

DATE: April 1, 2014
TO: Responsible Agencies, Community Organizations, and Interested Parties
SUBJECT: Notice of Availability and Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration by the South Tahoe Public Utility District for the Upper Truckee Marsh Sewer Facilities Protection Project

The South Tahoe Public Utility District (District) has prepared an initial study and proposed mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.), and an initial environmental checklist (IEC) in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Code of Ordinances and Article VI of the TRPA Rules of Procedure, for the proposed Upper Truckee Marsh Sewer Facilities Protection Project. The proposed project is located along the District's sewer line easement near the Bellevue Pump Station facility in South Lake Tahoe, California.

The IS and IEC identify and analyze the potentially significant adverse environmental effects of the proposed project. Based on the IS, it has been determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is appropriate for the project. The lead agency intends to consider adoption of an IS/MND and approval of the proposed project following completion of the 30-day public review period consistent with the provisions of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines.

Based on the IEC, it is anticipated that TRPA will be able to make the finding pursuant to TRPA Code of Ordinances Section 3.3.2(B) that mitigation measures incorporated into the project would preclude the potential for significant effects on the environment, and that a mitigated finding of no significant effect (FONSE) will be prepared in accordance with TRPA's Rules of Procedure.

Project Title: Upper Truckee Marsh Sewer Facilities Protection Project

Lead Agency: South Tahoe Public Utility District

Project Location: Trout Creek, located along the District's sewer line easement near the Bellevue Pump Station facility in South Lake Tahoe, California

Project Description: The District is proposing the proposed project, which involves implementing an adaptive management plan (AMP) to protect its existing force and gravity sewer mains along with its Bellevue Pump Station facility in South Lake Tahoe, California. The sewer facilities are located on property owned by the California Tahoe Conservancy at the north margin of the Upper Truckee Marsh. The study area includes 96 acres along Trout Creek and is generally bounded by U.S. Highway 50 on the south, the Al Tahoe neighborhood on the northeast, Lake Tahoe to the north, and the Upper Truckee Marsh to the south and west.

During the record-snowmelt year of 2011, a portion of the Trout Creek channel near the Bellevue Pump Station completely filled with sand and small gravel, causing the stream to overflow northward approximately 70 feet onto the District's easement. This process is continuing upstream and flow paths are developing over an approximately 300-foot-long reach, diverting water out of the existing channel. Flows are now recollecting and flowing directly over the easement. Continued flow over the easement threatens to undermine the force and gravity sewer mains and the pump station facility and restricts the District's access to the facilities.

The intent of the AMP is to protect the sewer infrastructure from flooding and reduce the risk of a sewer spill. The AMP consists of measures designed both to prevent permanent establishment of Trout Creek over the sewer lines and adjacent to the pump station facility and to encourage flows to establish new paths to the south, away from the District's facilities.

Public Review: The purpose of the Draft IS/MND and IEC is to fully disclose to the public and decision makers the environmental consequences of implementing the proposed project and describe the mitigation measures recommended to reduce significant and potentially significant impacts, in accordance with Section 15205(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, Chapter 3 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances, and Article VI of the TRPA Rules of

Procedure. An IEC is normally submitted concurrently with submittal of a project application to TRPA, but is included with the Draft IS/MND to ensure preparation of the most comprehensive environmental review document with the broadest overview of environmental impacts and consistency in mitigation measures. A complete TRPA application package for the first phase of the proposed project will be submitted to TRPA subsequent to the close of the environmental review process and as early as summer 2014. The Draft IS/MND and IEC is available for a 30-day public review period from April 1, 2014, to April 30, 2014.

If you wish to mail written comments, they must be postmarked by: April 30, 2014. Electronic comments must be emailed to the address shown below by April 30, 2014. Comments should be addressed to:

South Tahoe Public Utility District
Attn: Ivo Bergsohn
1275 Meadow Crest Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 543-6204
lbergsohn@stpud.dst.ca.us

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, the District will consider those comments and may take one of the following actions: (1) adopt the mitigated negative declaration and approve the proposed project; (2) undertake additional environmental studies; or (3) abandon the project.

Public Meetings: The District's Board of Directors will take comments on the IS/MND and IEC at their regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2014 (2:30 p.m.) and will consider adopting the MND at the following scheduled Board Meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2014 (2:30 p.m.) to which the public and all interested parties to this matter are invited. The meetings will be held in the Main Boardroom of the District's administrative offices at the address provided.

To Obtain a Copy of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Environmental Checklist:
The Draft IS/MND and IEC are available for public review at the following locations:

South Tahoe Public Utility District
1275 Meadow Crest Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 544-6474

South Lake Tahoe Library
1000 Rufus Allen Blvd.
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
(530) 573-3185

The complete IS/MND and IEC for this project will also be available for viewing online on the plan documents page of the District's website (www.stpud.us).

Information on where to obtain or review reference materials used in the preparation of this Draft IS/MND and IEC is also available by contacting Ivo Bergsohn.

Your views on the merits of this proposal and/or the adequacy of the subject environmental assessment will be welcomed by the District. Thank you.