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Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: South Tahoe Public Utility District Solar Project

Lead Agency: South Tahoe Public Utility District

Contact Name: Julie Ryan

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Project Location: South Lake Tahoe El Dorado
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The proposed Solar power facility and associated Timber Harvest Plan is located east of the existing South Tahoe Public Utility District wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) facility and within previously undeveloped APNs 25-061-35 and 25-071-22. The solar power facility will offset approximately one-third of the energy demands at the WWTP beginning in 2024, and consists of a secured fenced area containing the solar arrays made up of individual solar panels aligned in rows, an access roadway to the solar arrays from the District WWTP perimeter road, and underground wiring to connect the solar array switchgear to the existing WWTP electrical service connection point. The 19 rows of solar arrays are arranged in an east-west orientation and include eleven rows of arrays approximately 236 feet long, seven arrays approximately 270 feet long, and one array approximately 205 feet long. The arrays, designed to be four feet off the ground on the low side and approximately 10.5 feet above ground on the high side, will be enclosed within fencing with a total area of approximately 144,370 square feet (3.31 acres). To ensure that the panels will not be covered in shade from nearby trees, an additional area 100 feet from the fence line will be cleared of trees to the west, east and south of the solar field. As such, the total area for tree removal will equal approximately 297,370 square feet (6.83 acres).

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Solar project would result in the removal of approximately 220 trees greater than 14 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) within the project area. Many of the trees in the forested areas contain structural anomalies such as dead leaders, rotten portions of boles and deformities due to mistletoe or other infectious growths. These characteristics are attractive to many bird species. Tree removal and construction activities associated with construction of the new buildings/structures associated with expansion may result in direct removal of active nests and may result in disturbance or abandonment of nesting, roosting, or breeding sites in adjacent habitat. To ensure protection of potential nesting birds within conversion areas, mitigation measures are required to reduce the potential impact to less than significant.

BIO-1. Bird Nest Site Protection Program
If tree removal occurs outside the nesting season (1 February to 31 August) then no survey or monitoring is required.

If construction will occur during the nesting season (1 February to 31 August), mitigation shall include surveys, consultation, and protective actions. Pre-construction surveys, occurring during the nesting season (1 February to 31 August) immediately prior to initial project construction (e.g., excavation, grading and tree removal), shall be conducted to identify any active nest sites within the Project tree removal area.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

NA

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (NPDES Permit)
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Timber Conversion Permit)
City of South Lake Tahoe (Design Review)