive	www.50corridor.com Works with communities and businesses along the 50 corridor to improve the commute now and beyond the three-year construction period. Also provides information about construction progress.
El Dorado County agencies and services		
El Dorado County government offices general information	Placerville	www.co.el-dorado.ca.us Information about specific parcels of properties is available from this site.
Assessor	Placerville: Fair Lane	530-621-5719
Better Business Bureau		443-6843

Table 11. Other services and agencies

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Board of Supervisors Board members representing El Dorado Hills are Helen Baumann, Rusty Dupray, and Charlie Paine.	Placerville: Fair Lane	530-621-5390 For more information, see “El Dorado County Board of Supervisors” on page 74.
Building Department	Placerville: Fair Lane	530-621-5315
Department of Transportation	Placerville: Fair Lane	530-621-5900 Operates and maintains roads in the unincorporated portions of the county. Plans, designs, and constructs new roads and bike lanes.
General Services	Placerville: Fair Lane	621-5846
Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Roseanne Chamberlain was the executive officer working with the El Dorado Hills incorporation committee.	Placerville: Fair Lane	530-621-5322 For more information about the incorporation effort, see “Incorporation” on page 271.
Planning Department	Placerville: Fair Lane	530-621-5355 Responsible for the El Dorado County General Plan.
Recycling Hotline		800-404-7329
Road Conditions Hotline		800-427-7623
Tax Collector	Placerville: Fair Lane	530-621-5800
Transportation Commission	Placerville: Fair Lane	530-642-5260 www.edctc.org Coordinates regional transportation planning and programs for the western slope of the county and the city of Placerville.
Local agencies and services (official)		

Table 11. Other services and agencies

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD)	Harvard Way at El Dorado Hills Boulevard	Administration: 933-6624 Recreation: 614-3216 www.edhcsd.org General manager: Wayne Lowery.
El Dorado Hills Farmers Market Generally held Thursday mornings, June - September.	El Dorado Hills Boulevard between Harvard and St. Andrews Drive	530-622-1900 www.edc-certifiedfarmersmarkets.org Sponsored by the El Dorado Hills Community Services District.
Regional and local agencies, services, and organizations (advisory or informal)		
El Dorado Hills Area Planning Advisory Council		933-2730
El Dorado Hills Community Council		933-2730
El Dorado Hills Community Vision, Inc.		Charles ("Buzz") Nunn: 933-1401
El Dorado Hills Incorporation Committee		John Hidahl: 933-2703
eldoradohills.net		www.eldoradohills.net Contains contact information for various community organizations.
El Dorado Hills Planning Advisory Council		Norb Witt: 939-6666
El Dorado Hills Preservation Society		John Allen: 933-5462

The infamous yellow house controversy. In 2002, El Dorado Hills was “in the news” with the story of a yellow house, cited by the Design Review Board of the Community Services District for being painted an “unsuitable” color.

Homeowner Michelle Valencia in Crown Village was forced to paint her house before being granted permission to put on a new roof.

The controversy riled up many local residents and brought in some unwanted publicity for El Dorado Hills when the regional and national press picked up the story and used it to poke fun at communities who have what many people perceived as “silly” CC&R rules and regulations.



Some of the offices in the El Dorado County Government Center



Community Development Center in the El Dorado County government complex

Museums, historical sites, and historical associations

Table 12 lists museums, historical sites, and historical associations in and around El Dorado Hills. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 12. Museums, historical sites, and historical associations

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
B.F. Hastings Museum	Sacramento: 2nd and J Streets	445-4209
Big Four Building	Sacramento: I Street, Old Sacramento	445-6645
California Military Museum	Sacramento: Second Street, Old Town	442-2883 www.militarymuseum.org
California State Archives	Sacramento: O Street	653-7715 www.ss.ca.gov
California State Indian Museum	Sacramento: 27th and K streets	324-0971
California State Railroad Museum	Sacramento: 2nd and I streets, Old Town	Recorded information: 445-6645 Office: 445-7387 www.csrnf.org
Central Pacific Railroad Passenger Station	Sacramento: Front Street, Old Town	Recorded information: 445-6645 www.csrnf.org Reconstruction of Sacramento's 1876 depot.
Crocker Art Museum	Sacramento: O Street	264-5423
Discovery Museum History Center	Sacramento: I Street, Old Town	264-7057 www.thediscovery.org
Discovery Museum Science & Space Center	Sacramento: Auburn Boulevard	575-3941 www.thediscovery.org
Eagle Theatre	Sacramento: Front Street, Old Town	866-240-4655 www.csrnf.org www.parks.ca.gov Reconstruction of California's first public theater, originally built in 1849.
El Dorado County Historical Museum	Placerville: Placerville Drive next to the county fairgrounds	530-621-5865
Folsom History Museum	Folsom: Sutter Street	985-2707

Table 12. Museums, historical sites, and historical associations

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Folsom Powerhouse State Historic Park	Folsom: Greenback Lane at Riley Street, south side of the American River	988-0205
Folsom Prison Museum	Folsom Prison off Natoma Street	985-2561 x4589
Fountain & Tallman Soda Factory Museum	Placerville: Main Street	530-626-0773
Gold Bug Park	Placerville: Gold Bug Lane	530-642-5207 www.goldbugpark.org
Golden State Museum	Sacramento: 10th and O streets	653-7524 www.goldenstatemuseum.org
Governor's Mansion State Historic Park	Sacramento: 16th and H streets	445-4209 www.parks.ca.gov
Heritage Association of El Dorado County		http://spectragold.com/mission.htm
Huntington Hopkins Hardware Store	Sacramento: I Street, Old Town	
Leland Stanford Mansion	Sacramento: 8th and N streets	324-0575 www.parks.ca.gov
McClellan Aviation Museum	North Highlands: Palm Street	643-3192 www.mcclellanaviationmuseum.org
Marshall Gold Discovery State Park	Coloma	530-622-3470 www.parks.ca.gov
Old Chinatown (Sacramento)	Sacramento: 3rd and 5th streets, between J & I streets	448-6465
Old Hangtown (Placerville)	Downtown Placerville	www.visit-eldorado.com/placerville.html

Table 12. Museums, historical sites, and historical associations

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Old Sacramento Schoolhouse	Sacramento: Front and L streets, Old Town	483-8818 Built in the style of one-room schools in the early 1800s.
Old Town (Folsom)	Downtown Folsom: South bank of the American River	www.historicfolsom.com
Old Town (Sacramento)	Downtown Sacramento: 2nd and K streets (visitor center)	Event hotline: 558-3912 Visitor center: 442-7644 www.oldsacramento.com
Pony Express Monument	Sacramento: 2nd and I streets	
Roseville Carnegie Museum	Roseville: Lincoln Street	773-3003 www.rosevillehistorical.org
Roseville Telephone Museum	Roseville: Vernon Street	786-1621 www.rosevilletelephone.com/museum
Sutter's Fort State Historic Park	Sacramento: L Street	445-4422 www.parks.ca.gov
Theodore Judah Monument	Sacramento: 2nd and L streets	Monument to the engineer responsible for the plan for the transcontinental railroad.
Towe Auto Museum	Sacramento: Front Street south of Old Town	442-6802
Wells Fargo History Museum	Sacramento: Wells Fargo Center, Capitol Mall	440-4161 www.wellsfargohistory.com



El Dorado County Historical Museum

Other points of interest

Table 13 lists other points of interest in and around El Dorado Hills. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 13. Other points of interest

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Golf courses		
El Dorado Hills Golf Course Public course	El Dorado Hills Boulevard at Serrano Parkway	933-6552 www.goldriver.org/edhgc
Serrano Country Club Private course	Serrano Parkway	933-5005 www.serranocountryclub.com
Note: For a complete list of golf courses in El Dorado County, contact the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce: 530-621-5885.		
Other sports facilities		
Arco Arena	Sacramento: One Sports Parkway, near the Sacramento Airport	Information: 928-0000 Box office: 928-6900 www.arcoarena.com Hosts the NBA Sacramento Kings, the WNBA Sacramento Monarchs, concerts, and family entertainment.
Popular regional attractions		
American River Conservancy Nature Center	Coloma: Highway 49	530-621-1224 www.arconservancy.org
American River Water Education Center	Folsom: Folsom Dam Road on the north side of Folsom Dam	989-7100 www.mp.usbr.gov/arwec/main.htm
California Exposition and State Fair (Cal Expo)	Sacramento: Exposition Boulevard	263-3000 www.bigfun.org www.calexpo.com
El Dorado County Fair	Placerville: Placerville Drive	530-621-5860 www.eldoradocountyfair.org
Effie Yeaw Nature Center	Carmichael: Ancil Hoffman Park, Tarses Drive	489-4918 www.effieyeaw.org
Explorit!	Davis: Davis Science Center	756-0191 www.explorit.org

Table 13. Other points of interest

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Fairytale Town	Sacramento: Sutterville Road	264-5233 or 264-7058 www.fairytaletown.org
Folsom Dam	Folsom: Folsom Dam Road	989-7275 www.parks.ca.gov
Folsom Zoo	Folsom: Natoma Street	351-3527 www.folsom.ca.us
Nimbus Fish Hatchery	Rancho Cordova: Nimbus Road, near Hazel Avenue and Highway 50	358-2884 www.dfg.ca.gov Salmon spawning happens late October - December, steelhead January - March.
Port of Sacramento	West Sacramento: Industrial Boulevard	371-8000 www.portofsacramento.com
Sacramento Southern Railroad Excursions	Sacramento: Front Street, Old Town (at the Central Pacific Railroad Freight Depot)	Recorded information: 445-6645 Office: 445-7387 www.csrmf.org
Sacramento Zoo	Sacramento: West Land Park Drive	264-5888 www.saczoo.com
Safetyville, U.S.A.	Sacramento: Bradshaw Road	366-7233 www.safetycenter.org
Popular regional activities		
Other popular activities in the El Dorado Hills area include:		
- Boating at Folsom Lake and Lake Tahoe - Rafting on the American River - Camping - Visits to orchards, farms, ranches, and Christmas tree farms in the foothills east of El Dorado Hills - Wine tasting south and east of El Dorado Hills - Skiing in the High Sierra		
For more information about recreational activities in El Dorado County, contact the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce: 530-621-5885 or the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce: 933-1335.		
The El Dorado County Visitors Authority Web site is www.visit-eldorado.com		
The El Dorado Winery Association Web site is www.eldoradowines.org		
For more information about entertainment and points of interest in the Sacramento area, go to www.sacramento.com		



El Dorado County Fairgrounds

El Dorado Hills Golf Course—Will it remain open? In February of 2002 Serrano Associates announced their intention to close El Dorado Hills Golf Course, citing as the major reasons low attendance figures⁶ and the need for expensive building and landscaping renovations.

Public protest, including the formation of a “Save the Golf Course” committee, convinced Serrano to keep the course open through 2003, but a July 17 article in *Village Life* reported that play was still declining. Serrano Associates continues to explore additional funding sources.

6. In 1990, 82,000 rounds of golf were played at the course; 40,000 was the expected number in 2002.

Commercial organizations and enterprises

Table 14 lists local and regional commercial organizations and enterprises. Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 14. Commercial organizations and enterprises

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Chambers of commerce		
El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce	Placerville: Main Street	621-5885 www.eldoradocounty.org Executive director: Laurel Brent-Bumb.
Cameron Park / Shingle Springs Chamber of Commerce	Cameron Park	530-677-8000 www.sscpchamber.org Executive director: Carolyn Doty.
El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce	El Dorado Hills Boulevard at Governor Drive	933-1335 www.eldoradohillschamber.org Executive director: Debbie Manning.
Other commercial organizations		
El Dorado Hills Business Park Developer: Cemo Commercial	South of Highway 50 along the west side of Latrobe Road	933-2300 www.cemocom.com/eldorado.html

Table 14. Commercial organizations and enterprises

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Fabulous Fifty Marketing Council		481-6509 Promotes the businesses, lifestyle, and growth of the region along Sacramento's Highway 50 corridor.
Marble Valley Regional Center for the Arts	Bass Lake Road south of Highway 50	530-642-2431 www.marblevalleycenter.org
Local Shopping Centers		
Governor Village Center	El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Governor Drive	
La Borgata at Serrano	El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Park Drive	Scheduled to open fall/winter 2002-03.
Lake Forest Plaza	Green Valley Road and Francisco Drive	
Raley's Center	El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Park Drive	
Town Center	Just south of Highway 50 on Latrobe Road	
The Village	Embarcadero Drive at Green Valley Road and Francisco Drive	
Village Plaza	El Dorado Hills Boulevard and St. Andrews Place	

Lumber in El Dorado Hills?! The casual driver out touring the area south of the El Dorado Hills Business Park would probably not notice a road turning to the west leading to . . . nothing visible from Latrobe Road. But hidden below low hills is the Wetsel-Oviatt Lumber Company—an organization that is often mentioned in local and regional newspapers. The company was founded in 1939 by Cecil Wetsel, Sr. and his partner, Glenn Oviatt.

In the fall of 2002, Cecil Wetsel, Jr., president of the company, won the California Agriculturist of the Year award from the California Exhibition and State Fair.

One of the reasons Wetsel won the award was because of the company's policies of carefully managing the timberland they control, which is located about 24 miles east of El Dorado Hills in southern El Dorado County.

Wetsel-Oviatt Lumber Company employees about 100 people.



El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce (Placerville)

Marble Valley Regional Center for the Arts. According to a recent article in *Comstock's Business*,⁷ this project was kicked off with a \$17 million donation by Thomas Kinkade (a well-known artist who was born in Placerville). The center will be located on a 22-acre property off Bass Lake Road south of Highway 50. The plan includes a 1,000-seat main theater, a smaller studio theater, and a 3,600-square foot visual arts gallery.

Marble Valley used to be the site of a lime kiln (Dixon Lime Kiln) where lime was burned to put into paint.

7. "Livin' in fields of gold," by Jennifer Corkery.

Real estate organizations

Table 15 on page 71 lists residential real estate developments, key commercial developers, real estate brokerages, and title companies with offices in El Dorado Hills. It does not include builders of custom homes.

Developments build out and new ones begin construction at a rapid rate in El Dorado Hills. For the latest information about real estate activity, contact one of the organizations listed in Table 15, or check the real estate sections of local and regional newspapers.

The following organizations provide services to new residents of El Dorado Hills:

- Welcome to El Dorado, a community welcoming service owned by May Barisone. Phone: 933-8923.
- Bright Beginnings / Briefcase Connections, owned by Susan Field. Phone: 967-7039.
- El Dorado Hills Newcomers. President: Janet Meyer, phone: 939-0423. Membership Director: Carol Upton, phone: 939-6601. Web site: www.edhnewcomers.com.

For information about the history of real estate development in El Dorado Hills, see “Real Estate Development” on page 169.

Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 15. Real estate organizations

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
New home developers and builders		
Serrano Master-planned development by Serrano Associates. Currently 9 builders are offering production homes in Serrano (for a complete list, see “Builders working in Serrano.” on page 72). For information about production or custom homesites in Serrano, contact the Serrano sales office.	Entrance: El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Serrano Parkway Sales office and visitor center: Corner of Serrano Parkway and Silva Valley Parkway	888-490-6665 www.serranoeldorado.com www.catellus.com Serrano Associates, LLC, is comprised of Parker Development Company of Sacramento and Catellus Residential Group of San Francisco.
Southpointe	Shoreline Pointe	939-4043
Stonebriar Builder: William Lyon Homes, Inc. Developments are “Casina” and “Prima.”	Entrance off White Rock Road near Latrobe Road	Casina: 941-4960 Prima: 941-6937 www.lyonhomes.com
Stonehaven at Highland View Builder: Signature Properties	Off Appian Way near Aberdeen Lane	941-1153 www.sigprop.com
The Promontory Master-planned development by AKT Development. Currently 3 builders are offering production homes in The Promontory (for a complete list, see “Builders working in The Promontory.” on page 73). Custom homesites are also available.	Entrances at Sophia Parkway off Green Valley Road and at Gillett and Powers drives	www.thepromontory.com AKT Development is owned by Angelo Tsakopoulos, a well-known Sacramento area developer and philanthropist.
Versante Builder: Lakemont Homes Active adult community.	Entrance off Lassen Lane near El Dorado Hills Boulevard	941-1551
Windsor Point	El Dorado Hills Boulevard at Green Valley Road	941-7544
Major Commercial developers		
Cemo Commercial El Dorado Hills Business Park	Robert J. Mathews Parkway	933-2300 www.cemocom.com/eldorado.html
Mansour Company Town Center	Golden Foothill Parkway	933-3013

Table 15. Real estate organizations

Name	Location	Phone, URL, notes
Real estate brokerages		
Coldwell Banker	Park Drive off El Dorado Hills Boulevard	933-1155 and 933-1400 www.coldwellbanker.com www.cbnorcal.com
Crosbie Real Estate	Golden Hills Parkway	941-9311
El Dorado County Association of Realtors, Inc.	Shingle Springs: Mother Lode Drive	933-3223
El Dorado Hills Real Estate	Lake Forest Plaza	933-0657
ERA Realty Center	El Dorado Hills Boulevard	933-4500
Lyon Realtors	Park Drive	939-5300 www.GoLyon.com
Prudential California Realty	Embarcadero Drive	530-621-2255
ReMax Gold	Embarcadero Drive	933-8700
Title Companies		
Chicago Title	Embarcadero Drive	933-6300
Fidelity National Title Company	El Dorado Hills Boulevard	939-7640
Financial Title Company	El Dorado Hills Boulevard	939-7484
First American Title Company	El Dorado Hills Boulevard	933-1711
Inter-County Title Company	El Dorado Hills Boulevard	941-8700
Old Republic Title Company	Park Drive	933-4003
Placer Title Company	El Dorado Hills Boulevard near Lassen Lane	933-4550

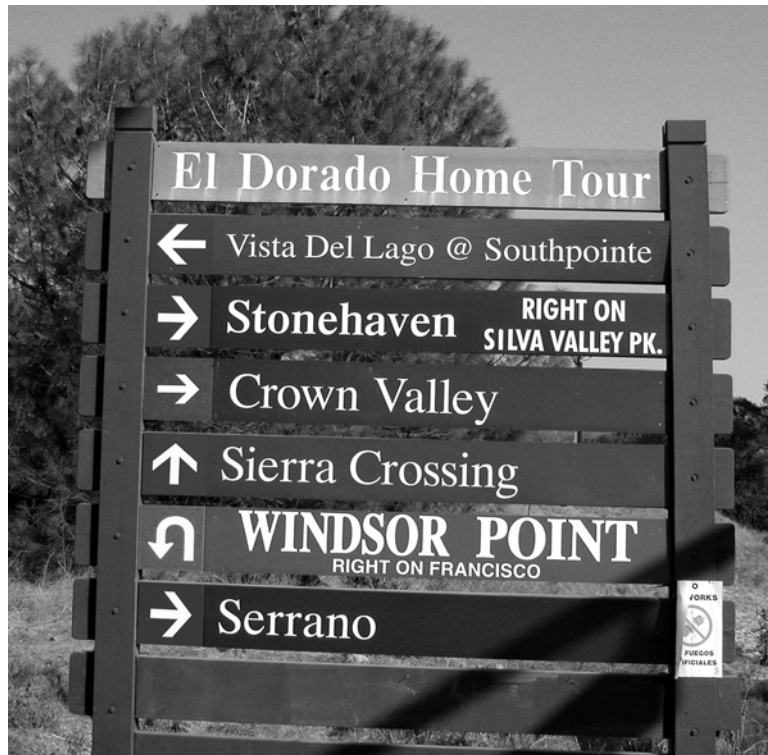
Builders working in Serrano. The following production home builders were working in Serrano as of November 2002:

- Centex Homes (Village E). Phone: 786-6100 x204.
- D. R. Horton ("Villaggio" in Village K). Phone: 941-1332.
- John Laing Homes ("Regalo" in Village I and "Tesoro" in Village K). Phone: 941-1323 for "Regalo" and 941-8174 for "Tesoro."
- JTS Communities ("Quintessence" in Village A, "The Ridge at Quintessence" in Village D2, "The Summit at Quintessence" in Village C, and also in Village E). Phone: 941-9412.
- Lucas & Mercier Development ("Montecito" in Village C). Phone: 941-0580.

- Pacific Mountain Partners (“Sierra Vista” in Village C). Phone: 934-3497.
- US Home (“Laureate” in Village D2 and “Montara” in Village E). Phone: 941-7564.
- Warmington Homes (“Montage” in Village D2 and also in Village E). Phone: 939-1839.
- Woodside Homes (“Montellago” in Village C and “Thornhill” and “Inv-erness” in Village E). Phone: 933-2277.

Builders working in The Promontory. The following production home builders were working in The Promontory as of November 2002:

- Reynen & Bardis (“Bella Lago”). Phone: 933-7650.
- US Home (“Bel Tierra”). Phone: 941-9158.
- Westwood Homes (“Bel Tierra”). Phone: 941-7667.



El Dorado Home Tour (as of October 2002, sign is on Green Valley Road)

Contacting your government representatives

This section contains information about how to contact government representatives representing the El Dorado Hills area.

El Dorado Hills Community Services District

Wayne A. Lowery, General Manager. Office: 1021 Harvard Way, El Dorado Hills 95762. Phone: 933-6624.

Email: wlowery@edhcsd.org

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Rusty Dupray. Office: 330 Fair Lane, Placerville 95667. Phone: 530-621-5650 or 800-491-6642.

Email: bosone@co.el-dorado.ca.us

Web site: www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/bos/index.html

Helen Baumann. Office: 330 Fair Lane, Placerville 95667. Phone: 530-621-5650 or 800-491-6642.

Email: bostwo@co.el-dorado.ca.us

Web site: www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/bos/index.html

Charlie Paine. Office: 330 Fair Lane, Placerville 95667. Phone: 530-621-5390 or 800-491-6642.

Note: In the November 2002 election, Paine was elected to the seat formerly held by Penny Humphreys.

Email: bosfour@co.el-dorado.ca.us

Web site: www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/bos/index.html

State assemblyman

Up until the 2001 state-wide redistricting effort, El Dorado Hills was in the 4th assembly district, represented by Tim Leslie (Republican).

Now El Dorado Hills is in the 10th district, which includes part of Sacramento County south of Highway 50, part of San Joaquin County (Lodi and the area surrounding it), and all of Amador County.

El Dorado Hills is the only community of any size in El Dorado County in the 10th district, and the district does not include any of the more heavily-populated parts of Sacramento and Placer counties.

Alan Nakanishi (Republican) won the November 2002 election, and he will be representing El Dorado Hills in the new 2003 state assembly.

State senator

Thomas “Rico” Oller (Republican), 1st district. District office: 4230 Douglas Boulevard, Suite 300, Granite Bay 95746. Phone: 969-8232. Sacramento office: State Capitol, Room 2048, Sacramento 95814.

Email: rico.oller@sen.ca.gov

Web site: <http://republican.sen.ca.gov/web/1/>

State senate district 1 covers the northeastern part of California, including all of El Dorado County. The boundary goes up to the Oregon border to the north and down to the Mammoth Lakes area to the south.

Governor

Gray Davis (Democrat). Office: State Capitol, Sacramento 95814. Phone: 445-2841.

Email: governor@governor.ca.gov

Web site: www.governor.ca.gov

U. S. representative

John T. Doolittle (Republican), 4th District. District Office: 4230 Douglas Boulevard, Suite 200, Granite Bay, California 95746. Phone: 786-5560. Washington Office: 2410 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515. Phone: 202-225-2511.

Web site: www.house.gov/doolittle

The 4th congressional district covers the northeastern part of California, including all of El Dorado County. It stretches from the Oregon border on the north to the Amador County boundary on the south.

U. S. senators

Barbara Boxer (Democrat). District Office: 510 I Street, Suite 7-600, Sacramento 95814. Phone: 448-2787. Washington office: 112 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. Phone: 202-224-3553.

Web site: www.senate.gov/~boxer

Dianne Feinstein (Democrat). District office: One Post Street, Suite 2450, San Francisco 94104. Phone: 415-393-0707. Washington office: 331 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510. Phone: 202-224-3841.

Web site: www.senate.gov/~feinstein

President

George W. Bush (Republican). The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500. Phone: 202-456-1414.

Email: president@whitehouse.gov

Web site: www.whitehouse.gov/president/

Registering to vote

In the month before a general election, volunteers generally are available in larger shopping centers to register voters.

At other times, or to get general information about registration, contact the El Dorado County Election Department at 621-7480 or the California voter registration hotline at 800-345-8683.

Voter registration forms are available at the El Dorado County branch library in El Dorado Hills (and other branch libraries). For location and contact information for libraries, see “Libraries” on page 53.

For more information. Two pamphlets available at the State Capitol Bookstore in Sacramento are helpful sources of information for voters:

- *California Journal's Political Action Handbook* (Fifth Edition, 1995). Sacramento: California Journal Press. Phone: 444-2840.

Contains sections on the legislature; lobbyists; influencing legislation; the executive branch; initiative, referendum, and recall; winning elections; and keeping informed.

- *Pocket Directory of the California Legislature* (29th annual edition, 2002). Sacramento: Capitol Enquiry. Phone: 442-1434.

Web site: www.capenq.com.

Contains information about the state senate and assembly, constitutional officers, and California supreme court. Also includes information about term limits, district maps, State Capitol news media, Capitol restaurants and hotels, and letter writing tips.

For more information

Sources of information listed in this section include references cited or used in researching this chapter, as well as sources that might be useful for readers to consult for more information.

Maps

California Gold Country in a Nutshell. Published by Nutshell TourMaps, 20420 Harper Road, Bend, Oregon 97701. Web site: www.in-a-nutshell.com.

Map that also includes the location of restaurants, hotels, museums, and other points of interest.

El Dorado County Farm Trails. Published by the El Dorado County Farm Trails Association, P. O. Box 542, Camino, California 95709. Phone: 530-647-2363. Web site: www.edc-farmtrails.org.

Free brochure with maps. Published yearly.

California's Golden Chain: The Mother Lode Highway. Published by The Golden Chain Council of the Mother Lode, P. O. Box 49, New Castle, California 95658.

Gold Country: A Recreation Map of the Gold Country. Published by Compass Maps, Inc., Modesto, California. Phone: 209-529-5017 or 800-441-6277. Web site: www.compass-maps.com.

El Dorado County Street and Road Atlas. Published by Compass Maps, Inc., Modesto, California. Phone: 209-529-5017 or 800-441-6277. Web site: www.compass-maps.com.

This is one of the most detailed maps of El Dorado Hills, but it has a number of inaccuracies. Available from the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce.

Placerville Western El Dorado County (El Dorado Hills & Cameron Park). 1999. Published by Compass Maps, Inc. 1172 Kansas Avenue, Modesto 95351. Phone: 209-529-5017 or 800-441-6277. Web site: www.compass-maps.com.

Available at Borders Books in Folsom.

Street Map & Road Guide: El Dorado. 2002. Produced by J&H Publishing, Ltd., Sedona, Arizona. Phone: 928-204-2410.

Best map available of the El Dorado Hills area. Available from the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce.

See also the *El Dorado County Visitor's Guide* (available from the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce in Placerville) for a map showing the location of airports; campgrounds; bed & breakfast inns; Christmas tree farms; farms, orchards, and ranches; golf courses; wineries; rafting companies and locations; ski resorts; and restaurants.

The Serrano visitor's center has a trail map of walking/biking trails around El Dorado Hills. For more information about the center, see "Real estate organizations" on page 70.

Books, pamphlets

_____, *El Dorado County General Plan* (SCH #1994012008) (Volume 1: Goals, Objectives, and Policies). Adopted January 1996.

In the process of being rewritten because of litigation filed against it.

_____, "El Dorado County Relocation Guide." Published by Placer Title Company, 3820 El Dorado Hills Blvd., Suite 401, El Dorado Hills 95762. Phone: 916-933-4550.

_____, *El Dorado Hills Specific Plan*. Approved by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors July 1988.



CHAPTER 4

**Community
Yearbook**

Fortieth anniversary celebration **82**
Other community photographs **86**

Fortieth anniversary celebration

On June 8, 2002, the community of El Dorado Hills celebrated the 40th anniversary of the creation of the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD),⁸ the organization that provides services like park and recreation activities; oversight of covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs); cable TV services; and garbage collection.

The district's boundaries are the Cameron Park CSD to the east, Folsom Lake and Auburn-Folsom Road to the north, the Sacramento County line to the west, and Highway 50 to the south. The CSD owns 170 acres of parkland and open space, and it has an annual budget of over \$3 million.

The celebration took place on the ball fields at the Community Park on El Dorado Hills Boulevard at St. Andrews Drive. The party featured two live bands, a 30-foot rock climbing wall, a giant slide, puppet shows, a toddler zone, train rides, and many food booths.



40th anniversary party: band and spectators

8. The CSD was actually created on May 21, 1962, when the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution creating the agency.



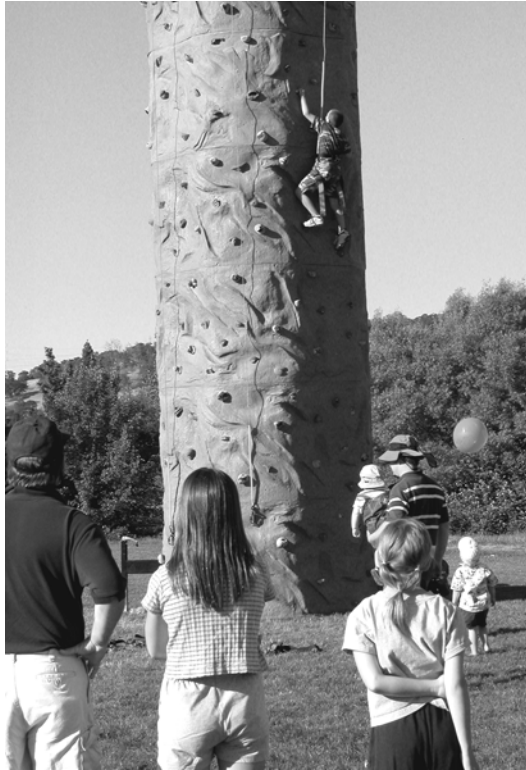
Entertainment schedule for El Dorado Hills' 40th anniversary party



40th anniversary party: kids dancing to the music



40th anniversary party: train



40th anniversary party: rock climbing

Other community photographs

The following photographs were taken in and around El Dorado Hills.



Band at Rolling Hills Middle School
(photo courtesy of Serrano Associates)



American River near downtown Sacramento



Sacramento River and downtown Sacramento skyline



Model home in Serrano's Destinations development
(photo courtesy of Serrano Associates)



Model home interior
(photo courtesy of Serrano Associates)



Nimbus Dam on the American River west of El Dorado Hills

Historical Overview

The following five chapters (summarized below) provide information about the key periods in the social history of El Dorado Hills.

Note: Material from these chapters was excerpted under the title “A short history El Dorado Hills” in the 40th anniversary edition (May 29, 2002) of *Village Life*.

Chapter 6: Native Peoples. Before the arrival of the Spaniards in 1542, native peoples in the Maidu and Miwok groups wandered the Sierra foothills freely, gathering acorns on the hillsides and collecting berries along the creeks. The local Indians organized themselves into villages, a characteristic they share with El Dorado Hills residents today.

Chapter 7: The Spanish and Mexican Periods. Between 1542 and 1848, California was controlled first by Spain and then by Mexico. Although the arrival of the first Europeans had a significant impact on the Indians living in the western part of California, the way of life of the local natives remained relatively stable during this period.

The two key events at the end of this period that produced overwhelming political and social upheaval for California as a whole, and for the Sierra foothills specifically, were the Mexican-American War and the Gold Rush.

Chapter 8: The Gold Rush Period. Mining and related activities in the Gold Rush period (1848-1860) significantly changed the landscape of the Sierra foothills.

Clarksville, as the El Dorado Hills area was then known, was not one of the major mining areas, although even our tiny creekbeds were scoured for gold. The Clarksville area played a more significant role as a major stopping point for travelers and freight going to and from the gold fields.

Chapter 9: The Ranching Period. The Gold Rush was over in a matter of a few years. Most gold-seekers either went home with little profit to show for their adventures, or, if they stayed on, switched to other economic endeavors and settled down in the Sierra foothills.

Property was typically held in large land grants before and during the Gold Rush. Toward the end of the 19th century many of these were broken up into smaller ranches on which cattle, horses, and sheep grazed.

Some of the mining camps, Clarksville included, began to take on a more civilized appearance. Stone houses replaced canvas and wooden ones. Schools and libraries were established.

Chapter 10: Real Estate Development. Ranching and other agricultural pursuits were the main economic activity from the Gold Rush until the early 1960s, when our hills were discovered by real estate developers.

In the late 1950s, Allan H. Lindsey, the acknowledged “founder” of El Dorado Hills, bought a number of local ranches and drew up a master plan for the new community of El Dorado Hills.

The first housing development (or “village,” as many of them came to be known) opened in 1962.

From then until now, real estate development has dominated the local scene.

CHAPTER 6

Native Peoples

The native way of life	94
<i>How they were organized</i>	94
<i>How they lived</i>	94
<i>What they ate</i>	95
Destruction of the native way of life	98
How the Indians live today	99
Glossary	102
For more information	103
<i>Suggested field trip</i>	103
<i>Organizations</i>	103
<i>Books</i>	104

The native way of life

Before the arrival of the Spaniards in 1542, the western slope of the Sierra area was inhabited by the Maidu and Miwok groups of native peoples. Both groups wandered the Sierra foothills, and the commonly referenced “boundary” between the two cut across what is now El Dorado Hills.

The local natives were short, dark-skinned, and dark-haired. They were often called “digger Indians” by the newcomers that flocked to the area during the Gold Rush.

How they were organized

The Maidu and Miwok were organized into local community-republics (that is, independent communities composed of at least one village), informal confederations of communities, and kinship territories. Different groups met periodically for ceremonial purposes.

Since the native peoples in California were not typically organized into tribes, anthropologists commonly group the communities according to language. The language group representing the Maidu and Miwok peoples was Penutian.

How they lived

In the winter most of the Indians lived in tipi-shaped, bark-covered lodges. In the summer (especially at the lower elevations), they lived in the open.

They were generally a gentle people, hard-working, attuned to their environment, and grateful for their many blessings. They spoke softly to one another to avoid damaging the keen sense of hearing required to be a successful hunter.

"I remember as a child living in the cedar bark house with my grandparents. How wonderful it was, lying awake at night sometimes, to hear the coyotes bark, and the hoot owls uttering their calls among the trees. Just as it grew light before the sun rose there came the enchantment of the bird chorus, the orchestra of the Great Spirit all around us."

—Marie Potts, a Northern Maidu tribe member born in 1895⁹

Physical evidence of the everyday lives of these peoples can still be found in the El Dorado Hills area. Most common are *mortar stations* (grinding rocks) and sometimes also the *hammerstones* and *pestles* used in food preparation. *Petroglyphs* also still exist in some places in the area.¹⁰

For more information about prehistoric cultural resources in El Dorado Hills, see "Prehistoric resources" on page 277.

What they ate

Most native groups of the Sierra foothill area had a varied diet of both meat and plants. The rivers and creeks had abundant salmon, eel, and other fish. The game they killed included antelope, elk, deer, rabbits, squirrels, and quail. Common plants in their diet were hazelnuts, ferns, purslane, mustard, wild onions, berries, and grapes.

9. Marie Potts recorded an account of her life in 1977. The account is excerpted in Kowalewski (1997).

10. Some petroglyphs exist near the town of Latrobe. Their exact location is a closely guarded secret to prevent vandalism.

Acorns: The most important food staple. Nearly every native group had access to at least one productive grove of oak trees. The acorns they gathered and ground into meal were usually eaten as mush (gruel), bread, or soup.

The world was populated by birds who acted like humans. Among them was Bluejay, who loved acorns so much that he carried them in his beak and planted them everywhere. In that way, Bluejay made sure he would always have enough to eat.

—Native Legend

How acorns were gathered. The Indian groups gathered acorns when they ripened in the fall. The bearing season for most oaks is only a few weeks, so it was important for the Indians to recognize when the acorns were ripe. They did this by watching for the windfalls—the early worm- or insect-infested nuts that dropped to the ground just before the healthy ones were completely ripe. One of the group’s leaders decided when the harvest would begin, and it was a serious offense to start gathering before the first official starting day.

Men and boys climbed the trees and shook the nuts down or knocked them off the branches with sticks. Elderly people, women, and girls gathered the nuts off the ground. Adults could gather 75-100 pounds of acorns in an hour. A small family could gather several tons of acorns during the short harvest season.

The native peoples took pains to gather even from trees that had few acorns that year, “so the acorn spirit will know you’re grateful for the harvest and that you have faith that next year the tree will bear more.”

How acorns were stored. Acorns were stored in basket granaries propped on stilts and lined with aromatic herbs to repel insects and retard molding. Acorns stored this way usually lasted until the next year’s harvest.

Leaching the acorn meal to make it edible. *Tannin*, the ingredient that helps to preserve the acorns, also makes them bitter, and the Indians needed to go through elaborate processing to make them edible. Processing acorns into meal involved these general steps:

1. With a small rock, they cracked open the shells and released the kernels, which were wrapped in a papery red skin.
2. They then rubbed the shelled kernels together to remove the skin.
3. Next they ground the acorns with a pestle in bedrock mortars (grinding rocks) into a dense, oily meal.

4. Then they sifted the meal and spread it in a shallow basin scooped out of sand and lined with a filter of leaves, grass, or pine needles.
5. For an hour or more, they repeatedly poured water over the meal.
6. When the meal had turned white (indicating that the tannin had been leached out), it was ready to be used for cooking.

Making acorn mush. To make acorn mush the Indians mixed acorn meal with water in a coiled cooking basket. They then set the mixture to boiling by lowering hot rocks in on sticks. To keep the rocks from burning the basket or the mush, they had to stir the mixture constantly. The resulting thick gruel or mush was eaten with a shell or a spoon carved from wood or antler. Black oak acorn mush had a rich, gelatin-like consistency and a mildly nutty taste. For extra flavor, some groups added crushed berries, mushrooms, cedar bark, or herbs. Other popular additions were meat, dried fish, or greens.

Making acorn bread. Acorn meal was also baked as bread in earth ovens lined with hot rocks. The Indians mixed the meal with red clay (one part clay to 5 parts meal), wrapped it in damp ferns, oak leaves, or iris leaves, laid the dough on a griddle of heated stone in a pit oven, covered the dough with more hot stones and a layer of earth, and left it to bake for 6 to 8 hours. The result was a dark, sweet-tasting loaf.

Making acorn tortillas or quick bread. Sometimes women prepared a quick bread or “lunch bread” (something like a tortilla) from acorn meal by spreading it on flat stones heated by an open fire.

“Get up! Get up! All the people get up! Wash your face. After you wash yourself, eat breakfast. Go hunt for something. You will get hungry. After you get something, you will eat it. Get up!”

—Miwok Exhortation

Another recipe: “little dog”. El Dorado County historian Paolo Sioli¹¹ tells a story of another dish, cooked by white explorers, but done “in Indian fashion”:

When the Fremont expedition passed through the Sierra foothills in 1844, John C. Fremont reported to his superior that the local Indians were friendly and brought them pinenuts.

11. Sioli (1883).

When the expedition ran low on food, they killed their “little dog,” which they prepared in what they called “Indian fashion”—scorching off the hair and washing the skin with soap and snow, and then cutting it into pieces, which were laid on the snow. Shortly afterward the sleigh arrived with a supply of horse meat, so for supper they ate pea soup, mule, and dog.

Destruction of the native way of life

The natives of Central and South America may have unwittingly contributed to the undoing of their distant kin the Miwoks and Maidu in the Sierra foothills. The legend they told of *el dorado* (the gilded one),¹² ruler of a land where gold was plentiful, inspired first the Spanish *conquistadores* and later others of many nations to search for those promised riches—and ultimately, to find them in El Dorado Hills’ back yard. The aftermath of the discovery of gold destroyed the natives’ way of life and pushed them to the brink of extinction.

When the gold seekers overran the Sierra foothills in the late 1840s, they burned Indian villages, hunted the natives down and killed them, burned their stores of acorns or fed the acorns to their hogs, decimated the deer and fish populations, and polluted and silted the streams with their logging and mining operations.

When the Spaniards first came to California in 1542 the native population numbered 300,000 and there were over 500 tribal communities.

In 1849, when gold was first discovered, there were still about 125,000 Native Americans in California. Many of the ones living in the Sierra foothills abandoned their traditional way of life to pursue gold mining. Over time, though, the natives began to seem like competitors to the white miners, and the original inhabitants were swept aside.

The Weber Creek massacre. In March 1849, a group of prospectors invaded a native village near the middle fork of the American river, raped some Indian women and killed the Indian men who fought back. The natives retaliated by killing five miners. The miners then invaded another native village on Weber

12. For more information about the legend, see “The lure of gold” on page 115.

Creek, killed several dozen inhabitants, and carried more as prisoners to Sutter's Mill. They then gunned down several of the captives after goading them to run.

The Weber Creek massacre caused many Indians to abandon their jobs as miners and take up raiding and other thievery to sustain themselves; however, the native population continued to decline.

In 1860, there were only 23,000 Indians in all of California.

The local Indians lost about 80% of their total population between 1850 and 1865.

By 1925 only about 1,100 Maidu were still alive and living in western El Dorado County.

How the Indians live today

A few Native Americans still live in western El Dorado County. The Shingle Springs Rancheria is located just north of Highway 50, west of the Greenstone Road interchange. A gambling casino, called Crystal Mountain Casino, is located on the rancheria.



Crystal Mountain Casino on the Shingle Springs Rancheria

The rancheria and casino are the focus of a number of disputes among the Indian tribes, various El Dorado government agencies, and other residents who live in the area around the rancheria.

One of the key issues is water.

In 1987, the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)¹³ entered into an annexation agreement with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians to become the rancheria's water provider.

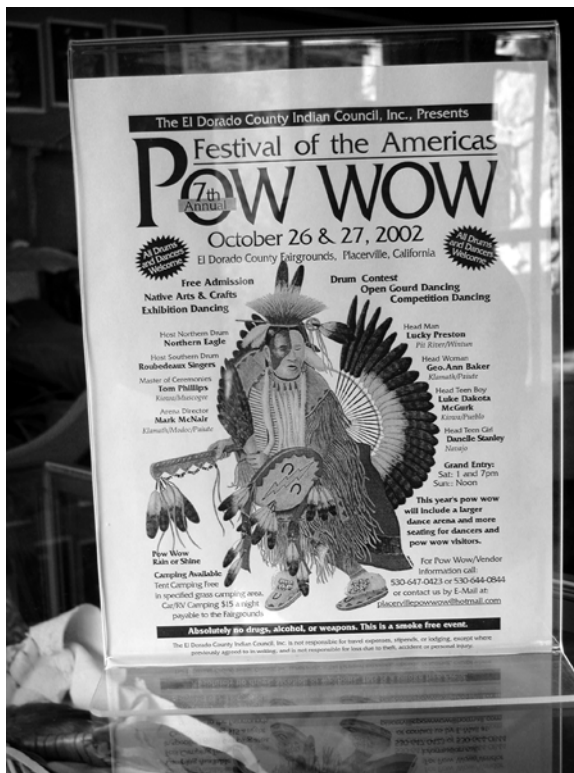
Another El Dorado County agency involved in the discussion, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO),¹⁴ approved the agreement, but established a limit of 40 residential customers.

The various groups and agencies involved have been in disagreement ever since, and the issue got more complicated when the casino and a hotel got added to the discussions.

Native American tribes and groups in El Dorado County are organized into the El Dorado County Indian Council, Inc.

13. For a discussion of the EID and more general water issues in El Dorado Hills, see "Water" on page 243.

14. For more information about LAFCO, see "Incorporation" on page 271.



Advertisement for pow wow sponsored by the El Dorado County Indian Council

Glossary

The following are key terms used in this chapter and their definitions.

acorn	Source of acorn meal, the most important staple foodstuff of the Indians living in the Sierra foothills.
grinding rock	Large granite rocks chosen as mortar stations where acorns were ground into meal. Can be identified by one or more round indentations on the top surface, usually about six inches in diameter and several inches deep.
hammerstone	Stone used to crack acorns.
Maidu	Group of Native Americans. Original residents of the Sierra foothills.
Miwok	Group of Native Americans. Original residents of the Sierra foothills.
mortar station	Another name for <i>grinding rock</i> .
Penutian	Language group of the Maidu and Miwok peoples.
pestle	Club-like rock used to grind acorns into meal.
petroglyph	A carving or line drawing on rock.
tannin	Chemical in acorns that helps to preserve them when they are picked, but is too bitter to eat.
village	Sociopolitical unit of the native peoples of the El Dorado Hills area. Coincidentally, the current community of El Dorado Hills is also organized into villages.

For more information

Sources of information listed in this section include references cited or used in researching this chapter, as well as sources that might be useful for readers to consult for more information.

Suggested field trip

Indian Grinding Rock State Historical Monument. This park is located near Jackson (southwest of Volcano on the Pine Grove road) in Amador County. One of its key features is the largest bedrock mortar ever found in the western United States. This limestone outcropping has over 1,000 mortar holes and more than 300 petroglyphs. Anthropologists believe that many Indians from the Miwok and Maidu groups used to live in the area during the entire year.

Organizations

Organizations listed in Table 16 are concerned with issues related to native peoples.

Table 16. Organizations concerned with issues related to native peoples

Organization	Location	Responsibility or interest	Contact, phone, URL, notes
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Sacramento	Indian affairs	202-208-3711 The Bureau of Indian Affairs Web sites have been removed pending the outcome of the Cobell v. Norton multi-billion dollar trust litigation.
El Dorado County Indian Council	Diamond Springs	Cultural preservation	647-0423
Native American Heritage Commission	Sacramento	Preserving and protecting human remains	653-4082 www.ceres.ca.gov/nahec
Shingle Springs Rancheria	Shingle Springs	Home of Shingle Springs Miwok tribal government	www.shinglespringsrancheria.com Contains links to other Native American sites in the western Sierra.

Books

_____. Time-Life Books. 1994. *The Indians of California*. Alexandria, Virginia: Time-Life Books.

Well written. Contains many interesting photographs.

Braasch, Barbara and the editors of Sunset Books and *Sunset Magazine*. 1978 (Seventh Printing). *Gold Rush Country*. Menlo Park, California: Lane Publishing Co.

Contains information about Indian Grinding Rock State Park.

Chartkoff, Joseph L. and Kerry Kona Chartkoff. 1984. *The Archaeology of California*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press. El Dorado County Library: 979.401.

Forbes, Jack D. 1982, 1989. *Native Americans of California and Nevada*. Happy Camp, California: Naturegraph Publishers.

Holden, William M. 1988, 1991, 1998. *Sacramento: Excursions into its history and natural world*. Fair Oaks, California: Two Rivers Publishing Co.

Paperback in its third printing. Journalistic style. Includes pictures.

Kowalewski, Michael (Editor). 1997. *Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration*. Berkeley, California: Heyday Books. El Dorado County Library: 979.403.

Companion to the PBS special "The Gold Rush."

Peabody, George Wilkes. 1988, 1989, 1995. *The Historical Perspective Supplement for the Pleasant Valley, Oak Hill, Sly Park Area Plan and Environmental Impact Report*. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Created for the El Dorado County Community Development Department, Parks and Recreation Division. Available through the El Dorado County Historical Museum.

Includes a list of established and suggested historical markers.

"Required reading" for serious researchers.

Peabody, George. 1989. *How About That! An Anthology of Historical Stories about Pleasant Valley, Oak Hill, Newtown, and Sly Park*. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Two of the sections of this book deal with Native American topics: Section #15, "Pleasant Valley Indian Foods" and section #16, "Pleasant Valley Indian Remedies."

CHAPTER 7

The Spanish and Mexican Periods

Spanish control of California	108
Early exploration in the Sierra	108
Mexican land grants	109
Manifest destiny and the war with Mexico	110
California statehood	110
For more information	111
<i>Books</i>	111

Spanish control of California

Although the Spanish *conquistadores* came to California in 1542, the area was merely a stopping point on the trade route between Manila and Acapulco until the 18th century, when the Spanish missions began to be established.

Spanish control of California began in 1769 with the founding of the San Diego de Alcalá mission. The other 20 missions, stretching along the coast from San Diego to just north of San Francisco, were all established by 1823. The missions were located a single day's journey from each other and were connected by *El Camino Real* (the king's highway).

The military presence in and around the missions was used to gather up the native populations living in the area and relocate them to the missions. The religious objective was to convert them to Christianity. Many of them did convert and adapt successfully, but, in general, the significant changes in lifestyle resulted in a severe decline in the local Indian populations.

Because the natives in the Sierra foothill region lived so far from the missions, they were spared this devastation, and during this time period they continued their hunting and gathering lifestyle.

In 1821, when Mexico gained its independence from Spain, the Spanish military withdrew from California.

Early exploration in the Sierra

During this same period, explorers from the United States and other countries began coming into California. Russian fur traders established Fort Ross in 1812. Trappers and explorers, the most famous of which were Jedediah Smith and John C. Fremont, arrived from other parts of North America.

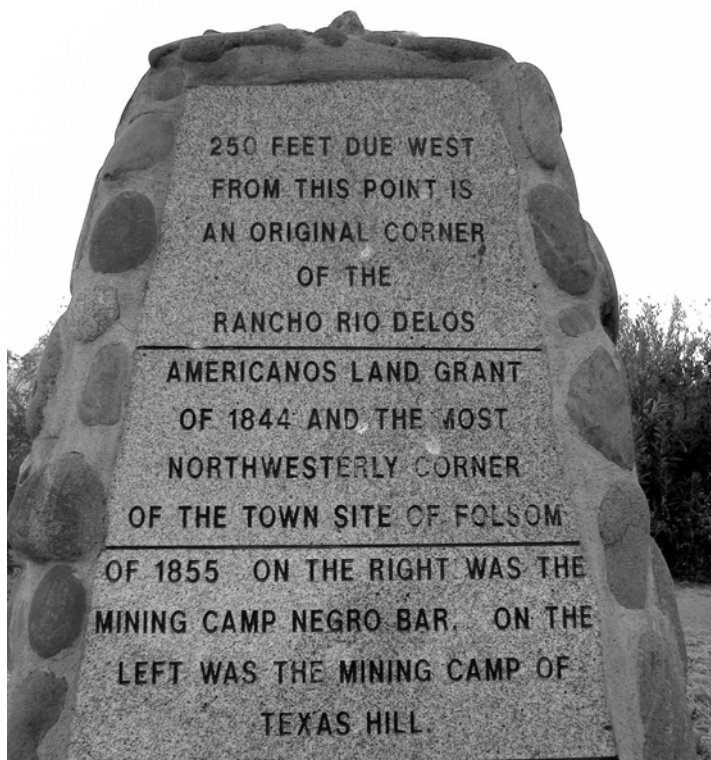
Smith crossed the Sierra (on his way from San Diego to Salt Lake City) in 1826-27, and on that trip he recorded the existence of the American River. He soon returned to the Sierra to take beaver pelts.

In 1844-45, Fremont (accompanied by Kit Carson) came down the South Fork of the American River and arrived at Sutter's Fort.

Mexican land grants

Between 1833 (when Mexico took responsibility for the declining Spanish missions) and 1846, the Mexican government gave away lands as private ranches. Mexican land grants in the Sierra foothills included Del Paso, San Juan de los Americanos, and Cosumnes.

Highways in the area with the current name of “Grant Line” still mark the boundaries of some of these land grants.



Sign describing the boundaries of a Mexican land grant



Part of the Rancho de los Americanos land grant along the American River

Manifest destiny and the war with Mexico

Reports sent back to Washington about the natural beauty and economic value of California helped fuel a desire for expansion that became known as Manifest Destiny. James Polk, running on an expansionist platform, won the election of 1844. Texas, New Mexico, and California were all targeted for annexation from Mexico. After the United States took Texas in 1846, war broke out between the two countries.

California statehood

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 ended the Mexican-American War. The United States paid Mexico \$15 million for New Mexico and California.

The United States Congress was slow to grant California statehood, and for over a year it was ruled by the military under the prior *alcalde* governing system.

Statehood was granted in 1849, but in the meantime (specifically, in January 1848) gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in what is now Coloma, and the "rush to gold" ushered in a period of tremendous social and ecological upheaval.

This period of history is covered in "The Gold Rush Period" on page 113.

For more information

Sources of information listed in this section include references cited or used in researching this chapter, as well as sources that might be useful for readers to consult for more information.

Books

Bancroft, Hubert H. 1886. *History of California*. San Francisco: History Company.

Gudde, Erwin G. 1949. *California Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Johnson, Paul C. 1971. *Sierra Album*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc. El Dorado County Library: 979.44.

An account of man's attempts to explore, conquer, and conserve The Sierra Nevada. Includes photographs and maps. General reference about the Sierra region; does not include anything specific about El Dorado Hills.

Also by Paul Johnson, former editor-in-chief of Sunset Books: *Pictorial History of California*.

Rocq, Margaret Miller (Editor). 1970. *California Local History: A Bibliography and Union List of Library Holdings*. Second Edition. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.

Also: *Supplement to the Second Edition Covering Works Published 1961 Through 1970*. Published in 1976. El Dorado County Library: 979.4

First published as *California Local History: A Centennial Bibliography*, edited by Ethel Blumann and Mabel W. Thomas. Edited for the California Library Association.

Severson, Thor. 1973. *Sacramento: An Illustrated History 1839 to 1874*. Published by the California Historical Society. El Dorado County Library: 979.4.

Williams, Jerry (Editor). 2000. *California Atlas: A Geographic Journey*. Quincy, California: California Geographic Associates.

Available at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento and from the Web site
www.calatlas.com.

The Gold Rush Period

The lure of gold	115
The art and science of gold mining	116
<i>How gold gets deposited on the surface of the earth</i>	116
<i>How gold is taken from the ground</i>	117
Overview of the California Gold Rush	120
<i>The discovery of gold</i>	120
<i>Mining efforts move downstream</i>	121
<i>Californians flock to the gold fields</i>	122
<i>Non-Californians arrive in the gold fields</i>	122
<i>Life in the mining camps</i>	123
<i>End of the gold frenzy</i>	124
<i>How California was governed during the Gold Rush</i>	125
El Dorado Hills' role in the Gold Rush	126
<i>Early Clarksville</i>	126
<i>Highways</i>	127
<i>Mail delivery and freight services</i>	129
<i>Passenger travel by stagecoach</i>	129
<i>Pony express</i>	130
Inns along the highways	132
<i>Inns along White Rock Road and Highway 50</i>	133

<i>Inns along Green Valley Road</i>	137
Railroads	139
Summary of key events	141
Glossary	142
For more information	144
<i>Organizations</i>	144
<i>Books, pamphlets</i>	144

The lure of gold

The name *el dorado* first appears at the beginning of the 16th century in the northern part of South America. The term was used to describe a mythical Indian chief, who was said to have been covered with gold during the performance of religious rites. This chief and his source of gold was eagerly sought by Spanish and German conquerors. Rumors of gold-rich areas in the Americas surfaced periodically over the next several hundred years.

Starting in 1802, gold and silver was found in various parts of what is now the state of California, beginning with a strike of silver near Monterey.¹⁵

Mapmakers began to place the name “El Dorado” or “Gold Region” on maps of California in about 1848; the legend appears both along the Plumas River in what is now Placer County, and also along the American River in what is now El Dorado County.

“There is a land where gold is as abundant as game in the forest or fruit in the trees. The king of the land is so wealthy that every morning he is painted with gold so his skin shines like the sun. Every night he is washed off again so the gold paint doesn’t disturb his rest. He is known as *el dorado* (the gilded one).”

—One version of a legend told to the Spanish *conquistadores* by natives of the Americas

The intense period of the California Gold Rush lasted only about 10 or 12 years, starting in 1848. It brought to the Sierra foothills a large number of people, who either made their fortunes or didn’t, and then either disappeared from the region or stayed to pursue other ways to make a living.

The rest of this chapter summarizes how gold is created and deposited, provides a short overview of the Gold Rush era, describes life in the foothills during the mid-19th century, and explains El Dorado Hills’ role in the Gold Rush.

15. For a list of early strikes, see “Summary of key events” on page 141.

The art and science of gold mining

How gold gets deposited on the surface of the earth

Deep in the earth, the metallic form of gold combines with chlorine to form gold chloride. Water seeps down through cracks and fissures into the earth, where it combines, in turn, with the gold chloride. Heat and pressure eventually force this liquid solution back up to the surface, where, as it cools, the gold again separates from the chlorine and water and is deposited in its metallic state on or near the surface.

Deposits of gold are found in two formats:

- *Lode (hard-rock) deposits*, mostly in quartz veins, that have ascended from deep in the earth in the solutions described above.
- *Placer gold* that was originally trapped in the quartz veins but has been “pulled loose” through erosion and weathering

Placer gold, which is the easiest to take, is usually deposited in or near stream beds.

The western slope of the Sierra contains *auriferous* (that is, gold-bearing) *channels* layered on top of one another but flowing in different directions. The older (and therefore deeper) channel is called the Blue Channel (named for the color of its gravel or cement). The Blue Channel runs northeast to southwest and is several hundred feet wide. Over this channel lie newer channels (known as the Gray Channels) that run more directly east to west. Remains of these old channels can still be traced for many miles near the tops of divides and ridges.

Modern-day streams (for example, Hangtown Creek and Weber Creek), intersect the older channels underneath them and, over time, pick up gold in them and carry it down their own channels, dropping the gold in various spots that, during Gold Rush days, became popular mining locations.

How gold is taken from the ground

Gold panning. The easiest way to take placer gold is by *panning*, which involves shoveling or scooping gold-bearing gravel into a shallow pan, adding water, and then sloshing or swirling the mixture so the water and lighter solid materials spill over the sides and only the heavy material (containing the gold) is left at the bottom of the pan.

Panning is an effective but slow procedure, and it retrieves only the gold resting on or near the surface of creek beds.



Gold mining tools

Techniques that improved on panning. Miners in the California Gold Rush panned for gold at first, but as the easy pickings were exhausted and the competition got more fierce, the miners soon moved to other techniques involving equipment known as *rockers*, *long toms*, and *sluices* (progressing from the small and simple to the larger and more elaborate). Although differing in size and complexity, each of these is basically a rectangular box (usually made of wood) that is set on a slope. At the top is a sieve and at the bottom is a series of riffles.

Dirt, followed by water, goes into the top of the box. The larger rocks and the dirt are caught by the sieve at the top, the water runs out the bottom, and the

heavier gold, which is being washed downhill by the water, is caught in the riffles.

Hydraulic mining. A more efficient (and also more destructive) method used as the easier techniques yielded less and less gold was *hydraulic mining*. In this method, water under pressure is directed at creek banks to wash the dirt, rocks, and gold downhill through sluice boxes that catch the gold.

Hydraulic mining requires large amounts of water. In Gold Rush times, water was diverted to areas of heavy mining activities through a series of flumes and ditches. These structures were constantly caving in and causing environmental damage. In addition, huge amounts of mud and debris was being washed downstream.

In 1875, the town of Marysville had been completely buried in muck, and in 1880, 12 billion tons of earth were blasted out of the hills and washed by the rivers into the valleys below, destroying 40,000 acres of farmland and damaging another 270,000 acres.

Farmers whose homes, fields, and orchards were being destroyed by hydraulic mining activities began to band together to take on the powerful mining interests in the mountains.

The case that challenged hydraulic mining was *Woodruff v. North Bloomfield*, and the judge hearing it was Lorenzo Sawyer, a federal circuit judge in San Francisco. In January 1884, Sawyer found for the plaintiff, and hydraulic mining in the Sierra foothills was halted.

Dredging. Another mining method used at times during the Gold Rush era and extensively in the early 20th century was *dredging*. This method required water deep enough to float a barge that served as a portable processing plant. Buckets dug up material in the bottom of the river and dumped them onto the barge where the rock was separated from the gold and sand.



Cobbles produced by dredging along the American River

Hard-rock mining. Underground mining was the method of choice after most of the loose gold was taken. In hard-rock mining, gold-bearing quartz is dug out of the ground and crushed by a machine called a *stamp mill*.

Use of mercury in gold mining. Mercury was used in both placer and hard-rock mining to help recover as much gold as possible, especially in situations where gold was present as a fine dust that was difficult to separate from dirt and gravel.

Gold particles combine easily with liquid mercury and form a gold-mercury amalgam from which the gold can then be separated. (Sometimes the recovery rate can be further increased by adding cyanide to the amalgam.)

Environmental damage by mercury used in mining. Most of the mercury used to trap gold during Gold Rush times was recovered and reused, but over time a substantial amount has escaped into the environment, where it remains a potential threat to the environment and to human health.

The U. S. Geological Survey estimates that hundreds of thousands of pounds of mercury remain in sites affected by hydraulic mining. Mercury has been found as far as 20 miles downstream of mining operations.

The Sawyer decision¹⁶ prohibited hydraulic mining in the Sierra, but dredging and hardrock mining have continued in various location in the foothills, and mercury was used extensively in the dredging of flood plain deposits. The American River was still being dredged as late as the 1960s.

Overview of the California Gold Rush

The discovery of gold

On January 19, 1848, James W. Marshall discovered placer gold in the millrace of Sutter's Mill near what is now Coloma.

Marshall came to California in 1845 from Missouri via Oregon. He had fought in the Mexican War, serving in the California Battalion under Colonel John C. Fremont. Marshall was convinced that the area around what is now Coloma, which he passed through on his way to Sutter's Fort, near Sacramento, would be a good place to build a sawmill. He formed a partnership with John Sutter in which Sutter provided the necessary funds and Marshall managed the project.

The first crew at the mill included men from the Mormon Battalion who had fought in the Mexican-American War and had come to Sutter's Fort after being mustered out of the army in San Diego. They had started back to Salt Lake City, but stopped when they received word from Brigham Young that they should delay their return because of extreme food shortages in Utah.

Soon after Marshall's discovery became public knowledge at the sawmill, many of the workers, Mormons and non-Mormons alike, abandoned their mill jobs and began hunting for gold, at first only in the areas adjacent to the mill.

16. See "Hydraulic mining." on page 118.

Mining efforts move downstream

When Marshall threatened to shoot anybody mining on his and Sutter's claim, many of the men went downstream 15 miles to the west to what became known as Mormon Island, where they discovered placers even richer than those at Coloma.

The men still employed at the mill heard about these mining successes and struck for higher wages. Sutter agreed to their demands until the price reached \$10 a day—his refusal to pay that amount caused the rest of his workers to head west for Mormon Island.

Sutter's Mill was never finished.

The leader of the Mormon Island miners was Sam Brannan, who is credited with publicizing the gold discovery in San Francisco by putting gold dust in a jar and riding around shouting "Gold from the American River"!

Brannan amassed a large fortune, part of which was said to have come from a tithe he levied on all the other Mormon miners. Brannan's investments included San Francisco real estate and transportation enterprises in the Sacramento area.

When the situation in Salt Lake City improved, Brigham Young ordered all the Mormons back home, but a few stayed and continued to mine with Brannan.

Eventually Brannan was wiped out by a financial panic and lived most of the rest of his life in poverty.

When Folsom Dam was built, Mormon Island was inundated by the waters of Folsom Lake.¹⁷

Today, the name Mormon Island is attached to a housing development located south of the original Mormon Island, a street in that development, and a cemetery located off Green Valley Road at Shadowfax Lane.

17. Mormon Island appears above the surface of the lake in unusually dry years.

Californians flock to the gold fields

The first mention of Marshall's gold discovery in the California press (in the *Star* and the *Californian*) was around the middle of March 1848.

News traveled to Washington, DC with passengers traveling on ships through the Panama Canal (the transcontinental telegraph was still 12 years away) about 6 months later—in the fall of 1848.

By that time, the foothills had already been inundated by miners from all areas of California.

One of those was Charles M. Weber, who owned a rancho at French Camp on the San Joaquin River near present-day Stockton. Weber fitted out a prospecting party consisting of local settlers. The group discovered gold on the Mokelumne River and then proceeded to what was known at the time as Pumpumul Creek (later renamed Weber Creek).

Weber befriended many of the local Indians and employed about 1,000 of them in mining. Weber's party took so much gold that they had to send it out on muleback on a daily basis.

In September 1848, the company dissolved and Weber returned to his rancho where he directed his efforts to building the city of Stockton. He is of the few early miners who got out of the gold fields with a fortune still intact.

Non-Californians arrive in the gold fields

In February 1849, the first easterners arrived in San Francisco on the steamship *California*, which had taken the route around Cape Horn. By the early summer of 1849, many more non-Californians had arrived. Europeans¹⁸ and men from Australia's penal colony began arriving in the late summer.

By 1850, many of the miners who came to California got there using one of the overland trails.

In 1850, the total population of El Dorado County was 40,000 (of which only 147 were women). The average age was 28. About 50% of the population was engaged in mining. Only 3% of Californians were illiterate compared with 10% for the country as a whole.

18. Europeans (and people in other parts of the world) were often lured to the gold fields by eye-witness reports and guidebooks that emphasized (and exaggerated) the exotic people and places the traveler would encounter in California. One such book, published in 1855 in Switzerland by returning traveler Carl Meyer, featured on its cover pictures of fierce-looking Indians, heroic-looking miners, and monkeys climbing palm trees.

Emigration to California peaked in 1852. Over 67,000 people came by sea, most of them via Panama. Over 40,000 traveled by land.

In that same year, Chinese immigrants numbered 20,000.

Life in the mining camps

Life in the mining camps was rough. An English traveler and gold miner named J. D. Borthwick described an everyday scene in Placerville in 1852 as follows:

The street itself was in many places knee-deep in mud, and was plentifully strewn with old boots, hats, and shirts, old sardine boxes, empty tins of preserved oysters, empty bottles, worn-out pots and kettles, old ham-bones, broken picks and shovels, and other rubbish too various to particularize. Here and there, in the middle of the street, was a square hole about six feet deep, in which one miner was digging, while another was scooping the water out with a bucket, and a third, sitting alongside the heap of dirt which had been dug up, was washing it in a rocker.

In 1849, the average daily earnings of a miner was \$16, the same year the price of goods and supplies reached a peak. The cost of living in California mining areas was still twice as much as in the eastern states as late as 1861.

Many people who started out for California to mine gold soon realized that supplying the miners with necessities and luxuries was often easier and more profitable than actually doing the mining.

For example, one of the first businesswomen in the Sierra foothills was Lucy Wakefield, who sold pies for \$1 each. In less than two years her receipts totaled over \$25,000, and after another year or two in the business, she had divorced her miner husband and retired on a comfortable income.

Other suppliers who became rich during the Gold Rush include the “Big Four” (Hopkins, Huntington, Stanford, and Crocker),¹⁹ who used their merchant profits to make even bigger ones in the railroad business.

Others formed companies to supply the miners with the water they needed to mine the potentially lucrative areas that had no water supplies of their own.

19. For more information about the “Big Four,” see “Railroads” on page 139.

One of these was the Natoma Water and Mining Company, which is described in “Prairie City” on page 232.



Hangman's Tree historic spot in Placerville

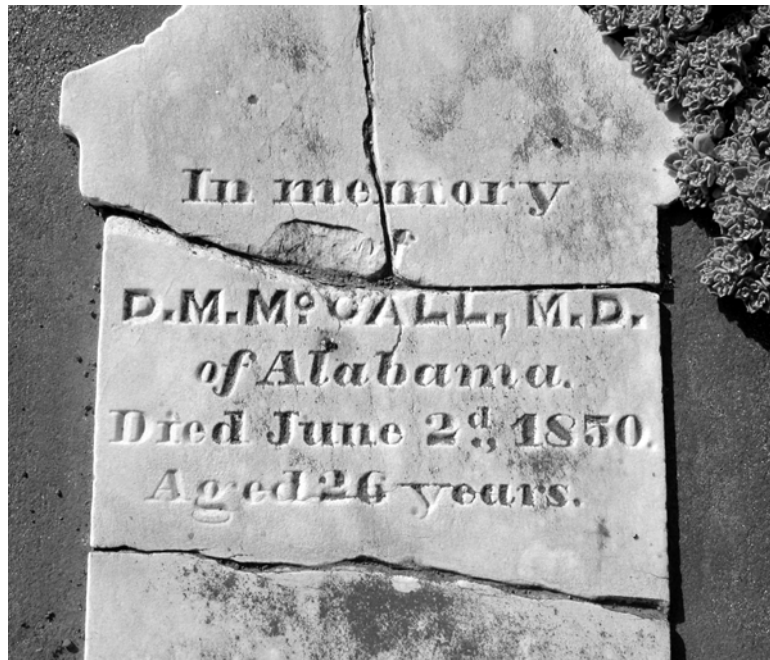
End of the gold frenzy

Many of the new arrivals came not for mining adventures, but rather simply to settle in a new land, where wages were higher and opportunities were greater. By 1852, over 12,000 Californians were farming in a state where many miners had died of scurvy only a few years before.

In addition, many of the former *argonauts* were sending home for their families, so the demographics began to change rapidly. By 1852, 23,000 American women and another 4,300 foreign women had come to California. Buildings, rather than tents and wooden shacks, were being erected in Placerville and other towns in the western foothills.

Also by 1852, only three years after the discovery of gold in California, some miners still looking for ways to get rich quick were abandoning the California mines for other potential opportunities. Gold strikes in Australia, northern California, and later Alaska and the Klondike, lured many of the remaining hard-core miners away from the Sierra foothills.

The initial gold frenzy was over only a few years after it began, and after about 1860 almost all the mining efforts still going on were being conducted as serious businesses rather than madcap adventures.



Gravestone of D. M. McCall, M. D. (relocated Mormon Island Cemetery)

How California was governed during the Gold Rush

As described in “California statehood” on page 110, the United States acquired California as a result of the Mexican-American War, which ended in 1848, the same year gold was discovered at Sutter’s Mill.

The United States Congress was slow to grant California statehood, and for over a year after the end of the war, California was ruled by the military under the *alcalde* governing system used during the Mexican period.

In June 1849, Bennet Riley, the general in charge of California, issued a proclamation calling for a statewide election. In September of the same year, delegates met in Monterey to draw up a constitution for the new state.

El Dorado County was one of the 27 counties identified when California became a state. However, the boundaries have changed somewhat over time, and the original county seat, Coloma, was replaced by Placerville in 1857.²⁰

All land in El Dorado County was first owned by the United States government. However, settlers could claim up to 160 acres by occupying and making improvements on the land. The right to sue to protect ownership of a given parcel of land was known as a pre-emption claim, which was filed with the county recorder's office.

Confusion between federal, state, and county property regulations caused many land disputes during Gold Rush times and afterward.

El Dorado Hills' role in the Gold Rush

Early Clarksville

In the early Gold Rush days, the area on what is now the south side of El Dorado Hills was known as Clarkston's Town, apparently because a man named Clarkston had a stopping place along the road there.

The town was near the junction of the freight road to the mines and the stage-coach road from Sacramento by way of Prairie City.

In 1855, a post office was established, and in the process, postal authorities renamed the town Clarksville.

The "Clarks" for whom Clarksville was named were Luther Brown Clark and his brother Harry.

During the Gold Rush years, mining was done along all the creeks in what is now El Dorado Hills, but particularly Allegheny, New York, and Carson creeks. Mining that continued into the 20th century included dredging for gold and chromite mining along Carson Creek.

20. For more information about the early fights over the location of the county seat, see "Placerville" on page 228.

In 1890, a letter from Clarksville resident Paul Perkins to the editor of the *Folsom Telegraph* reported the following mining activities:

Our mining interests are not entirely a thing of the past. John Tong, Bob Bence and Amos Taylor all own and work quartz mines, which pay them handsomely. [It has been] only a few days since Amos Taylor, the veteran miner of this part of the country, struck a lead, which he followed up for something like a month, and a few days since his toil was rewarded by finding a pocket, out of which he took \$2,700 of that metal, which is the sinews of war and peace.

Bob Bence, since his return from the mountains, has struck it rich and added \$900 to his bank account from the mines.

One of the earliest families in the areas was the Tongs (Hezekiah and Margaret), who came overland across the Great Plains in 1855. The Tongs built a road and established a toll gate at their inn, which was called Railroad House. They also mined and raised cattle.

Two members of the Tong family, Gilbert S. and William W., served as postmasters of Clarksville. Gilbert was also a justice of the peace.

At its peak, Clarksville had several hundred people, and it was as rough a town as any in the western foothills—during the Gold Rush years Clarksville reported 13 hangings.

Highways

Our two major east-west highways, Highway 50 and Green Valley Road, are still today (as they were in Gold Rush times) our only links to the east and west. They are the community's tie to the rest of El Dorado County; our tie to the political and economic centers of power, Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area; and at the same time a major source of headaches mostly due to the pressures our own growth impose on them. Ironically, these roadways played much the same role for the pioneer residents of Clarksville 150 years ago.

In Gold Rush times, these two roads were used as regional highways (to and from Sacramento and San Francisco) to bring people, supplies, and mail to the gold fields, and they also served as part of the first interstate highway system for transport to and from the mountain states, the midwest, and all the way to the Atlantic coast.

Highway 50. The most important of the Gold Rush era routes through the El Dorado Hills area was the road that is now Highway 50.

During the first years of the Gold Rush, the overland route from “points east” to California crossed the Sierra summit at Carson Pass. From there the trail passed through Pleasant Valley and connected with the road to Sacramento at Diamond Springs.

In 1852, Colonel J. C. (John Calhoun, known as “Colonel Jack”) Johnson opened a new route across the mountains between Carson Valley and Placerville that essentially follows the route of the modern-day Highway 50. It was shorter than the old route and crossed the summit at a lower elevation, which meant less snow and therefore an easier passage in winter. The new route (which was often referred to as “Johnson’s cutoff”) was chosen for trancontinental mail and passenger stagecoaches. Johnson was one of the first to carry mail across the Sierra.

After Johnson established the basic route, parts of the road were relocated a number of times to improve the grades and straighten out the alignment. Where the highway entered the gorge of the American River, there were at one time 5 parallel roads so the slow-moving 12-horse freight wagons would not delay the mail.

Highway 50 was the first state highway (it earned that designation in 1896). The stage lines and pony express used this road. For awhile it seemed that the transcontinental railroad would also use this route, but ultimately the northern route (through Auburn and Truckee) was chosen.²¹

Traffic in Gold Rush times could be as thick as rush-hour traffic on present-day Highway 50. A continuous line of vehicles, pack trains, and travelers on foot wound up the hill. If a teamster had to get off the road for some reason he might be a whole day getting back in line again.

Green Valley Road. Green Valley Road was the original wagon road built in 1847 by Indians employed by John Sutter and James Marshall to get supplies to their sawmill near Coloma.

Like Highway 50, it was subsequently used for stagecoach and freight travel, and it was a major mail route. It was also one of the pony express routes.

21. For more information about the transcontinental railroad, see “Railroads” on page 139.

Green Valley was connected to Clarksville and what became Highway 50 by several roads, including one following essentially the same route as Silva Valley Parkway does today.

Mail delivery and freight services

In 1850, mail from San Francisco to the gold fields was delivered once a week, and by 1851, service was increased to three times a week.

Private services supplemented the U. S. Mail, because many miners wanted to get their mail more often. These private services typically charged \$1 for a “subscription” and a fee for each letter delivered.

Couriers rode on horseback, and they walked their horses along the trails.²² Some of the same express services also delivered gold dust to San Francisco.

By 1851, mail was also delivered monthly between Salt Lake City and Sacramento, a service that used mule-drawn relays over the 750-mile route. The Great Salt Lake Carrying Company carried passengers from Sacramento to the Mormon settlements in Utah for \$300 apiece, and hauled freight for \$250 per ton.

Passenger travel by stagecoach

Regularly scheduled stagecoach service for passenger travel between Sacramento and the gold fields was established in 1849 by James Birch, a stage driver from Providence, Rhode Island.

In 1851, Frank Stevens (a friend of Birch) organized a staging business that operated between Sacramento and Placerville. A one-way trip took about 12 hours.

In 1854, several of the local stage lines (including those owned by Birch and Stevens) merged into the California Stage Company. For a fare of \$5 passengers could take the west-bound stage from Placerville, which left every morning at 4 a.m. They would arrive in Sacramento in the early afternoon, just in time to catch a daily steamer departing for San Francisco.

The best stagecoaches of this time were made by the Abbott-Downing Company in Concord, New Hampshire.

22. In contrast to the later pony express service, where couriers galloped their horses for short stretches. See “Pony express” on page 130.

Concord coaches were considered a big improvement over the more rigid spring wagons originally used for all services, and which eventually were used only to haul freight. The coaches were mounted on heavy leather straps called “thoroughbraces” that were attached, in turn, to C-shaped braces fastened to the axles. This allowed the oval-shaped coach to sway forward and back instead of jerking and jarring like the wagons did.

The coaches had upholstered seats for up to 12 passengers inside and room for 12 more on the roof. On the back and front were leather-covered “boots” used to hold mail and baggage. Under the driver’s seat was a locked box for valuables like gold dust and jewelry.

By 1857, a weekly stage service took passengers from Placerville over the Sierra Nevada to Genoa, Nevada. At Genoa passengers could connect with another stage line that provided service to Salt Lake City.

Pony express

The pony express was a very short-lived but exciting phenomenon that captured the imagination of the whole nation.

Galloping horses provided the fastest land travel possible in Gold Rush times. Because horses tired quickly at that pace, relay stations were established where a fresh horse could be substituted for an exhausted one.

The Central Overland Pony Express was inaugurated on April 3, 1860. James Randall carried the first east-bound mail from Montgomery Street in San Francisco to the waterfront, where it was put aboard a steamer bound for Sacramento.

William (Sam) Hamilton picked up the San Francisco mail as well as some additional letters posted in Sacramento, and galloped east. He changed horses at Five Mile House, Fifteen Mile House, and Mormon Tavern, and then rode on to Placerville.²³

The other end of the pony express route was St. Joseph, Missouri.

23. For more information about the inns along White Rock Road, see “Inns along White Rock Road and Highway 50” on page 133.

The transcontinental telegraph ended the pony express service only a little over a year after it had begun.²⁴



Pony express commemorative marker (on Green Valley Road)

24. Regional telegraph service (from Sacramento to Nevada via both Placerville and Auburn) had existed as early as 1853.

Inns along the highways

Because even regional trips often involved multiple days to complete, the need arose along the most heavily traveled routes for overnight accommodations. Those requiring these services included miners going to the gold fields; stage and freight drivers; and the many horses, mules, and oxen used to pull stagecoaches and wagons.

During the most intense period of the Gold Rush, dozens (probably even hundreds) of inns lined the major roads between the key California commerce centers and the gold fields.

Dame Shirley, one of the most famous writers of the Gold Rush era,²⁵ called California “the hotel state.”

Most of the inns that existed during Gold Rush times in the El Dorado Hills area burned to the ground, were buried under piles of cobbles, have been bulldozed to make room for other structures, or have simply decayed so that nothing visible remains.

There are a few whose original sites can be identified, by a partial foundation, a depression in the ground indicating a former cellar, or a small grove of non-native trees.

One of the best sources of information about these inns is *The Early Inns of California* by Ralph Herbert Cross (written in 1954). Cross has cataloged all the old inns along both Highway 50 and Green Valley Road, and he includes a map indicating their exact location. That map is reprinted in “*I remember . . .*”: *Stories and pictures of El Dorado County pioneer families* by Betty Yohalem.²⁶

Unfortunately, some of the remnants Cross mentions are now no longer visible.

A few of the more prominent inns are listed and described in the following two sections.

25. For more information about the writings of Dame Shirley (whose real name was Louise Clappe), see “For more information” on page 144.

26. For the complete references for these two sources, see “For more information” on page 144.

Inns along White Rock Road and Highway 50

Many of the inns bore the name “-mile house” (for example, Fifteen Mile House), named for original distances from key landmarks to the west. Some of these designations lost their meaning over time when routes were altered.

Some of the most significant and colorful inns and other landmarks along White Rock Road and Highway 50 included the following.

Fifteen Mile House (at mile 15 on the south side of White Rock Road). Fifteen Mile House (which is California State Historic Landmark 698), was located near what is now the corner of White Rock Road and Gold Valley Road, in Rancho Cordova. It was typical of the larger inns along White Rock Road. On the ground floor was a large dining room, kitchen, parlor, bar, and dance hall. Upstairs were 8 or 9 bedrooms. Two of the freight companies had barns where they kept their horses. Beds were 50 cents and meals were the same.

Henry Frederick William Deterding, who bought the inn in 1857, improved and enlarged it. Deterding kept the house until his death in 1875, and his son Charles William ran it until 1890.

On April 4, 1860, William (Sam) Hamilton, carrying the first eastward-bound mail of the pony express, changed horses at Fifteen Mile House and headed east toward the Mormon Tavern.

Pete Haase's place (at mile 17.5 on the south side of White Rock Road). Haase was often referred to as “six-toed Pete” (for the obvious reason). He also had a dairy and worked a placer mine.

Up until the 1960s, when dredging was finally stopped in the American River, his house was used as the headquarters for the Capital Dredging Company.

Western House (at mile 19 on the south side of White Rock Road). Western House was owned by George Sherman and later his nephew, Benjamin Franklin Briggs. In 1852, the *Sacramento Union* mentioned that a 22-pound “prairie salmon” was caught near there.

The Western Ditch Company built a ditch from Deer and Carson creeks to the Western House (portions of which can still be seen).

Just east of the site of Western House the road begins to ascend the rolling foothills.

Prairie House (at mile 20.5 on the south side of White Rock Road). Prairie House had the all-important “location, location, location”: a picturesque site on top of one of the westernmost foothills that allowed them to spot travelers

coming toward them from the west. The hillside location was also a reminder to travelers to stop overnight before they had to tackle the even higher hills to the east.

In 1851, Prairie House was operated by Lusius Ripley Beckley, and later by Almon Vedder. An abortive robbery took place there in 1852.

Remnants of the site today include pieces of the foundation, a gnarled old fig tree, and a few decaying locust trees.

Railroad tracks (at mile 23.25). These were originally (1864) tracks owned by the Sacramento and Placerville Railroad.

White Rock Springs (just across the tracks, on the north side of the road) were named for the bull-quartz outcropping (still visible) on the hillside. The actual spring was enclosed by a small stone house on the south side of the road.

The White Rock Springs Ranch Hotel was located just east of the railroad on the north side of White Rock Road.

In the 20th century, this area was operated as the Bar E Ranch, which was owned by the Euer family.

Beginning of the Tong toll road (at mile 25.5, also mentioned in “Early Clarksville” on page 126). A series of toll roads used to exist uphill from the area where White Rock Road now dead-ends at Highway 50. This area is a transition zone between the low foothills to the west and the steeper grades to the east.

One of the more well-known of these tolls roads was owned by James Tong.

In 1889, all toll roads still in existence were declared public highways.

A hotel called the Carson River House was also located near here on the banks of Carson Creek.

Mormon Tavern (at mile 26, also mentioned in “Early Clarksville” on page 126). This well-known inn, a popular teamster stopping place, was built by a man named Morgan in 1848 or 1849, and also owned in the early years by Asahel Lathrop. It was located on the north side of what is now Highway 50, just east of the El Dorado Hills Golf Course.

The Mormon Tavern dining room, over 100 feet long, was a popular place for dances, and, apparently, general revelry. One practical joker, identified as James K. Page, put croton oil²⁷ in the coffee, which caused three deaths. (Page was later hanged for killing a man in New York Ravine.)

In 1860, the inn was named third remount station for the pony express. On April 4 of that year, William (Sam) Hamilton, carrying the first eastbound mail, rode in from Fifteen Mile House to the west and changed horses before heading on up the steeper slopes to the east.

Around 1876, the inn was converted into a private home by Joseph Joerger.

The Mormon Tavern was burned in 1964, to remove it from the right-of-way for the improvement of Highway 50.

The Mormon Tavern is marked by California State Historic Landmark 699. For more information about this landmark, see “Historic resources” on page 277.



Commemorative sign marking the location of Mormon Tavern

In 1849, a traveler named John Ingalls wrote the following about his over-night experiences at Mormon Tavern:

We started [from Sacramento] on the 18th [of December, 1849] . . . & came on the way ten miles. The next day it commenced raining at

27. A well-known purgative of that era.

about noon but we succeeded in getting 18 miles farther on our journey & stopped for the night at Mormon tavern.

O how it rained that night. If we had had a tight roof I should have cared nothing for it but truly a respectable rail-fence would have made a splendid roof compared to the one we had.

We bought barley for our mules for the low price of one dollar a quart & a little cold tea for ourselves for two dollars each & then as we could not get within a rod of the fire we made up our minds to turn in & get warm.

There was such a crowd in the house, the berths were all taken up so we had to spread our blankets on the ground. We were obliged to cover up our heads as well as our bodies for the rain came down in torrents.

I had just got into the house when a man stepped square on my head in getting into his berth.

I should have thought that rather rough treatment at home but we don't mind such little things in California. We got our shins stepped on several times with remarkably heavy boots containing a pair of not very light feet but aside from these little inconveniences we got through the night very well.

The next morning it rained equally hard but at about nine A.M. we packed up for I was determined not to pass another night in that house.

Railroad House (at mile 26.5). The Railroad House apparently got its name because the Sacramento-to-Placerville railroad was expected to go through the immediate area and provide business. Unfortunately, the railroad route ended up about three miles to the east.

The inn (originally owned by the Clark brothers and later by Margaret Tong) did, however, enjoy a thriving business—both as a hotel and also as a dance hall.

Mickey Free, a small-time highwayman and ruffian who was hanged for his crimes in 1855, is said to have lived at the Railroad House. Free was reported to have “celebrated” his hanging by eating peanuts and danced a jig while waiting for the trap to drop.

Another notorious “local,” Tom Bell (whose real name was Thomas J. Hodges) was said to have spent a lot of time at the Railroad House. He came to California to work as a doctor, but there was an overabundance of those, so he turned to mining, gambling, and highway robbery. His gang (up to 50 men) terrorized the gold fields.

“White Rock Jack” was a notorious local Indian desperado. At age 23 he was sentenced to life in prison for his crimes. He served his sentence in San Quentin.

Inns east of Clarksville. Inns located east of Clarksville and still in the El Dorado Hills area included Du Roc House (on the south side of Highway 50 and south of old White Rock Road), Atlantic House (owned by Samuel Freeman, on the north side of Highway 50 and east of old Bass Lake Road), Ohio House (on the north side of Highway 50 and west of the new portion of Bass Lake Road), and Deer Creek Hotel (on the north side of Highway 50 and the south side of old White Rock Road).

Inns along Green Valley Road

Some of the most significant and colorful inns and other landmarks along Green Valley Road included the following.

Mormon Island (mile 25, on the north side of Green Valley Road). Mormon Island (described in “Mining efforts move downstream” on page 121) was the first mining camp outside Sutter’s Mill.

Many inns were located there, including the Blue Tent, Caldwell House, Miner’s Hotel, Union Tavern, J. P. Markham’s Hotel, Mansion House, Young’s Hotel, The Island House, Samuel Ricker’s House, and Cincinnati House.

It was no less wild a place than Clarksville—one early observer commented that “every hollow tree was the nucleus of a grog-shop.”

Rolling Hill House (at mile 28.2, on the north side of Green Valley Road just east of Salmon Falls Road). This inn (owned by Charles Post), was situated halfway up Rolling Hill. It was a well-known dancing resort.

New York House (at mile 28.5, on the south side of Green Valley Road). This inn (owned by Constantine Hicks) was situated on a flat place in New York Ravine between Twin Bridges.

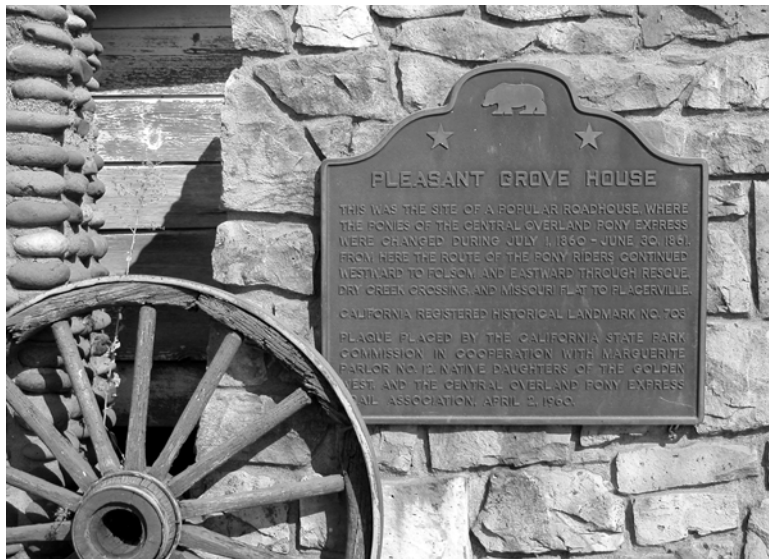
According to a widely circulated story (which is not substantiated by official records of the time), Hicks’ daughter, who was a waitress at New York House, fell in love with one of the hired hands, and the couple tried to elope. When

they got as far the Rolling Hills House just to the west, the girl's father and his friends overtook them, and the father horsewhipped the suitor to death.

Green Springs House (at mile 31, on the south side of Green Valley Road). This inn (located in an area of numerous springs) was a favorite for wedding parties.

Pleasant Grove House (at mile 31.5, on the north side of Green Valley Road). This inn is a state historic landmark, and a marker on the north side of Green Valley Road opposite the new middle school indicates its location.

Horses carrying mail for the pony express were reshod here.



Commemorative sign marking the location of Pleasant Grove House



Pleasant Grove House today

Railroads

The Sacramento Valley Railroad Company was organized in 1852, and the first train reached Folsom in 1856. The line was the first steam train in California—the creation of Theodore N. Judah, who dreamed of building a railroad that would connect California to the rest of the United States.

When progress on the Sacramento Valley Railroad bogged down, Judah created his own company, the Central Pacific Railroad, with the aid of the so-called “Big Four” railroad barons (who were then small merchants in the Sacramento area): Mark Hopkins, Collis P. Huntington, Leland Stanford, and Charles Crocker.

Judah surveyed the most feasible route through the mountains for the transcontinental railroad.

Before construction work began, Judah, along with most of the other engineers and surveyors working on the project, favored the southern route along what is now Highway 50.

Negotiations began with landowners, but some of them insisted on a controlling interest in the railroad in exchange for their toll rights, which was unacceptable to the railroad company founders. When the landowners refused to modify their demands, negotiations were broken off, and the northern route, which went through Auburn and Truckee, was chosen.²⁸

Construction work on the railroad began in 1863.

Judah became unhappy with his partners because he believed they were falsely listing the western boundary of the Sierra 12 miles further west than it really was so they could get \$48,000 per mile of low-interest loans (for work at the higher elevations) instead of the \$16,000 they could get for lines in the valley. Judah left for New York to try to persuade Wall Street bankers to buy out his partners, but he got Yellow Fever in Panama and died shortly after reaching New York.

The transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869.

Placerville, having been cut out of the transcontinental railroad business entirely, pushed for an extension of the Sacramento Valley Railroad from Folsom to Placerville. The Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad was the result. The first train ran from Freeport to Latrobe²⁹ in September 1864. Passenger service began in October of that year. The route was extended to Shingle Springs in June of 1865, but there the railroad ended—it never got as far as Placerville.

28. An additional factor was the fear that the southern route might cut across the Central Valley at Stockton rather than Sacramento, thereby reducing Sacramento's economic and political influence.

29. For more information about Latrobe as a railroad town, see "Latrobe" on page 225.

Summary of key events

Table 17 shows key events in the Gold Rush period of history.

Table 17. Key events in the Gold Rush period

Date	Event
1802	Silver was discovered at Avizal in Monterey County.
1828	Gold was discovered in the San Diego area.
1833	Gold was discovered in San Jose area.
1841	Gold was discovered near the San Fernando Mission near Los Angeles.
1845	The New Almaden mercury mine (south of present-day San Jose) opened. For information about the use of mercury in gold mining, see "How gold is taken from the ground" on page 117.
1848	John W. Marshall discovered gold at Sutter's Mill near what is now Coloma. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War and gave California to the United States. Congress adjourned in December without providing any government for California.
1849	Mormon Tavern was built as a stage stop.
1850	California was granted statehood.
1852	The Wells Fargo company was established.
1856	Sacramento became the California state capital. The Sacramento Valley Railroad established a route from Sacramento to Folsom.
1860	Pony express delivery began.
1861	The Central Pacific Railroad was formed. The transcontinental telegraph was completed. Pony express delivery ended.
1863	The northern route (along what is now Highway 80) was chosen as the route for the transcontinental railroad.
1865	The Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad reached Shingle Springs.
1869	The transcontinental railroad was completed.

Glossary

The following table lists key terms used in this chapter and their definitions.

amalgamation plate	Plate coated with mercury to “capture” fine flakes of gold.
argonaut	Term used (along with the term ‘49ers) to refer to the first gold-seekers in California.
auriferous channel	River or creek channel containing gold.
bullion	Unminted gold or silver ore, often melted into bricks or bars for easy storage.
cairn	A mound of stones erected as a landmark or memorial.
dredging	Mining method used where there was enough water to float a large, flat dredging platform. In this method, buckets dig up material from the river bottom and bring it up to the floating processing plant. Waste is pumped out the rear of the dredger. Dredging is very destructive to the environment.
<i>el dorado</i>	(Spanish origin) Gilded one. For information about the legend of <i>el dorado</i> , see “The lure of gold” on page 115.
flume	Inclined trough used to convey water for long distances.
hydraulic mining	A mining method whereby water under pressure is directed at soft gravels, causing dirt to run down into sluice boxes and revealing gold nuggets and bits of gold dust. Hydraulic mining is very destructive to the environment.
lode (hard-rock) mining	See <i>quartz mining</i> .
long tom	A modified <i>rocker</i> , enlarged to about 10-20 feet long and requiring several people to operate.

panning	The simplest method of gold mining in which gravels from a stream bed are washed in a pan, causing lighter particles to spill over the sides and heavier particles (including the gold) to settle to the bottom.
placer gold	Alluvial or glacial deposits containing gold particles that can be obtained by washing.
quartz mining	In this mining method, quartz rock is brought up from underground mines, crushed, and passed over <i>amalgamation plates</i> to trap the fine gold with mercury and (in more sophisticated operations) cyanide.
rocker	Wooden box set on rockers. The rocking motion causes a mixture of dirt and water to flow through the box, and gold particles are caught by riffles.
sluice box	A longer version of a <i>long tom</i> . Water power forces dirt through the box where gold particles are caught by the riffles.
stamp mill	Mill built to break up and grind gold-bearing ore.
tailings	Waste material left after gold-bearing ore is processed.

For more information

Sources of information listed in this section include references cited or used in researching this chapter, as well as sources that might be useful for readers to consult for more information.

Organizations

Organizations listed in Table 18 have official responsibility for or a strong interest in Gold Rush issues.

Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 18. Organizations concerned with Gold Rush issues

Organization	Location	Responsibility or interest	Contact, phone, URL, notes
Oregon California Trails Association	Independence, Missouri	California National Historic Trail	www.octa-trails.org
Pony Express Association	Pollock Pines	Yearly re-ride, in which riders carry special letters from Sacramento to St. Joseph, Missouri	P. O. Box 236, Pollock Pines, California 95726
Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society	Diamond Springs	Genealogy and family history	P. O. Box 1354, Diamond Springs 95619
United States Bureau of Land Management National Historic Trails Interpretive Center	Casper, Wyoming	Management of the California National Historic Trail, authorized by Congress in 1992	www.blm.gov
United States National Park Service Long Distance Trails Office	Salt Lake City, Utah	Administration of the California National Historic Trail, authorized by Congress in 1992	www.nps.gov
For more organizations in this category, contact one of the libraries, historic museums, or historical associations listed in "Community Resources" on page 33.			

Books, pamphlets

_____, *Mercury Contamination from Historic Gold Mining in California* (Fact Sheet FS-061-00). May 2000. U. S. Geological Survey, 6000 J Street, Placer Hall, Sacramento, California 95819. Relevant Web sites related to this fact sheet include:

- <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/mercury/>

- <http://mine-drainage.usgs.gov/mine/>
- <http://amli.usgs.gov/amli/>
- <http://www.usgs.gov/>

Bancroft, Hubert H. 1886. *History of California*. San Francisco: History Company.

Blodgett, Peter J. 1999. *Land of Golden Dreams: California in the Gold Rush Decade, 1848-1858*. San Marino, California: Huntington Library. El Dorado County Library: 979.404.

Beautiful illustrations. General reference—nothing specific about El Dorado Hills or Clarksville.

Braasch, Barbara and the editors of Sunset Books and Sunset Magazine. 1978 (Seventh Printing). *Gold Rush Country*. Menlo Park, California: Lane Publishing Co.

This edition contains a section on Placerville, a mentions of Shingle Springs and Latrobe, a picture of Indian grinding rocks, a good description of methods used to take gold out of the ground, and a glossary of mining terms.

Clappe, Louise Amelia Knapp Smith (also known as “Dame Shirley”). Written in 1851-52. *The Shirley Letters*. Hardcover edition published by Alred A. Knopf, paperback edition published by Peregrine Press.

Letters written from various mining camps to the author’s sister in New England. One of the most famous first-hand accounts of life in the mines.

Crosley, Mary Edith. 1959. *California’s Mother Lode*. Published by Mary Edith Crosley.

Booklet available at the Sutter’s Fort bookstore. Collection of Gold Rush pictures including a daguerreotype of the Wells, Fargo & Co. office in San Francisco made in the 1850s and a picture of Mormon Bar in 1863.

Cross, Ralph Herbert. 1954. *The Early Inns of California (1844 - 1869)*. Cross & Brandt: San Francisco. El Dorado County Library: C 647.94

Cross’s map of inns in the El Dorado Hills area is reprinted in the book by Betty Yohalem listed below.

Gernes, Phyllis Lindert. 1982. *Daily Journal of Stephen Wing (1852 - 1860)*. Garden Valley, California: Phyllis Gernes, Publisher. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Stephen Wing, a gold miner in Placer and El Dorado countries, spent four years mining and working in the Sierra foothills. He worked as a carpenter for local merchants and built waterwheels for river bar companies. In his journal he comments on the circus, tabloids, and spectacular hangings of Gold Rush times.

Goethe, C. M. 1949. *"What's In a Name?"* Sacramento: The Keystone Press.

Contains a chapter on Clarksville and the inns that used to exist on White Rock Road during the Gold Rush era.

Grosche, Shirley. 1997. *Gold Country Women*. Placerville, California: El Dorado Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. El Dorado County Library: 970.0794.

Gudde, Erwin G. 1949. *California Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Holden, William M. 1988, 1991, 1998. *Sacramento: Excursions into its history and natural world*. Fair Oaks, California: Two Rivers Publishing Co.

Contains chapters on stagecoach travel and the pony express.

Holland, S. Dennis. 1997. *Sierra Saints: A Brief History of the Mormons in Western El Dorado County (1847 - 1997)*. Placerville: S. D. Holland Publishing.

Divided into periods of history. Includes information about the Mormon Battalion, Mormon Island, and Mormon Tavern.

Hunter, Vickie and Elizabeth Hamma. 1963. *Stagecoach Days*. Menlo Park, California: Lane Book Company.

Johnson, Paul C. 1971. *Sierra Album*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc. El Dorado County Library: 979.44.

General reference.

Also by Paul Johnson, former editor-in-chief of Sunset Books: *Pictorial History of California*.

Kowalewski, Michael (Editor). 1997. *Gold Rush: A Literary Exploration*. Berkeley: Heyday Books. El Dorado County Library: 979.403.

Companion to the PBS special "The Gold Rush."

Landrith. 1994. *El Dorado County Marriage Index, Volume I, 1850-1869*.

Masri, Allan. 1983. *The Golden Hills of California (Volume Two): A Descriptive Guide to the Mother Lode Counties of the Northern Mines, including Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento, Nevada, Yuba, Sierra, and Plumas*. Santa Cruz, California: Western Tanager Press. El Dorado County Library: 917.944.

This is Volume Two; Volume One covers Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras, and Amador counties.

Western Tanager Press has published other books about the Gold Rush.

Mathis, George. 1973. *El Dorado Sketches*. Coloma, California: Friday House.

Sketches and descriptions. One particularly good map of the entire county.

Moser-Flynn, Halmar. 1994. *El Dorado County: Historic Places of Interest, Myths, and Legends (Volume I)*. Placerville, California: The Heritage Association of El Dorado County. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Volume I covers Coloma, Lotus, and Gold Hill.

Pany, Beth Knowles. 1999. *The People of Clarksville and Its Cemetery*. Oakland, California: California Genealogical Society.

Includes reminiscences by John Newton Wilson about his pioneer Clarksville family. The reminiscences were collected in 1998, when Wilson was 90 years old.

Peabody, George. 1989. *How About That! An Anthology of Historical Stories about Pleasant Valley, Oak Hill, Newtown, and Sly Park*. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Peabody's great-grandfather was Albert Gallatin Wilkes, a gold miner in Placerville and Georgetown between 1849 and 1852.

Peabody, George Wilkes. 1988, 1989, 1995. *The Historical Perspective Supplement for the Pleasant Valley, Oak Hill, Sly Park Area Plan and Environmental Impact Report*. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Created for El Dorado County Community Development Department, Parks and Recreation Division. Available through the El Dorado County Historical Museum.

For an introduction to the history of the Plan Area, see "Pleasant Valley, an Historical Perspective and the Squaw Hollow Sensation" (with information source references).

For the history of old mines in the Plan Area, see "The Historical Perspective Supplement for the Pleasant Valley, Oak Hill, Sly Park Area Plan and Environmental Impact Report, Our Historical Resources, a Catalog of the Old Mines, with Information source references through the turn-of-the-century."

Includes a list of established and suggested historical markers.

Rambeau, Sheryl and Moser-Flynn, Halmar. 1998. *El Dorado County: Historic Places of Interest, Myths, and Legends*. Placerville, California: Placerville Press, Inc. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Ricketts, Norma Baldwin. 1966. *The Mormons and the Discovery of Gold*. Placerville, California: Pioneer Press. El Dorado County Library: 979.404.

Rocq, Margaret Miller (Editor). 1970. *California Local History: A Bibliography and Union List of Library Holdings*. Second Edition. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.

Also: *Supplement to the Second Edition Covering Works Published 1961 Through 1970*. Published in 1976. El Dorado County Library: 979.4

First published as *California Local History: A Centennial Bibliography*, edited by Ethel Blumann and Mabel W. Thomas. Edited for the California Library Association.

Schlappi, Jane. 1975. *Historic Sites in El Dorado County*. Placerville, California: El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce. Rare book in the El Dorado County Library.

Severson, Thor. 1973. *Sacramento: An Illustrated History 1839 to 1874*. California Historical Society. El Dorado County Library: 979.4.

Focus on Sacramento. Mention that the California wagon replaced the Conestoga wagon, which couldn't survive the Sierra trails. The Conestogas were pulled by mules.

Sioli, Paolo. 1883. *Historical Souvenir of El Dorado County California: With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men & Pioneers*. Oakland, California: Paolo Sioli, Publisher. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Sesquicentennial Reprint (1998). Index by Dorothy Martin Bayless. Introduction by Jeanne Leeman Amos, Library Directory, El Dorado County. Georgetown, California: Cedar Ridge Publishing.

Trumbly, Claibourne W. 1980. *El Dorado County Road History (1850 - 1980)*. Placerville, California.

Winkler, Jack R. 2000. *Old Hangtown: A History of Placerville, California From 1948 through 1856*. Placerville, California: JRW Press. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Winkler was the district attorney of El Dorado County 1954 - 1966.

Wilson, John N. 1986 (reprinted 1999). *These Lonely Hills*. Published informally.

Wilson belongs to one of the Clarksville pioneer families.

Lots of local lore and interesting memorabilia. Sections on Clarksville, Latrobe, Mormon Island, Prairie City, Shingle Springs, and Mormon Tavern. Also contains fairly comprehensive information about various pioneer families.

Winther, Oscar. 1936. *Express and Stagecoach Days in California*. Stanford, California.

Yohalem, Betty. 1977. *"I remember . . .": Stories and pictures of El Dorado County pioneer families*. Placerville, California: El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Available from the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce. Lots of photos and drawings. Betty (Mack) Yohalem's first career was acting. She married George Yohalem, a writer and production manager at MGM Studios. The Yohalems moved to El Dorado County in 1956. They opened the Pioneer Book Shop in Placerville in 1957.

Includes a reprint (from Cross, *The Early Inns of California*, see above) of a map showing the location of inns along White Rock Road and Green Valley Road during the Gold Rush.

Zauner, Phyllis. 1981. *The Train Whistle's Echo: Story of the Western Railroad Era*. Tahoe Paradise, California: Zanel Publications.

Zauner, Phyllis and Lou Zauner. 1999. *California Gold: Story of the Rush to Riches (A Pictorial History)*. Sonoma, California: Zanel Publications.

CHAPTER 9

The Ranching Period

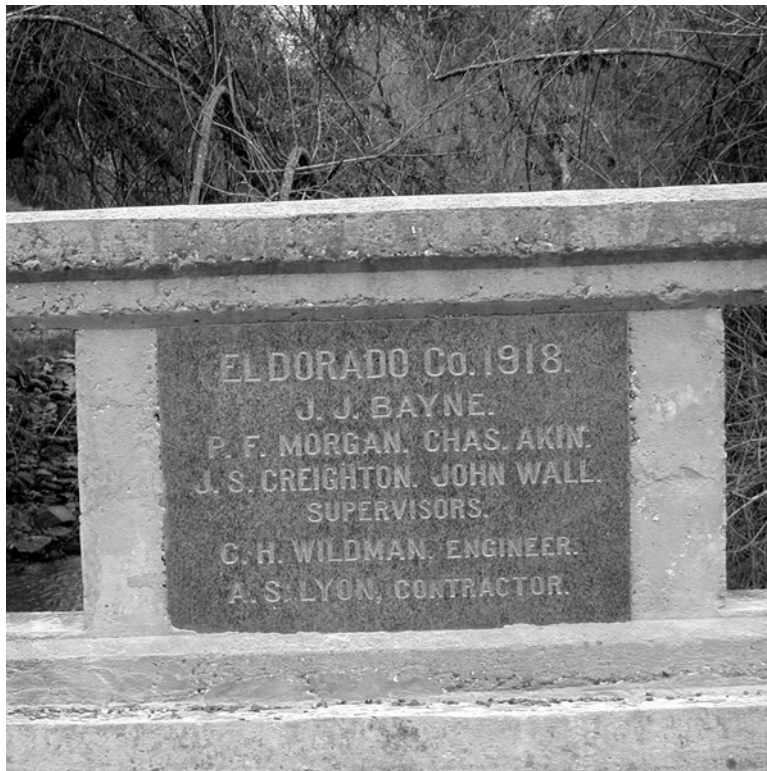
Clarksville settles down	152
Agricultural endeavors	154
Other economic endeavors	156
Hardscrabble existence	157
Pioneer families	159
<i>Sketches of pioneer families</i>	159
<i>Clarksville pioneer family reunions</i>	162
<i>Cemeteries in the El Dorado Hills area</i>	163
For more information	166
<i>Organizations</i>	166
<i>Books</i>	166

Clarksville settles down

As the description in “Early Clarksville” on page 126 illustrates, Clarksville was as wild a town during the height of the Gold Rush as any others, including “Old Hangtown” itself.

After the frenzy of the early Gold Rush years started to subside, Clarksville, like many of the other former mining camps, started to settle down.

As residents began to put down roots, they were likely to value “civilization” more than “excitement.” Stone buildings replaced tents and wood structures, gravel and corduroy roads replaced dirt roads and trails, libraries were established, and schools were built to educate the next generation.



Bridge across Carson Creek in the Clarksville area

In the later years of the 19th century, after gold fever had become a thing of the past, one of the Clarksville residents defended the "sophistication" of his hometown through the following letter to the *Sacramento Union*:

Editors *Sacramento Union*: Much has been said about Clarksville being a bad place for thieves and robbers. I learn this was the opinion entertained abroad of the place to such an extent that one of our own citizens while at your city denied of having any knowledge of the place.

It is a fact not to be denied, we did some three or four years ago send several representatives to San Quentin, since which time we have in our neighborhood a well organized society called "Regulators," numbering 200 members, whose presence has caused a great change.

Clarksville to-day will compare with any foot-hill village in the State for good morals. We have a Sabbath school, well attended, under the supervision of D. L. Brooks. Mrs. C. F. Young, State Deputy of I. O. G. T., organized a Good Templars Lodge three months ago. It now has thirty members in good standing.

Our district school is kept by Miss H. M. Bennett, and has sixty pupils in all, who are well advanced in the primary branches of education. The school is generally kept open seven months in the year.

Our Tax Collector, while collecting the tax in this place, gives us the name of being the most ready tax-payers he has seen in the county.



Clarksville Post Office

(photo courtesy of El Dorado County Historical Museum photographic collection)

Agricultural endeavors

Agriculture was the most common economic endeavor in the western foothills from the end of the Gold Rush to the beginning of the real estate period of history in the early 1960s.

Ranching was the most common agricultural pursuit.

Many ranchers raised cattle for sale as meat, and some ran dairies to produce milk and other products. Sheep and goats were also raised in the area. Most ranches also had some horses, which were used for farm work and transportation.



Remnants of rock walls along Carson Creek

Vineyards and orchards were also common in the more fertile areas around El Dorado Hills.

Paolo Sioli³⁰ reports that the first vineyard in El Dorado County was in Green Valley on Sweetwater Creek. It was owned by Jacob Zentgraf.

James Skinner of Green Valley also grew grapes for wine. The Skinner Winery, now a historic landmark in Rescue, consisted of two buildings connected by a tramway.

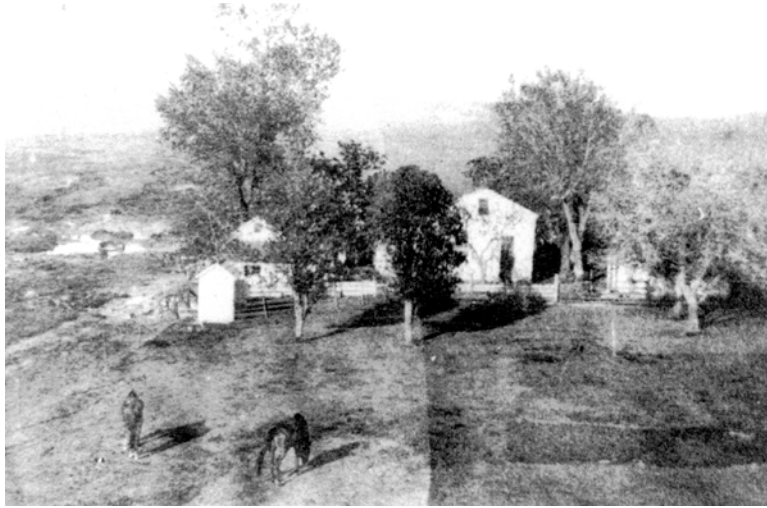
Sioli also tell of “fine vineyards” of “many hundred acres” near Mormon Island owned by Henry Mette and two members of the Hart family.

Another book³¹ about this period of history reports that the Veerkamp family had 20,000 vines and fruit trees in 1883. Their fresh fruit was sold all over the county and dried fruit was shipped as far away as Carson Valley, Genoa, and Bodie.

30. Sioli (1883).

31. Yohalem (1977).

The Clarksville Grange (No. 149) was organized in January 1874. Some of the first local families to join were Kyburz, Fitch, Wilson, Euer, and Joerger.



Carson Creek Ranch in the Clarksville area (owned by the Wilson family)
(photo courtesy of El Dorado County Historical Museum photographic collection)

Other economic endeavors

A February 22, 1873 listing of land owners in El Dorado County reveals other economic endeavors in the western foothills and the extent of their land holdings:

- Central Pacific Railroad (27,452 acres worth \$41,178)
- Eureka Ditch Company (land worth \$15,000)
- Natoma Water and Mining Company (land worth \$30,000)
- Pilot Creek Water Company (land worth \$30,000)
- Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad (land worth \$101,650)
- Pocahontas Mill and Mining (land worth \$20,000)
- St. Lawrence Mill and Mining (land worth \$40,000)
- South Fork Canal Company (land worth \$15,000)

In 1875, the Park Canal and Mining Company formed and began rebuilding and enlarging 250 miles of the old miners' ditches, including some running to Bass Lake (which was then called the American Reservoir).

Hardscrabble existence

It wasn't easy to make a living as a farmer in Clarksville.

Paolo Sioli³² describes the western foothills as follows:

There are hundreds of thousands of acres within this county of little or no value for any other purpose but [stock raising]. Most all the land from Latrobe and Clarksville toward the line of Sacramento county, in a body have a beautiful appearance, but only here and there is a tract suitable for cultivation, on account of the bed-rock coming too near the surface, the soil above cannot give sufficient nourishment during our dry summers.

Mr. J. H. Miller, of Latrobe, who has upwards of 6,000 acres of land, and 3,500 of it under fence, divided by cross-fences, upon this he is pasturing 6,500 head of sheep, besides some 50 horses and cattle; and by his system of changing his stock from field to field, he is improving the pasture gradually.

32. Sioli (1883). For more information about J. H. Miller, see "Latrobe" on page 225.



Barton family (Hiram, Lelland, Margaret, and Daisy) on their Clarksville ranch
(photo courtesy of El Dorado County Historical Museum photographic collection)

Besides farmer, rancher, or dairyman, occupations listed in the 1884-85 Clarksville town directory included:

- Sheep herder
- Teamster
- Carpenter
- Laborer
- Miner
- Hotel owner
- Saloon owner
- Physician
- Magnetic healer

Pioneer families

Sketches of pioneer families

Following are short sketches of a few of the more well-known pioneer families:

Barton. An 1873 land report lists T. G. Barton as owning 720 acres worth \$10,230. Hiram E. Barton married Daisy C. Russi (see below for the Russi family) on December 24, 1896, near Clarksville.



Hiram and Daisy Barton

(photo courtesy of El Dorado County Historical Museum photographic collection)

Fisk. In the 1884-85 Clarksville town directory, Ira B., Thomas, and Charles are listed as farmers and as owning a ranchero of 160 acres.

Fitch. In the 1884-85 Clarksville town directory, George is listed as a farmer

owning 445 acres, and Wilbur is listed as a laborer. For more information about the Fitch family, see “Albert’s shrine revisited” on page 279.

Joerger. George is listed as a dairyman and Joseph as a farmer in the 1884-85 Clarksville town directory.

One of the largest pieces of property purchased in the late 1950s by Allan Lindsey, founder of El Dorado Hills, was the Joerger ranch. For more information about the transition from ranches to real estate development, see “The original vision” on page 170.

Kyburz. The history of the Kyburz family in the 19th century is probably somewhat typical of other ranching families in Clarksville.

Samuel (Sr.), Rebecca (Barber) Kyburz, and their family came to California in 1846. They traveled for awhile with the Donner party, but they separated from that group and managed to reach California before the major snowfalls that winter. They settled at Sutter’s fort, where Samuel ran the inn.

In the 1850s, the Kyburz family bought property in the Sacramento area. They moved to the Clarksville area in 1865. In 1869, they acquired land belonging to the railroad.

Samuel E. (son of Samuel Sr.) fought in the Civil War and worked for a time as an engineer in a quartz mine. In 1871, he claimed 160 acres next to the land owned by his father.

During the 1880s, both Samuel E. and Samuel Sr. bought additional property (totaling 440 acres) in Clarksville, and rented another parcel of the same size from the Black family. The Kyburz family later adopted Alice Black after her parents died.

According to the 1880 census, Albert and John Daniel Kyburz lived on the Kyburz ranch, and their parents, Samuel and Rebecca, had moved to a town lot in Clarksville.

In the 1890s, Samuel Sr. bought land near Shingle Springs and sold it to his son Albert.

In 1895, Samuel Sr. and Rebecca sold their 440 acres in the Clarksville area to Joseph Joerger, another dairyman who also owned Mormon Tavern.

In 1898, Samuel Sr. died in Clarksville. Rebecca died in the same place in 1903.

Cornilla, Samuel, Spencer, and Bolla are buried in the Clarksville cemetery.

Murphy. The Murphys may have been the first family to occupy ranchland later owned by the Kyburz and Joerger families.



Murphy family (back row: Phillip, Thomas, George, Tom, and Frances, front row: Nellie, Ellen, Laura, and Nettie)

(photo courtesy of El Dorado County Historical Museum photographic collection)

Russi. Anton was listed as a dairyman owning 320 acres in the 1884-85 Clarksville town directory. As already mentioned in “Barton” above, Daisy C. Russi married Hiram E. Barton on December 24, 1896, near Clarksville.

Russi Ranch Drive in the Serrano development was named for this family.

Taylor. H. B. Taylor owned 800 acres in 1873. Mrs. A. is listed as a physician and Amos a saloon owner in the 1884-85 Clarksville town directory.

Tong. Tongs buried in the Tong family cemetery include Carrie, Clarence, Daniel, George, Harvey, Muriel, Redmond, and Wert. In the 1884-85 Clarksville town directory, Frank is listed as a magnetic healer, and Samuel as a teamster.

Van Wicklin. In the 1884-85 Clarksville town directory, James is listed as a dairyman and Mrs. Margaret as a farmer with 363 acres.

Wilson. According to John Newton Wilson,³³ four Wilson brothers (William, Isaac, Augustus, and Egbert) came to California in 1853. Members of the Wilson family ranched in the Clarksville area for many years.

33. As related to Beth Knowles Pany in 1998 (see Pany, 1999).

Clarksville pioneer family reunions

Up until fairly recently, the Clarksville Heritage Society sponsored pioneer family reunions on a yearly basis.

One reunion, written up in the *Mountain Democrat* in April 1986, featured a picture of the participants and stories of old Clarksville.

Some of the families attending were Barton, Dixon, Euer, Joerger, Moseley, Russi, Tong, Walker, and Wilson. The reunion was organized by Madeleine (Petersen) Moseley and Mimi Tong.

As reported in the article:

What remains of Clarksville now are a flag pole and two outhouses marking the site of the grammar school, the 1918 bridge over Deer Creek, the old highway that ends abruptly 50 feet below the freeway, the crumbling stone walls of a mercantile building that had been a Wells Fargo bank³⁴ for about four years, and several deteriorating residences that are now used as storage.

Mostly Clarksville is a horse ranch operated by Arthur and Gloria Tong. The county abandoned part of the [Highway 50] right of way so the Tongs could keep away Sunday drivers and trespassers.

Another *Mountain Democrat* article reported a similar picnic reunion held in 1994. Chuck Ryan, who was one of the attendees, worked as a cowboy on one of the local ranches, and later starred in some cowboy movies during the 1940s.

A reunion was also held and reported on in May 2000. This time, instead of a picnic outdoors, the gathering consisted of a potluck at the Serrano Visitor's Center, originally the site of the Walker Ranch.

34. This building is also reported to have been a Wells Fargo assay office.

Cemeteries in the El Dorado Hills area

Two cemeteries in El Dorado Hills were the burial sites for many of the pioneer families, and they provide a “catalog” of names of Clarksville pioneer families.

Clarksville Cemetery. This is a private cemetery located on the south side of Highway 50, on the hill above the new Town Center East.

Markers in the Clarksville Cemetery include names like Ball, Beffa, Carsten, Chappel, Clark, Davidson, Donahue, Everett, Fitch, Joerger, Johnson, Kyburz, Martin, McFadin (McFadden), Miller, Morse, Patterson, Roberts, Sailley, Sherman, Showers, Smith, Strohecker, Taylor, Wilson, and York.

The Clarksville Cemetery was closely associated with Mormon Tavern and is also known as the Clarksville / Mormon Tavern Cemetery.

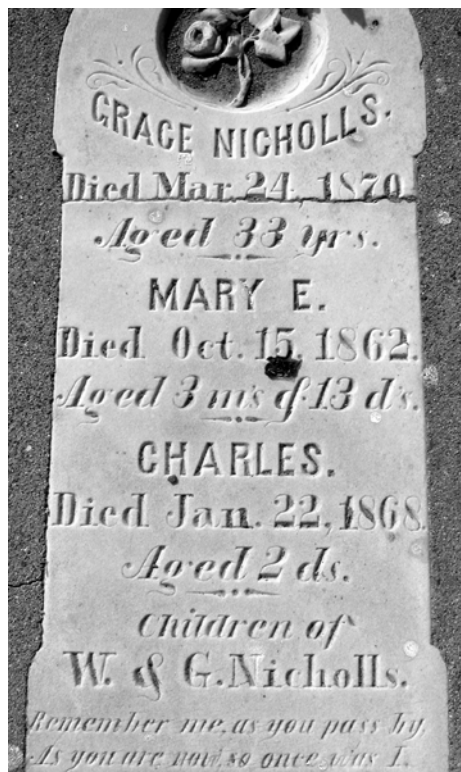
The fact that El Dorado County considers it private is controversial; in at least one probate record it is described as “the public cemetery in said town of Clarksville.”³⁵

35. For more information about this controversy, see Pany (1999).

Mormon Island Cemetery. This public cemetery is located at the end of Shadowfax Lane, just off Green Valley Road. It was relocated there when the original cemetery was about to be flooded by Folsom Lake.



Grave moved from the original to the relocated Mormon Island Cemetery



Gravestone in the relocated Mormon Island Cemetery

There are also two small private family cemeteries, both near Highway 50, near where Silva Valley / White Rock pass under the road:

Hall/Richmond Cemetery.

Tong Cemetery (also known as the Railroad House Cemetery or the Joerger-Tong Cemetery). Buried in the Tong cemetery are about 8 people from the Tong family and two people from the Pointer family.

For more information

Sources of information listed in this section include references cited or used in researching this chapter, as well as sources that might be useful for readers to consult for more information.

Organizations

Organizations listed in Table 19 have official responsibility for or a strong interest in Clarksville.

Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 19. Organizations concerned with Clarksville

Organization	Location	Responsibility or interest	Contact, phone, URL, notes
Clarksville Heritage Society		Sponsors Clarksville pioneer family reunions	Madeleine Petersen Moseley
El Dorado County Pioneer Cemeteries Commission		Cemeteries in El Dorado County	www.usgennet.org/usa/ca/county/eldorado1

Books

Cross, Ralph Herbert. 1954. *The Early Inns of California (1844 - 1869)*. Cross & Brandt: San Francisco. El Dorado County Library: C 647.94

Cross’s map of inns in the El Dorado Hills area is reprinted in the book by Betty Yohalem listed below.

Goethe, C. M. 1949. *“What’s In a Name?”* Sacramento: The Keystone Press.

Contains a chapter on Clarksville and the inns that used to exist on White Rock Road during the Gold Rush era.

Gudde, Erwin G. 1949. *California Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Holland, S. Dennis. 1997. *Sierra Saints: A Brief History of the Mormons in Western El Dorado County (1847 - 1997)*. Placerville: S. D. Holland Publishing.

Divided into periods of history. Includes information about the Mormon Battalion, Mormon Island, and Mormon Tavern.

Pany, Beth Knowles. 1999. *The People of Clarksville and Its Cemetery*. Oakland, California: California Genealogical Society.

Includes reminiscences by John Newton Wilson, a member of one of the pioneer families of Clarksville. The reminiscences were collected in 1998, when Wilson was 90 years old.

Sioli, Paolo. 1883. *Historical Souvenir of El Dorado County California: With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men & Pioneers*. Oakland, California: Paolo Sioli, Publisher. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Sesquicentennial Reprint (1998). Index by Dorothy Martin Bayless. Introduction by Jeanne Leeman Amos, Library Directory, El Dorado County. Georgetown, California: Cedar Ridge Publishing.

Trumbly, Claibourne W. 1980. *El Dorado County Road History (1850 - 1980)*.

Wilson, John N. 1986 (reprinted 1999). *These Lonely Hills*. Published informally.

Wilson belongs to one of the Clarksville pioneer families.

Lots of local lore and interesting memorabilia. Sections on Clarksville, Latrobe, Mormon Island, Prairie City, Shingle Springs, and Mormon Tavern. Also contains fairly comprehensive information about various pioneer families.

Yohalem, Betty. 1977. *"I remember . . .": Stories and pictures of El Dorado County pioneer families*. Placerville, California: El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce. El Dorado County Library: 979.441.

Available from the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce. Lots of photos and drawings. Betty (Mack) Yohalem's first career was acting. She married George Yohalem, a writer and production manager at MGM Studios. The Yohalems moved to El Dorado County in 1956. They opened the Pioneer Book Shop in Placerville in 1957.

Includes a reprint (from Cross, *Inns of California*, see above) of a map showing the location of inns along White Rock Road and Green Valley Road during the Gold Rush.

CHAPTER 10

Real Estate Development

A brief history of development in El Dorado Hills **170**

The original vision **170**

Development in the 1960s **171**

Development in the 1970s **173**

Development in the 1980s **173**

Development in the 1990s **174**

Real estate development today **175**

Probable future development **180**

Land currently protected from development **182**

Key events, 1950s - 2002 **183**

“The men of El Dorado Hills” **186**

For more information **188**

Organization **188**

Book **188**

A brief history of development in El Dorado Hills

During the last 40 years (since the early 1960s), real estate, commercial, and community development has dominated the local scene.

The original vision

Allan H. Lindsey is considered to have “founded” El Dorado Hills in 1959 when he bought 20 parcels of ranch lands totaling about 11,000 acres, gave El Dorado Hills its name, and began a master plan for what he hoped would be a community of 75,000 people.

The best known of the parcels Lindsey purchased was the 1,800 acres owned by the Joseph J. Joerger family, site of the famed Mormon Tavern, which is described in “Inns along White Rock Road and Highway 50” on page 133.

In putting together his master plan, Lindsey was inspired by Victor Gruen (of Victor Gruen and Associates), a Viennese architect who had built so-called “new towns,” or master-planned communities in Europe before he emigrated to the United States in 1938.

In 1954, Victor Gruen designed the first regional shopping center, the Northland Shopping Center in Detroit. In 1956, he created the first fully enclosed shopping center, Southdale Shopping Center near Minneapolis. Gruen also did the residential and commercial master plan for the Palos Verdes Peninsula in the Los Angeles area, and he has written extensively on urban planning and urban sprawl.

According to Lindsey’s original vision, El Dorado Hills would be developed into 12 distinct villages, each defined by general terrain, natural parks, arterial streets, and unique architectural style. In addition, each village was to have its own shopping center and recreational club. The community would have 2,000 acres of open space.

“[El Dorado Hills has] the lure of serenity.”

—Early advertising for the master-planned community of El Dorado Hills

Plans called for 17 elementary schools, 5 junior highs, and three high schools. The design for an executive airport similar to the one on Cameron Park was submitted and approved by the California Aeronautics Commission.

Development in the 1960s

In 1962, press releases issued by EDH West, El Dorado Hills' first real estate design and development organization, announced the opening of Park Village with 6 models priced from \$19,000 to \$24,000. Proud mention was made that the landscape designers were part of the Disneyland team.

The first family to move in, in October 1962, were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph DeGerorgis, who bought lot 1 in unit 1 (Park Village) on Arrowhead Drive.

The second and third villages were Governor and St. Andrews.

Raley's supermarket, which was the first unit in the community shopping center, was built in 1969-70.

The population of El Dorado Hills was 1,800 in 1968 and about 2,200 in 1969, but growth was not nearly what Lindsey had predicted (and his business plan required).

In the late 1960s, Lindsey dropped out of the El Dorado Hills real estate picture when he was forced to sell out to the John Hancock Insurance Company.³⁶

A 1969 interview with Lindsey summarized what happened to the more grandiose of the early dreams: "We would be on our way to 75,000 if aerospace cutbacks hadn't taken place" (in those years many local residents worked at Aerojet, McDonnell Douglas, and Mather Air Force Base).

A park off the south end of Silva Valley Parkway near Highway 50 has been named for Lindsey in honor of the role he played in founding the community of El Dorado Hills and creating the El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD).

36. Lindsey went on to build Buckeye Ranchero in Shingle Springs and Rancho del Sol in Camino.



Bill Parker and Allan H. Lindsey at the Allan Lindsey Park dedication
(photo courtesy of Serrano Associates, taken by Tom Myers)

Development in the 1970s

The John Hancock Insurance Company did little development in the 1970s, and by late in the decade, they had begun to sell off the land one parcel at a time.

In 1978, Anthony (Tony) Mansour, who had emigrated to the United States from Lebanon, formed a group called El Dorado Hills Investors and bought the Hancock holdings, which included land targeted for new homes and commercial areas.

In the late 1970s, 630 homes were built in El Dorado Hills. Approximately 12,000 square feet of retail space was also added at the Raley's location.

Development in the 1980s

In 1981, groups of investors purchased additional undeveloped acreage in El Dorado Hills.

There was some concern among both developers and the existing residents of El Dorado Hills that Allan Lindsey's original vision might be eroded in a rush to build quickly during the economic boom times. In an effort to prevent this scenario, real estate investors invited the Urban Land Institute (ULI)³⁷ to conduct an analysis of future possibilities.

The 1985 analysis recommended a master-planned community, and further work resulted in the El Dorado Hills Specific Plan, which was approved in 1988.

"[El Dorado Hills is] a network of villages removed from urban Sacramento . . . but with the affluence and public facilities to set [residents] apart from the rural lifestyle of the rest of El Dorado County."

—Article by Marjie Lambert in the *Sacramento Bee* (March 5, 1984)

By 1989, the plan's residential areas, entry commercial zones outside the plan's area, and the existing public golf course had been sold to a partnership that included Parker Development Company.

37. The ULI, founded in 1936, is a community of practice for those engaged in real estate development and land use policy-making. They are headquartered in Washington, DC.

Development in the 1990s

Real estate development picked up considerably in the 1990s. One of the largest master-planned developments in the area is Serrano, which opened its visitor center and began selling custom home sites in 1995. Serrano has about 3,500 acres, which are located in the center of El Dorado Hills, south of Green Valley Road, north of Highway 50, and east of El Dorado Hills Boulevard.

In May 1996, Serrano held its official grand opening, and the Serrano Country Club opened. At that time it was managed by Parker Development Company for three major partners:

- Parker Development Company
- Teichert Land Company
- Pacific Coast Building Supply Inc.

In 1998, the partnership holdings were sold to a new partnership comprised of Parker Development Company of Sacramento and Catellus Development Corporation, a San Francisco-based real estate company.

Catellus Development Corporation was started in 1984 as a real estate operating subsidiary of the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad. Catellus is now a diversified development company, and also owns projects in Southern California. In the San Francisco area their most well-known project is Mission Bay, which is located next to the baseball stadium.

Parker Development Company, founded by Harold E. Parker, still shares ownership in Serrano, and William R. (Bill) Parker continues to manage its day-to-day operations.

In 1997, Serrano was named Community of the Year by the National Association of Home Builders' Sales & Marketing Council. In 1997, and again in 1998, Serrano was awarded Community of the Year by the local Building Industry of Superior California.

The development has also received recognition for its use of recycled water (for more information, see "Recycled water: A bright spot in the local water picture" on page 254).

Serrano is a series of neighborhoods attached to the basic street system of Serrano Parkway and Silva Valley Parkway.

Some of the facilities are open to the public, including the following:

- Allan H. Lindsey Park, which was mentioned in “Development in the 1960s” on page 171
- The Village Green, a 27-acre site that features a lake with a bandstand gazebo, an outdoor amphitheater designed for concerts and presentation, and the future site of the El Dorado Hills branch of the El Dorado County Library

The Serrano Visitors Center is also located in the Village Green.

- Two existing schools: Silva Valley Year Round Elementary School and Rolling Hills Middle School
- One school under construction: Oak Meadow Elementary School (targeted to open in July 2003)

Real estate development today

Today, despite additional economic downturns including the current economic slowdown, growth continues at an active pace.

Current new home and apartment development. The two master-planned home development projects in El Dorado Hills are Serrano and The Promontory.

Serrano is rapidly growing toward the final number of 4,500 homes. Serrano includes 1,000 acres of open space, 63 acres of parkland, a 200-acre private golf course, and 24 miles of hiking and biking trails.

Currently 9 builders are offering production homes in Serrano. Custom homesites are also available.

The main entrance to Serrano is Serrano Parkway off El Dorado Hills Boulevard.



Home construction in Serrano

Three developers of production homes are currently working in The Promontory. Custom homesites are also available.

The Promontory development, which covers approximately 1,000 acres and is approved for a little over 1,000 homes, is located on both sides of Sophia Parkway off Green Valley Boulevard.

The Promontory is owned by Angelo Tsakopoulos (AKT Development), a prominent Sacramento-area developer.



Model home at The Promontory

A number of other home builders (both production and custom) are also working in El Dorado Hills. “Real estate organizations” on page 70 contains a partial list.

Development is also currently underway on the Sterling Ranch Apartments (1-3 bedrooms) on El Dorado Boulevard at Wilson Boulevard.

Current commercial development. The largest existing commercial development in El Dorado Hills is the Raley’s Center, off El Dorado Hills Boulevard and north of Highway 50. Raley’s Center is being expanded with a Kinder-Care Learning Center and a new bank.

Tony Mansour, operating as the Mansour Company, continues to develop and market Town Center, which is located off Latrobe Road south of Highway 50. Town Center East, which is east of Latrobe Road, is a retail center that

includes a Ralphs supermarket and Longs drug store. Town Center West, on the west side of Latrobe Road, includes the Blue Shield of California buildings.



Town Center East: Longs grand opening

A new commercial center, called La Borgata, is being developed across Park Drive from the Raley's Center.



Construction at La Borgata

La Borgata, which has a Tuscan village theme, consists of 5 buildings around a central fountain and *piazza*. Businesses targeted to be included in La Borgata include a bank and restaurant.

El Dorado Hills Business Park. The approximate 900 acres that make up the El Dorado Hills Business Park, which is just south of Highway 50 along Latrobe Road, is divided into parcels of 1 to 87 acres and buildings of from 2,000 to 400,000 square feet.

The land was originally owned by the Euer family. The project, which is being developed by Sammy Cemo of Cemo Commercial, has been adding new tenants every year, and is targeted to be built out within about 25 years.

The largest company in the business park is DST Output. In September 2002, DST was named to the Top 10 list of best plants in North America by *Industry Week* magazine.³⁸

38. See "DST Output named to top 10 list" in the September 25, 2002 edition of the *El Dorado Hills Telegraph*.

In August 2002, DST broke ground for a new 213,000 square foot facility in the El Dorado Hills Business Park. DST employs close to 1,700 people.



DST building in the El Dorado Hills Business Park

Probable future development

Land that is likely to be developed in the next few years includes:

- Valley View (located south of Highway 50 and east of Latrobe Road, part of the Valley View Specific Plan)

Prominent Sacramento-area developer Angelo Tsakopoulos purchased Valley View in 2002 from Tony Mansour. The development contains 2,000 acres and was approved by El Dorado County for 1,800 house lots.

The development has been targeted by Measure Y supporters,³⁹ who claim that because plans for the development were changed by Man-

39. Measure Y is the November 1998 El Dorado County ballot measure that calls for developers to pay for removing the traffic burden they put on nearby roads.

sour just before Measure Y was approved, the development agreement is no longer valid.

- Carson Creek development (south of Highway 50, off White Rock Road west of Latrobe)

Part of the Carson Creek Euer Ranch Specific Plan. Approved for over 1,700 homes.

- Bass Lake Hills development (north of Highway 50, between Serrano and Cameron Park)

Part of the Bass Lake Hills Specific Plan.

- Rancho Dorado development (just north of Highway 50, near the Sacramento County line)

The Specific Plan for this development is no longer in effect. Future plans are currently uncertain.

- Deer Creek Estates (off Latrobe Road, south of Valley View)

- Marble Valley (south of Highway 50, east of Valley View)

- Additional development in Serrano

Development has recently begun in a new area of Serrano on the east side of Serrano Parkway.

An additional part of Serrano, northeast of the Serrano Country Club and on the west side of Serrano Parkway, is also targeted for future development.

- Additional business and commercial development

Development will continue at Town Center East. The El Dorado Hills Mercedes Benz dealership is targeted to open in 2003. The new section of Town Center East will also have theaters and restaurants.

The next phase of Town Center East (scheduled to be completed by summer 2003) includes a small lake that runs through the site in a north-south direction, and will be crossed, by bridge, by Town Center Boulevard.

Growth also continues at the El Dorado Hills Business Park.

Serrano recently sold a site for a hotel on Saratoga Way, near El Dorado Hills Boulevard and Highway 50. Construction could begin in the summer of 2003.

A Safeway supermarket, which has caused a lot of controversy in the community, is scheduled to be built on the corner of Francisco and El Dorado Hills Boulevard.

■ **Additional non-commercial development**

The El Dorado Hills branch of the El Dorado County Library is due to break ground in the spring of 2003.

A church is targeted to be located on a ridge east of Town Center East (near the Clarksville Cemetery).

Land currently protected from development

Land currently protected from development includes two parcels designated as agricultural preserves:

- In what used to be the central part of Clarksville, off the east end of White Road both north and south of Highway 50
- On the south end of the area covered by the Carson Creek Euer Ranch Specific Plan, just inside the El Dorado County line

Key events, 1950s - 2002

Table 20 lists key events in the real estate development period of history.

Table 20. Key events 1950s - 2002

Year	Event
Late 1950s	Allan H. Lindsey, operating as El Dorado Hills West, purchased the land that is now El Dorado Hills and master-planned the area.
1961	Ads promoting El Dorado Hills appeared in local and regional periodicals.
Early 1962	Building began at the site of the "proposed new city" of El Dorado Hills. Roadways and utilities were constructed, as well as a limited number of residential units.
Late 1962	Due to an economic downturn, Aerojet began layoffs (90 days after the first El Dorado Hills models were opened).
1963	The El Dorado Hills Water District was formed to provide water and sewer services. The El Dorado Hills fire department was established under the control of the El Dorado County Water District.
1968	Allan Lindsey sold his development company to Gordon Emerson of the John Hancock Insurance Company.
1970	The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors approved \$150,000 for an airport in El Dorado Hills (which has never been built). The El Dorado Hills Raley's supermarket was completed.
1971	El Dorado Hills development projects were taken over by the Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company.
1973	El Dorado Hills residents voted to have water and sewer services provided by the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID). Fire protection remained under the El Dorado County Water District.
1978-79	630 houses were built in El Dorado Hills.
1978	Anthony (Tony) Mansour gave the Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company a deposit to purchase their El Dorado Hills land and development projects.
1979	Construction began on Oak Ridge High School.
1980	Sewage overflows in El Dorado Hills caused the state to put a moratorium on sewer connections. Another economic downturn began. Interest rates began to rise.
1980	Tony Mansour closed escrow on his El Dorado Hills properties.
1980-85	The Mansour Company worked on a master plan for its El Dorado Hills holdings. The community saw little or no development during this period.

Table 20. Key events 1950s - 2002

Year	Event
1982	Sammy Cemo began acquiring the property that is now the El Dorado Hills Business Park.
1983	Ballot Measure B passed, giving the El Dorado Hills Community Service District (CSD) the authority to enforce CC&Rs throughout the community through their Design Review Board (DRB).
1985	Establishment of Assessment District #3 (AD3). The district provided the basic sewer and water infrastructure needed to facilitate development well into the future.
1988	The El Dorado Hills Specific Plan (also known as the Serrano Specific Plan) was approved by El Dorado County.
1989	The Mansour Company sold 3,500 acres, which became Serrano, to Parker Development Company.
1989-1993	These were recession years. Oak Ridge High School was remodeled and expanded. Raley's supermarket was remodeled. Parker Development Company completed the Serrano master plan, and constructed roads, sewers, and other facilities to support it.
1992	Silva Valley Year Round Elementary School opened.
1994	Rolling Hills Middle School opened in temporary facilities.
1994-1998	The Mansour Company created plans for multi-family houses and additional retail in El Dorado Hills.
1995	Serrano opened its Visitor Center and began selling custom home sites.
1996	The Serrano development held its official grand opening. The Serrano Country Club opened. Centex Homes and Winncrest Homes opened models in Serrano.
1998	The Valley View Specific Plan was approved by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors. Rolling Hills Middle School moved to its permanent facilities.
1996-2002	More than 1,600 homes were sold in Serrano.
2002	New stores (including Ralphs supermarket, Longs drug store, and Starbucks) opened in Town Center East. Raley's supermarket was again remodeled.



Construction at Town Center East

“The men of El Dorado Hills”

In 1961, an advertisement for El Dorado Hills appeared in *Sierra Magazine* as part of a special section called “Placerville . . . Cradle of the Mother Lode.” The ad showed the scale model (now located in the Serrano Visitor Center) of the community and, surrounding the model, the “men who will assure the good life for the new residents of El Dorado Hills.”

Text for the ad is as follows:

The model . . . is the developer’s pledge of tract-free, nature-endowed living to every resident who will call this city home . . . El Dorado Hills is now underway and you can inspect its progress today—drive out Highway 50, 8 miles east of Aerojet, and discover El Dorado Hills, where a city will grow in natural beauty.

The men identified in the picture are:

1. Allan H. Lindsey. Founder, El Dorado Hills.
2. Morgan Evans. Horticulturist and leading conservationist.
3. Edgardo Contini, MASCE. Chief engineer and partner, Victor Gruen Associates. Partner in charge of El Dorado Hills.
4. Ben H. Southland. Victor Gruen Associates. Partner in charge of planning.
5. Larry Smith. Larry Smith Economic Development Co.
6. Jerome F. Lipp. Executive Vice President and Project Manager of El Dorado Hills. President, Lindsey & Co.
7. Dee R. Eberhart. Real Estate Consultant, Larry Smith and Co. Supervisor of long-term economic growth and development projections for El Dorado Hills.
8. Douglas Baylis. Project Landscape Architect, El Dorado Hills. Responsible for the master landscaping program.
9. Robert Trent Jones. Robert Trent Jones, Inc. Leading golf course designer who will create the two golf courses at El Dorado Hills.
10. Victor Gruen, FAIA. Senior Partner, Victor Gruen Associates. Internationally known architectural and engineering organization responsible for the master plan and implementation program for El Dorado Hills.

11. Willard E. Nielsen. Vice President, Lindsey & Co.
12. Irv Borchert. Sales Manager, Lindsey & Co.
13. Robert Anshen, FAIA. Partner of Anshen and Allen. Award-winning architectural firm commissioned to design Park Village, the first unit of El Dorado Hills.
14. William Stephen Allen, FAIA. Partner of Anshen and Allen.
15. William M. Anderson, Jr. General Manager, El Dorado Hills county water district.
16. Enoch Stewart. partner, Spink Engineering Company. Engineering Consultant for El Dorado Hills.
17. Bradley Stark. Assistant Project Manager, El Dorado Hills.
18. H. D. Thoreau. President, El Dorado Hills.
19. Carl Kowall. Manager, Land Development Dept., Lindsey & Co.
20. Frank Hotchkiss. Victor Gruen Associates. Project Manager for El Dorado Hills.

"No other modern American city assures its citizens so much of the good life—for today and tomorrow and all the years to come."

—1961 advertisement for El Dorado Hills that appeared in *Sierra Magazine*

For more information

Sources of information listed in this section include references cited or used in researching this chapter, as well as sources that might be useful for readers to consult for more information.

Organization

Table 21 lists an organization concerned with real estate issues, other than those appearing in “Real estate organizations” on page 70.

Table 21. Organization concerned with real estate issues

Organization	Location	Responsibility or interest	Contact, phone, URL, notes
Urban Land Institute	Headquarters: Washing- ton, DC	Real estate development and land use	www.uli.org

Book

De Grange, Allen. 1995. *History of El Dorado County*. De Grange Publishing. El Dorado County library (rare book).

Natural History and Environment

Overview	190
<i>Geologic history of the western Sierra</i>	190
<i>Seismic activity</i>	193
Rocks and minerals	193
Soils and land use	196
Water	197
<i>Creeks, watershed</i>	197
<i>Water supply</i>	197
Native plants	198
Cultivated plants	200
Native animals	201
Glossary	202
For more information	204
<i>Suggested field trips</i>	204
<i>Organizations</i>	208
<i>Books, pamphlets, reports, and CDs</i>	208
Note	211

Overview

El Dorado Hills sits on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada at an elevation of 600 to 1,200 feet. The El Dorado Hills Post Office is at a latitude of 38 degrees 39 minutes north and a longitude of 121 degrees 4 minutes west.

Geologic history of the western Sierra

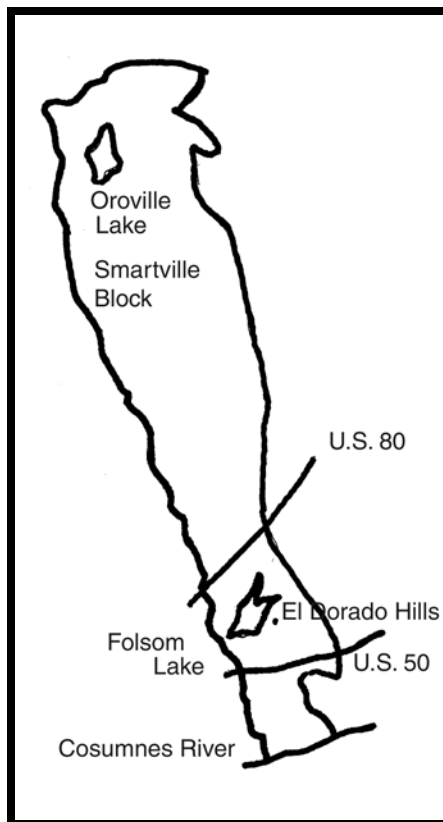
Over many millions of years, the land around El Dorado Hills has been uplifted, bent, folded, and eroded to create the landscape we see today.

Our part of the Sierra foothills was originally formed as part of a volcanic island chain in the sea, similar to the Hawaiian or Aleutian islands of today. The island chain was part of a *tectonic plate* geologists call the *Farallon plate*.

About 175 million years ago, the Farallon plate (moving west to east) collided with another tectonic plate that underlay the main part of what is now North America. The area where the collision took place is a north-south line stretching from the Oroville Dam through El Dorado Hills to Sutter Creek.

Geologists refer to our part of the western Sierra as the *Smartville block* or *Smartville complex*. Rocks in this area are characteristic of those that have had a volcanic origin and have since undergone physical and chemical changes.

The collision that took place in our area was not the only one significant to the formation of California. Subsequent collisions between plates influenced the formation of the Central Valley and Coast ranges of mountains.



Smartville block

Table 22 shows more detail about these and other geological events that have strongly influenced the landscape of the western Sierra.

Table 22. Important geological events

Date	Event
About 175 million years ago	The Farallon Plate (containing a chain of volcanic islands) crashed into North American plate and set in motion many geologic changes to the area that is now El Dorado Hills.
150-100 million years ago	A large inland sea covered what is now the Central Valley, the Coast Range, and the Sierra Nevada. The Sierra was formed by the folding and buckling of the <i>sedimentary</i> rocks in the inland sea being pushed upward. The heat and pressure changed some of the sedimentary rocks into <i>metamorphic</i> rocks. Quartz sandstone became quartzite. Shale hardened into slate. Limestone recrystallized into marble. Molten rocks cooling underground formed the granites found throughout the Sierra foothills. Other rocks metamorphosed into common local rocks like <i>serpentine</i> and <i>greenstone</i>. Pressures from the <i>magma</i> pushing upward and shrinkage caused by the cooling granitic rocks resulted in cracks and fissures filled by solutions of quartz mixed with small amounts of gold, copper, lead, and other minerals.
50-15 million years ago	The inland sea retreated. Volcanos erupted and ash buried the Sierra. New streams formed at right angles to the old streams containing the gold and other minerals deposited earlier.
15-2 million years ago	The Sierra tilted toward the west. Glaciers began to form in the mountains.
About 1 million years ago	As the glaciers melted they left <i>moraines</i> in the High Sierra. Runoff dislodged minerals and washed them downstream to gravel or sand bars. The Sacramento Delta and San Francisco Bay were formed.
1848+	Gold seekers discovered valuable minerals on the surface or just below the surface of the creekbeds. At first miners recovered gold nuggets and flakes by simply picking them up or panning for them. Over time, mining became more destructive and the miners caused significant environmental changes in the Sierra region. Examples include cutting of the forests and dredging of creekbeds that caused erosion and left <i>cobbles</i> and other debris in huge piles along the banks of rivers.

Seismic activity

At various times in the far distant past, the western Sierra has been the site of intense geologic disturbances. Some features of the El Dorado Hills landscape show remnants of this activity. For example, the West Bear Mountain earthquake fault, which is now inactive, runs in a north-south direction roughly along present-day El Dorado Hills Boulevard.

Other faults near El Dorado Hills are Bear Mountain and Melones (both also running north-south and located some miles to the east).

Most geologists believe these fault zones represent the boundary where the Smartville block collided with the western edge of the continent, as described in “Geologic history of the western Sierra” on page 190.

Currently there is little seismic activity in the western Sierra. To the west, however, in the San Francisco Bay Area, there are almost constant minor and moderate earthquakes, and in recent years there have also been a few quakes to the east.

For example, Truckee had a 3.8 temblor in 1998 and a one measuring 4.8 in 2000.

Oroville, which lies in the same fault zones as El Dorado Hills, had a magnitude 5.7⁴⁰ earthquake on August 1, 1975. Some geologists think this earthquake was caused by the filling of the reservoir behind Oroville Dam. The event called into question the plan to build a similar dam near Auburn. Construction has been on hold ever since, but there is constant pressure from various interest groups in the area to go ahead with the project.

Rocks and minerals

Rocks found in the western Sierra are usually metamorphic or igneous. Rocks found further down in the Valley are usually sedimentary.

One of the more common rocks in El Dorado Hills is *serpentine*, a gray-green rock made up of hydrated silica and magnesium with small amounts of iron or nickel. Soil resulting from the breakdown of this rock is relatively low in

40. Some sources say the magnitude was 6.1.

plant nutrients, which is one reason the vegetation on many hills in our community is rather sparse. (Other reasons are damage by grazing animals and local patterns of rainfall and drainage.).



Serpentine rock in a typical El Dorado Hills landscape

Asbestos in El Dorado Hills. Naturally occurring *asbestos*, in the form of a mineral called *chrysotile*, is sometimes found in serpentine rock, especially near fault zones.

For more information about asbestos in the El Dorado Hills area, see “Asbestos” on page 265.



Serpentine rock with lichens growing on it

Other rocks and minerals in El Dorado County. Other interesting rocks and minerals found in El Dorado County include:

- Chromite, which is used to make chrome and which was mined at one time in El Dorado Hills along Carson Creek
- Copper, which is collected as crystals and, when used for industrial purposes, is usually alloyed with other metals
- Eldoradoite, a blue variety of quartz
- Galena, the most common ore of lead
- Garnet, which occurs in many colors, including red, purple, orange, green, white, and brown, and is popular in jewelry
- Loadstone (magnetite), which is magnetic in nature and rich in iron
- Tourmaline, which occurs as hexagonal crystals most commonly colored black, green, or red

Soils and land use

Soils in this area (sometimes known as *Auburn/Argonaut soils*) are brownish in color, hard, and slightly acid. Depth to bedrock is 12 to 26 inches. Tombstone-like rock outcrops are common.

During the Spanish and Mexican periods of history and after the Gold Rush up until about 1920, the land around El Dorado Hills was used mostly for the production of hay and forage for livestock. Since then, urban uses (that is, buildings constructed for residential and commercial use) have been expanding, except on the steeper slopes, which are typically left as open space.

Water

Creeks, watershed

Harvard Way is the boundary of the El Dorado Hills watershed. North of Harvard Way, the creeks drain to the American River and Folsom Lake. Two of these include New York Creek and Deer Creek. South of Harvard Way, creeks drain to the Cosumnes River. These include Carson Creek and Dusty Creek.



Carson Creek

Water supply

Paolo Sioli, one of the early historians of El Dorado County, describes⁴¹ the location of three canals that supplied much of the fresh water needs of western El Dorado county in the late 19th century:

- A canal running along an east-west ridge from the junction of the North and South forks of the American River
- A canal running west from the mouth of Weber Creek

41. Sioli (1883).

- A canal running west through the plains between the South Fork of the American River and the Cosumnes River

Ranchers living along the western slope also dug wells to supply their own needs and the needs of their animals, gardens, and crops.

However, although the wells supplied enough water for some of the residents' needs, they often fell short when it came to emergencies. Madeleine Petersen Moseley, a 20th century El Dorado Hills area pioneer, has described⁴² how lack of water for fire fighting caused an exodus from the western slope. Moseley's family home burned to the ground when a spark started a blaze that couldn't be extinguished by available local water, and the response time for the nearest firefighters, located near Camino, was about 4 hours.

Today, water for El Dorado Hills is supplied by the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), a public agency serving central and western El Dorado County. For more information about the EID and water issues in El Dorado Hills, see "Water" on page 243.

Native plants

The natural vegetation types throughout the El Dorado Hills area are mostly *grass-oak woodland* and *chaparral*.

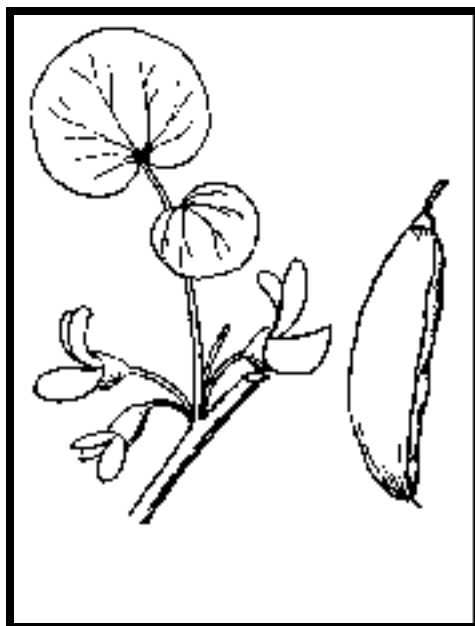
Native trees common in the area are:

- Gray Pine (sometimes called Digger Pine) (*Pinus sabiniana*)
- Blue Oak (*Quercus douglasii*)
- Interior Live Oak (*Q. wislizenii*)
- Valley Oak (*Q. lobata*)

All of these trees can withstand severe drought. In fact, too much water in the naturally dry season can kill them, and householders need to be careful that runoff from a lawn or flower bed doesn't reach their roots.

42. See "Clarksville: Once bustling Gold Rush town died for water" in the May 29, 2002 edition of *Village Life*.

Other common plants native to the Sierra foothills are California Western Redbud (a large, attractive bush with heart-shaped leaves, whose bright magenta flowers grace the April landscape), many grasses, California Poppy, and various kinds of lupines and vetch.



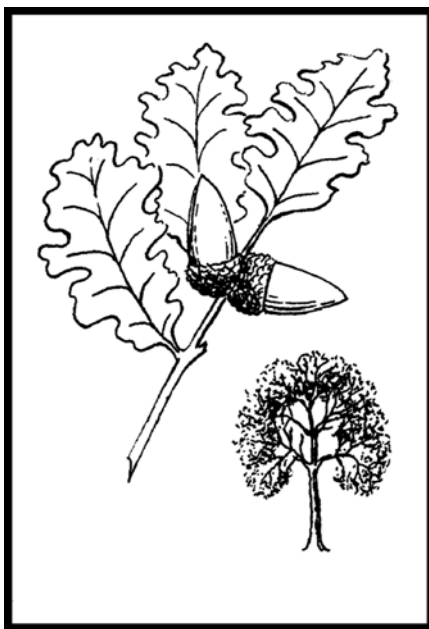
California Western Redbud

(from *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*)

Along the creeks are *riparian* woodlands, which are among the most threatened and important plant communities. Common plants in riparian woodlands are:

- Rushes
- Sedges
- Willows
- Blackberry (*Rubus vitifolius*)
- Blue Oak (*Quercus douglasii*)
- Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*)
- Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- California Grape (*Vitis californicus*)

- Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*)
- Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*)



Valley Oak

(from *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*)

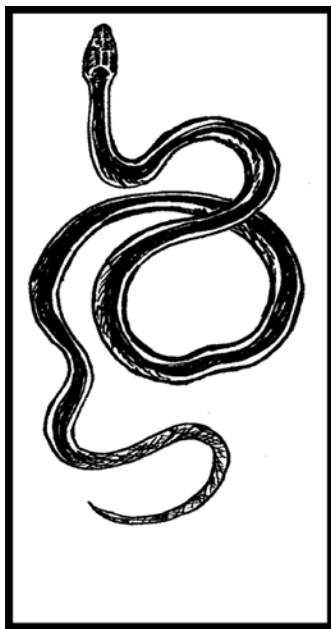
Cultivated plants

El Dorado Hills is close to the border of two of the *Sunset Western Garden Book* climate zones. We are actually in zone 9 (which we share with Folsom) but are close to the border of zone 7 (the zone for Cameron Park and Placerville). Heat-loving plants like oleander (*Apocynaceae*) and crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*) thrive here. We aren't living in a wintertime cold-air basin like the area

around Marysville and Yuba City, so citrus trees can usually be grown successfully. On the other hand, deciduous fruit trees that benefit from colder winters grow just east of us (for example, at Apple Hill), but not here.

Native animals

Wild animals and birds commonly seen in the El Dorado Hills area include deer, foxes, rabbits, voles, snakes, turtles, quail, hawks, and buzzards. Coyotes forage occasionally at the edge of the El Dorado Hills Golf Course. A flock of wild turkeys wanders the area north of Highway 50 near the El Dorado Hills community sign. Bobcats have been spotted along local nature trails, and river otters and beavers live in some of the Serrano ponds.



California Striped Whipsnake
(from *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*)

Glossary

The following table lists key terms used in this chapter and their definitions.

asbestos	A group of minerals with a fibrous appearance. The asbestos form of serpentine, a rock common in El Dorado Hills, is called chrysotile.
Auburn/argonaut soils	Soil types in the El Dorado Hills area. These soils are slightly acid and brownish in color.
chaparral vegetation type	One of the vegetation types in the Sierra foothills. Features hard-leaved, drought-resistant plants.
chrysotile	See <i>asbestos</i> .
Farallon plate	The tectonic plate that collided with the North American plate about 150 million years ago in the area now known as El Dorado Hills.
fault	A fracture in the earth's crust along which the rocks on either side have shifted.
gabbro	A dark igneous rock or the resulting soil that forms as the rock breaks down. Rare gabbro soil occurs just east of El Dorado Hills in the Cameron Park area.
gold	A rare metal found in abundance during the Gold Rush period and still found occasionally in El Dorado County today.
granite	An igneous rock consisting mostly of feldspar and quartz.
grass-oak woodland vegetation type	One of the vegetation types in the western Sierra foothills. Characteristic plants are oaks, pines, and grasses.
greenstones	Metamorphosed igneous rocks.

igneous rocks	Sometimes called volcanic rocks. Rocks that come from magma found deep in the earth. When magma cools beneath the surface, intrusive rocks are formed. Examples include granite and gabbro. Magma that reaches the surface forms extrusive rocks. Examples include lava, obsidian, and basalt. Igneous rocks are often associated with metal ores.
marble	Recrystallized limestone.
metamorphic rocks	Rocks that have been changed by heat, pressure, or permeation by other substances. Examples include marble, quartzite, and schists.
moraine	A glacial deposit of sediment left at the margins of an ice sheet.
placer	Sedimentary deposits in which gold and other minerals are concentrated.
quartz	A common mineral, associated with gold, that occurs in a wide variety of colors and forms.
riparian	Any area within 50 feet from the center line of a seasonal creek or stream or any area within 100 feet from the shoreline of a pond, lake, or reservoir. These areas generally enjoy protected status.
sedimentary rocks	Rocks made of minerals that have been moved from their place of origin to another place of deposition. They are generally extremely varied, differing greatly in texture, color, and composition. Examples include sandstone, shale, and limestone.
serpentine	A gray-green rock made up of hydrated silica and magnesium with small amounts of iron or nickel. Serpentine rocks are common in the El Dorado Hills area.

Smartville block	Also known as the Smartville complex. The area of the western Sierra where the Farallon tectonic plate collided with the North American plate about 175 million years ago.
tectonic plate	A segment of the earth's outer rind, the lithosphere, which extends down to a depth of about 60 to 100 miles. A dozen or more plates of various sizes now move about on the earth's surface.

For more information

Sources of information listed in this section include references cited or used in researching this chapter, as well as sources that might be useful for readers to consult for more information.

Suggested field trips

Visiting locations described in the following sections helps to understand the unique geography, geology, and botany of the Sierra foothills.

Rare plants, rocks, and soil. Pine Hill Preserve, just to the east of El Dorado Hills, is a good place to learn about local botany and geology. The preserve is a collaborative effort among various federal, state, county, and private organizations to save the habitat of 8 plants that grow nowhere else on earth. The preserve consists of about 6 separate parcels of land both north and south of Green Valley Road a few miles east of El Dorado Hills.

The Cameron Park Unit is one of the parcels open to the public (some other parcels require special permission to enter). You can park and enter the preserve from one of these two locations:

- Behind the Bel Air market at the end of Gabbert Drive. After you park, walk up the dirt road.
- Next to a park on Veld Way (right off Meder Road). After you park, walk back out to Meder, turn left (west), go a short distance on Meder, and turn left onto another dirt road partially hidden by trees.

Both entrances lead you to an unused dirt road that goes to the top of a hill. Rare plants grow next to or even in the middle of the road.

Some of the species protected in the preserve are:

- Pine Hill Ceanothus (*Ceanothus roderickii*). This ceanothus (related to other, more common ceanothus plants common in the foothills) has small white flowers, which can have a pinkish or bluish tinge. Periodic fire has a positive effect on this plant.
- El Dorado Bedstraw (*Galium californicum ssp.sierrae*). This plant has small, pale yellow flowers. It is very difficult to spot.
- El Dorado Mule-ears (*Wyethia reticulata*). This plant is a perennial in the sunflower family. It has yellow flowers that appear in May or June. It grows in gabbro and serpentine soils.
- Stebbins' Morning-glory (*Calystegia stebbinsii*). This endangered species has white flowers (typical morning-glory flowers but smaller).
- Red Hills Soaproot (*Chlorogalum grandiflorum*). This plant is a member of the lily family. The leaves are dark-green and wavy. The flowers open in the evening.



Soaproot plant

Soaproot has many uses, including:

- The root can be used to make soap or shampoo, and the local Indians mashed it and threw it into pools of water to stupify the fish so they could catch them more easily
- The root can be baked (to remove the soapy taste) and eaten
- The fibers surrounding the root can be made into brushes

The preserve also provides a hands-on lesson in local geology. The plants are growing in rare *gabbro soil* derived from the underlying *gabbro rock*, originally formed deep in the earth's crust and dark red in color due to a high iron content. Crystals are commonly embedded in the rocks. The gabbro rock and soil share some characteristics and also some plant species with the serpentine soil found more commonly in El Dorado Hills just a few miles to the west.

The best time to visit the preserve is April through June when many of the plants are in bloom.

As you might expect, it is forbidden to pick the plants or remove any rocks or minerals from the preserve.

More information is available at www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/phpreserve/.

Rock and mineral collection sites. Popular rock and mineral observation and collection sites in El Dorado County include:

- Folsom (along the American River): granitic rocks and cobbles (dredger tailings)
- Georgetown (Stifle Claim / Traverse Creek area, 1.3 miles from Georgetown Road (Highway 193) just off Meadow Brook Road: serpentine, jade, garnet, and vesuvianite

This area is managed by the United States Department of Forestry. William Stifle, for whom the area is named, was a gold miner, and he also submitted a claim in the early 1900s for vesuvianite crystals, which were thought at the time to be emeralds.

Individuals can collect on the site without a formal permit. However, jackhammer digging is not allowed and overcollecting is also prohibited.

For more information about the site, contact the Georgetown Ranger Station on Wentworth in Georgetown.

- Placerville (north of town): jade
- Pollock Pines (west and southwest of town): quartz crystals
- Volcanoville (north of Chiquita lake): quartz crystals
- White Rock Road (south of the Aerojet property): cobbles (dredger tailings)

Straza Ranch wildlife preserve. The Straza Ranch wildlife preserve is 4-5 miles north of Coloma on Highway 49. The gate to the preserve (on the west side of the highway) is almost directly opposite the entrance to a winery. There is a small parking area next to the gate.

Jensen Botanical Gardens. These gardens, located on Fair Oaks Boulevard in Carmichael, contains exotic flora, including rare hybrids of camellias, dogwoods, azaleas, and rhododendrons. Phone: 944-2025.

Rusch Park Botanical Garden. This garden, located at Rosswood Drive and Antelope Road in Citrus Heights, represents 7 biomes of California. Phone: 725-7275.

Organizations

Table 23 lists organizations concerned with natural history issues.

Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 23. Organizations concerned with natural history issues

Organization	Location	Responsibility or interest	Contact, phone, URL, notes
American River Conservancy	Coloma: Highway 49	American River area	530-621-1224 www.arconservancy.org
California Department of Conservation	Sacramento: K Street	Conservation of natural resources	322-1080 www.consrv.ca.gov
California Department of Fish and Game	Sacramento: 9th Street	Fish and game	445-0411 www.dfg.ca.gov
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Sacramento: 9th Street	Forestry and fire protection	653-5123 www.fire.ca.gov
California Native Plant Society (El Dorado Chapter)	State office in Sacramento: J Street	Plants native to El Dorado County	www.eldoradocnps.org You can purchase native plants from this organization.
El Dorado County Mineral and Gem Society	Placerville	Rocks and minerals in El Dorado County	530-676-2472 www.eldoradomineralandgem.org
U. S. Bureau of Land Management (Pine Hill Preserve)	Folsom: Natoma Street	Pine Hill Preserve	985-4474 www.ca.blm.gov/folsom/
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation	Sacramento: Cottage Way	Folsom Dam	978-5100 www.mp.usbr.gov
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Sacramento: Cottage Way	Fish and wildlife	414-6464 http://offices.fws.gov

Books, pamphlets, reports, and CDs

_____. *Economic Feasibility Study for the El Dorado County Ecological Preserves*. (EPS #4025) February 1997. Prepared by Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., Sacramento, California.

_____. *Preservation Sites and Preservation Strategies for Rare Plant Species in Western El Dorado County*. November 1991. Prepared by EIP Associates.

_____. *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*. [No date] Sacramento: Sacramento County Office of Education, Educational Services Division.

A revision of *The Natural History Guide of the Sacramento Area* published in 1963. The “creative spirit responsible for the [original] book” and “the inspiring force for its revision” was Effie Yeaw, a naturalist and teacher who is legendary in the Sacramento area.

Good addition to the library of all serious amateur naturalists. Includes a section titled “Suggestions for a Classroom Library.”

Alt, David D. and Donald W. Hyndman. 2000. *Roadside Geology of Northern and Central California*. Missoula, Montana: Mountain Press Publishing Company. El Dorado County Library: 557.94.

Good addition to the library of all serious amateur geologists.

The El Dorado Hills area is described in the section titled “Highway 50: Sacramento to Carson City.”

Bailey, Edgar H. (Editor). 1966. *Geology of Northern California: Bulletin 190*. Menlo Park: California Division of Mines and Geology. El Dorado County Library: 557.94.

Brenzel, Kathleen Norris (Editor). 2001. *Sunset Western Garden Book*. Menlo Park: Sunset Publishing Corporation. Web site: www.sunsetbooks.com.

The definitive book about gardening in the western United States.

Desautels, Paul E. 1974. *Rocks & Minerals*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap. El Dorado County Library: Q 549.

Good general reference about rocks and minerals.

Dunn, Melanie, Rosemary Guerin-Place, Lyn Roefs, and Kathleen Twomey (Information compilers) (DMG CD 2000-001). 2000. *California Minerals and Mines*. California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. CD-ROM.

Durrenberger, Robert W. 1965, 1968. *Patterns on the Land: Geographical, Historical and Political Maps of California*. Palo Alto, California: National Press Books. El Dorado County Library: 979.4.

Excellent source of information. Lots of maps.

Hanauer, Elsie. 1976. *Rocks and Minerals of the Western United States*. New York: A. S. Barnes and Company. El Dorado County Library: 549.075.

Good high-level treatment of the formation of rocks and minerals.
Contains many maps showing collecting locations.

Harden, Deborah R. 1998. *California Geology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, Inc.

College-level textbook.

Holden, William M. 1988, 1991, 1998. *Sacramento: Excursions into its history and natural world*. Fair Oaks, California: Two Rivers Publishing Co.

Contains a chapter about Effie Yeaw and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park in Carmichael.

Jennings, Charles W. 1994. *Fault Activity Map of California and Adjacent Areas*. Sacramento: Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. El Dorado County library: 551.87.

Large map and commentary about volcanic eruptions in California.

McPhee, John. 1993. *Assembling California*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

The McPhee books are written in a readable, journalistic style that appeals to amateurs. Describes the Smartville block and the area around the proposed Auburn dam.

McPhee, John. 1980. *Basin and Range*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.

Covers Nevada and parts of the Sierra.

Niehaus, Theodore F. and Charles L. Ripper. 1976. *Pacific States Wildflowers: Washington, Oregon, California and adjacent areas* (A Peterson Field Guide). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Both color and black/white pictures. Relatively easy for amateur botanists to use.

Other books in the Peterson series would also be of interest to local amateur naturalists.

Rogers, John H. 1968. *Soils of Western El Dorado County, California*. Placerville: El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Soil Conservation Districts cooperating

with United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. El Dorado County Library: 631.4979441.

Schiffman, Peter and David L. Wagner (Editors). 1992. Field Guide to the Geology and Metamorphism of the Franciscan Complex and Western Metamorphic Belt of Northern California (Special Publication 114). California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology.

Wagner, D. L., C. W. Jennings, T. L. Bedrossian and E. J. Bortugno (Information Compilers). 1987 (Second Printing). *Geologic Map of the Sacramento Quadrangle*. California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. Map.

Wagner, David L. and Stephan A. Graham. 1999. *Geologic Field Trips in Northern California*. Sacramento: California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology.

Highly scientific treatment—of interest primarily to professionals and serious amateurs.

One of the articles in this book, titled “Accretionary Tectonics of the Western Sierra Nevada Metamorphic Belt,” written by Richard A. Schweickert, Richard E. Hanson, and Gary H. Girty, talks about geologic features in the El Dorado Hills area.

Williams, Jerry (Editor). 2000. *California Atlas: A Geographic Journey*. Quincy. California: California Geographic Associates.

Available at Sutter’s Fort in Sacramento and from the Web site www.calatlas.com.

Wuerthner, George. 1993. *California’s Sierra Nevada*. Helena, Montana: American Geographic Publishing. El Dorado County Library: 979.44.

Lots of pictures.

Note

This chapter was excerpted under the title “The natural history of the El Dorado Hills area” in the 40th anniversary edition (May 29, 2002) of the *Village Life* newspaper.

Neighboring Communities

Cameron Park	215
<i>History, profile</i>	215
<i>Claims to fame, points of interest</i>	215
Folsom	218
<i>History, profile</i>	218
<i>Claims to fame, points of interest</i>	219
Latrobe	225
<i>History, profile</i>	225
<i>Claims to fame, points of interest</i>	226
Placerville	228
<i>History, profile</i>	228
<i>Claims to fame, points of interest</i>	229
Prairie City	232
<i>History, profile</i>	232
<i>Claims to fame, points of interest</i>	233
Rescue	235
<i>History, profile</i>	235
<i>Claims to fame, points of interest</i>	235
Shingle Springs	238

<i>History, profile</i>	238
<i>Claims to fame, points of interest</i>	238
For more information	239
<i>Books</i>	239
<i>Internet sources</i>	239

Cameron Park

History, profile

The “Allan H. Lindsey”⁴³ of Cameron Park is Robert L. (“Larry”) Cameron, also known as “Calgary Red.” Before he turned to real estate development, Cameron was a successful bronc rider, trick rider in a wild west show, car salesman and dealer, and cattle breeder.

After closing out his career as a Pontiac dealer in Sacramento, Cameron purchased 5,000 acres in the Sierra foothills to use as a cattle ranch. Eventually the land was divided into parcels and individual lots.

The first real estate development opened in 1963, at about the same time that El Dorado Hills’ first development opened.

The Camerons moved to Cameron Park in 1974.

The community profile of Cameron Park is somewhat like that of El Dorado Hills: housing developments, a few shopping areas, a country club, and a number of parks and other open spaces.

Claims to fame, points of interest

- Airpark Estates, where wide streets double as taxiways between homes and the airstrip
- Historic site of the Skinner Winery (located near the corner of Green Valley Road and Cameron Park Drive)
- Pine Hill Preserve (for more information, see “Suggested field trips” on page 204)
- Parks:
 - Cameron Park Lake, Cambridge Road
 - Christa McAuliffe Park, Merrychase Drive
 - Gateway Park, Cambridge Road and Gateway Drive
 - Hacienda Park, Cameron Park and Hacienda drives
 - Rasmussen Community Park, Mira Loma Drive

43. Founder of El Dorado Hills.

- Royal Oaks Park, Country Club and Royal drives

- Farmers market: Wednesday mornings., late June through mid-September, in Christa McAuliffe Park
- Sam's Town

This run-down Western town on the south side of Highway 50 was closed in March 2000, but it continued on as a deteriorating landmark until October 2002. The Food 4 Less shopping center that is scheduled to take the "ghost town's" place is scheduled to be completed by mid-2003.



Skatepark at Christa McAuliffe Park in Cameron Park



Soccer players at Christa McAuliffe Park in Cameron Park

Folsom

History, profile

The first non-native to live briefly in the Folsom area was Jedediah Smith, who, in 1825, established the headquarters of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company on the American River near present-day Folsom. The company was engaged in killing beaver for their pelts.

Although Folsom was named for Captain Joseph L. Folsom, who fought in the Mexican-American War as part of the New York Volunteers and who is responsible for mapping out the town in house-sized lots, the first non-native to claim the area was William Leidesdorff, who was born in the West Indies.

Leidesdorff's mother was black and his father white.

In 1841, he sailed his schooner, which he used for commercial ventures, to San Francisco. He was an agent for the Russian American Fur Company, which he furnished with supplies.

Leidesdorff became a leading citizen of his new city. He owned the first hotel and first warehouse in San Francisco. He was the first elected city treasurer, and a member of the city council and school board.

In the years just before California statehood, Leidesdorff became interested in land in the Sacramento area along the American River. In 1844, Leidesdorff sought and received a 35,000-acre land grant (called Rancho de los Americanos) from the Spanish government. In order to become eligible to own the land he became a naturalized Mexican citizen.

Leidesdorff never got a chance to develop the land he was granted; he died in San Francisco in 1848, at age 38.

After Leidesdorff's death, and during the time he was surveying for the trans-continental railroad, Joseph L. Folsom became interested in the Rancho de los Americanos land and decided to try to buy it.

Folsom went to the Danish West Indies to negotiate with Leidesdorff's mother, Anna Maria Sparks. He succeeded in convincing her to sell him all of Leidesdorff's properties (including land in San Francisco) for \$75,000.

However, the purchase was contested by the Mexican government, which maintained that Leidesdorff's holdings could not actually be transferred to Sparks, his heir, because she was not a Mexican citizen.

The battle dragged on, even after California became part of the United States. Even though he lacked title to the land, Folsom commissioned Theodore Judah to survey the area and to map a town (to be called Granite City) of approximately 100 blocks in size. The dispute eventually went to the U. S. Supreme Court, which ruled in Folsom's favor, but the fight had bankrupted him and ruined his health.

Folsom died in 1855 at the age of 38 (ironically, the same age Leidesdorff was when he died).

As part of the eventual settlement of his estate, Leidesdorff's land was all sold at public auction.

Claims to fame, points of interest

Site of Folsom Prison. Folsom Prison was the second prison to be built in California.

In 1856, the Natoma Water and Mining Company, which owned a granite quarry and water rights on the site, offered it to the state in exchange for convict labor. The water company intended to take water out of the South Fork of the American River and divert it to "dry" mining areas to the southwest.⁴⁴

The prisoners also built the prison, which began construction in 1874.

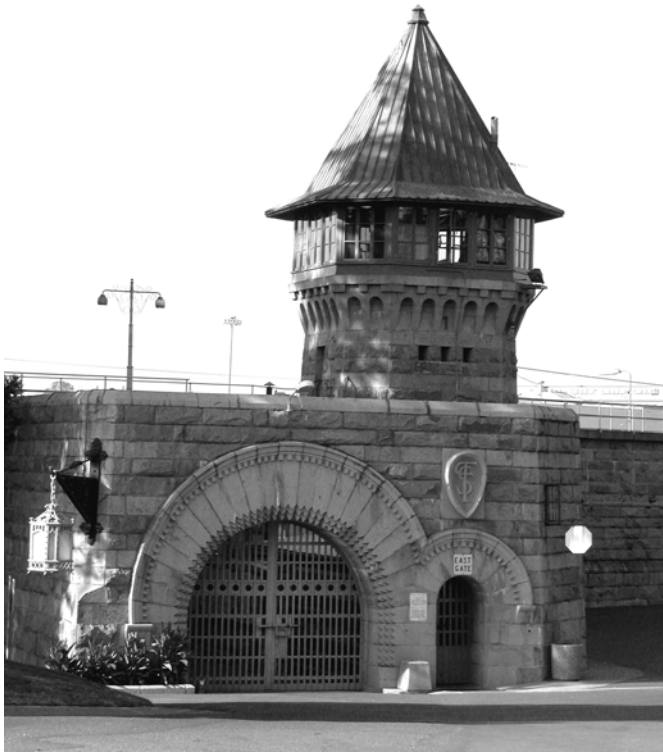
Folsom had been economically depressed after the closure of the machine and foundry shops of the Sacramento Valley Railroad in 1869, and construction on the prison helped to revive it.

The prison has been relatively peaceful through the years, but there were a few uprisings and escapes. The most well-known escape was in 1903, when 13 prisoners, using homemade weapons, captured the warden, his guest, and some guards. The convicts then stole some guns and headed in the direction of Mormon Island.

The escaped prisoners took a few hostages, stole their clothes, and scattered around the northern part of El Dorado County, challenging and killing some national guardsmen along the way.

Most of the prisoners were never found.

44. For more information about this project, see "Prairie City" on page 232.



Folsom Prison



Folsom Prison Museum

Folsom Dam. The dam, which is actually two earth-filled wing dams, an auxiliary dam at Mormon Island, and 8 dikes, was completed in 1956 for a cost of \$90 million. The main part of the dam is 1,400 feet long and 340 feet high.

The road across Folsom Dam is considered to be a security risk and is scheduled to be replaced by a bridge sometime in the future.

Historic homes in Folsom. These privately-owned homes are located above Sutter Street (the main street for commercial activity in the early days) between Bridge and Decatur:

- 307 Scott Street (Cohn House)
- 306 Scott Street (Colwell House)
- 407 Scott Street (Stamper House)
- 516 Figueroa Street (Levy House)
- 602 Figueroa Street (Burnham House)
- 603 Figueroa Street (Hyman House)
- 606 Figueroa Street (Bradley House)
- 714 Figueroa Street (Bates House)
- 801 Figueroa Street (Christy House or Trinity Church House)

- 808 Figueroa Street (Wild House)
- 813 Figueroa Street (Waddilove House)



Waddilove House on Figueroa Street in Folsom

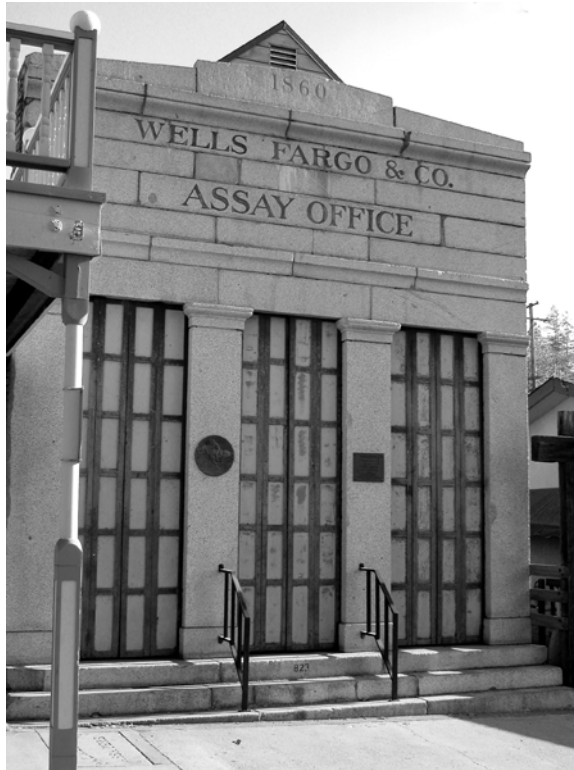
Other claims to fame and points of interest.

- Home to a large number of Chinese in Gold Rush times
- Home to a large number of Jewish pioneers, including Simon Cohn, Joseph Fiel, Jacob Hyman, Jacob Klumpp, Edward Levy, Jacob Miller, and Samuel Stamper
- Negro Bar, a rich gold mining area first settled by African-American miners
- Folsom Water Power Company dam and canal that fed the American River Land and Lumber Company sawmill, the first electrically driven sawmill in the world

- Folsom Powerhouse, the first electric power facility west of the Rockies to transmit electricity over a long distance (22 miles) and which operated until the 1950s



Folsom Powerhouse



Wells Fargo Assay Office on Sutter Street in Folsom

Latrobe

History, profile

Latrobe owes its origin to the Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad, which established a station there for the benefit of Amador County. The town got started on completion of the railroad in 1864.

Latrobe was part of the Poss claim, which was owned by J. H. (James Harrison) Miller. Miller was born in Tennessee and came to California on the overland route in 1850. His ranch, consisting of over 6,000 acres, had 6,500 sheep, 200 cattle, and about 50 horses.⁴⁵

Latrobe was named for Benjamin H. Latrobe, who had been a well-known railroad engineer with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Latrobe was responsible for many innovations in bridge design, track systems, and tunnel construction, and their incorporation into railroad lines.

During the 1870s, the population peaked at about 800 people. At that time, there were several hotels, three blacksmith shops, a wagon and carriage factory, a bakery, a butcher shop, and three doctors. Eight daily stages stopped in Latrobe.

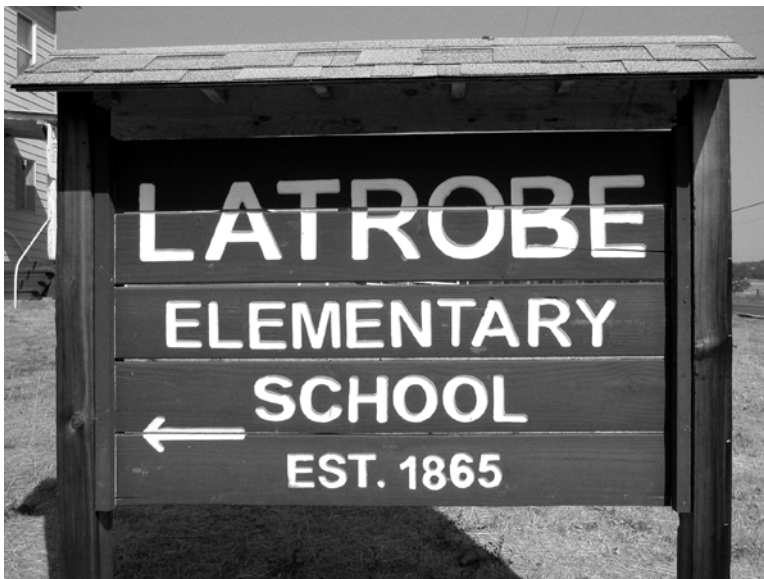
By 1883, there were only about 100 people, one school, a Mason hall, and an Odd Fellows hall.

45. For more information about J. H. Miller, see "Hardscrabble existence" on page 157.

Claims to fame, points of interest

Today Latrobe consists primarily of private ranches and multi-acre rural residential parcels, including the Sun Ridge Meadow and Shadow Hawk developments. There are no commercial establishments.

The Latrobe Elementary School still exists, and the school is one of the most highly rated grade schools in California.



Latrobe School sign



Latrobe Elementary School

Placerville

History, profile

Name. The Placerville area was first settled in 1848 by William Daylor of Sutter's Fort. It was first named Dry Diggings (or "Diggin's"), so called because there was a scarcity of water to wash the gold-laden rocks.

In 1850, the name was changed to Placerville because rich placers were discovered on nearby Weber Creek.

Because of a series of hangings during the Gold Rush years, it was nicknamed Old Hangtown, but that name was never official.

Early history. El Dorado County was one of the original 27 California counties created on February 18, 1850, and Coloma was the first county seat.

In 1854, petitions were circulated for and against the removal of the county seat to Placerville. Placerville lost the first election in April 1854.

Also in 1854, Amador County was formed from a portion of Calaveras County and, in 1855, the area south of South Fork of the Cosumnes River was taken from El Dorado County and given to Amador County.

Placerville finally won the county seat in 1857. A bill to send it back to Coloma was brought up in the 1857-58 legislative session, but it didn't pass.

Placerville incorporated as a town in 1852 and as a city in 1854.

Fires destroyed much of Placerville in April, July, and October 1856.

Who's who. Many businessmen who became well known in later years got their start in Placerville. These include Philip Armour, Mark Hopkins, J. M. Studebaker, Ulysses S. Grant (who was stationed there when he was a young army officer), Edwin Markham (who taught school there) and Leland Stanford (actually at Cold Springs, 5 miles up the hill and once a thriving suburb of Placerville).

Newspapers. In 1851, Thomas Springer founded the *El Dorado News* (later the *El Dorado Republican*), the first newspaper in the interior of California outside of Sacramento. It was published weekly.

In February 1854, Springer sold to D. W. Gelwicks & Co., who started the *Mountain Democrat*. Gelwicks and William A. January were the first publish-

ers. The *Mountain Democrat* was a weekly paper until 1860 when it began to be published semiweekly.

For more information about the *Mountain Democrat*, see “Newspapers” on page 38.

Schools. The first schools were private. In 1853, there were 500-600 children in Placerville, but only 40 were going to school. In 1854, state law established a system of common (public) schools, and schools in El Dorado County began to flourish.

Claims to fame, points of interest

Following are pictures taken on Main Street in Placerville.



Placerville's Old Town Centre



Fountain Tallman Museum



One end of the Placerville political spectrum



Gold miner sign



Thomas Kinkadee Gallery (Placerville is Kinkadee's home town)

Prairie City

History, profile

Today Prairie City exists only as a road located to the west of El Dorado Hills just inside Sacramento County. There is a Prairie City Road interchange on Highway 50.

Because there is almost no trace of Prairie City visible today, most residents of the western Sierra foothills are surprised when they learn that Prairie City used to be a town of well over 1,000 people.

Prairie City began when a canal bearing water from the South Fork of the American River reached a mining operation at Alder Creek, west of present-day El Dorado Hills in Sacramento County. The canal was a significant engineering project: the aqueduct across New York Ravine was almost 2,000 feet long and over 80 feet high, and it cost about \$30,000 to complete.

The terminus of the canal, which was completed in 1853, was in an area that had been worked since 1849 by John Rhoads.

By 1853-54, the town of Prairie City consisted of over 100 buildings, including a post office, stores, boarding houses and hotels, livery stable, and doctors' offices. Two stage lines ran coaches daily between Sacramento and Prairie City.

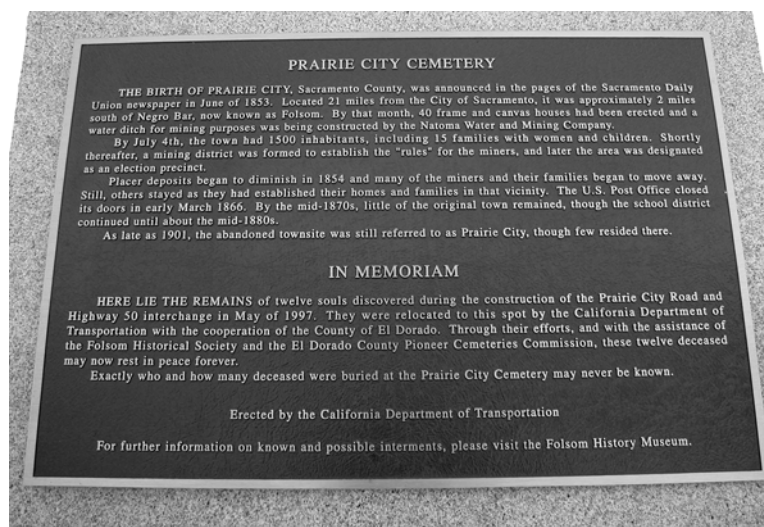
However, the success of Prairie City was short-lived. By 1865, nearly all the inhabitants had moved away, and by 1876, only a few buildings were left. Over time, all traces of the town have been covered by the cobbles left from hydraulic mining along the American River.⁴⁶

46. For more information about hydraulic mining, see "How gold is taken from the ground" on page 117.

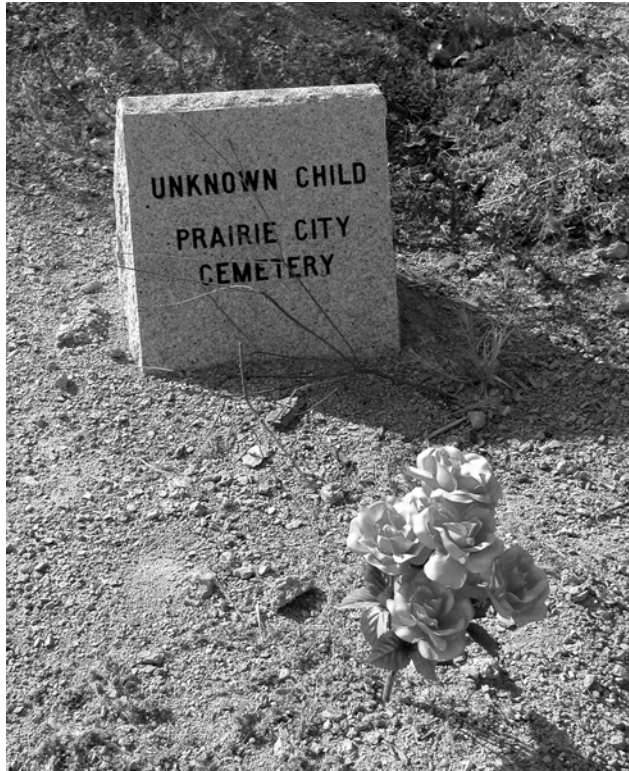
Claims to fame, points of interest

Today, nothing is left of Prairie City except piles of cobbles and the Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area. Off-highway vehicle enthusiasts actually appreciate the cobbles for their navigational challenges.

The Prairie City Cemetery has been relocated to the relocated Mormon Island Cemetery, at the end of Shadowfax Lane, just off Green Valley Road.



Commemorative marker at the relocated Prairie City Cemetery



Grave marker at the relocated Prairie City Cemetery

Rescue

History, profile

Rescue was named for a mining claim, called the Rescue Claim, because its owner, Andrew Hare, said it had rescued him from poverty.

The Rescue area was the site of several waystations (inns and stores) during Gold Rush times.

Today Rescue is a tiny, bucolic community tucked in the western foothills north and east of El Dorado Hills.

In 2002, Rescue was the site of one of the largest forest fires in the area.

Claims to fame, points of interest

The old Coloma Road. The old Coloma Road, which in Gold Rush times ran between Sutter's Fort and Sutter's Mill, passed through Rescue.

James W. Marshall traveled along this road with the first gold discovered at Coloma in January 1848.

The road was heavily used in the years immediately following the gold discovery by thousands of miners traveling to and from the mines. The road was also used by the first stage line in California.

The portion of the road on the western side of Rescue and the northern side of El Dorado Hills is now called Green Valley Road. For more information about Green Valley Road, see "Inns along Green Valley Road" on page 137.

California State Historic Landmark 747, located in Rescue at the intersection of Green Valley Road and Deer Valley Road, marks the old Coloma Road.

For more information about stagecoach service in the Gold Rush period of history, see "Passenger travel by stagecoach" on page 129.

Pleasant Grove House. In 1860-61, the Pleasant Grove House, located on Green Valley Road west of the town of Rescue, served as a remount station for the Central Overland Pony Express.⁴⁷

47. The Mormon Tavern in El Dorado Hills was also a remount station for the pony express. For more information about the Mormon Tavern, see "Inns along White Rock Road and Highway 50" on page 133.

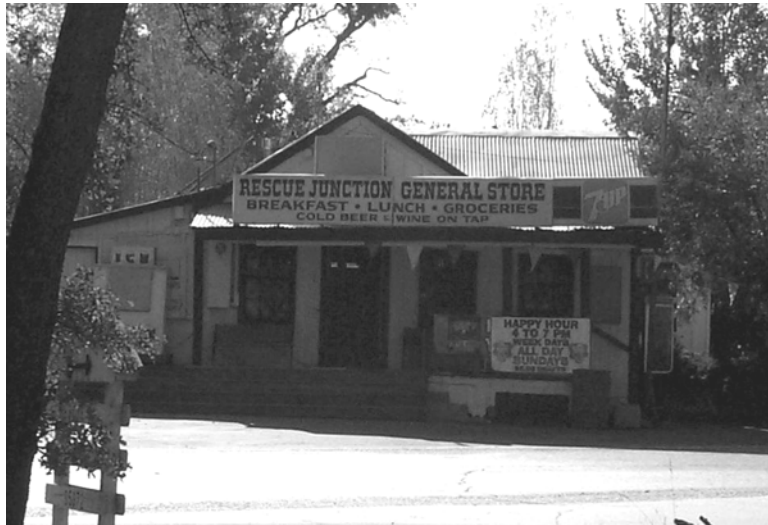
The Pleasant Grove House is marked by California State Historic Landmark 703.

For more information about the Pleasant Grove House, see “Inns along Green Valley Road” on page 137.

For more information about the pony express, see “Pony express” on page 130.



Commemorative marker in Rescue



Rescue General Store



License plate holder spotted at the Rescue Fire Station

Shingle Springs

History, profile

Shingle Springs was named for the cool spring that flowed near a shingle mill built in 1849.

Mining in Shingle Springs started in 1850. That same year, two brothers, Harry and Edward Bartlett, built an inn in town, which was called the Shingle Springs House (later known as the Locust House).

The Shingle Springs Post Office was established in 1855, and the first general store was built in 1865.

Also in 1865, Shingle Springs became the eastern terminus for the Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad.⁴⁸

By 1867, the railroad focus shifted to the transcontinental line going through Auburn and Truckee, and Shingle Springs went back to being a smaller, sleepier community.

In 1895, the name was changed to Shingle, and in 1955, it was changed back to Shingle Springs.

Claims to fame, points of interest

Shingle Springs has a community park on Mother Lode Drive near North Star Drive.

48. For more information about this railroad, see “Railroads” on page 139.

For more information

Sources of information listed in this section include references cited or used in researching this section, as well as sources that might be useful for readers to consult for more information.

Books

Holden, William M. 1988, 1991, 1998. *Sacramento: Excursions into its history and natural world*. Fair Oaks, California: Two Rivers Publishing Co.

Contains chapters on Folsom and Folsom Lake.

Wilson, John N. 1986 (reprinted 1999). *These Lonely Hills*. Published informally.

Wilson belongs to one of the Clarksville pioneer families.

Lots of local lore and interesting memorabilia. Sections on Latrobe and Shingle Springs.

Internet sources

Web sites in Table 24 provide additional information about the communities listed.

Table 24. Sources of additional information about neighboring communities

Community	URL, notes
Cameron Park	www.sscpchamber.org/area.htm
Folsom	www.HistoricFolsom.com www.folsom.ca.us
Placerville	ci.placerville.ca.us
Shingle Springs	www.sscpchamber.org/area.htm

Issues

Water 243

Where does our water come from? 243

EID historical and operational profile 247

How have EID problems become a regional issue? 248

What role is Project 184 playing in recent water controversies? 251

Current pressures on the EID 253

EID operational and strategic plans 254

Recycled water: A bright spot in the local water picture 254

For more information 259

Note 259

Growth 260

Air pollution 261

Transportation/Traffic 262

For more information 264

Asbestos 265

Asbestos studies in El Dorado County 266

Newspaper coverage about recent asbestos scares 266

For more information 269

Incorporation 271

LAFCO and the El Dorado Hills incorporation efforts 271

Planning efforts toward a vote on “cityhood” 271

The Incorporation Committee sues LAFCO 272

Other nearby cities involved in incorporation efforts **273**
For more information **273**

Water

The western slopes of the Sierra are relatively dry, with few year-around water sources, so it's not too surprising that water (or, more accurately, the lack thereof) has been an important regional issue since Gold Rush times.

The ranches that dotted the hillsides between about 1850 and 1962 (when real estate development became the primary economic endeavor) made use of creek water in the winter and spring, and had wells to supply summer and fall needs.

Over the years, wells in the El Dorado Hills area (then known as Clarksville) started to go dry. Over the years, many ranch owners sold or abandoned their land and moved to places where the water supply was more reliable.

As recently as the summer of 2001, current residents also suffered water shortages—severe enough that our water usage was restricted.

We El Dorado Hills residents, merchants, business people, and real estate developers are now asking ourselves: *Do we have enough water to support the brisk residential and business growth predicted to continue for years to come? Or will we suffer the same fate as our ranching “forebears”?*

Where does our water come from?

El Dorado Hills water is provided by the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), a public agency serving the western slope of El Dorado County (from Pollock Pines on the east to El Dorado Hills on the west) in the areas of:

- Water supply, treatment, and distribution
- Wastewater (sewage) treatment
- Water recreation (for example, the EID manages the Sly Park recreation area for the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)).

The EID serves the water needs of approximately two-thirds of the people living in El Dorado County.

The EID treats approximately 6 million gallons of sewage daily at a treatment plant on Latrobe Road. Water reclaimed from the wastewater operations is either sold for irrigation purposes (for example, landscaping in the Serrano real estate developments of El Dorado Hills is maintained using reclaimed water⁴⁹) or discharged into the Deer Creek basin.

The EID produces approximately 32,000 acre-feet of potable water yearly (at a treatment plant on Francisco Drive near Sheffield Drive), which it receives from sources like the following:

■ **Folsom Lake**

EID's contract with the USBR, which manages the water in Folsom Lake, allows it to take 7,550 acre-feet of water from Folsom Lake yearly (in a typical year, about 20% of the total distributed to EID customers).

■ **Sources owned or controlled by the EID**

One of these sources is Sly Park Reservoir, also known as Jenkinson Lake, which supplies approximately 23,000 acre-feet yearly (or about 60% of the total).

Other water sources (the remaining 20%) are part of "Project 184," which the EID purchased from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) in 1999. (The name refers to the fact that in 1919 PG&E was awarded the 184th hydroelectric contract issued by the U. S. government.)

49. For more information about the use of recycled water in El Dorado Hills, see "Recycled water: A bright spot in the local water picture" on page 254.

Project 184 water sources include Aloha, Echo, Caples, and Silver lakes in the high Sierra.

Water from these sources flows to the El Dorado Diversion Dam near Kyburz, where some of it is diverted to canals and tunnels leading to the El Dorado Forebay near Pollock Pines. Water released from the forebay either goes into a canal that bypasses the powerhouse or into a pipeline that leads to the powerhouse where it is used to run the generators.



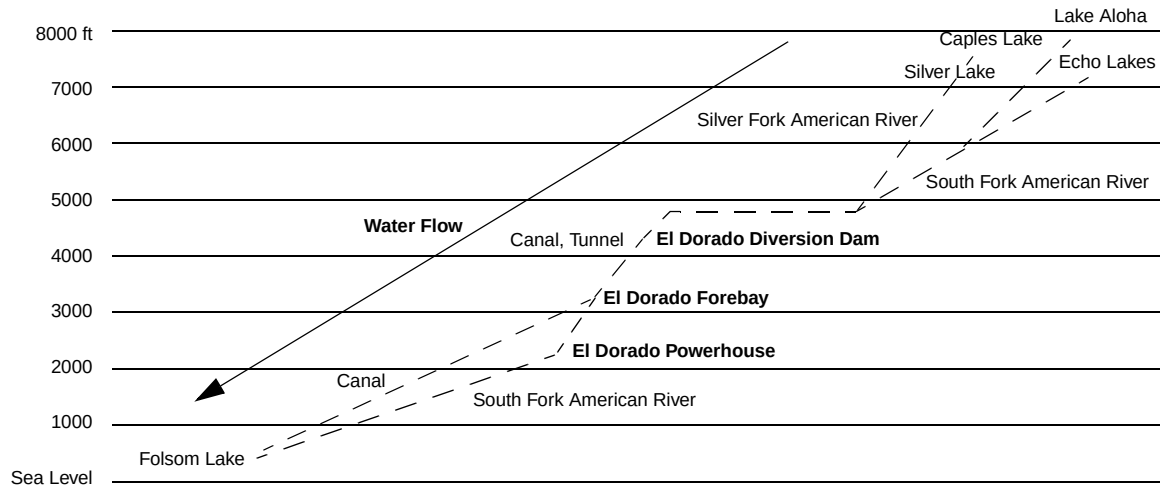
Echo Lakes

Water going either through or around the powerhouse then flows down to Folsom Lake, where some of it is captured and pumped uphill, treated, and stored in reservoirs for eventual use by El Dorado Hills residents.



El Dorado Forebay

The flow of water from the top (that is, highest elevation) of the system to the bottom at Folsom Lake, along with some of the key system entities, is shown in the following water system profile.



EID water system profile (simplified view, adapted from an EID document)

EID historical and operational profile

The EID, which was established in 1925, is managed by:

- A board of directors elected by the residents it serves
- A general manager
- The directors of 4 operational departments

The elected board is responsible for setting strategic and general operational policies.

EID board meetings are held regularly; times and places are available from the EID Web page (www.eid.org). The public is invited to attend open sessions.

The EID has approximately 200 employees and is headquartered on Mosquito Road in Placerville. The annual operating budget of the EID is about \$25 million.



EID (former PG&E) Diversion Dam near Kyburz

How have EID problems become a regional issue?

Adequate water is a mandatory element for the rapid real estate and commercial expansion that has been the norm in western El Dorado County over the past several decades. The EID, as the supplier of local water, is understandably often in the news.

General EID concerns. Over the past several years, publicity generated by EID activities has often been negative. Recent issues include:

- Implementation problems with Project 184, which is important in helping the EID meet rapidly increasing demands for water
- The perception that the stage 2 water conservation required in the summer of 2001 was a result of poor planning on the part of the EID rather than unavoidable dry-year water shortages or fallout from the electrical power shortages

- The threat of contamination from open reservoirs used to store the treated water
- Allegations of environmental wrongdoing, particularly in connection with the numerous repairs that have been required to make the Project 184 facilities fully operational



EID (Former PG&E) Canal—Water is pouring in from the diversion dam

Water shortages. The EID (like other local and regional water agencies) has suffered in recent years from reduced allocations assigned to the groups taking water from Folsom Lake. For example, the EID pumped almost 6,500 acre-feet from Folsom Lake in 2000, but the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation reduced the EID allocation for 2001 to only about 5,500.

The reduced allocation resulted from the combination of a dry year (resulting in less flow), a hot summer (resulting in more than normal electricity generation), and extra power generation at Folsom Dam due to the state-wide power shortage. In July 2001, the EID issued a stage 2 water warning.

Mandatory conservation measures included:

- Washing of driveways, parking lots, cars, RVs, boats, etc., and filling of ponds and other non-irrigation water features with potable water was prohibited.
- Restaurants were prohibited from serving water to customers unless they requested it.

Voluntary conservation measures included:

- Customers were asked to use potable EID water on gardens, lawns, landscaped areas, and irrigated land only between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
- Customers were asked not to fill swimming pools with potable water.
- Agricultural customers were notified that they would be asked to stop irrigating when the system reached peak capacity.

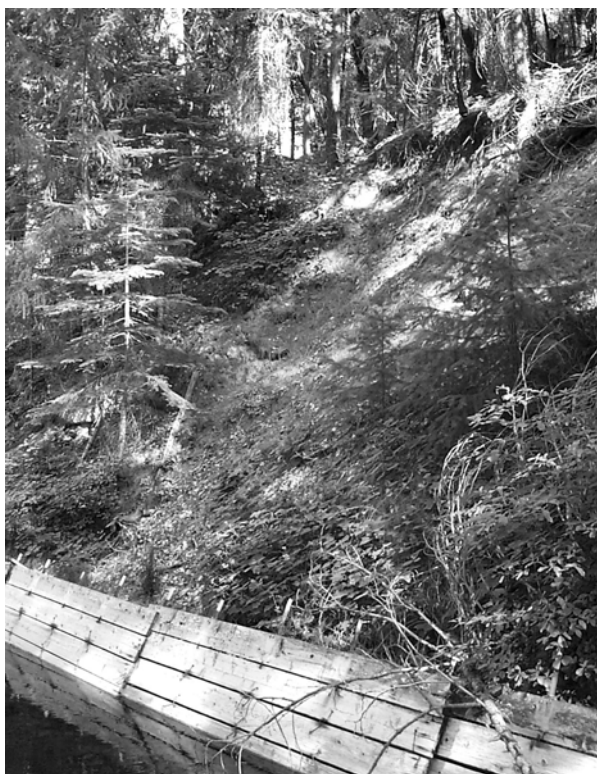


Damage to the EID Canal west of Kyburz

What role is Project 184 playing in recent water controversies?

The EID expected that a fully-operational Project 184 would go a long way toward meeting the rising needs and expectations of their customers.

The water rights the EID inherited from PG&E include 15,080 acre-feet of water that can be taken and sold to its customers, and 17,000 acre-feet of water awarded by the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in October 2001 that can be used to generate electricity.



Landslide damage along the EID Canal west of Kyburz

Historically, the powerhouse has used between approximately 60,000 and 100,000 acre-feet of water per year to produce power.

If the powerhouse is operating, the water is first used to produce electricity and then released into the South Fork of the American River where it flows downstream to Folsom Lake. If the powerhouse is not operating, the water

bypasses it on its trip downstream. The EID has announced its intention to produce electricity (and sell it on the open market) when the powerhouse is online. The EID will also “recapture” some of the water used for power production (after it flows downstream to Folsom Lake) to sell to its treated water customers.

Project 184 history. The EID began negotiating with PG&E for Project 184 in 1997.

In 1999, the EID bought Project 184 for \$1. Besides the rights included under the Project 184 umbrella, PG&E gave the EID \$15 million to repair the El Dorado Diversion Dam (which had been damaged by floods in 1997) and the El Dorado Powerhouse. The system had also been weakened by a fire in 1995 that burned many of the flumes.

At the time the Project 184 deal was struck, the canal carrying water from the Sierra lakes was unreliable due to landslide damage. Besides repairs to the canal itself, planned work included converting part of the canal to a tunnel.

The EID hired Traylor Brothers Construction to do the necessary repairs. Repair work began in late 1999 but had to be halted while the EID dealt with issues involving construction permits.

Much of the year 2000 was taken up with identifying the need for and obtaining the required permits. In the meantime, the repair project was costing the EID money even though no little or no work was going on. Examples widely reported in the press included \$1.9 million for a tunnel boring machine and standby charges (for the numerous “down” times) submitted by the contractor.

Also during 2000, the EID hired Harza Engineering to do a project review, the findings of which were released in July. The Harza report was quite critical of the EID. Some members of the EID board accused Harza of trying to grab the engineering contract for themselves, and various local officials accused the EID of being overly defensive about the negative findings and being unwilling to put a plan in place to solve the problems.

Current Project 184 issues. Recent problems with Project 184 have put it behind schedule, and the EID has now become the agency “you love to hate,” criticized by citizen watchdog and environmental groups, real estate development organizations, farmers, customers, and the local press.

For example, in March 2001, a group called Friends of the River urged their supporters to oppose legislation introduced by Tim Leslie (California state

assemblyman, 4th district) that they claimed would exempt Project 184 from the California Environmental Quality Act and take almost \$8 million from the state's general fund for Project 184 repairs. Friends of the River also claimed that Project 184 would reduce the flow in the South Fork of the American River, dry up tributary streams, and produce toxic tunnel debris.

In October 2001, the League to Save Sierra Lakes, representing Alpine County, lake resort operators, sport fishing groups, and slow-growth advocates in El Dorado County, filed suit to prevent the EID from taking water from the High Sierra Lakes that are part of the Project 184 package. The League has been battling the EID on this issue since 1997.



El Dorado Canal near Pollock Pines

Current pressures on the EID

The various issues and controversies have caused one member of the EID board to be the target of recall efforts. In addition, several of the most recent EID general managers have suffered intense public criticism and have left after a short tenure.

Negative stories about the EID appear regularly in local newspapers.

In May 2002, an internal EID report was issued that dealt with funding and the 2002 budget. An analysis of that report by Edmond Jacoby in the June 3

edition of the *Mountain Democrat* indicated that Project 184 would run at a loss for the year 2002 even if the generators were up and running by October, which has not happened.

In June 2002, William (Bill) Perley, the Project 184 manager, resigned.

EID operational and strategic plans

The EID has assured its customers that there will be enough water to last through the summer and fall of 2002.

Project 184 repairs were due to be completed before the end of 2002, and at that point the El Dorado Powerhouse was supposed to be up and running.

All reservoirs containing treated water are expected to be covered by 2004.

A master plan (dealing with both treated and recycled water) for 2003 and beyond was due out by the end of 2002. An updated wastewater plan is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2003.

“The trend toward greater domestic water use will continue with the projected developments in the El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park areas.”

—El Dorado Irrigation District Urban Water Management Plan 2000 Update (adopted 2001)

We who live and own businesses and farms in the area will be watching the plans unfold and hoping to hear the positive message that our future water needs will continue to be met.

Recycled water: A bright spot in the local water picture

The EID was a pioneer agency in the use of recycled water, which they have offered since 1977.

Recycled water, which is used primarily in agriculture and landscaping, comes from wastewater that is treated to remove sediments and impurities.

The level of treatment the EID applies to the wastewater is called *tertiary*, which means it meets state and federal requirements that are close to drinking water standards. However, as an extra precaution, recycled water cannot be used for human consumption.

The EID follows these steps to produce recycled water:

1. Wastewater from homes and businesses flows through the sewer system to treatment plants (these are separate facilities from the plants used to treat water suitable for human consumption).
2. Solid matter is settled out of the wastewater and then digested by bacteria.
3. Water is processed through filters and then disinfected.
4. Recycled water is pumped to customers through pipes separate from potable water pipes.

The EID's El Dorado Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on Latrobe Road south of Highway 50 (near where Carson Creek crosses Latrobe Road).

Key recycled water customers served by the EID include the Wetsel-Oviatt Lumber Company,⁵⁰ the El Dorado Hills CSD, and the Serrano residential development. Business customers in the new portions of the El Dorado Hills Town Center are also expected to be using recycled water in the near future.

"If [recycled water] is good enough for the space shuttle, it's good enough for the lawns and shrubbery in Serrano."

—Editorial in the *Mountain Democrat*, February 19, 2001

In 1988, Serrano Associates proposed to fund and construct improvements to the EID wastewater treatment facility to provide recycled water to its residential developments. Use of recycled water allowed the Serrano builders to construct more homes than they would have been able to if they had been using treated water exclusively. Starting in 1994, recycled water began to be used in development-controlled landscaping (public areas and front yards).

In 1998, Serrano proposed the concept of using recycled water for residential landscaping in both front and back yards. A dual-pipe system (to separate potable and recycled water) was approved by the California Department of Health.

Serrano heavily publicizes its use of recycled water. Residents often cite the use of recycled water as one of the positive aspects of living in Serrano, both because it helps to conserve a vital resource and because it costs less than potable water.

50. For information about the Wetsel-Oviatt Lumber Company, see "Lumber in El Dorado Hills?!" on page 68.



Recycled water sign in the Serrano development
(photo courtesy of Serrano Associates)

Serrano has also gotten *kudos* from other sources for its use of recycled water. For example, Serrano was named 1998 Project of the Year by the WaterReuse Association.

An editorial appearing in the *Mountain Democrat* on February 19, 2001, praised Serrano for water reuse and commented "If it's good enough for the space shuttle, it's good enough for the lawns and shrubbery in Serrano."

An article that appeared in the *Sacramento Bee* on July 19, 1999 (at the time the first residential lots in Serrano offering recycled water went on sale), quoted Cecilia Jensen, water recycling manager for the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District: "It may be more cost-effective to recycle water and use it locally than to construct a billion-dollar treatment plant only to treat water and throw it away."

According to EID's most current Urban Water Management Plan, "recycled water will become a significant source of water in the future, freeing up potable water for other uses."

Table 25 shows EID actual and projected volumes for recycled water.

Table 25. EID actual and projected volumes for recycled water

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020
Wastewater collected and treated (in acre-feet)	5,650	6,600	7,500	8,400	9,300
Recycled water (in acre-feet)	1,600	3,500	5,700	6,900	7,000
Number of recycled connections	290	3,200	7,100	9,700	10,000

By the year 2010, the EID estimates that approximately half the recycled water it produces will be used for residential landscaping. Another 15% will be used to water golf courses; 25% for parks, schools, streets, and medians; and about 10% for commercial and industrial uses.



El Dorado Pipeline near Pollock Pines

For more information

Sources of information listed in this section include references cited or used in researching this section, as well as sources that might be useful for readers to consult for more information.

Table 26 lists sources of additional information for the topics discussed in this section.

Table 26. Sources of additional information about water

Topic	Reference source
El Dorado Irrigation District (EID)	530-622-4513 www.eid.org
Project 184	www.project184.com
Water issues in California	http://cdec.water.ca.gov
Friends of the River	www.friendsoftheriver.org

Books and reports about topics covered in this section include:

_____, “El Dorado Irrigation District Urban Water Management Plan 2000 Update” (adopted January 22, 2001). Published by the EID.

_____, EID Water System Map and System Profile. Published by the EID.

Nebel, Bernard J. and Richard T. Wright. 1998 (Sixth Edition). *Environmental Science: The Way the World Works*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Contains a chapter on sewage management and treatment.

Note

This section was excerpted under the title “We’ve run out of water before—will it happen again?” in the July 10, 2002 edition of the *Village Life* newspaper.

Growth

Key planning documents from Sacramento Council of Governments (SACOG), the umbrella planning organization for 6 counties in the Sacramento area), El Dorado County, and the U. S. Department of Forestry all predict continuing population and job growth in the El Dorado Hills area.⁵¹

In general, all growth predictions call for residential development to “fill in” the land between El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park. In addition, the area between El Dorado Hills and Folsom will also be filled in. The population of El Dorado County is likely to grow from 122,257 (as of the 2000 census) to around 200,000 in the year 2020.

SACOG estimates that between 2000 and 2025, El Dorado Hills will add 8,546 new households and 14,446 new jobs.

During this same period, the SACOG region is expected to add a million people (50% growth) to reach a total population of 2.8 million. Employment in the SACOG region is expected to grow by 60%, with job growth primarily in downtown Sacramento, Roseville, Rocklin, and along the Highway 50 corridor between Sacramento and the western part of El Dorado County.

The U. S. Department of Forestry is looking at growth in El Dorado County because of its effect on the Sierra ecosystems. The Forestry department expects the population in the Sierra to triple between 1990 and 2040, with most of that growth being on the western slope.

There are, of course, both positive and negative aspects to growth. One potential problem is increased demand for limited resources like water, which was discussed in the previous section. Two other issues with negative potential are air pollution and traffic, which are discussed in the following sections.

51. Specific predictions are hampered by the lack of an El Dorado County General Plan, which was written in 1996 but is now in the process of being rewritten because of litigation filed against it.

Air pollution

According to the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Sacramento ranks in the top 10 list of U. S. cities with polluted air, and the region is a “severe federal ground-level ozone non-attainment area.” That is, our ozone air pollution readings are consistently higher than the standard set to protect human health.⁵²

The worst pollution days happen in the summer and early fall when direct sunlight and strong inversion layers trap pollutants close to the ground.

During other times of the year, marine air tends to blow from the west through the Carquinez Straits, no inversion layers are formed, and air quality is much improved.

Approximately 70% of the region’s ozone problems is caused by motor vehicles. The 1990 Clean Air Act requires a “transportation conformity” provision to ensure that a state does not undertake federally funded or approved transportation projects that could prevent the region from meeting federal air quality standards.

In areas of “non-attainment,” like the Sacramento region, metropolitan planning organizations like SACOG are required to forecast “attainment” within a 20-year horizon or risk losing federal funds.

Smog in Sacramento, for example, prevents Caltrans from building highways to relieve the pressure on Interstate 80, Interstate 5, Highway 50, and Highway 99, according to the September 1, 2002 edition of “The Sacramento Transportation Management Association (TMA) Online Newsletter” (see Table 27 on page 264 for more information about the TMA).

52. El Dorado Hills, at approximately 700-1,000 feet, escapes about 30 to 50% of the inversion layers that cause problems for Sacramento.

Transportation/Traffic

The major roadways in El Dorado Hills. The 4 major roadways in the community of El Dorado Hills roughly form a square:

- The northernmost east-west line is Green Valley Road
- The southernmost east-west line is Highway 50
- The easternmost north-south line is Silva Valley Parkway, which currently connects to another major road (Green Valley) only on the north
- The westernmost north-south line is Sophia Parkway, which runs along the boundary with Sacramento County and also currently connects to another major road (Green Valley) only on the north

For a map showing these highways, see “Location” on page 19.

The east-west roads have received the most attention in recent years:

- Green Valley, which carries a great deal of commuter traffic to Folsom and also north to the Roseville/Rocklin area was recently widened just east of Sophia Parkway.
- Highway 50 has been widened (and HOV lanes added) in many areas from Sacramento east to El Dorado Boulevard / Latrobe Road.

Key transportation planning and communication organizations for the Sacramento area. The umbrella organizations directing these and other major projects include SACOG and “50 Corridor.”

SACOG is responsible, by federal law, for long-range transportation planning in the Sacramento regional area. The final draft of their most recent plan (Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2025, released in May 2002), lists a number of projects that are planned or under consideration. Whether these projects actually get implemented, and when, depends on many factors, including shifting priorities and budgetary considerations. Some of these projects (along with the planned date of completion, if known) are listed below:

- Widening of Latrobe Road (2003)
- Construction of Silva Valley Parkway from Serrano Parkway (just past the new Oak Meadow Elementary School), under Highway 50, to White Rock Road (2003)
- A Silva Valley Parkway interchange at Highway 50
- Extension of Serrano Parkway (north end) to Bass Lake Road
- Realignment of Bass Lake Road (it will connect to Green Valley Road just east of the new middle school in the Rescue District)

- Installation of signals at the Latrobe onramp to westbound Highway 50
- A bridge over the American River to replace the Folsom Dam Road
- A Rancho Cordova / El Dorado County “connector” that would include multiple changes and upgrades to Grant Line and White Road roads
- Connection of Saratoga Way to meet Iron Point at the Sacramento County line (this depends on construction plans for the Rancho Dorado development)

Light rail in the El Dorado Hills area. In July 2002, the City of Folsom and El Dorado County began studying the prospects of extending rail service from Folsom to El Dorado Hills Boulevard (light rail is already being extended from the Mather Field area to downtown Folsom).

The study group is responsible for recommending a route for the rail extension as well as the type of train that can best negotiate the steep grade leading into El Dorado County. The route is likely to be within the Highway 50 corridor.

Results of the study are targeted to be available in July 2003.

For more information

The organizations listed in Table 27 can provide more information about air quality in the Sacramento region and El Dorado County.

Table 27. Organizations concerned with air quality

Organization	Location	Responsibility or interest	Contact, phone, URL, notes
El Dorado County Air Pollution Control District	Placerville	Air pollution in El Dorado County	530-621-6662
El Dorado County Environmental Management Department	Placerville	Environmental health, air pollution control, solid waste and hazardous materials	Jon Morgan, director www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/emd/apcd
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District	Sacramento: 12th Street	Air quality in the Sacramento region	874-4800 Daily air quality information: 874-4801 www.sparetheair.com www.airquality.org
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Community Education Office	Sacramento	Public education about air quality	874-4848
Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)	Sacramento	Umbrella organization for planning in the Sacramento region	457-2264 www.sacog.org
Sacramento Transportation Management Association (TMA)	Sacramento	Information about growth, transportation, traffic, and air quality	441-7074 www.sacramento-tma.org This organization publishes an informative online newsletter available through the above URL.

The organizations listed in Table 28 can provide more information about transportation and traffic issues.

Table 28. Organizations concerned with transportation/traffic

Organization	Location	Responsibility or interest	Contact, phone, URL, notes
50corridor.com		Transportation along the Highway 50 corridor	1-800-Commute www.1800Commute.org www.50corridor.com
El Dorado Transit	Placerville	Transit provider	1-888-246-2877 (BUSS) www.eldoradotransit.com
Folsom Stageline	Folsom	Transit provider	355-8395 www.folsom.ca.us/departments/publicworks/bus.html
Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)	Sacramento	Umbrella organization for planning in the Sacramento region	457-2264 www.sacog.org
Sacramento Regional Transit	Sacramento	Transit provider	321-2877 (BUSS) www.sacrt.com
Sacramento Transportation Management Association (TMA)	Sacramento	Information about growth, transportation, traffic, and air quality	441-7074 www.sacramento-tma.org This organization publishes an informative online newsletter available through the above URL.

Asbestos

Naturally occurring asbestos (a fibrous silicate material) is sometimes found in serpentine rock (a common rock in the El Dorado Hills area),⁵³ especially near fault zones.⁵⁴

Asbestos can cause health problems if the fibers are inhaled. Some fibers can be retained in the lungs for long periods of time, and others can be dissolved in the body after inhalation. Health conditions caused by exposure to asbestos including chronic lung inflammation that can lead to cancer and asbestosis.

53. For more information about serpentine rock, see “Rocks and minerals” on page 193.

54. For more information about fault zones in the El Dorado Hills area, see “Seismic activity” on page 193.

The greatest health dangers are to people who manufacture products containing asbestos, those regularly exposed to products containing asbestos, and those working or living where rocks containing asbestos are being moved around, broken down, or crushed.

The U. S. Agency for Toxic Substances (part of the Centers for Disease Control) reports that people exposed to low levels of asbestos have an increased risk of developing cancer, but the risk is usually small.

Among the many natural forms of asbestos are minerals called *chrysotile* and *tremolite*. Both can be dangerous, and tremolite is generally considered to be the more dangerous of the two.

Asbestos studies in El Dorado County

Occurrences of asbestos in western El Dorado County have been the subject of two studies by the California State Department of Conservation—one in 1998 and another in 2000.

In 1998, the California Air Resources Board did extensive measurements of the asbestos levels in various parts of El Dorado County, including El Dorado Hills. Of the 252 measurements done, 57 detected some asbestos. Air samples done along Silva Valley Parkway detected asbestos in 5 of the 35 samples. The estimated health risks from exposure to asbestos at this level were concluded to be very low.

The general conclusions of both these studies indicated that elevated levels of asbestos do not appear to be widespread except in areas where tremolite or chrysotile rock is common, and then only where extensive excavation or construction is taking place.

The studies recommended that local residents concerned about asbestos on their property should consult with a licensed geologist.

Newspaper coverage about recent asbestos scares

The following is a sample of articles about asbestos that have appeared in regional newspapers since 1998:

- **“Potential cancer hazard in unearthed bedrock”** (March 29, 1998 article in the *Sacramento Bee*):

Quote from the article:

“Construction in the fast-developing foothills of El Dorado County has been unearthing and stirring up naturally occurring asbestos, creating a potential cancer hazard to some residents—especially children.

“The threat is largely unknown to county officials and the many families who moved to the golden hills in pursuit of a cleaner environment.”

- **“Asbestos in the hills”** (April 26, 1998 letter to the editor in the *Sacramento Bee*):

Quote from the letter:

“Re: ‘Projects in El Dorado churning up asbestos,’ March 29: To have a newspaper create the news itself by financing asbestos testing is tabloid journalism at its worst and frightens the public unnecessarily.

“As for the fact that asbestos-related cancer may not appear for 40 years. In that amount of time, other factors such as pollution and food additives may also cause cancer, so how can you pinpoint just one cause?”

- **“Asbestos find helps delay a subdivision”** (May 24, 1998 article in the *Sacramento Bee*):

Quote from the article:

“Developers of a posh Serrano community in El Dorado Hills have put on hold construction of a luxurious 65-home ridge-top subdivision largely because of newly discovered underground asbestos deposits.

“Serrano Partners has also laid a 6-inch blanket of topsoil over 10 new, unlandscaped lots just below the ridge where asbestos was scattered about during construction. It was a cautionary move designed to prevent asbestos fibers from becoming an airborne health hazard.”

- **“El Dorado asbestos problem prompts national mapping”** (March 9, 2001 article in the *Sacramento Bee*):

Quote from the article:

“The contamination from naturally occurring asbestos in some neighborhoods of western El Dorado County has spurred the first nation-

wide mapping of the mineral occurrences as potential cancer hazards.

"The U. S. Geological Survey launched the project to help authorities identify asbestos-containing rock outcroppings, especially those in the path of development or other activity that could liberate the mineral's cancer-causing fibers."

- **"Asbestos emission controls proposed"** (March 11, 2001 article in the *Sacramento Bee*):

Quote from the article:

"State air pollution regulators have proposed controls for emissions of cancer-causing fibers in asbestos from construction, road-building and mining in likely locations of the naturally occurring minerals.

"The proposed dust-control measures would be tougher than those already required during grading, bulldozing and other earth-moving activities."

- **"El Dorado residents get little guidance despite many studies"** (March 25, 2001 article in the *Sacramento Bee*):

Quote from the article:

"In three years of investigating naturally occurring asbestos in western El Dorado County, state and local officials have collected hundreds of air samples, mapped the likely locations of the cancer-causing minerals and required builders and miners to take special precautions.

"Yet for all the effort, residents in the foothills east of Sacramento are not much better informed about the risks of living amid outcrops of serpentine rocks that host asbestos."

- **Article by Larry Weitzman** (August 15, 2001 in the *Mountain Democrat*)

A trigger for this article was a study done by the Environmental Protection Agency. This study found that serpentine aggregate used to surface local streets in Garden Valley contained up to 20% asbestos.

Quote from the article:

"On July 27 the California Air Resources Board, without scientific evidence, passed a far reaching regulation regarding construction and mining with respect to the dreaded asbestos fiber. It means that if

during a construction project any asbestos is found, even one fiber, costly and wasteful consequences will occur to that individual or business. If you build or mine in an area designated by the state to be a potential area of asbestos (serpentine or ultramafic rock), more paperwork and significant extra expense will be incurred with respect to your project or maybe it will not be allowed at all. And the worst part is that you will have the government looking over your shoulder. Think how many new jobs the government can create for itself."

- **"An El Dorado Hills school construction site yields fibers"** (March 15, 2002 article in the *Sacramento Bee*):

Quote from the article:

"Construction crews at an El Dorado Hills high school carved into rock rich with asbestos of the most hazardous kind and created athletic fields with contaminated soil while school was in session last month."

- **"Yellow-house uproar pales in comparison to another foothill issue"** (September 17, 2002 article by Diana Griego Erwin in the *Sacramento Bee*):

Quote from the article:

"It's easier to believe [asbestos contamination] must not be *that* bad or dangerous or the appropriate government agencies would step in and alert us, wouldn't they?

"Ahhh. Let's worry about the color yellow instead. It's so much easier."

For more information

The following sources can provide additional information about asbestos and the potential health hazards associated with it:

- California Air Resources Board (ARB): www.arb.ca.gov
The results of the 1998 study mentioned in "Asbestos studies in El Dorado County" on page 266 are available on this Web site.
- California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment: www.oehha.org

Search for the asbestos fact sheet.

- California Department of Conservation: www.consrv.ca.gov

The results of the 2000 study mentioned in “Asbestos studies in El Dorado County” on page 266 are available at El Dorado County branch libraries and also on this Web site.

- El Dorado County Environmental Management Department:
www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/emd

Search for the asbestos page, which contains links to other sources of information, asbestos maps of California and El Dorado County, the report about the Garden Valley asbestos monitoring program mentioned in “Newspaper coverage about recent asbestos scares” on page 266, and letters from OSHA about naturally occurring asbestos.

- U. S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (part of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services): www.atsdr.cdc.gov

Search for a set of questions and answers titled “Exposure to Asbestos in Sources Other than Insulation.”

Incorporation

As mentioned in “Government structure” on page 21, El Dorado Hills is an unincorporated community in El Dorado Hills.

Serious efforts to incorporate El Dorado Hills began in 1997, when a group called the El Dorado Hills Incorporation Committee presented their plan to an El Dorado County organization known as LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission).

The effort continued until it was halted by LAFCO in August 2002.

LAFCO and the El Dorado Hills incorporation efforts

After World War II, when California was growing at a tremendous pace, much of the state’s agricultural land was converted quickly and without proper planning into cities that were often not self-supporting. Then-Governor Edmund G. Brown appointed the Commission on Metropolitan Area Problems to make recommendations on “the misuse of land resources” and the growing complexity of overlapping, local governmental jurisdictions. In 1963, the Legislature created LAFCO agencies (one for every California county except San Francisco) to deal with the problem.

The LAFCO agencies review proposals for the formation of new local governmental agencies and changes of organization in existing agencies, and they also have the power to approve or disapprove proposals concerning the formation of cities and special districts.

Planning efforts toward a vote on “cityhood”

After about two years of discussions and planning efforts between the El Dorado Hills Incorporation Committee and the El Dorado County LAFCO, a document titled “Public Review Draft: Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis (CFA) of the Proposed Incorporation of El Dorado Hills (March 16, 2000)” was completed.⁵⁵

Planning continued into 2001, at which point incorporation was targeted to appear on the November 2002 ballot. Deliverables and timelines were established that were supposed to get the effort to the final citizen vote. The deliverables required to get the issue on the ballot included an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and a final CFA.

55. A CFA determines whether or not an unincorporated area would be fiscally viable as an incorporated city.

As the planning efforts continued, there were a number of disputes over the precise definition of the documents required and who would pay for what. Some of these discussions also involved the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

On March 13, 2001, a note in a LAFCO Summary of Events document⁵⁶ indicates that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors “failed to authorize transfer [of funds] for the CFA,” and that work would stop on March 14.

On March 28, 2001, an extension of the deadline is noted “until June 30 to complete application.”

Another note on May 23 mentions that “[LAFCO] requires \$234K [to cover the cost of the required documents] by July 1 and accepts the timeline for November 2002 election.”

On June 27, the entry in the Summary of Events states “Eighteen month time extension granted to complete application. Work to resume when funding submitted.”

On August 22, 2001, after the July 1 deadline had not been met, LAFCO rescinded the extension and closed the project.

The Incorporation Committee sues LAFCO

In August 22, 2002, as reported in articles in both *Village Life* and the *Mountain Democrat*,⁵⁷ the El Dorado Hills Incorporation Committee filed a lawsuit in El Dorado County Superior Court claiming that LAFCO “violated its civil rights and grossly mismanaged the process for determining whether to permit a community within the county to become a city.”

The articles further reported that the lawsuit alleged that “LAFCO drove up the costs of applying for incorporation as a city until the association was bled dry of funds.”

A press release issued by the Incorporation Committee shortly after the lawsuit was filed indicated that the committee seeks to vindicate its rights and

56. Information in this section indicated as “LAFCO supplied” are from an informal document titled “Incorporation of the City of El Dorado Hills (LAFCO Project 98-02) Summary of Events,” which was given to the authors by Roseanne Chamberlin, executive officer of LAFCO.

57. “Inc. Committee sues LAFCO over alleged civil rights violations,” *Village Life*, August 28, 2002, and “EDH citizenship supporters sue LAFCO,” *Mountain Democrat*, August 28, 2002.

bring the issues of El Dorado Hills cityhood to a vote. In addition, the committee seeks the return of all money already paid to LAFCO, at least \$85,000, because LAFCO's refusal to move forward in a timely manner caused those funds to be wasted.

Other nearby cities involved in incorporation efforts

An article by Chuck Myer in the "Neighbors East" section of the October 20, 2002 edition of the *Sacramento Bee* mentions various incorporation efforts going on in the Sacramento region.

Citrus Heights and Elk Grove recently succeeded (according to Myer, "not without growing pains"), and incorporation for Rancho Cordova passed in the November 5, 2002 general election.

For more information

Contact information for both the El Dorado Hills Incorporation Committee and LAFCO is listed in "Other services and agencies" on page 56.

The CFA document done in March 2000 is:

Kieser, Walter and Joseph Chinn. March 16, 2000. "Public Review Draft of Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis for the Proposed Incorporation of El Dorado Hills" (EPS Project # 8217). Sacramento: Economic & Planning Systems, Inc.

This feasibility analysis for incorporation was prepared in accordance with the Cortese-Knox Local Government Reorganization Act of 1985 that specified the procedures to be followed in response to petitions for incorporation.

The analysis presented two alternative boundary areas.

Under Alternative I the districts that would be dissolved and reorganized into the new city included El Dorado Hills County Water District (El Dorado Hills Fire Department), El Dorado Hills Community Services District (CSD), Marble Mountain CSD, Springfield Meadows CSD, and Arroyo Vista CSD.

Under Alternative II, the districts that would be dissolved and reorganized are El Dorado Hills CSD and Springfield Meadows CSD.

The general conclusion of the feasibility study was that the proposed city under either alternative would probably be fiscally viable.

CHAPTER 14

Cultural Resources

A note about cultural resources in El Dorado Hills	276
Prehistoric resources	277
Historic resources	277
Albert's shrine revisited	279
For more information	284
<i>Organizations</i>	284
<i>Plans and reports</i>	284

A note about cultural resources in El Dorado Hills

In doing research for *The El Dorado Hills Handbook*, the authors have spent a great deal of time driving, biking, and walking around El Dorado Hills and the surrounding areas, and in the course of these excursions have come across many prehistoric and historic sites of potential interest to historians, anthropologists, and the community at large.

We have also read environmental impact reports (EIRs) available in the El Dorado County Library, through the El Dorado County Planning Department, and from other sources.

Organizations preparing EIRs draw from and contribute to a database of historic sites called the California Historical Resources Information System (part of the California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation). As part of that process they sign nondisclosure agreements that prohibit them from publicly revealing the exact locations of these sites. The main purpose of these agreements is to prevent vandalism of the sites. EIRs written before these agreements were in place have been altered to remove information that might indicate a particular site's location.

According to John Thomas, a historian with the Office of Historic Preservation, individuals who come across cultural resources on private property are not legally bound by the same rules of nondisclosure.

However, the authors generally agree with the policy of nondisclosure, because we have often witnessed the sad results of vandalism.

On the other hand, we also believe that the residents of El Dorado Hills have a right to know something about the cultural resources that exist within the community.

We have therefore taken the following approach in describing cultural resources:

- In general, we limit ourselves to general descriptions of the resources, and we do not reveal specific site locations.
- In the case of "Albert's shrine" on page 279, we do mention its location, both because it is in an advanced state of (natural) decay and also because it has already been heavily vandalized, thereby providing a good example of why it's usually a good idea not to reveal the location of sites that might merit preservation.

We hope that in the future, real estate developers and other landowners in El Dorado Hills will target more sites for protection, either *in situ* or by moving artifacts of community interest to more appropriate and accessible locations.

Prehistoric resources

Prehistoric sites in El Dorado Hills include the following types:

- Sites with human burial remains
- Sites with animal remains
- Bedrock mortar stations, where Maidu and Miwok Indians processed food

For more information about the process Indians used to prepare food, see “Acorns: The most important food staple” on page 96.

- Midden sites containing cultural deposits or waste

Items in these sites include glass and shell beads, buttons, stone tools, and arrowheads.

- Petroglyphs, or rock art
- Cupules, which are another form of rock art

According to one of the EIR reports, the most commonly accepted function of cupules is fertility magic.

Historic resources

Historic sites in El Dorado Hills include the following types:

- California state historic landmarks (SHLs), of which there is only one in the community: SHL 699, marking the Mormon Tavern site, which was a popular stage stop in the Gold Rush period and a remount station for the Central Overland Pony Express

Mormon Tavern was built in 1848 or 1849 by a Mormon named Morgan. It was also owned in the early days by Asahel Lathrop, who was part of the Mormon migration of 1847. It was also sometimes known as Lathrop’s Tavern.

The Mormon Tavern monument is currently located on the south side of Highway 50 near the original site of the barn—the house was on

the north side of what is now Highway 50. The monument is at the end of Joerger's Cutoff just off White Rock Road in an area that is almost inaccessible by car.

The monument may be moved due to the roadwork required to connect Silva Parkway and White Rock Road.

For more information about Mormon Tavern and other inns dating back to Gold Rush times, see "Inns along the highways" on page 132.

- Reservoirs, including Bass Lake, which was created about 1895
- Wells, watering troughs, water storage tanks, ditches, and dams
- Historic paths and roads
- Mining complexes, artifacts, and debris, including the site of a stamp mill

Some placer mining was done in El Dorado Hills during the early days of the Gold Rush, and dragline dredging was done along Carson Creek as late as 1923.

It has been reported that chromite mining was also done on the same site as the dredging.

Physical remnants of mining include prospect pits and tailings.

For an overview about how gold is mined, see "The art and science of gold mining" on page 116.

- Cabins and other structures (both wood and stone), including partial walls from one of Clarksville's original stone buildings (on the south side of White Rock Road near the place where it dead-ends)
- Ranching complexes, including barns and other outbuildings, walls, fences, and corrals
- Rock *cairns* used as markers or monuments
- Cemeteries, including Clarksville, Tong (also known as Railroad House or Joerger-Tong), Hall/Richmond, and Mormon Island⁵⁸
- Household and other debris

58. For more information about these cemeteries, see "Cemeteries in the El Dorado Hills area" on page 163.

Albert's shrine revisited

The strange ruins, even in their currently decrepit state, continue to both charm and puzzle those who pass by them—walkers, bikers, and truck drivers taking a popular short-cut between the southern end of Silva Valley Boulevard, under Highway 50, and from there, on down White Rock Road.

What *are* those bathtub-like structures? They're too small for summer water storage and too tall for livestock to drink out of.

And that fascinating curved stone structure with the decorations on the top. Wouldn't it be worth saving? But what *is* it? A religious shrine? An elaborate marker for a hidden grave? A Halloween joke?



Ruins on the Fitch ranch property

An article in the August 10, 1983 edition of the *Mountain Democrat* provides some answers about this collection of architectural oddments and its creator, Albert Fitch, son of George Clinton Fitch, one of Clarksville's pioneers.

In 1856, George left Ohio and emigrated to California. The Fitches (including wife Mary (Wilson) and, eventually, several children) were among the earliest non-native Americans to settle in what was to become Clarksville. The Fitch family is related to many of the other Clarksville pioneer families—well-known names like Wilson, Fisk, Kyburz, Barton, and Tong.

According to the article, the land that George Fitch filed claim on covered 60 acres in an area then known as Buck's Flat.

Mary died in 1871, leaving husband George and several children, including Albert, who was only about 8 years old at the time his mother died.

George died in 1904; Albert (who was also known as "Uncle Bert") continued to live on the family ranch.

Around 1930, Albert began a project that must have occupied much of his free time over the next 20 years: A self-contained garden complex that surrounded the ranch house. He marked out the whole area with green and red stucco pillars and connected them with pipes. He built square cement "baths," perhaps to hold the water needed to keep his vegetation fresh. Windmills pumped water to the gardens, which was an unusual botanic collection of non-natives, including several species of palm trees and some unusual types of pines. Some of the cement structures had artistic designs drawn into them.

The most striking piece was a "shrine" consisting of a massive wall of stone crowned with a facade of what appears to be a miniature Mexican village. The tub at the base of the structure may have once been a fountain.



Albert's shrine

The garden seems to have thrived for many years, but in the early 1950s the ranch house burned to the ground, and the heat and flames ruined much of the garden, as well. Albert died a few years later, in 1955. He is buried in the Clarksville Cemetery.

After 50 years of weathering, neglect, and vandalism, all that remains of Albert's dream garden are part of the shrine (the base of which now contains empty beer cans and burned tires), a few other stone structures, some pipes, a grove of trees, and a lot of trash, left by modern-day "pioneers." The proposed completion of Silva Valley Parkway that allows access to White Rock under Highway 50, and that will later perhaps be expanded into a Silva Valley freeway interchange, may deliver the final blow to this fascinating little corner of El Dorado Hills.



Weathered and vandalized pillar on the Fitch ranch property

Serrano's policy on protecting cultural resources. Serrano Associates is responsible for extending Silva Valley Parkway under Highway 50 to meet White Rock Road. The road will go through what used to be the Fitch Ranch.

According to Sam Miller, Director of Planning at Serrano Associates, Serrano has used a three-tiered approach to identify and protect cultural resources within the boundaries of land targeted for development:

1. Commissioned an environmental impact report (EIR), which identified within the boundaries of the Serrano development area about 30 sites of potential interest.
2. Investigated these sites further by revisiting their locations and doing library research on their significance.

3. Identified sites that will be preserved, either informally or by formal registration.

One site has already been marked with a plaque: the cabin site of Chrissy Cobb, located near the second tee at the Serrano Country Club.

In addition, displays at the Serrano Visitor Center include brief historic and prehistoric period information.

AKT Development's policy on protecting cultural resources. AKT Development, owner of the former Fitch Ranch property, has a policy and operating procedure similar to Serrano's to identify and protect cultural resources.

According to Mike McDougall, Development Manager for AKT Development, they have no interest in destroying the remaining Fitch ruins, and they would entertain any serious offer by a qualified organization (such as the El Dorado Hills CSD) to relocate these or any ruins of community interest located on property they own.

For more information

Sources of information listed in this section include references cited or used in researching this chapter, as well as sources that might be useful for readers to consult for more information.

Organizations

Organizations listed in Table 29 have official responsibility for or a strong interest in cultural and environmental issues.

Locations are in El Dorado Hills unless otherwise indicated. Phone numbers are in the 916 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Table 29. Organizations concerned with environmental issues

Organization	Location	Responsibility or interest	Contact, phone, URL, notes
Archeological Conservancy	Albuquerque, New Mexico	Preserving architectural sites in the U. S.	www.americanarchaeology.com
California Office of Historic Preservation (California Historical Resources Information System)	Sacramento	Manages information on historical resources identified in California	653-6624 http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/
El Dorado County Coroner Part of the Sheriff's Department	Placerville	Human remains	http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/sheriff/
El Dorado County General Services	Placerville	Cemeteries	Karen Wilson 530-621-5846
North Central Information Center	California State University, Sacramento	Cultural resources in El Dorado County Coordinates between the California Office of Historical Preservation and El Dorado County	David McCullough 278-6217

Plans and reports

The following books, plans, and reports were the key sources of information for this chapter.

_____. *County of El Dorado Environmental Manual for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)*. Adopted March 17, 1987 by Resolution No. 61-87. Prepared by the El Dorado Community Development Department.

Guidelines for the implementation of the California Quality Act. Contains information about preparing environmental impact reports, negative declarations, notices of preparation, and initial studies. Also contains information about implementation procedures related to these documents.

_____. *Draft Environmental Impact Report, El Dorado Hills Specific Plan*. October 1987. Clearinghouse Number 86122912. Sacramento, California: Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc. Prepared for El Dorado County Community Development Department, Planning Division.

Peak and Associates surveyed most of the area served by the El Dorado Hills Community Services District. However, they did not cover the areas north of Green Valley Road, just south of Green Valley Road, and west of El Dorado Hills Boulevard.

Subsequent EIR documents generally refer back to this document as the “definitive environmental study” for El Dorado Hills.

_____. *Draft Environmental Impact Report for Joerger Ranch*. April 1992. SCH No. 90020895. Michael Brandman Associates.

Joerger Ranch is located west of Latrobe Road, south of Highway 50, and north of White Rock Road. It lies adjacent to the Springfield Meadows development.

_____. *Draft Environmental Impact Report, Silva Valley Parkway Interchange with Highway 50*. June 1989. SCH #88050215. Jones & Stokes Associates, Inc. Lead Agency: El Dorado County Department of Transportation.

_____. *Draft Environmental Impact Report, Village ‘N’*. Lotus, California: Michon & Associates Environmental Services. Available from the El Dorado County Library.

Village N (now Fairchild Village) is on Silva Valley Road between Stonegate Village and Green Valley Road.

_____. *El Dorado County General Plan, Volume 1: Goals, Objectives, and Policies* (SCH#1994012008). Adopted by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on January 23, 1996. Prepared by the El Dorado County Planning Department and the Department of Transportation. Supporting departments were the Parks and Recreation Division and the Surveyor.

This plan is currently in litigation and is in the process of being rewritten.

_____. *El Dorado Hills Specific Plan*. Approved by the El Dorado County Planning Commission on December 23, 1987. Approved by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors on July 18, 1988. Prepared for the El Dorado County Community Development Department. Consultants: Wade Associates, Roseville, California and Anthony M. Guzzardo and Associates, Inc., San Francisco, California.

_____. *Final Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Assessment for the U. S. Highway 50 / El Dorado Hills Boulevard-Latrobe Road Interchange Project*. April 2000. El Dorado County Department of Transportation.

_____. *Final Environmental Impact Report for The Promontory* (SCH #94112056). August 28, 1997. Prepared by Environmental Science Associates. Prepared for El Dorado County Planning Department.

_____. *Final Report: Economic Feasibility Study for the El Dorado County Ecological Preserves* (EPS #4025). February 1997. Prepared for the California Department of Fish and Game by Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., Sacramento.

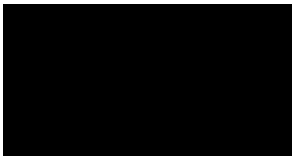
_____. *Preservation Sites and Preservation Strategies for Rare Plant Species in Western El Dorado County*. November 1991. Prepared for El Dorado County by EIP Associates.

Kieser, Walter and Sonia Jacques. March 16, 1998. Memorandum titled "El Dorado County Ecological Preserve Fee Estimate; EPS #6170." Sacramento: Economic and Planning Systems (EPS).

Landrith, Melinda Herzog, C. James Landrith, Anita Heston Du Vall, and Gene Du Vall. 1985. *El Dorado County, California* (Volumes 1-5). Rare book in the El Dorado County Library.

This book contains detailed information about cemeteries in the area.

Montgomery, Conrad B. (Planning Director) and Bill Carey (Building Official). Memorandum titled "Implementation of the Ecological Preserve Mitigation and Fee-In-Lieu of Mitigation Program." September 25, 1998. El Dorado County Planning Department.



Afterword

Dedications 288
Acknowledgements 288
Errata 289

Dedications

This book is dedicated to the pioneer families who first put down roots in these foothills and transformed the wild excesses of the Gold Rush into a lively and exuberant community spirit.

In addition, it is dedicated to the real estate planners and implementers who had the wisdom and foresight to see how the existing ranchland could be transformed into a 21st century suburban community. In the long list of those who have contributed to this effort, these 5 stand out: Sammy Cemo, Allan Lindsey, Tony Mansour, Bill Parker, and Angelo Tsakopoulos.

And, finally, to the current citizens of El Dorado Hills—in the hope that as our community “builds out” and matures, we can apply the same kind of courage, wisdom, foresight, and pioneering spirit to the challenges that lie ahead.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the many people in El Dorado Hills and other parts of El Dorado and Sacramento counties who have given us ideas, information, and encouragement during the writing of this book. This long list includes May Barisone, Helen Baumann, Matt Boyer, Roseanne Chamberlin, Barbara Charleton, Rusty Dupray, Velma Gambles, Tom Garcia, Bill George, Rebecca George, Moni Gilmore, Louise Hackett, Gina Hunter, Darlene Jackson, Dave Jacobson, Betty January, Pat Kriz, Peggy Lawrence, Doris Levine, Wayne Lowery, Evelyn Luscher, David McCullough, Linda McPherson, Galia Newcomb, Lisa Noar, Bai Park, Earl Perry, Eric Peterson, Marie Quick, Marion Saitman, Tony Sarge, Shirlee Scribner, Dave Spiegelberg, Mae Strzala, Sean Tucker, Karen Wilson, Arlene Wong, and Mark Wong.

We’d like to give special thanks to the following people who reviewed drafts and provided us valuable feedback: David Witter of the El Dorado Irrigation District, Jill Shannon and Sam Miller of Serrano Associates, Jeff Carr of the El Dorado County library system, and Debbie Manning of the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce. We are also grateful to Leslie Shirley Vandever, who published excerpts from several sections in *Village Life*.

Serrano Associates and the El Dorado County Historical Museum supplied some of the photographs. Those within the body of the book are identified in the captions. On the cover, the historic picture of the Bartons on their ranch is courtesy of the El Dorado County Historical Museum, and the others, except

for the picture of the El Dorado Hills rock, are courtesy of Serrano Associates. The picture of yellow flowers on the cover was taken by Ed Asmus.

And, finally, to the members of our family and extended family who have taken a long-term interest in this project and have given us a lot of help and support along the way—Ellen Livengood, Rick Livengood, Tim Johnson, Liz Tichenor, Jill Blomquist, and Mike Blomquist.

Errata

We have taken as much care as possible to ensure the accuracy of the material in this book. We apologize for any errors that may still remain. Until the next edition of the *Handbook* is published, errata will appear on the book's companion Web site:

www.eldoradohillshandbook.com

Please notify us about any errors you find. Contact information is provided on the back of the title page.

Index

Numerics

1800commute.org 56
40th anniversary celebration, creation of the El
Dorado Hills Community Services
District (CSD) 82
50corridor.com 56, 265

A

Abbott-Downing Company, maker of
stagecoaches 129
acorn, definition of 102
acorns
 how native peoples gathered 96
 how native peoples stored 96
 leaching out tannin from 96
 making bread from 97
 making mush from 97
Aerojet 171
Agency for Toxic Substances, U. S. 266
agriculture in the western Sierra foothills 154
Air Pollution Control District, El Dorado
County 264
air pollution in the Sacramento area 261
Air Resources Board (ARB), California 266, 269
Airpark Estates 215
airports
 in the El Dorado Hills area 55
 planned airport in El Dorado Hills 183
AKT Development 71, 176
 and cultural resources 283
Albert's shrine 280
alcalde governing system 110, 125
Alder Creek 232
Allan H. Lindsey Park 48
Allegheny Creek 126
Allen, John 58
Allen, William Stephen 187
Aloha Lake 245

Alpine County 253
Amador County 228
amalgamation plate, definition of 142
American Reservoir (Bass Lake) 157
American River 128
 and dredging 120
 biking along 52
 Conservancy 208
 Conservancy, Nature Center 64
 Friends of 252
 Land and Lumber Company 222
 rafting on 65
 Water Education Center 64
Anderson, William M. Jr. 187
animal control services for El Dorado Hills 22, 35
animals (wild) in El Dorado Hills 30
Anshen, Robert 187
apartments
 Copper Hills 24
 Sterling Ranch 177
Archeological Conservancy 284
archery range in El Dorado Hills 48
Archives, California 60
Arco Arena 64
area code (phone) for El Dorado Hills 26
argonaut, definition of 142
Armour, Philip 228
Around Here Magazine 41
Arroyo Del Rio Bass development 24
Arroyo Visa Village 23
Art Weisberg Park 48
asbestos 194, 265
 found in parts of El Dorado Hills 266
 health problems related to 265
 newspaper coverage about 266
Assessment District #3 (AD3) 184
Assessor, El Dorado County 56
AT&T Broadband 37
Atlantic House 137
Auburn 128

Auburn/Argonaut soils 196
auriferous channel, definition of 142
auriferous channels, and gold mining 116
Auto Museum, Towe 62

B

B.F. Hastings Museum 60
Ball family 163
Ballot Measure B 28, 184
Bar E Ranch 134
Barisone, May, Welcome to El Dorado 70
Bartlett
 Edward 238
 Harry 238
Barton
 Daisy (Russi) 159
 family 159, 162
 Hiram 159
baseball programs in El Dorado Hills 50
basketball programs in El Dorado Hills 50
Bass Lake 157, 278
 development 24
 Field 48
 Road 262
 Road, realignment of 51
Bass Lake Hills
 development 181
 Specific Plan 181
Bates House 221
Baumann, Helen 57, 74
Baylis, Douglas 186
Bear Mountain earthquake fault 193
bears in El Dorado Hills 30
Beckley, Lusius Ripley 134
Bedstraw, El Dorado 205
Bee, Sacramento 38
Beffa family 163
Bel Tierra development 73
Bell, Tom (Thomas J. Hodges) 137
Bella Lago development 73
Bence, Bob 127
Bertelsen
 Field 49
 Park 49

Better Business Bureau, El Dorado County 56
Big Four
 Building 60
 railroad barons 139
biking trails in the El Dorado Hills area 52, 79
Birch, James 129
Blue Channel 116
Blue Oak 198, 199, 200
Blue Shield of California 178
Blue Tent 137
Board of Supervisors, El Dorado County 57
Borchert, Irv 187
Borthwick, J. D. 123
Boxer, Barbara 76
Bradley House 221
Brannan, Sam 121
Breakouts soccer team 29
Brent-Bumb, Laurel 67
Briggs, Benjamin Franklin 133
Bright Beginnings 70
broadband Internet services for El Dorado Hills 37
Brooks
 Elementary School 43
 Gym 48
Brown, Edmund G. 271
Buck's Flat 280
Buckeye Ranchero, Shingle Springs 171
Buckeye Union School District 27, 43
builders
 Centex Homes 72, 184
 D. R. Horton 72
 John Laing Homes 72
 JTS Communities 72
 Lakemont Homes 71
 Lucas & Mercier Development 72
 Pacific Mountain Partners 73
 Reynen & Bardis 73
 Signature Properties 71
 US Home 73
 Warmington Homes 73
 Westwood homes 73
 William Lyon Homes, Inc. 71
 Winncrest Homes 184
 Woodside Homes 73

working in El Dorado Hills 28
working in Serrano 72
working in The Promontory 73
Building Department, El Dorado County 57
bullion, definition of 142
Bureau of Indian Affairs 103
Bureau of Land Management, Pine Hill Preserve,
U. S. 208
Bureau of Land Management, U.S. 144
Bureau of Reclamation, U. S. 208
Burnham House 221
Business Park, El Dorado Hills 67, 179, 181

C

cable TV services for El Dorado Hills 22, 37
cairn, definition of 142
Calaveras County 228
Caldwell House 137
California
Air Resources Board (ARB) 266, 269
Department of Conservation 208, 270
Department of Fish and Game 208
Department of Forestry and Fire
Protection 208
Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 284
Exposition and State Fair (Cal Expo) 64
Historical Resources Information System 276,
284
Military Museum 60
Native Plant Society, El Dorado Chapter 208
Office of Environmental Health Hazard
Assessment 269
Office of Historic Preservation 284
Poppy 199
Stage Company 129
State Archives 60
State Department of Conservation 266
State Department of Education 47
State Department of Motor Vehicles 56
State Historic Landmark 698 (Fifteen Mile
House) 133
State Historic Landmark 699 (Mormon
Tavern) 135, 277
State Historic Landmark 703 (Pleasant Grove

House) 236
State Historic Landmark 747 (Coloma
Road) 235
State Indian Museum 60
State Library 53
State Parks Office of Historic Preservation 276
State Railroad Museum 60
State University at Sacramento (CSUS) 47
State Water Resources Control Board
(SWRCB) 251
statehood for 126
Western Redbud 199
California Journal 41
Political Action Handbook 77
Californian (newspaper) 122
Caltrans (District 3 Traffic Operations) 56
Cameron Park
Airpark 55
history of 215
Lake 215
phone area code for 26
Cameron Park / Shingle Springs Chamber of
Commerce 67
Cameron Park Life 39
Cameron, Robert L. (Larry) 215
Camino, Rancho del Sol 171
camping in the El Dorado Hills area 65
Cape Horn, and travel to and from
California 122
Capital Dredging Company 133
Caples Lake 245
Carr, Jeff 53
Carson Creek 126, 197, 278
development 181
Specific Plan (Carson Creek and Euer
Ranch) 181
Carson Pass 128
Carson River House 134
Carson, Kit 108
Carsten family 163
Casina development 71
Catellus
Development Cororation 174
Residential Group 71
CC&Rs

-
- enforcement for El Dorado Hills 22, 184
in El Dorado Hills developments 28
ceanothus, Pine Hill 205
cemeteries
 Clarksville 163, 278
 Hall/Richmond 165, 278
 in El Dorado Hills 163
 Joerger-Tong 165, 278
 Mormon Island 164, 278
 Prairie City 233
 Railroad House 165, 278
 Tong 165, 278
Cemo Commercial 67, 71, 179
Cemo, Sammy 179
Centers for Disease Control, U.S. 266
Centex Homes 72, 184
Central Overland Pony Express 130, 235, 277
Central Pacific Railroad 139, 156
 Passenger Station 60
Chamber of Commerce Directory (2002), El Dorado Hills 41
Chamberlain, Roseanne 57
chambers of commerce
 Cameron Park / Shingle Springs 67
 El Dorado County 65, 67
 El Dorado Hills 65, 67
Chappel family 163
Charleton, Barbara 53
Chicago Title 72
Children's World Learning Centers 46
Chinese
 immigrants in California 123
 population in Folsom 222
Chrissy Cobb cabin site in Serrano 283
Christa McAuliffe Park 215
Christmas tree farms in the El Dorado Hills area 65
Christy House 221
chromite mining in El Dorado Hills 126
chrysotile 194, 266
Cincinnati House 137
Clappe, Louise (Dame Shirley) 132
Clark
 family 163
 Harry 126
 Luther Brown 126
 Clarkston's Town 126
Clarksville 24
 after the Gold Rush 152
 Cemetery 163, 278, 281
 Grange 156
 hangings in 127
 Heritage Society 162, 166
 how it got its name 126
 occupations represented in 1884-85 158
 pioneer families in 127
 Post Office 126
 ranches in 154
 reunions of pioneer families in 162
 wells in 243
Classroom Instructional Accountability and Improvement Act (Proposition 98) 44
Clean Air Act (1990) 261
climate
 locations of climatological stations near El Dorado Hills 21
 of El Dorado Hills 20, 30
 zones in El Dorado Hills 200
Cobb, Chrissy, cabin site in Serrano 283
cobble 192
Cobell v. Norton trust litigation 103
Cohn House 221
Cohn, Simon 222
Cold Springs 228
Coldwell Banker brokerage 72
colleges in the El Dorado Hills area 47
Coloma 120, 228
 Road 235
Colwell House 221
Commission on Metropolitan Area Problems 271
Community Council, El Dorado Hills 58
community parks
 El Dorado Hills 48
 Shingle Springs 238
community participation in *The El Dorado Hills Handbook* 16
community pool 49
Community Services District (CSD), El Dorado Hills 21, 26, 58, 74, 82, 184
 Preschool (Kids Korner) 46
-

community services for El Dorado Hills 21
Community Vision, El Dorado Hills 58
community welcoming services
 Bright Beginnings 70
 Welcome to El Dorado 70
community-republic organization of native
 peoples 94
Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis (CFA) of the
 Proposed Incorporation of El Dorado
 Hills 271
Comstock's Business 41
Concord stagecoaches 130
Conservation, Department of, California 208, 270
contents of *The El Dorado Hills Handbook* 14
Contini, Edgardo 186
Copper Hills Apartments 24
Coroner, El Dorado County 284
Cosumnes
 Land Grant 109
 River 197
Country Club, Serrano 64
crape myrtle 200
creeks
 Alder 232
 Allegheny 126
 Carson 126, 197, 278
 Deer 197
 Dusty 197
 Hangtown 116
 New York 126, 197
 Pumpumul (Weber) 122
 Traverse 206
 Weber 98, 116, 122, 228
Crescent Hills development 24
Crescent Ridge development 24
Crocker Art Museum 60
Crocker, Charles 139
Crosbie Real Estate 72
Cross, Ralph, and information about inns in the
 El Dorado Hills area 132
Crown development 24
Crown Valley development 24
Crown Village 23
Crystal Mountain Casino 99
cupules 277

cyanide, use of in gold mining 119

D

D. R. Horton (builder) 72
dam, Folsom 65, 221
Dame Shirley (Louise Clappe) 132
Davidson family 163
Davis, Gray 75
"day in the life" project, potential follow-on to
 The El Dorado Hills Handbook 16
Daylor, William 228
Deer Creek 197
Deer Creek Estates development 181
Deer Creek Hotel 137
DeGerorgis, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph, first residents
 in El Dorado Hills 171
Del Paso land grant 109
Department of Forestry, U. S. 206, 260
Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV),
 California 56
Department of Transportation, El Dorado
 County 57
Design Review Board (DRB) of the El Dorado
 Hills Community Services District
 (CSD) 22, 24, 28, 58, 184
developments
 Bass Lake Hills 181
 Bel Tierra 73
 Bella Lago 73
 Casina 71
 Deer Creek Estates 181
 Highland View (Stonehaven at) 71
 Inverness 73
 Laureate 73
 Marble Valley 181
 Montage 73
 Montara 73
 Montecito 72
 Montellago 73
 Prima 71
 Quintessence 72
 Rancho Dorado 181
 Regalo 72
 Serrano 71, 175

Shadow Hawk 226
Sierra Vista 73
Stonebriar 71
Stonehaven at Highland View 71
Sun Ridge Meadow 226
Tesoro 72
The Promontory 71, 176
The Ridge at Quintessence 72
The Summit at Quintessence 72
Thornhill 73
Versante 71
Villaggio 72
Diamond Springs 128
Digger Pine 198
DirecTV 37
Discovery Museum
 History Center 60
 Science & Space Center 60
Disease Control, Centers for, U. S. 266
district offices, public school districts 42
Dixon family 162
Dixon Lime Kiln 69
Donahue family 163
Donner party 160
Doolittle, John 75
Doty, Carolyn 67
dredging for gold in the western Sierra 118
dredging, definition of 142
Dry Diggings (Placerville) 228
DSL services 37
DST Output 179
Du Roc House 137
Duck Ponds Park 49
Dupray, Rusty 57, 74
Dusty Creek 197

E

Eagle Theatre 60
earthquake faults
 Bear Mountain 193
 Melones 193
 West Bear Mountain 193
Eberhart, Dee R. 186
Echo lakes 245

Economic Planning Systems Inc. 21
EDAW consulting organization 21
EDH West real estate company 171
Effie Yeaw Nature Center 64
El Camino Real, highway connecting the
 California missions 108
El Dorado
 Irrigation District (EID) 37, 183, 243, 259
 Irrigation District (EID), and the Shingle
 Springs Rancheria 100
 Irrigation District (EID), operational profile
 of 247
 Irrigation District (EID), Urban Water
 Management Plan 254
 Mule-ears 205
 Powerhouse 254
 Transit 265
 Union High School District 27, 43
 Youth Soccer League 50
el dorado
 definition of 142
 legend of 19, 98, 115
 translation for 19
El Dorado Bedstraw 205
El Dorado County
 Air Pollution Control District 264
 Assessor 56
 Association of Realtors, Inc. 72
 Better Business Bureau 56
 Board of Supervisors 57
 Building Department 57
 Chamber of Commerce 65, 67
 Coroner 284
 county line with Sacramento County 26
 Department of Transportation 57
 early history of 228
 Election Department 77
 Environmental Management Department 264,
 270
 Fair 64
 general information about government offices
 in 56
 General Plan 57, 285
 General Services 57, 284
 Heritage Association 61
 Historical Museum 60

-
- history of 126
 - Indian Council 100, 103
 - Library (Cameron Park branch) 53
 - Library (El Dorado Hills branch) 53
 - Library (main branch in Placerville) 53
 - Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) 57, 100
 - Mineral and Gem Society 208
 - Office of Education 47
 - Pioneer Cemeteries Commission 166
 - Planning Department 57, 276
 - Tax Collector 57
 - Transportation Commission 57
 - El Dorado County Farm Trails* 41
 - El Dorado County Visitors' Guide* 41
 - El Dorado Diversion Dam 245, 252
 - El Dorado Hills
 - advertisement for in *Sierra Magazine* 186, 187
 - archery range in 48
 - Area Planning Advisory Council 58
 - bears in 30
 - broadband Internet services for 37
 - Business Park 67, 179, 181
 - cable TV services for 37
 - CC&R enforcement for 184
 - cemeteries in 163
 - Chamber of Commerce 65, 67
 - climate of 20, 30
 - climate zones in 200
 - Community Council 58
 - Community Park 48
 - Community Pool 49
 - Community Services District (CSD) 21, 26, 58, 74, 82, 184
 - community services for 21
 - Community Vision 58
 - community welcoming services 70
 - emergency services in 35
 - employees working in 21
 - environmental impact reports (EIRs) about 276
 - Farmers Market 58
 - garbage collection for 37
 - Golf Course 64, 66
 - government services in and around 56
 - government structure of 21
 - historic sites in 277
 - incorporation efforts in 26, 58
 - Investors 173
 - latitude and longitude of 190
 - library 182
 - location of 19
 - map of 19
 - Mercedes Benz dealership in 181
 - mountain lions (cougars) in 30
 - Newcomers 70
 - newspapers serving 38
 - origin of name 19
 - periodicals serving 41
 - Planning Advisory Council 58
 - population of 21, 171
 - Post Office 27
 - prehistoric sites in 277
 - Preservation Society 58
 - Real Estate (brokerage) 72
 - rocks 29
 - Specific Plan (also known as the Serrano Specific Plan) 173, 184, 285, 286
 - Town Center 177
 - United States Post Office in 56
 - utilities for 37
 - Wastewater Treatment Plant 255
 - Water District 183
 - watershed 197
 - wild animals in 30
 - zip code for 27
 - El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce Directory* (2002) 41
 - El Dorado Hills Handbook*
 - community participation in 16
 - companion Web site to 16
 - contents of 14
 - format of 14
 - historical preservation efforts related to 16
 - questions that motivated 12
 - revisions of 16
 - El Dorado Hills Telegraph* 38
 - El Dorado Hills Village Life* 38
 - El Dorado News* 228
 - El Dorado Republican* 228
 - Election Department, El Dorado County 77
 - elementary school districts serving El Dorado
-

Hills 43
elevation of El Dorado Hills 190
emergency services in the El Dorado Hills
area 35
Emerson, Gordon 183
emigration to California 123
employees working in El Dorado Hills 21
enforcement of CC&Rs, role of the El Dorado
Hills Community Services District in 28
Environmental Health Hazard Assessment,
Office of, California 269
environmental impact reports (EIRs) written
about the El Dorado Hills area 276
Environmental Management Department, El
Dorado County 264, 270
Environmental Quality Act, California
(CEQA) 284
Equestrian development 24
ERA Realty Center 72
Erwin, Diana Griego 269
Euer family 134, 156, 162, 179
Euer Ranch Specific Plan (Carson Creek and
Euer Ranch) 181
Eureka Ditch Company 156
Evans, Morgan 186
Everett family 163
Explorit! 64

F

Fabulous Fifty Marketing Council 68
Fairchild development 24
Fairytale Town 65
Faralon plate 190
Farm Trails, El Dorado County 41
farmers markets
Cameron Park 216
El Dorado Hills 58
farms in the El Dorado Hills area 65
faults, earthquake
Bear Mountain 193
Melones 193
West Bear Mountain 193
Feinstein, Dianne 76
Fidelity National Title Company 72

Fiel, Joseph 222
Field, Susan, Bright Beginnings 70
Fifteen Mile House 130, 133
Figueroa Street, Folsom 221
Financial Title Company 72
fire department serving El Dorado Hills,
headquarters building for 35
fire services for El Dorado Hills 21
First American Title Company 72
fiscal analysis for the incorporation of El Dorado
Hills 271
Fish and Game, Department of, California 208
Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. 208
fish hatchery, Nimbus 65
Fisk family 159
Fitch
Albert 279
family 156, 159, 163
George Clinton 279
Mary Wilson 280
Five Mile House 130
flume, definition of 142
Folsom
Chinese population in 222
Dam 65, 121, 221
Dam climatological station 21
Dam Road 263
historic homes in 221
History Museum 60
history of 218
Jewish pioneer families in 222
Lake 121, 244
Lake, boating at 65
Old Town 62
phone area code for 26
Powerhouse 223
Powerhouse State Historic Park 61
Prison 219
Prison Museum 61
Stageline 265
Water Power Company 222
Zoo 65
Folsom, Joseph L. 218
Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of,
California 208

format of *The El Dorado Hills Handbook* 14
Fort Ross 108
fortieth anniversary celebration, creation of the
 El Dorado Hills Community Services
 District (CSD) 82
Fountain & Tallman Soda Factory Museum 61
Franciscan Village 23
Francisco Oaks development 24
Free, Mickey 136
Freeman, Samuel 137
freight service during the Gold Rush 129
Fremont, John C. 108
Friends of the Library, El Dorado Hills branch 53
Friends of the River (American River) 252, 259

G

Gambles, Velma 39
gambling casino on the Shingle Springs
 Rancheria 99
garbage collection for El Dorado Hills 22, 37
Garden Valley, asbestos in 268
gas and electric service for El Dorado Hills 37
Gateway Park 215
Gelwicks, D. W. 228
General Plan, El Dorado County 57, 285
General Services, El Dorado County 57, 284
Genoa, Nevada, stagecoach service to 130
geological events, western Sierra 192
Georgetown
 Airport 55
 Ranger Station 206
gold
 how it is deposited on the surface of the
 earth 116
 how it is mined 117
Gold Bug Park 61
gold mining in El Dorado Hills 126
Gold Rush 115
 El Dorado Hills' role in 115, 126
 end of 124
 inns along the highways during 132
 land claims in El Dorado County during 126
 mail service during 129
 stagecoach service during 129

 summary of key events in 141
Golden Hills School 46
Golden State Museum 61
golf courses
 El Dorado Hills 64, 66
 in El Dorado County 64
gopher snakes 30
government in California after the Gold
 Rush 125
government services in and around El Dorado
 Hills 56
government structure of El Dorado Hills 21
Governor Village 23, 171
Governor Village Center 68
Governor's Mansion State Historic Park 61
Governors West development 24
Granite City 219
granites 192
Grant, Ulysses S. 228
Gray Channels 116
Gray Pine 198
Great Salt Lake Carrying Company 129
Green Ranch 23
Green Springs House 138
Green Valley
 Acres 23
 Hills development 24
 Road 127, 128, 235
 Road, inns along during the Gold Rush 137
 Road, traffic on 262
greenstone 192
grinding rock, definition of 102
grinding rocks used by native peoples 95
growth projections for the Sacramento area 260
Gruen, Victor 186
 and influence of on El Dorado Hills 170

H

Haase, Pete 133
Hacienda Park 215
Hall/Richmond Cemetery 165, 278
Hamilton, William (Sam) 130, 133, 135
hammerstone, definition of 102
hammerstones used by native peoples 95

hangings, in Clarksville 127
Hangtown Creek 116
Hangtown, nickname for Placerville 228
hard-rock mining
 definition of 142
 how it is done 116
Hare, Andrew 235
Harris, Steven, park bearing his name 49
Hart family 155
Harza Engineering 252
Hastings (B. F.) Museum 60
Health and Human Services, Department of, U.
 S. 270
Heritage Association of El Dorado County 61
Heritage Society, Clarksville 166
Hidahl, John 58
high school district serving El Dorado Hills 43
Highland View (Stonehaven at) development 71
Highland Village 23
Highway 50 127, 128
 HOV lanes on 262
 inns along during the Gold Rush 133
 traffic on 262
highways in the El Dorado Hills area 127
Hills of El Dorado development 23, 24
historic homes, Folsom 221
Historic Preservation, Office of, California 276,
 284
historic sites in El Dorado Hills 277
Historical Museum, El Dorado County 60
historical preservation efforts related to *The El
 Dorado Hills Handbook* 16
Historical Resources Information System,
 California 276, 284
History Museum, Folsom 60
history of El Dorado Hills, overview 91
Hodges, Thomas J. (Tom Bell) 137
Hopkins, Huntington, Hardware Store 61
Hopkins, Mark 139, 228
Horton, D. R., builder 72
Hotchkiss, Frank 187
HOV lanes on Highway 50 262
Huntington Hopkins Hardware Store 61
Huntington, Collis 139
hydraulic mining
 definition of 142

 how it is done 118
Hyman House 221
Hyman, Jacob 222

I

igneous rocks 193
incorporation efforts in El Dorado Hills 26, 58
 fiscal analysis for 271
Independence Continuation High School 43
Indian Council, El Dorado County 100, 103
Indian Grinding Rock State Park 103
Indian Museum, California State 60
indoor/outdoor museum, potential follow-on
 project to *The El Dorado Hills
 Handbook* 16
inns along the highways during the Gold
 Rush 132
Inter-County Title Company 72
Interior Live Oak 198
Inverness development 73
Island House 137

J

J. P. Markham's Hotel 137
Jackson Elementary School 43
 exercise track at 48
Jacoby, Edmond, EID news 253
January, William 228
Jenkinson Lake 244
Jensen Botanical Gardens 207
Jensen, Cecilia 256
Jewish pioneer families in Folsom 222
Joerger
 family 156, 160, 162, 163
 family, property owned by 170
 Joseph 135
Joerger Ranch Environmental Impact Report 285
Joerger's Cutoff 278
Joerger-Tong Cemetery 165, 278
John Hancock Insurance Company 171, 173
John Laing Homes 72
Johnson family 163
Johnson's cutoff 128

Johnson, J. C. ("Colonel Jack") 128
Johnson, Richard, biographical information
for 15
Jones, Robert Trent 186
JTS Communities 72
Judah, Theodore 139
monument honoring 62

K

K-12 public schools 42
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center
Folsom 35
Rancho Cordova 35
Roseville 35
Kalihea Park 49
Kids Korner 46
KinderCare Learning Center 46, 177
Kings basketball 64
Kinkade, Thomas 69
Klumpp, Jacob 222
Kowall, Carl 187
Kyburz family 156, 160, 163

L

La Borgata at Serrano 68, 179
La Cresta development 24
La Cresta Village 23
La Petite Preschool 46
Laing, John (builder) 72
Lake Forest
Elementary School 43
Plaza 68
Lake Hills Estates 23
Lake Tahoe, boating at 65
Lake Village 23
Lakemont Homes 71
Lakeridge Oaks Village 23
lakes
Aloha 245
Bass 278
Caples 245
Echo 245
Jenkinson 244

planned at Town Center East 181
Silver 245
land area, El Dorado Hills 20
land claims in El Dorado County during the
Gold Rush 126
land grants 92
Cosumnes 109
Del Paso 109
Rancho de los Americanos 218
San Juan de los Americanos 109
landscaping management for El Dorado Hills 22
language group of native peoples 94
Lathrop's Tavern 277
Lathrop, Asahel 134, 277
latitude of El Dorado Hills 190
Latrobe
and the Placerville & Sacramento Valley
Railroad 140
history of 225
Latrobe, Benjamin H. 225
Laureate development 73
League to Save Sierra Lakes 253
legend of *el dorado* 98
Lehman Ranch climatological station 21
Leidesdorff, William 218
Leland Stanford Mansion 61
Leslie, Tim 74, 252
Levy House 221
Levy, Edward 222
libraries
California State 53
El Dorado County (Cameron Park branch) 53
El Dorado County (El Dorado Hills branch) 53
El Dorado County (main branch in
Placerville) 53
El Dorado County, El Dorado Hills branch 182
in and around El Dorado Hills 53
new branch in El Dorado Hills 182
Sacramento Public 53
library services for El Dorado Hills 22
Life Newspapers 39
light rail service 263
lime kiln in Marble Valley 69
Lindsey, Allan H. 171
founder of El Dorado Hills 12, 170, 186

park bearing his name 48, 171
Lipp, Jerome F. 186
Little League programs in El Dorado Hills 50
Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO),
 El Dorado County 57, 100
location of El Dorado Hills 19
Locust House 238
lode mining
 definition of 142
 how it is done 116
lodges occupied by the native peoples 94
Long Distance Trails Office 144
long tom
 definition of 142
 how it is used in gold mining 117
longitude of El Dorado Hills 190
Longs drug store 178, 184
Lowery, Wayne 74
Lucas & Mercier Development 72
lupine 199
Lyon Realtors 72
Lyon, William (Homes) 71

M

magma 192
Maidu group of native peoples 91, 94, 102, 277
mail service during the Gold Rush 129
Manifest Destiny, significance in the annexation
 of California 110
Manning, Debbie 67
Mansion House 137
Mansour Company 71, 177
Mansour, Anthony (Tony) 173, 180
map of El Dorado Hills 19
maps of El Dorado Hills and El Dorado County,
 list of 78
Marble Valley
 development 181
 Regional Center for the Arts 68, 69
Marina development 24
Marina Village 23
 Middle School 43
Marina Woods development 24
Markham, Edwin 228

Markham, J. P. 137
Marshall Gold Discovery State Park 61
Marshall Hospital 35
Marshall, James W. 120, 235
Martin family 163
Marysville 118
Mather Air Force Base 171
Mather Field 55
McAuliffe, Christa, park bearing her name 215
McCabe, William C., softball field bearing his
 name 49
McClellan Aviation Museum 61
McCullough, David 284
McDonnell Douglas 171
McDougall, Mike 283
McFadin (McFadden) family 163
McNaughton Newspapers 39
Measure Y 180
Melones earthquake fault 193
Mercedes Benz dealership in El Dorado Hills 181
mercury, use of in gold mining 119
Mercy General Hospital 35
Mercy Hospital 35
metamorphic rocks 192, 193
Metropolitan Air Quality Management District,
 Sacramento 264
Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2025 262
Mette, Henry 155
Mexican-American War 110, 120
Meyer, Janet, El Dorado Hills Newcomers 70
midden sites 277
middle school districts serving El Dorado
 Hills 43
Military Museum, California 60
Miller family 163
Miller, Jacob 222
Miller, James H. 157, 225
Miller, Sam 282
Miner's Hotel 137
Mineral and Gem Society, El Dorado County 208
mining camps, life in 123
Mission San Diego de Alcala 108
Miwok group of native peoples 91, 94, 100, 102,
 277
Mokelumne River 122
Monarchs basketball 64

Montage development 73
Montara development 73
Montecito development 72
Montellago development 73
Montessori Manor 46
moraines in the High Sierra 192
Morgan, builder of Mormon Tavern 134, 277
Morgan, Jon 264
Mormon Battalion 120
Mormon Island 121, 137
 Cemetery 164, 278
Mormon Tavern 130, 134
 description of an overnight stay at in 1849 135
 State Historic Landmark 699 277
Morning-glory, Stebbins' 205
Morse family 163
mortar station, definition of 102
mortar stations used by native peoples 95
Moseley
 family 162
 Madeleine Petersen 162, 166, 198
Mountain Democrat 38, 228
mountain lions (cougars) in El Dorado Hills 30
Mule-ears, El Dorado 205

N

Nakanishi, Alan 75
name of El Dorado Hills, origin 19
National Historic Trails Interpretive Center 144
National Park Service, U.S. 144
Native American Heritage Commission 103
Native Plant Society, El Dorado Chapter,
 California 208
Natoma Water and Mining Company 156, 219
nature trail along New York Creek 48
Negro Bar 222
New Almaden mercury mine 141
New York
 Creek 126, 197
 Creek, Nature Trail 48
 House 137
 Ravine 134, 232
 Volunteers 218
Newcomers, El Dorado Hills 70

newspapers
 El Dorado Hills Telegraph 38
 El Dorado Hills Village Life 38
 Mountain Democrat 38
 Sacramento Bee 38
 serving the El Dorado Hills area 38
Nielsen, Willard E. 187
Nimbus Fish Hatchery 65
North Central Information Center 284
Nunn, Charles ("Buzz") 58

O

Oak Creek Hills 23
Oak Knoll Park 48
Oak Meadow Elementary School 43
Oak Ridge High School 43, 184
Oak Tree Village 23
Oakridge development 24
oaks
 Blue 198, 199, 200
 Interior Live 198
 Valley 198
occupations represented in Clarksville in 1884-
 85 158
Ohio House 137
Old Chinatown, Sacramento 61
Old Hangtown, nickname for Placerville 61, 228
Old Republic Title Company 72
Old Sacramento Schoolhouse 62
Old Town
 Folsom 62
 Sacramento 62
oleander 200
Oller, Thomas ("Rico") 75
open space services for El Dorado Hills 22
oral history project, potential follow-on to *The El
 Dorado Hills Handbook* 16
orchards in the El Dorado Hills area 65
Oregon California Trails Association 144
Oroville Dam 190
Overlook Park 48
Oviatt, Glenn 68

P

- Pacific Bell 37
 - DSL services 37
- Pacific Coast Building Supply Inc. 174
- Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) 244
- Pacific Mountain Partners 73
- Page, James K. 134
- Paine, Charlie 57, 74
- Panama Canal, and travel to and from California 122
- panning for gold, how to 117
- panning, definition of 143
- Park development 24
- park services for El Dorado Hills 22
- Park Village 23, 171
- Parker
 - Development Company 71, 173, 174
 - Harold 174
 - William (Bill) 12, 174
- parks
 - in Cameron Park 215
 - in El Dorado Hills 48
- Parkview Heights
 - development 24
 - Park 49
- Patterson family 163
- Penutian language group of native peoples 94, 102
- periodicals
 - Around Here Magazine* 41
 - California Journal* 41
 - Comstock's Business* 41
 - El Dorado County Farm Trails* 41
 - El Dorado County Visitors' Guide* 41
 - El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce Directory* (2002) 41
 - Sacramento Business Journal* 41
 - Sacramento Magazine* 41
 - serving the El Dorado Hills area 41
- Perkes, Alison 39
- Perkins, Paul 127
- pestle, definition of 102
- pestles used by native peoples 95
- Pete Haase's place 133
- petroglyph, definition of 102
- petroglyphs created by native peoples 95, 277
- PG&E (Pacific Gas & Electric) 37
- Phoenix Schools 46
- phone
 - area code for El Dorado Hills 26
 - services for El Dorado Hills 37
- Pilot Creek Water Company 156
- Pine Hill ceanothus 205
- pinos
 - Digger 198
 - Gray 198
- Pioneer Cemetery Commission, El Dorado County 166
- pioneer families in Clarksville 127
- placer gold
 - definition of 143
 - how it gets deposited on the surface of the earth 116
- Placer Title Company 72
- Placerville
 - Airport 55
 - history of 228
 - life in during the Gold Rush 123
 - nickname for 228
 - phone area code for 26
 - schools in during the Gold Rush 229
- Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad 140, 156, 238
- Placerville Mountain Democrat* 38, 228
- Planning Advisory Council, El Dorado Hills 58
- Planning Department, El Dorado County 57
- Pleasant Grove House 138, 235
- Pleasant Valley 128
- Plumas River 115
- Pocahontas Mill and Mining 156
- Pocket Directory of the California Legislature* 77
- police services for El Dorado Hills 21
- Political Action Handbook, California Journal's* 77
- pony express 130, 133, 135
- Pony Express Association 144
- Pony Express Monument 62
- Poppy, California 199
- population
 - natives in 1542 98
 - natives in 1849 98
 - natives in 1925 99

natives in the years between 1850 and 1865 99
 of El Dorado County in 1850 122
 of El Dorado Hills 21, 171
 Port of Sacramento 65
 Poss claim 225
 post offices
 Clarksville 126
 El Dorado Hills 27
 latitude and longitude of the post office in El
 Dorado Hills 190
 location of in El Dorado Hills 56
 Shingle Springs 238
 Potts, Marie 95
 Powerhouse State Historic Park, Folsom 61
 Prairie City 232
 Cemetery 233
 Prairie House 133
 pre-emption claims to land in El Dorado
 County 126
 prehistoric sites in El Dorado Hills 277
 Preservation Society, El Dorado Hills 58
 Prima development 71
 Prison Museum, Folsom 61
 private schools 46
 production home builders
 working in Serrano 72
 working in The Promontory 73
 Project 184 244, 248, 251, 252, 259
 Promontory development 71, 176
 Environmental Impact Report for 286
 production home builders working in 73
 Proposition 98 (Classroom Instructional
 Accountability and Improvement
 Act) 44
 Prudential California Realty 72
 Pumpumul Creek (Weber Creek) 122

Q

quartz mining, definition of 143
 quartz veins, and gold mining 116
 questions that motivated *The El Dorado Hills
 Handbook* 12
 Quintessence development 72

R

rafting on the American River 65
 Railroad House 127, 136
 Cemetery 165, 278
 Railroad Museum, California 60
 railroads
 Central Pacific 139, 156
 Central Pacific Passenger Station 60
 Placerville & Sacramento Valley 140, 156, 238
 routes considered 140
 Sacramento and Placerville 134
 Sacramento Southern 65
 Sacramento Valley 139
 Santa Fe Pacific 174
 Raley's
 Center 68, 177
 supermarket 171, 184
 Ralphs supermarket 178, 184
 Rancheria, Shingle Springs 99, 103
 ranches
 in and around Clarksville 154
 in the El Dorado Hills area 65
 Rancho de los Americanos land grant 218
 Rancho del Sol, Camino 171
 Rancho Dorado
 development 24, 181, 263
 Specific Plan 181
 Randall, James 130
 rankings of local schools 44
 Rasmussen Community Park 215
 real estate brokerages
 Coldwell Banker 72
 Crosbie Real Estate 72
 El Dorado Hills 72
 ERA Realty Center 72
 Lyon Realtors 72
 Prudential California Realty 72
 ReMax Gold 72
 realtors in El Dorado county, association of 72
 Reclamation, Bureau of, U. S. 249
 recreation services for El Dorado Hills 22
 recycled water
 in Serrano 174
 projected volumes for 257
 use of in El Dorado Hills 254

Recycling Hotline 57
Red Hills Soaproot 205
Redbud, California Western 199
redistricting in 2001, effect on El Dorado Hills 74
reference collection of materials on the history of
 El Dorado Hills, potential follow-on
 project to *The El Dorado Hills*
 Handbook 16
Regalo development 72
registering to vote 77
Reid White Memorial Ponds at Governor
 Park 49
ReMax Gold brokerage 72
Rescue
 history of 235
 Union School District 27, 43
revisions of *The El Dorado Hills Handbook* 16
Reynen & Bardis (builder) 73
Rhoads, John 232
Ricker, Samuel 137
Ridge at Quintessence development 72
Ridgeview
 East development 24
 Equestrian development 24
 Park 49
 Unit 7 Park 49
 Village 23
 Village Estates 24
Riley, Bennet 126
riparian woodlands 199
rivers
 American 52, 120, 128
 Cosumnes 197
 Mokelumne 122
 Plumas 115
Road Conditions Hotline 57
roads in the El Dorado Hills area 127
Roberts family 163
rocker, definition of 143
rockers, use of in gold mining 117
rocks, El Dorado Hills 12, 29
Rocky Mountain Fur Company 218
Rolling Hill House 137
Rolling Hills Middle School 43, 184
Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society 144

Roseville
 Carnegie Museum 62
 Telephone Museum 62
Royal Oaks Park 216
Rusch Park Botanical Garden 207
Russi family 161, 162
Russian American Fur Company 218
Ryan, Chuck 162

S

Sacramento
 air pollution in 261
 Area Council of Governments (SACOG) 56,
 260, 262, 264, 265
 County, boundary line with El Dorado
 County 26
 Executive Airport 55
 International Airport 55
 Kings 64
 Metropolitan Air Quality Management
 District 261, 264
 Monarchs 64
 Old Town 62
 phone area code for 26
 Port of 65
 Public Library 53
 Regional County Sanitation District 256
 Regional Transit 265
 Southern Railroad Excursions 65
 Transportation Management Association
 (TMA) 261, 264, 265
 when it became the state capital 141
 Zoo 65
Sacramento and Placerville Railroad 134
Sacramento Bee 38
Sacramento Business Journal 41
Sacramento Magazine 41
Sacramento Union
 and a story about a prairie salmon 133
 letter to the editor about Clarksville in 153
Sacramento Valley Railroad Company 139
Safetyville, U.S.A. 65
Safeway supermarket 182
Sailley family 163

-
- salmon spawning at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery 65
 - Samuel Ricker's House 137
 - San Diego de Alcalá mission 108
 - San Juan de los Americanos land grant 109
 - Santa Fe Pacific Railroad 174
 - Saratoga Way 263
 - satellite services for El Dorado Hills 37
 - Sawyer decision, and hydraulic mining 118, 120
 - school districts serving El Dorado Hills 27
 - boundaries between 28
 - Buckeye Union School District 27
 - El Dorado Union High School District 27
 - Rescue Union School District 27
 - schools
 - colleges and universities 47
 - private 46
 - public (K-12) 42
 - rankings of 44
 - schedules for 27
 - test results for 47
 - Scott Street, Folsom 221
 - sedimentary rock 192, 193
 - serpentine rock 192, 193
 - Serrano
 - Country Club 64, 174, 184
 - development 71, 175
 - new development in 181
 - Parkway 262
 - policy on protecting cultural resources 282
 - production home builders working in 72
 - Specific Plan 173, 184
 - use of recycled water in 174
 - villages in 23
 - Visitor Center 184
 - Serrano Associates 71
 - and cultural resources 282
 - sewer services for El Dorado Hills 22, 37
 - Shadow Hawk development 226
 - Shenandoah High School 43
 - Sheriff, El Dorado County 35
 - Sherman
 - family 163
 - George 133
 - Shingle Springs
 - and the Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad 140
 - Band of Miwok Indians 100
 - Buckeye Ranchero 171
 - Community Park 238
 - House 238
 - Post Office 238
 - Rancheria 99, 103
 - Shingle Springs / Cameron Park Chamber of Commerce 67
 - Shirley, Dame (Louise Clappe) 132
 - Showers family 163
 - Sierra Magazine*, advertisement in for El Dorado Hills 186, 187
 - Sierra Vista development 73
 - Signature Properties 71
 - Silva Valley Parkway 129, 262
 - interchange at Highway 50 262
 - Silva Valley Year Round Elementary School 43, 184
 - Silver Lake 245
 - silver mining in California 115
 - skiing in the El Dorado Hills area 65
 - Skinner Winery 155, 215
 - sluice box, definition of 143
 - sluices, use of in gold mining 117
 - Sly Park Reservoir 244
 - Smartville block 190
 - Smith family 163
 - Smith, Jedediah 108, 218
 - bike trail bearing his name 52
 - Smith, Larry 186
 - smog in the Sacramento area 261
 - snakes
 - gopher 30
 - in El Dorado Hills 30
 - whipsnakes 30
 - Soaproot, Red Hills 205
 - soccer programs in El Dorado Hills 29, 50
 - soils, Auburn/Argonaut 196
 - Sophia Parkway 262
 - South Fork Canal Company 156
 - South Lake Tahoe Airport 55
 - Southland, Ben H. 186
 - Southpointe development 71
 - Sparks, Anna Maria 218

specific plans

- Bass Lake Hills 181
- Carson Creek and Euer Ranch 181
- El Dorado Hills (Serrano) 173, 184, 285
- Rancho Dorado 181
- Valley View 180

sports programs in El Dorado Hills 50

Springer, Thomas 228

Springfield Meadows development 24

St. Andrews

- Park 49
- Village 23, 171

St. Lawrence Mill and Mining 156

St. Stephen's Child Development Center 46

stagecoach service during the Gold Rush 129

stamp mill, definition of 143

stamp mills, use of in gold mining 119

Stamper House 221

Stamper, Samuel 222

Stanford, Leland 139, 228

- Mansion 61

Star (newspaper) 122

Starbucks 184

Stark, Bradley 187

State Archives, California 60

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) 251

statehood, granting of to California 111

Stebbins' Morning-glory 205

steelhead spawning at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery 65

Sterling Ranch

- Apartments 177
- development 24

Steven Harris Park 49

Stewart, Enoch 187

Stifle Claim 206

Stockton 122

Stonebriar development 71

Stonegate Village 23, 24

Stonehaven at Highland View development 71

Stoneridge development 24

Straza Ranch wildlife preserve 207

street lighting management for El Dorado Hills 22

Strohecker family 163

Studebaker, J. M. 228

Summit at Quintessence development 72

Summit Village 23

Sun Ridge Meadow development 226

Sutter General Hospital 35

Sutter Memorial Hospital 35

Sutter Street, Folsom 221

Sutter's Fort 120, 235

- State Historic Park 62

Sutter's Mill 99, 120, 235

- discovery of gold at 111

swimming pools in El Dorado Hills 48

T

tailings, definition of 143

tannin

- definition of 102
- how to leach out of acorns 96

Tax Collector, El Dorado County 57

Taylor

- Amos 127
- family 161, 163

tectonic plates 190

Teichert Land Company 174

Telegraph, El Dorado Hills 38

telegraph, transcontinental 131

telephone area code for El Dorado Hills 26

Tennis Court Park 49

Tesoro development 72

test results for local schools, how to obtain 47

The El Dorado Hills Handbook

- community participation in 16
- companion Web site to 16
- contents of 14
- format of 14
- historical preservation efforts related to 16
- questions that motivated 12
- revisions of 16

The Island House 137

The Phoenix Schools 46

The Promontory development 71, 176

- Environmental Impact Report for 286
- production home builders working in 73

The Ridge at Quintessence development 72
 The Summit at Quintessence development 72
 The Village 68
 The Village Green 175
 Theodore Judah Monument 62
 Thomas, John 276
 Thoreau, H. D. 187
 Thornhill development 73
 tipis occupied by the native peoples 94
 title companies
 Chicago Title 72
 Fidelity National Title Company 72
 Financial Title Company 72
 First American Title Company 72
 Inter-County Title Company 72
 Old Republic Title Company 72
 Placer Title Company 72
 Tong
 Arthur 162
 Cemetery 165, 278
 family 161, 162
 Gilbert S. 127
 Gloria 162
 Hezekiah 127
 James 134
 John 127
 Margaret 127
 Mimi 162
 toll road 134
 William W. 127
 Towe Auto Museum 62
 Town Center, El Dorado Hills 68, 177, 181
 Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Agency
 for, U. S. 270
 traffic in the El Dorado Hills area 128
 trails (walking, biking) in El Dorado Hills 79
 transcontinental telegraph 131
 Transportation Commission, El Dorado
 County 57
 Transportation Management Association
 (TMA) 261, 264, 265
 transportation plan for the Sacramento area 262
 Traverse Creek 206
 Traylor Brothers Construction 252
 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the

Mexican-American War 110
 tremolite 266
 Trinity Church House 221
 Truckee 128
 Tsakopoulos, Angelo 71, 176

U

Union Tavern 137
 United States
 Agency for Toxic Substances 266
 Bureau of Land Management 144
 Bureau of Land Management (Pine Hill
 Preserve) 208
 Bureau of Reclamation 208, 249
 Centers for Disease Control 266
 Department of Forestry 206, 260
 Department of Health and Human
 Services 270
 Fish and Wildlife Service 208
 National Park Service 144
 Post Office, El Dorado Hills 56
 Post Office, Shingle Springs 238
 Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Agency
 for 270
 universities in the El Dorado Hills area 47
 Upton, Carol, El Dorado Hills Newcomers 70
 Urban Land Institute (ULI) 173, 188
 US Home (builder) 73
 utilities for the El Dorado Hills area 37

V

Valencia, Michelle 58
 Valley Oak 198
 Valley View
 development 180
 Specific Plan 180, 184
 van Raaphorst-Johnson, Anna, biographical
 information for 15
 Van Wicklin family 161
 Vandever, Leslie Shirley 39
 vector control services for El Dorado Hills 21
 Vedder, Almon 134
 Veerkamp family 155

Versante development 71
vetch 199
Victor Gruen Associates 186
Village Green 175
Village Green Park 49
Village Life, El Dorado Hills 38
Village Plaza 68
village, definition of 102
villages
 concept of relative to El Dorado Hills 170
 importance of to native peoples 91
 in El Dorado Hills, list of 23
Villaggio development 72
vineyards in and around El Dorado Hills 155
Visitor Center, Serrano 184
Visitors' Guide, El Dorado County 41
Voice of the Villages newsletter 38
voting in El Dorado Hills 77
VR Communications, Inc. 15

W

Waddilove House 222
Wakefield, Lucy 123
Walker family 162
Walker Ranch 162
walking trails in the El Dorado Hills area 79
Warmington Homes 73
Wastewater Treatment Plant, El Dorado Hills 255
water
 and the Shingle Springs Rancheria 100
 conservation measures mandated in 2001 250
 how it is provided to El Dorado Hills 22, 37, 243
 recycled 254
Water Education Center, American River 64
Water Reuse Association 256
Waterford
 Park 48
 Village 23
watershed, El Dorado Hills 197
weather in El Dorado Hills 30
Web site, companion to *The El Dorado Hills Handbook* 16
Weber Creek 98, 116, 122, 228
 and a massacre of native peoples 98

Weber, Charles 122
Weisberg, Art, park bearing his name 48
Weitzman, Larry 268
Welcome to El Dorado 70
Wells Fargo
 bank, ruin of in the old Clarksville area 162
 date the company was established 141
 History Museum 62
West Bear Mountain earthquake fault 193
Western Ditch Company 133
Western House 133
Westwood Homes 73
Wetsel
 Cecil Jr. 68
 Cecil Sr. 68
Wetsel-Oviatt Lumber Company 68
White Rock Jack 137
White Rock Road 262
 inns along during the Gold Rush 133
White Rock Springs 134
 Ranch Hotel 134
White, Reid, memorial ponds bearing his
 name 49
Wild House 222
Wild Oaks Park 49
William Brooks Elementary School 43
William C. McCabe Memorial Softball Field 49
William Lyon Homes, Inc. 71
Wilson family 156, 162, 163
Wilson, Karen 284
Windsor Point development 24, 71
wine tasting in the El Dorado Hills area 65
Winncrest Homes 184
Winterhaven development 25
Wise, Kari 39
Witt, Norb 58
Woodridge development 25
Woodside Homes 73

Y

Yeaw, Effie 210
 Nature Center 64
yellow house controversy 28, 58
York family 163

Young's Hotel 137
Young, Brigham 120

Z

zip code for El Dorado Hills 27
zoos
 Folsom 65
 Sacramento 65

