
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: June 18, 2021
TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations
SUBJECT: **Sugar Pine Project: Water Right 15375 Extension and Radial Gates Installation**

The Foresthill Public Utility District (FPUD) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have prepared a joint Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to analyze and disclose the environmental impacts expected to result from the installation of radial gates in the spillway of the Sugar Pine Dam, associated changes in Sugar Pine Reservoir operations, and the extension of FPUD's Water Right Permit 15375. This document meets the requirements of both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Project Description: Sugar Pine Dam is owned and operated by FPUD, and is located approximately 9 miles north of the community of Foresthill, Placer County, California. The dam and reservoir are situated entirely on National Forest System (NFS) lands managed by the USFS within the Tahoe National Forest, American River Ranger District. The dam and reservoir are authorized by an USFS Special Use Permit held by FPUD. In 2015, FPUD submitted a proposal to the USFS for a permit amendment to install steel radial gates in the existing spillway of Sugar Pine Dam in order to increase the water storage capacity of the reservoir. The USFS accepted FPUD's proposal as an application shortly thereafter. The Federal proposed action is to amend FPUD's Special Use Permit to authorize installation of the radial gates, thereby raising the reservoir's maximum water level by 20 vertical feet and increasing reservoir storage capacity; doing so would help secure the water supply necessary to serve the community of Foresthill's anticipated future water demand. The action would inundate approximately 44 acres of NFS lands, including popular reservoir recreation facilities, and affect Federally listed and special-status plant and wildlife species. The Draft EIR/EIS contains extensive project design features and mitigation measures developed by the USFS and FPUD to offset environmental impacts and adverse effects. Two modified versions of the proposed action are analyzed as alternatives in the Draft EIR/EIS, in addition to the no action/no project alternatives.

Draft EIR/EIS Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period for the Draft EIR/EIS will extend for 60 days **starting June 18, 2021 and ending August 17, 2021.**

The Draft EIR/EIS is available for review online at:

<https://www.foresthillpud.com/reports.html>

or

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/tahoe/landmanagement/projects>

Hardcopies of the Draft EIR/EIS will also be available for review during the comment period by the public at the listed locations. Please note that these facilities may have limited business hours and public access because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so please call in advance for viewing and/or checkout options.

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- Tahoe National Forest Supervisor's Office (631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, CA 95959, Phone: 530-265-4531)
- American River Ranger District (22830 Foresthill Rd, Foresthill, CA 95631, Phone: 530-367-2224)
- Foresthill Public Utility District (24540 Main St, Foresthill, CA 95631, Phone: 530-367-2511)
- Foresthill Library (24580 Main St, Foresthill, CA 95631, Phone: 530-367-2785)

Online Public Meeting: An online public meeting on the Draft EIR/EIS will be held on **July 12, 2021 at 6:00 pm** and may be joined by the public via the Zoom online application at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81044511928?pwd=WXd3VjlpREtGcCtwR0NEd2lCaVdRUT09>

Meeting ID: 810 4451 1928

Passcode: 124808

Comments/Questions: Consistent with 36 CFR 218.25, comments on the Draft EIR/EIS will be accepted for 60 days beginning on the first day after the date of publication of the Notice of Availability of this document in the Federal Register. The Notice of Availability for the Sugar Pine Project Water Right Permit 15375 Extension and Radial Gates Installation Draft EIR/EIS is scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on June 18, 2021.

Comments and/or questions regarding the Draft EIR/EIS may be directed to:

U.S. Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest
c/o ECORP Consulting Inc.
2525 Warren Drive
Rocklin, CA 95677
Attention: Matteo Rodriquez

or

via email: mrodriquez@ecorpconsulting.com

Subject Line: "Sugar Pine Project"