

## Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration For the NCSD Wood Energy System Project

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In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Northstar Community Services District (NCSD) has conducted an Initial Study for the NCSD Wood Energy System project and finds that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment with implementation of mitigation measures. Therefore, NCSD provides this Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project.

**Project Description:** The proposed project would develop an approximately 6,000 square foot Wood Energy Utility Facility that would combust woody biomass to heat water which would be conveyed through a thermal energy distribution pipeline to approximately 14 buildings within the Northstar California community, including residential and commercial space heating, domestic hot water, swimming pools/spas, and potentially snow melt in the Village at Northstar plaza. The system would be thermally-led (meaning that it would produce energy in proportion to the heating demand required by the connected facilities) and operated year-round to serve a wide range of heating loads currently served by natural gas-fired boilers in the connected facilities. The facility is expected to consume 3,800 bone dry tons of woody biomass per year and generate approximately 50,000 million British thermal units of energy.

The proposed project would enhance NCSD's forest fuels management and defensible space programs, which have been implemented in the community since 2008 to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. The woody biomass material removed from the community under NCSD's existing forest fuels management and defensible space programs would be transported to the Tahoe Truckee Sanitation District's Eastern Regional Landfill and Materials Recovery Facility. This material along with material generated by other forest fuels management and defensible space programs in the region would be sorted and the material that meets the fuel specifications for the proposed Wood Energy Utility Facility would be delivered to the facility. The ash byproduct generated from combustion would be conveyed to a hopper bin and stored until there is sufficient volume to be removed and off-hauled by trailer. It is estimated that the Wood Energy System would generate between 140 and 260 tons of ash per year. Ash would be off-hauled and delivered to farms in Sierra Valley for use as soil amendments or disposed of off-site at a transfer station or landfill.

**Project Location:** The project is located within the Northstar California community ski resort, which is in Placer County and located approximately six miles south of downtown Truckee. The site is situated in Township 17 North, Range 17 East, and Section 32 of the Martis Peak 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle. The Wood Energy Utility Facility is proposed to be located at 908 Northstar Drive, north of the Northstar Fire Station located at 910 Northstar Drive. The thermal energy distribution pipeline would be installed below-grade between 900 and 908 Northstar Drive, along Northstar Drive between 908 Northstar Drive and 4001 Northstar Drive, and between 8001 Northstar Drive and the Northstar Property Owner's Association Recreation Center.

**Comments on the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration:** NCSD requests your written comments on the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration during the public review period which begins on April 21, 2023 and ends on May 22, 2023. All comments must be received no later than 5:00 pm on May 22, 2023. Please direct your comments to Eric Martin, Director of Public Works. Emails may be sent to [ericm@northstarcsd.org](mailto:ericm@northstarcsd.org). U.S. Mail may be sent to 900 Northstar Drive, Truckee, California, 96161.

**Availability of Documents:** The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting documentation are available for public review on NCSD's website: <https://www.northstarcsd.org/WoodEnergy>

For more information regarding this project, please contact Eric Martin at the email address listed above.