

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

**Proposed Negative Declaration**

**For**

**TRUCKEE DONNER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT**

**Electric System Master Plan - 2019**

**Project Description:** The project is the adoption of the *2019 Electric System Master Plan*, which is an update of the District's existing Electric System Master Plan that was adopted in December 2014.

The updated master plan serves a number of functions. First, the master plan is a comprehensive planning report providing information on existing District electric system facilities and the current level of service provided to the District's customers. Second, the master plan is an outline for the orderly expansion of the District's electric system to accommodate anticipated growth and development of areas served by the District.

The master plan documents analysis of the existing electric system to determine if it adequately meets the demands of District customers. Electric system components included in the analysis include substations, protective equipment, and overhead and underground distribution facilities. The master plan identifies current system deficiencies and proposed system improvements needed to provide the defined level of service.

Design criteria described in the master plan establish the desired level of service for each of the electric system components and determine the adequacy of the existing system. This level of service is also applied to the design of proposed future projects.

The master plan utilizes growth projections of new residential and commercial water services within the master plan study area. These projections are based on and are consistent with the general plans of Town of Truckee for areas within their planning jurisdiction.

The master plan identifies electric system improvements which will be needed to accommodate the projected future development. Implementation of the master plan with regard to construction of proposed new facilities to accommodate development would be in response to land use planning conducted through the appropriate planning agency.

The site locations of individual projects are defined to the planning level. As such, site specific issues are not discussed in this Initial Study. Environmental issues related to the proposed electric system improvements are discussed in general with potential impacts and levels of significance identified in terms of projects previously undertaken by the District that are similar in scope to the proposed improvements. Adoption of the master plan will not, in and of itself, constitute a decision to construct any of the proposed improvements discussed in the master plan. In the future, when the need to proceed with a given project has been identified, a detailed design will be prepared and an appropriate environmental review will be conducted. No individual proposed project will be constructed without a separate decision by the District's Board of Directors.

**Project Location:** Truckee, California and surrounding area. The Master Plan encompasses the District's existing electric system service area.

**Proposed Finding:** Project will not have a significant impact on the environment and does not require mitigation measures.

**Initial Study:** Attached

## ENVIRONMENTAL INITIAL STUDY

1. **Project Title:** 2019 Electric System Master Plan
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** Truckee Donner Public Utility District  
11570 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, California 96161
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Sanna Schlosser  
530-582-3945
4. **Project Location:** Truckee, California and surrounding area. The Master Plan encompasses the District's existing electric system service area.
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Truckee Donner Public Utility District  
11570 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, California 96161
6. **General Plan Description:** General plan designations vary throughout the master plan study area. The master plan update is in part based on the current general plan designations of the Town of Truckee.  
  
The electric system improvements proposed in the Master Plan are intended to allow the implementation of the general plans within the Town of Truckee. In areas of existing development, improvements are proposed to provide an adequate level of service to existing customers and to accommodate infill development to the extent indicated in the appropriate general plan. For currently undeveloped areas, improvements are proposed to accommodate projected levels of development based on general plan uses and densities.
7. **Zoning:** Zoning varies throughout the master plan study area and is defined by the appropriate planning agency.
8. **Description of Project:** The project is the adoption of the *2019 Electric System Master Plan*, which is an update of the District's existing Electric System Master Plan that was adopted in December 2014.

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9. **Other Agencies Whose Approval is Required (and permits needed):** No other agencies are required to approve or grant a permit for the adoption of the Master Plan update. Other agencies such as the Town of Truckee, Nevada County, Placer County, Caltrans, and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board will likely be involved with permitting when the District's moves forward with the construction of a given project.
10. **Environmental Setting of the Project:** The Truckee Donner Public Utility District's service area is located on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains approximately 100 miles east of Sacramento and 40 miles southwest of Reno, Nevada. The service area ranges in elevation from approximately 5,600 feet to approximately 7,500 feet above sea level.

The area is a mix of residential subdivisions, commercial and retail centers, recreational facilities including skiing and golf, a regional airport, and large areas of undeveloped forest and rangeland.

The Truckee River flows through the area en route from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake in Nevada. Local tributaries include Cold Creek, Donner Creek, Martis Creek, Prosser Creek

and Trout Creek. Local lakes include Donner Lake, Martis Creek Lake and Prosser Creek Reservoir.

The area contains numerous cultural resources both prehistoric and historic. Historic resources include overland emigrant trail, the Dutch Flat and Donner Lake Wagon Road, the transcontinental railroad and historic Old Highway 40. The Town of Truckee contains over 160 historic structures. There are also prehistoric archaeological sites associated with Native American inhabitation of the region. The flora and fauna of the Truckee area are typical for mountainous regions of the east slope of the Sierras.