

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement

Scoping Summary Report



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lahontan Basin Area Office
705 North Plaza Street, Room 320
Carson City, Nevada 89701

May 2016

Mission Statements

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

Contents

Page

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	1-1
1.1	Purpose of the Scoping Summary Report.....	1-1
1.2	Project Overview	1-1
1.2.1	Purpose of and Need for Federal Action.....	1-1
1.3	Overview of the Public Involvement Process	1-5
1.4	Description of the Scoping Process	1-5
1.4.1	Notice of Intent	1-6
1.4.2	Project Website	1-6
1.4.3	Press Release.....	1-6
1.4.4	Postcard and Mailing List	1-6
1.4.5	Newspaper Advertisements	1-7
1.4.6	Scoping Meetings.....	1-7
1.5	Collaborative Outreach	1-8
1.5.1	Cooperating Agencies.....	1-8
1.5.2	Consultation with Tribes.....	1-9
2.	COMMENT SUMMARY.....	2-1
2.1	Method of Comment Collection and Analysis.....	2-1
2.2	Summary of Public Comments Received	2-1
2.2.1	Commenters by Affiliation	2-1
2.2.2	Number of Comments by Issue or Other Category	2-2
2.2.3	Number of Comments by Resource Category	2-3
2.2.4	Comments Captured at Scoping Meetings.....	2-4
3.	RESOURCE ISSUE SUMMARY	3-1
3.1	Issue Statements.....	3-1
3.1.1	Climate Change.....	3-1
3.1.2	Cultural Resources	3-1
3.1.3	Fish and Wildlife.....	3-2
3.1.4	Geology and Soils	3-2
3.1.5	Lands, Realty, and Agriculture	3-2
3.1.6	Public Health and Safety.....	3-2
3.1.7	Recreation	3-2
3.1.8	Socioeconomic Values.....	3-2
3.1.9	Threatened and Endangered Species	3-2
3.1.10	Tribal Interests	3-2
3.1.11	Wetlands and Riparian Habitats.....	3-2
3.1.12	Water Resources	3-2
3.2	Summary of Public Comments by Resource Category.....	3-3
3.2.1	Climate Change.....	3-4
3.2.2	Cultural Resources	3-4
3.2.3	Fish and Wildlife.....	3-4

3.2.4	Geology and Soils	3-4
3.2.5	Lands, Realty, and Agriculture	3-4
3.2.6	Public Health and Safety	3-4
3.2.7	Recreation	3-4
3.2.8	Socioeconomic Values	3-5
3.2.9	Threatened and Endangered Species	3-5
3.2.10	Tribal Interests	3-5
3.2.11	Wetlands and Riparian Habitats.....	3-5
3.2.12	Water Resources	3-5
3.2.13	Other Issues to be Addressed in the EIS	3-6
3.2.14	Issues that will not be Addressed in the EIS.....	3-7
4.	DATA SUMMARY AND DATA GAPS.....	4-1
4.1	Data Review and Data Gaps	4-1
5.	FUTURE STEPS	5-1
5.1	Summary of Future Steps and Public Participation Opportunities	5-1
5.2	Contact Information	5-1
6.	REFERENCES.....	6-1

Tables

	Page
Table 1-1. Newspaper Advertisements	1-7
Table 1-2. Scoping Meetings	1-7
Table 1-3. Cooperating Agency Participation	1-9
Table 2-1. Commenters by Affiliation.....	2-2
Table 2-2. Comments by Issue or Other Category	2-3
Table 2-3. Comments by Resource Issue.....	2-3
Table 2-4. Verbal Comments Captured at Scoping Meetings	2-5

Figures

	Page
Figure 1-1. Truckee Canal XM EIS Extended Study Area.....	1-3
Figure 1-2. Truckee Canal XM EIS Primary Study Area.....	1-4
Figure 2-1. Commenters by Affiliation	2-2
Figure 2-2. Comments by Resource Issue Category.....	2-4

Appendices

Appendix A. Notice of Intent

Appendix B. Scoping Materials

Appendix C. List of Commenters

Appendix D. Summary of Scoping Comments by Resource Issue Category

Appendix E. Comment Letters and Forms

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Full Phrase

Canal	Truckee Canal
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
EIS	environmental impact statement
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	notice of intent
OCAP	operating criteria and procedures
O&M	operation and maintenance
Reclamation	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office
TCID	Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
US	United States
USC	United States Code
XM	Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance

1. Introduction

The United States (US) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office (Reclamation) is preparing the Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Its purposes are to evaluate alternatives that will enable the Truckee Canal operator—the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (TCID)—to reduce the risk to public safety from a canal breach and to deliver Newlands Project water in compliance with the 1988 Operating Criteria and Procedures (1997 Adjusted OCAP)¹ for the Newlands Irrigation Project in Nevada.

Reclamation published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on October 19, 2015, announcing the preparation of the EIS and soliciting public input (**Appendix A**). The EIS complies with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 US Code [USC], Section 4321, et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ's) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Parts 1500-1508), US Department of the Interior's NEPA Regulations (43 CFR, Part 46), and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

1.1 Purpose of the Scoping Summary Report

The purpose of this scoping summary report is to provide an overview of the Truckee Canal XM EIS, a detailed overview of the public scoping identified issues, and an evaluation of data collected during the scoping process.

1.2 Project Overview

1.2.1 Purpose of and Need for Federal Action

As presented in the NOI, the purpose of the federal action is to improve public safety by reducing the risk of a canal breach. Reclamation needs to take action to evaluate alternatives that will enable TCID to safely operate the Truckee Canal and deliver Project water, in compliance with operating criteria and procedures for the Project. Additional restrictions on Truckee Canal operations may be necessary without taking actions or initiating risk-reducing repairs. Project Background

Newlands Project

The Newlands Project, formerly known as the Truckee-Carson Project, was one of Reclamation's first projects. It provides irrigation water from the Truckee and Carson

¹ 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 418, Adjustments to 1988 Operating Criteria and Procedures (OCAP) for the Newlands Irrigation Project in Nevada. *Federal Register*, Vol. 62, No. 243, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, December 18, 1997.

Rivers to benchlands near Fernley in the Truckee Division and the lower Carson River near Fallon, Nevada, in the Carson Division (**Figure 1-1**). The XM EIS addresses only extraordinary operation and maintenance (O&M) activities on the Truckee Canal. Reclamation owns the Truckee Canal; however, since December 31, 1926, in accordance with Reclamation law, it has contracted its O&M responsibilities to the TCID.

The Truckee Canal originates where water is diverted from the Truckee River at the Derby Diversion Dam, about 20 miles east of Reno, Nevada. The Truckee Canal is about 31 miles long and discharges into Lahontan Reservoir at the left abutment of Lahontan Dam (Reclamation 2016). The Truckee Canal is currently used to deliver the Truckee Division's irrigation water to about 2,000 acres; it may be used to deliver about 10,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial water to Fernley. The water is stored in Lahontan Reservoir for irrigation and other uses, such as wetlands, in the Carson Division.

The Truckee Canal is divided into three reaches (**Figure 1-2**), as follows:

- Derby Reach, approximately 10 canal-miles, from Derby Diversion Dam to Fernley
- Fernley Reach, approximately 11 canal-miles in Fernley
- Lahontan Reach, approximately 10 canal-miles, from Fernley to Lahontan Reservoir

The Truckee Canal was designed to carry flows of approximately 1,200 cubic feet per second (cfs; Reclamation 1903). Historic operational flows have ranged from about 300 to 900 cfs. Pursuant to the Orr Ditch Decree and 1997 Adjusted OCAP, the Truckee Canal operates year-round, conveying water to Newlands Project water users.

Canal Breach

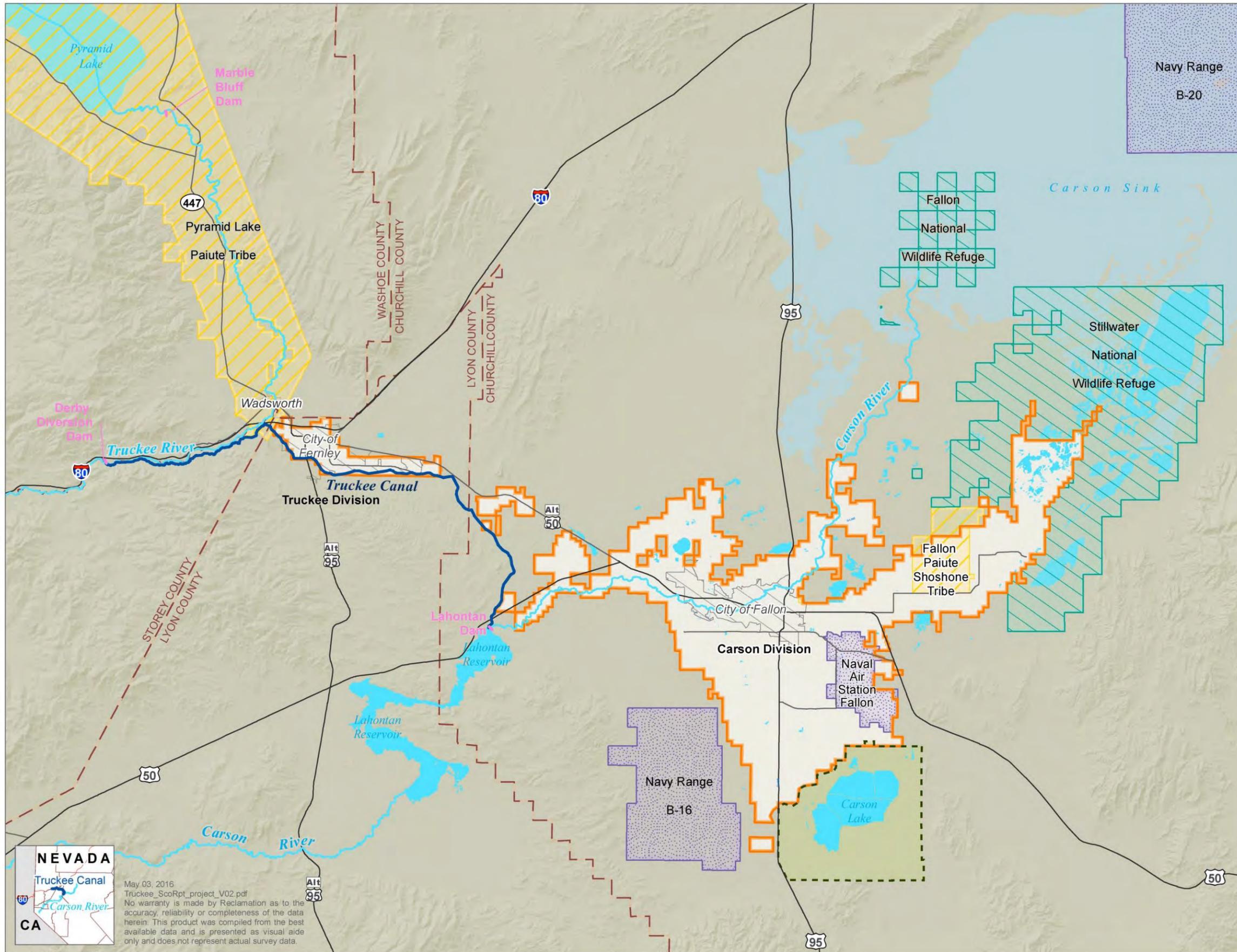
In the early morning of January 5, 2008, a portion of the Truckee Canal embankment in Fernley failed, about 12 miles downstream of the Derby Diversion Dam. It flooded 590 properties and temporarily stopped Truckee Canal operations. The breach was repaired by February 2008, and it reopened in March 2008, with a graduated increase in flows when certain TCID actions were completed. In May 2008, the Federal District Court for the District of Nevada issued a temporary restraining order (*Kroshus et al. v. United States of America et al.*, Case No. 3:08-cv-0246-LDG-RAM), which limited the maximum flow to 350 cfs. In 2009, Reclamation added a stage (height of water) restriction.

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

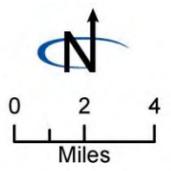
Figure 1-1
Truckee Canal XM EIS
Extended Study Area

-  Truckee-Carson Irrigation District/
Newlands Project Area
-  Truckee Canal
-  River
-  Lake, reservoir, or
intermittent surface water
-  Sink
-  Dam
-  Tribal Reservation
-  U.S. Navy
-  National Wildlife Refuge
-  Carson Lake and Pasture
-  City



May 03, 2016
 Truckee_ScoRpt_project_V02.pdf
 No warranty is made by Reclamation as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the data herein. This product was compiled from the best available data and is presented as visual aid only and does not represent actual survey data.

Source: Reclamation GIS 2015,
 BLM GIS 2014, NHD GIS 2014
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Lahontan Basin Area Office

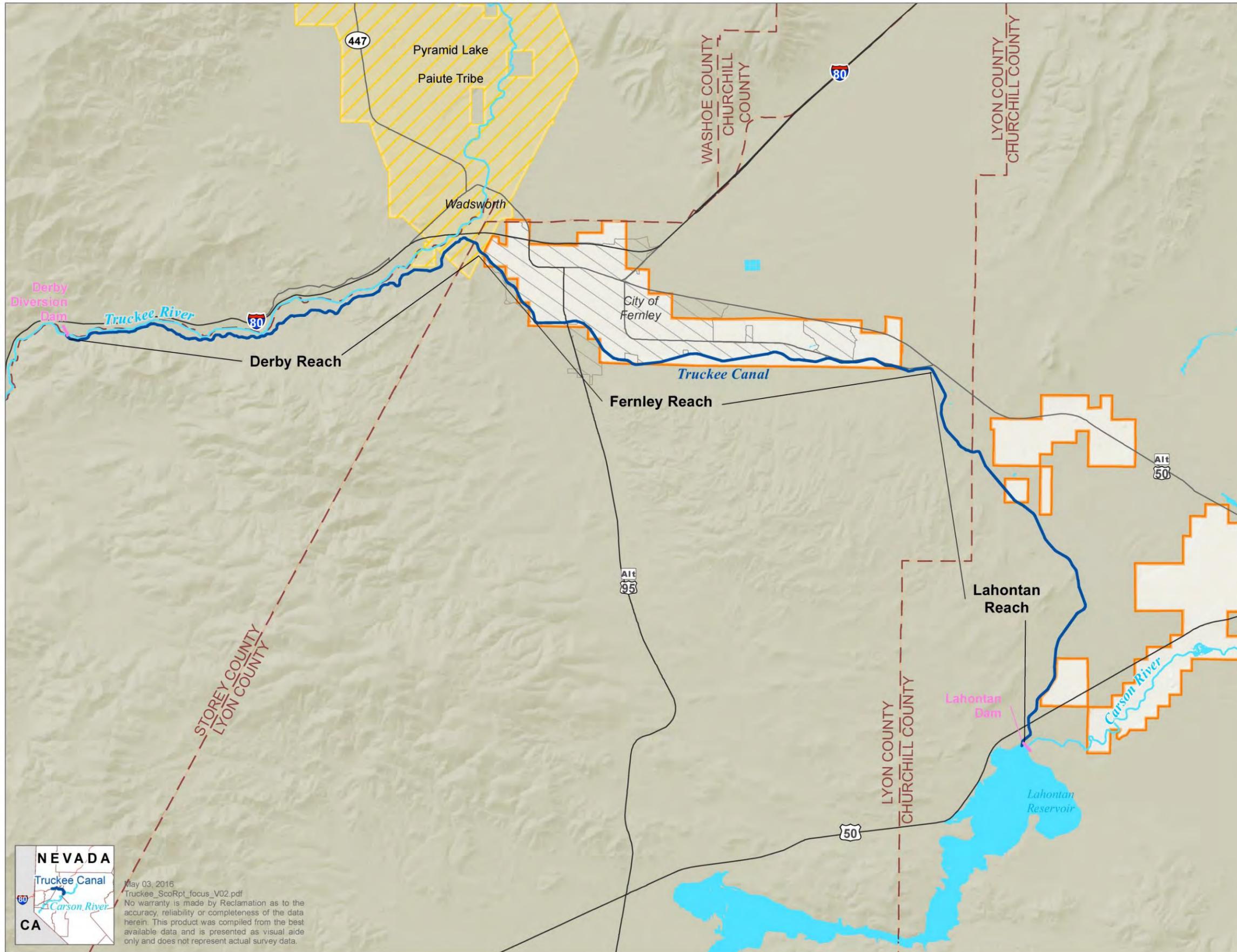


RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

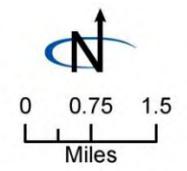
Figure 1-2
Truckee Canal XM EIS
Primary Study Area

-  Truckee-Carson Irrigation District/
Newlands Project Area
-  Truckee Canal
-  River
-  Lake, reservoir, or
intermittent surface water
-  Dam
-  Tribal Reservation
-  City



May 03, 2016
 Truckee_ScoRpt_focus_V02.pdf
 No warranty is made by Reclamation as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the data herein. This product was compiled from the best available data and is presented as visual aid only and does not represent actual survey data.

Source: Reclamation GIS 2015,
 BLM GIS 2014, NHD GIS 2014
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Lahontan Basin Area Office



1.3 Overview of the Public Involvement Process

Public involvement is a vital and legally required component of the EIS process. It provides the opportunity for those affected by actions to take part in the decision-making process and facilitates full environmental disclosure. Guidance for implementing public involvement under NEPA is codified in 40 CFR, Subpart 1506.6, ensuring that federal agencies make a diligent effort to involve the public in the NEPA process. Additional information on Reclamation's requirements for public involvement in the NEPA process can be found in Reclamation's NEPA Handbook (Reclamation 2012).

Reclamation is involving the public throughout the course of the EIS process. Moreover, the public will have specific opportunities to comment during two phases:

- Public scoping before NEPA analysis begins, to determine the scope of issues and alternatives to be addressed in the EIS (this occurred during the October to November 2015 scoping period and is summarized in this scoping report)
- Public review of and comment on the Draft EIS (anticipated in late 2017)

This scoping summary report documents the results of the first phase of the public involvement process.

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Reclamation may use information collected during scoping to develop the alternatives to be addressed in a NEPA document. It is designed to be a public process that reaches beyond Reclamation to identify the concerns of high importance to the public. Scoping helps ensure that real problems are identified early and are properly studied, that issues of no concern do not consume time and effort, and that the proposed action and alternatives are balanced, thorough, and able to be implemented. This scoping report summarizes the scoping process and the separate comments received during the formal external scoping period.

1.4 Description of the Scoping Process

Reclamation follows the public involvement requirements documented in the CEQ regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR, Subpart 1501.7 for scoping and Subpart 1506.6 for public involvement). Reclamation solicits comments from relevant tribes, agencies, and the public. All comments received are organized and analyzed to identify the issues that will be addressed during the planning and NEPA processes. These issues define the scope of analysis for the EIS and may be used to develop the project alternatives.

As part of the scoping process for the Truckee Canal XM EIS, Reclamation hosted public meetings to introduce the project to the public and to identify public concerns. With the publication of the NOI in the *Federal Register* to prepare the XM EIS, Reclamation released a schedule for three scoping meetings to be held around the Project Area, one

each in Wadsworth, Fallon, and Fernley, Nevada. Reclamation advertised the meetings in the *Federal Register* and through a press release, four newspaper advertisements, and a postcard mailed to interested parties. All meetings and advertisement materials are described in the sections below.

1.4.1 Notice of Intent

The scoping period for the Truckee Canal XM EIS began with the publication of the NOI in the *Federal Register* on October 19, 2015. The NOI was titled “Notice of Intent to Prepare an Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement for the Truckee Canal, Lahontan Basin Area Office, Nevada.” The NOI served the following functions:

- Stated the purpose of and need for the project
- Described the proposed federal action
- Provided the dates and locations of the scoping meetings
- Provided contact information for questions about the EIS

The NOI is included in **Appendix A**.

1.4.2 Project Website

In November 2015, Reclamation launched a public website to provide the latest information about the EIS process. The website, <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html>, provides background information about the project, along with copies of public information documents. The website also allows visitors to sign up for the mailing list or submit a comment on the project.

1.4.3 Press Release

In October 2015, Reclamation distributed a press release titled “Open House/Public Scoping Meetings Scheduled for the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement” to media outlets across the Mid-Pacific region, which includes most of California and portions of western Nevada and Southern Oregon. The press release provided the dates and venues for the scoping meetings and explained the various methods for submitting comments, which included options to comment via dedicated e-mail and postal addresses, a dedicated fax number, and the project website. The press release is included as part of the scoping materials in **Appendix B**.

1.4.4 Postcard and Mailing List

In October 2015, Reclamation announced the NOI to start preparing the Truckee Canal XM EIS. Its method was to send a postcard to approximately 400 individuals who had expressed interest in the Truckee Canal, had been involved in the Newlands Project Resource Management Plan/Final EIS, or own property within 200 feet of the Truckee Canal.

The postcard included the following information:

- Listed the dates and venues for the three scoping meetings
- Provided a preliminary project schedule
- Described the various methods for submitting comments

Reclamation will continue to mail postcards at major project milestones to individuals and organizations that have requested to remain on or to be added to the project mailing list.

1.4.5 Newspaper Advertisements

Reclamation published advertisements announcing the three scoping meetings in four newspapers, as shown in **Table 1-1**, below.

Table 1-1. Newspaper Advertisements

Newspaper or Magazine	Dates Article Appeared
Lahontan Valley News	October 16, 2015
Nevada Appeal	October 16, 2015
Sparks Tribune	October 20, 2015
Reno Gazette-Journal	October 16 and 18, 2015

1.4.6 Scoping Meetings

Reclamation hosted three scoping meetings to provide the public with opportunities to learn about the project and the planning process, to meet the Truckee Canal XM EIS team members, to be added to the project mailing list, and to offer scoping comments. The locations and dates of the scoping meetings, along with the number of public attendees, are provided in **Table 1-2**, below.

Table 1-2. Scoping Meetings

Nevada Location	Venue	Date	Number of Attendees ¹
Wadsworth	Community Center	October 27, 2015	23
Fallon	Churchill County Administrative Complex	October 28, 2015	10
Fernley	City Hall	October 29, 2015	16

¹ In total, 10 attendees chose not to sign in at the meetings.

Reclamation held the scoping meetings in an open house format to encourage participants to discuss concerns and questions with Reclamation representatives. Copies of scoping information and blank scoping comment forms were available at the sign-in station for each meeting. Resource stations displayed poster-sized maps to illustrate the area of analysis, background of the Truckee Canal and Reclamation, and the condition of resources, such as water and cultural resources. Additional posters displayed information on data collection and the NEPA process.

At each station, fact sheets for various topics, such as the planning process, the history of the Truckee Canal, water resources, and social and economic resources, provided an

overview of the project, including current management practices and issues. At each meeting, a brief presentation was given, describing the project and the NEPA process. After the presentation, the public had the opportunity to ask general questions before the meeting returned to the open house format.

The public comment station included a poster showing the various ways to submit comments, a handout with guidance on providing substantive comments, and blank comment forms. All materials from scoping meetings, as well as the Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, are presented in **Appendix B**.

1.5 Collaborative Outreach

In addition to formal scoping, Reclamation has been implementing collaborative outreach and will continue to work closely with cooperating agencies. These actions are summarized below. Reclamation will continue to meet with other interested agencies and organizations throughout the planning process.

1.5.1 Cooperating Agencies

A cooperating agency is any federal, state, or local government agency or Native American tribe that enters into a formal agreement with the lead federal agency to help in the environmental analysis. More specifically, cooperating agencies may participate in the following (43 CFR, Subpart 46.230):

- Identifying issues to be addressed
- Arranging for the collection or assembly of necessary resource, environmental, social, economic, and institutional data
- Analyzing data
- Developing alternatives
- Evaluating alternatives and estimating the effects of implementing each
- Carrying out any other task necessary for the development of environmental analysis and documentation

The benefits of enhanced collaboration among agencies in preparing NEPA analyses are as follows:

- Disclosing relevant information early in the analytical process
- Applying available technical expertise and staff support
- Avoiding duplication with other federal, state, tribal, and local procedures
- Establishing a mechanism for addressing issues

In the fall of 2015, Reclamation invited 11 local, state, federal, and tribal representatives to participate as cooperating agencies for the Truckee Canal XM EIS. **Table 1-3**,

Cooperating Agency Participation, provides the status of cooperating agency invitations as of April 2016. Tribal governments and agencies accepting invitations to be cooperating agencies sign a memorandum of understanding with Reclamation. This memorandum of understanding outlines the interests, expertise, and jurisdictional responsibilities of both Reclamation and its cooperating agency partners and also outlines their respective roles and responsibilities in the NEPA process.

Reclamation scheduled monthly cooperating agency meetings in Fernley, Nevada, beginning in January 2016. The first cooperating agency meeting, held on January 13, 2016, provided participants with an overview of the project, the purpose of and need for the XM EIS, and an introduction to the alternatives-development process, and identified the cooperating agencies' roles and responsibilities. Reclamation will continue to engage the cooperating agencies throughout the NEPA process. The cooperating agency meetings will also serve as the forum during the alternatives-development process.

Table 1-3. Cooperating Agency Participation

Agencies and Tribal Governments Invited to be Cooperators	Accepted as of April 2016
US Bureau of Indian Affairs	Yes
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Yes
Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe	Yes
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Yes
Nevada State Historic Preservation Office	Accepted to participate as an informal partner
Nevada Division of Water Resources	Accepted to participate as an informal partner
Truckee-Carson Irrigation District	Yes
Churchill County	Yes
City of Fallon	Yes
City of Fernley	Yes

1.5.2 Consultation with Tribes

Reclamation identified the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe as having religious or cultural affiliation in the vicinity of the project and, as such, invited them to be cooperating agencies. Reclamation plans to initiate tribal consultation in 2016, in accordance with Executive Order (E.O.) 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, dated November 6, 2000, the subsequent Presidential Memorandum, dated November 5, 2009, and DOI's Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes Order 3317, dated December 1, 2011.

This page intentionally left blank.

2. Comment Summary

2.1 Method of Comment Collection and Analysis

All written submissions received during the scoping period (October 19 to November 30, 2015) and up until January 14, 2016, were evaluated and are documented in this scoping summary report. Reclamation will consider all comments received during the EIS process, alternatives formulation, and project planning as part of the NEPA process.

Comment forms were submitted at the public scoping meetings, were e-mailed or sent via the US Postal Service, or were faxed to Reclamation. Reclamation received a total of 18 unique written submissions. Reclamation received two additional letters on December 7, 2015, and January 14, 2016, and has incorporated all substantive comments from those letters into this scoping report.

A list of commenters, their affiliations, and the submission date of their comments is included in **Appendix C**. Most written submissions included more than 1 comment, so the 18 submissions yielded 145 discrete comments. The comment forms provided instructions for requesting confidentiality and for withholding individual names or addresses from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

To ensure that public comments were properly registered and that none were overlooked, Reclamation used a multiphase management and tracking system. As part of this system, Reclamation logged and numbered each submission. To assist with the analysis, Reclamation entered comments into a public input and comment tracking database and organized comments by issue categories and commenter affiliation. Finally, these identifiers were queried and tallied to provide information on resource and other issue categories. Details of comments received by issue are included in **Section 2.2.2**, Number of Comments by Issue or Other Category.

2.2 Summary of Public Comments Received

2.2.1 Commenters by Affiliation

Table 2-1 and **Figure 2-1** show the number and proportion of commenters based on their affiliation. Businesses, agencies, and organizations that sent comments on their letterhead and commenters who signed using their official agency titles were considered to represent that organization; all other letters were considered to be from individuals.

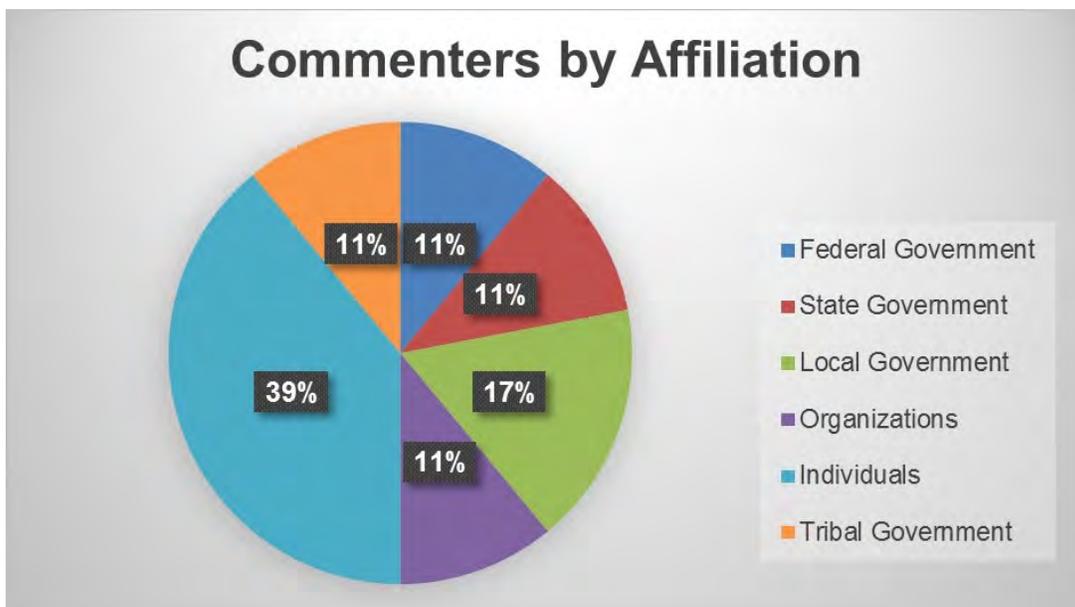
During the scoping period, 7 members of the general public (39 percent of commenters), 2 organizations (11 percent of commenters), and 2 tribal governments (11 percent of the commenters) submitted comments. A total of 7 federal, state, or local agencies (39 percent) also provided written comments.

Table 2-1. Commenters by Affiliation

Affiliation	Number of Comment Letters	Percent of Total Comment Letters
Government	7	39
Federal	2	11
State	2	11
Local	3	17
Organizations and nonprofits	2	11
Individuals	7	39
Tribes	2	11
Total	18	100

1

2

Figure 2-1. Commenters by Affiliation

3

4

2.2.2 Number of Comments by Issue or Other Category

Table 2-2 shows the number of issues raised that may be addressed in the EIS and those that will not be addressed. Of the 145 discreet comments received, 103 (71 percent of comments) were related to a resource issue that will be addressed in the EIS. These comments are discussed in detail below and in **Chapter 3**, Resource Issue Summary. In addition, 40 comments (28 percent of comments that will be addressed) were related to issues that will be addressed in the EIS but do not fall within a specific resource issue category. These included general comments on the Truckee Canal and the EIS process, alternatives development, project collaboration, and NEPA analysis (see **Section 3.2.13**, Other Issues to be Addressed in the EIS). Reclamation received two comments that will not be addressed in the EIS (see **Section 3.2.14**).

Tables summarizing the comments by resource category are provided in **Appendix D**. **Appendix E** provides scanned copies of the comment submissions in their entirety.

Table 2-2. Comments by Issue or Other Category

Issue or Other Category	Total	Percent of Total
<i>Issues that Will Be Addressed in the EIS</i>		
Resource issues to be addressed in the EIS	103	71
General project issues	40	28
Total comments addressed	143	99
<i>Issues that will not be Addressed in the EIS</i>		
Total comments not addressed	2	1
<i>Comments Received</i>		
Total comments received	145	100

2.2.3 Number of Comments by Resource Category

Table 2-3 and Figure 2-2 show the number and proportion of discreet comments received by resource category. The 103 discreet comments related to a resource issue that will be addressed in the EIS were categorized under 12 resource categories. Chapter 3, Resource Issue Summary, provides a detailed analysis of the comments received in each resource category and respective subcategories.

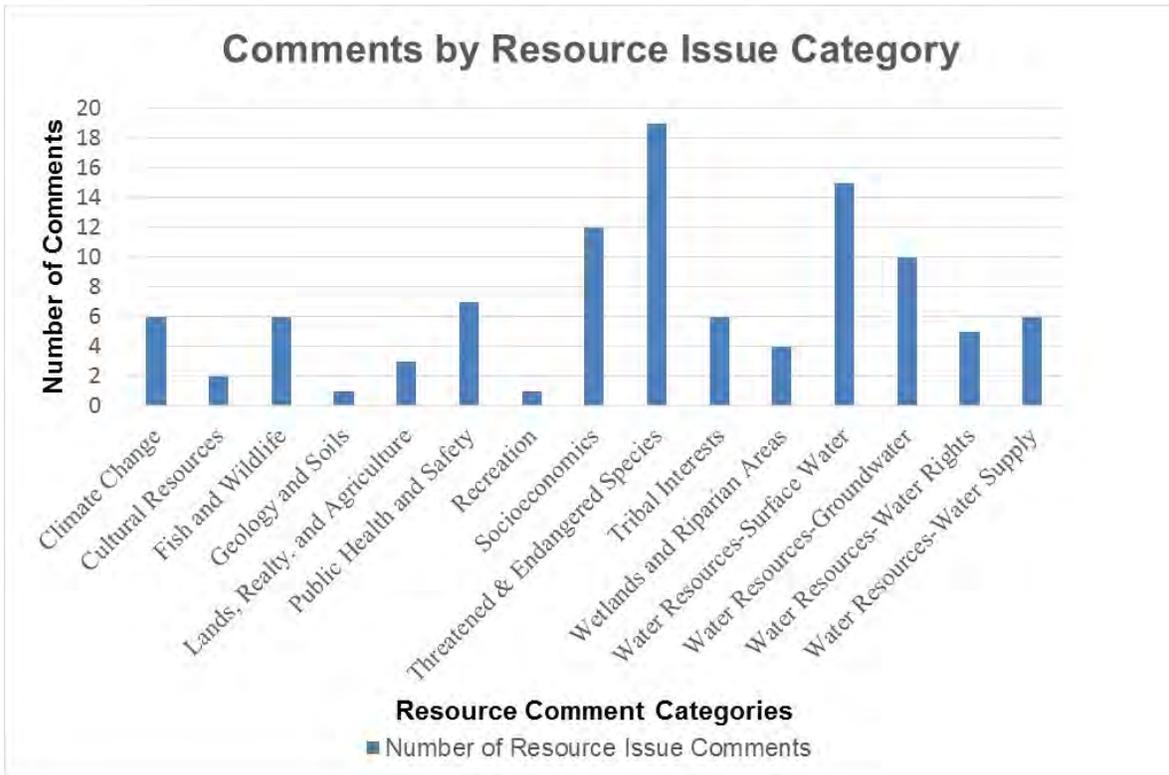
Of the resource issue-related comments, the highest number related to threatened and endangered species, which had 19 discreet comments. The issue with the second-highest number of comments was water resources—surface water, with 15 comments. The fewest resource issue comments were about geology/soils and recreation, with one comment each.

Table 2-3. Comments by Resource Issue

Resource Issue Category	Number of Individual Comments
Climate change	6
Cultural resources	2
Fish and wildlife	6
Geology and soils	1
Lands, realty, and agriculture	3
Public health and safety	7
Recreation	1
Socioeconomic values	12
Threatened and endangered species	19
Tribal interests	6
Wetlands and riparian areas	4
Water resources—surface water	15
Water resources—groundwater	10
Water resources—water rights	5
Water resources—water supply	6
Total	103

1
2

Figure 2-2. Comments by Resource Issue Category



3
4

2.2.4 Comments Captured at Scoping Meetings

At the scoping meetings, Reclamation captured informal verbal comments made by participants, such as during the question and answer session following the opening presentation. These comments are not included in the statistical analysis, and many are outside the scope of the XM EIS. Reclamation may consider the informal verbal comments in the alternatives-development process and the EIS analysis, as appropriate. A summary of the verbal comments by resource issue category is provided in **Table 2-4**. In each issue category, multiple participants often made a similar verbal comment. Accordingly, the number of individual comments often exceeded the number of unique comments for each issue category.

Table 2-4. Verbal Comments Captured at Scoping Meetings

Resource Issue Category	Summary of Comments	Number of Individual Comments
Public health and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about what “Extraordinary Maintenance” means and how this will affect the project. Will the EIS analyze areas outside the Truckee Canal (e.g., Fernley building permits) and consider safety and rights of the people that it serves? Is the Truckee Canal being safely operated now? Signs should be posted along the Truckee Canal to eliminate usage of aluminum boats in the Truckee Canal. The public should be informed that the Truckee Canal was just patched after the 2008 breach (requiring flow reductions) instead of fully repaired. 	5
Socioeconomic values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding the ongoing litigation from the flooding event in Fernley, Nevada, in 2008 and how that affects this EIS process. Concerns about who will be paying for this EIS process. 	2
Tribal interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project updates should be added to tribal newsletters, and every tribal member should be contacted regarding this EIS process and how it may impact water quality. The project website should be updated regularly to provide updates to the Tribes. Is there an easement on tribal lands? Verbal communication and comments from Tribes should be given the same consideration as written comments. TROA should be re-done; it will impact water quality, recreation, farmers, and animals. 	8
Water resources—water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about Truckee River water quality from the discharge of City of Reno effluent and safe drinking water. 	4
Water resources—groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will private and municipal wells be affected if the Truckee Canal is lined? 	1
Water resources—water rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will this EIS process affect existing water rights? 	1
Water resources—water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns with water levels in lakes, rivers, and reservoirs connected to the Truckee Canal and how drought will cause further impacts. Will the EIS address any short-term steps about how much water the Truckee Canal can carry? 	3
Total		24

Table 2-4. Verbal Comments Captured at Scoping Meetings

Other Issues to be Addressed in the EIS	Comment Description	Number of Individual Comments
General Comments Related to the Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Truckee Canal has been studied repeatedly since the breach. Why does it need to be re-evaluated? • Why does the EIS process take so long? The public has to pay for a three-year process on something that should only take one year. • Farmers are losing thousands of dollars while a solution is being made. This process is too cumbersome. • Will the EIS have engineering data in it (e.g., final design of the Truckee Canal)? • Was an engineering study used to set the 350 cfs? • Who made the decision to run the Truckee Canal at 350 cfs? • Did Reclamation have any input into Judge George's decision? • How does the 2015 risk assessment relate to this process? • If the Truckee Canal was bulldozed (filled in), who would the Truckee Canal belong to? • Under what authority is Reclamation preparing this EIS? 	11
Comments Related to Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will alternatives in the EIS go beyond the ones in the planning model, including ones that were dropped and the acreages used then? 	1
Comments Related to Collaboration between the Agency and the Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future public meetings should be held in Virginia City/Storey County. • Will Reclamation involve the State of Nevada? • When will more information be published in the <i>Federal Register</i>? 	3
Comments Related to NEPA Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the need of the EIS just the Truckee Canal? • What happens when the EIS is complete? 	2
Total		17

3. Resource Issue Summary

Identifying the resource categories and capturing the issues is one of the primary benefits of scoping. As discussed in Reclamation’s NEPA Handbook (Reclamation 2012), defining significant issues early in the scoping process allows for more effective communication between the public and the decision-makers.

3.1 Issue Statements

A resource issue is a concern, disagreement, debate, or dispute over potential project impacts on the environment. Such issues tend to be associated with physical areas near the project location, although impact areas may vary, depending on the specific resource. A resource issue is more than just a position statement; it should also have the following characteristics:

- Have a cause-and-effect relationship with the proposed action or alternatives
- Be within the scope of the analysis
- Be amenable to scientific analysis rather than conjecture
- Have not been decided by law, regulation, or previous decision

While it is critical to know which issues are significant, it is often just as important to understand which resources are not as significant. This is to allow prioritization of project resources.

The purpose of the issue statements is to highlight the key issues identified through the scoping process. The issues are discussed in **Section 3.2**, Summary of Public Comments by Resource Categories. Reclamation will use the resource issue statements, planning criteria, and other information collected in the early project planning and scoping phases of the EIS process to help formulate a reasonable range of alternatives.

The resource categories that Reclamation will address in the EIS are listed below. Each area may have several subcategories that address more specific subjects.

3.1.1 Climate Change

- How will ongoing and reasonably foreseeable climate change impacts be addressed and discussed in the EIS?

3.1.2 Cultural Resources

- The Truckee Canal is part of the National Register of Historic Places, portions of which were listed as part of a thematic nomination in 1981, how will the Truckee Canal and associated structures be analyzed in the EIS?

3.1.3 Fish and Wildlife

- Which habitats and species of fish and wildlife have the potential to be impacted most by the proposed action, and what types of mitigation measures could be implemented to reduce these impacts?
- How would fish passages and movement be impacted by the proposed action?

3.1.4 Geology and Soils

- How are floodplains and other soil and geological resources going to be impacted by the proposed action?

3.1.5 Lands, Realty, and Agriculture

- How would a change to water height in the Truckee Canal affect existing and future land developments, such as residential housing and agriculture?

3.1.6 Public Health and Safety

- How would modifications of the Truckee Canal impact public health and safety?

3.1.7 Recreation

- How would a change in the Truckee Canal's water height affect existing and future recreational opportunities in Lahontan Reservoir?

3.1.8 Socioeconomic Values

- What would be the socioeconomic impacts on local water users if the water height of the Truckee Canal were changed?

3.1.9 Threatened and Endangered Species

- How would threatened and endangered species, such as Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*) or cui-ui (*Chasmistes cujus*), be impacted if the water height of the Truckee Canal were changed?

3.1.10 Tribal Interests

- How would tribal interests be impacted by changes in the volume of Truckee River water diverted to the Truckee Canal?

3.1.11 Wetlands and Riparian Habitats

- Where are wetland and riparian areas located along and near the Truckee Canal, and what design features could the project incorporate to mimic natural floodplain characteristics?

3.1.12 Water Resources**Surface Water**

- What would be the impacts on water quality in rivers and reservoirs connected to the Truckee Canal if the water height were changed in the Truckee Canal?

Groundwater

- How are aquifers within and surrounding the Project Area affected by changes to the Truckee Canal water height?

Water Rights

- How would changes to the Truckee Canal water height affect water right owners?

Water Supply

- How would changes to the Truckee Canal water height affect irrigated acreage, types of use, and conveyance efficiency along the Truckee Canal?

Issue statements serve as a starting point for public consideration. These preliminary issue statements are not intended to be comprehensive or exhaustive. Reclamation will continue to work with other government agencies, tribal governments, and private and public stakeholders to refine issues and alternatives through the course of the EIS process.

3.2 Summary of Public Comments by Resource Category

Reclamation reviewed each substantive comment received during public scoping and organized them according to resource category. Substantive comments are those that are relevant to the EIS or scope of analysis. Of the 145 discreet comments received, 103 comments (71 percent) were related to one of the resource categories defined above. In addition, 40 comments (28 percent) were related to issues that will be addressed in the EIS but do not fall within a specific resource category (see **Table 2-2** for a breakdown of the number of comments received in each resource category). Reclamation received two comments that will not be addressed in the EIS (see **Section 3.2.14**).

Summaries of the substantive scoping comments received in each resource category, as well as general project comments, are provided in **Sections 3.2.1** through **3.2.13**. These summaries provide details only on comments related to issues that will be resolved in the EIS. Tables containing all comments by each resource category, as well as tables for issues that will not be addressed in the EIS, are in **Appendix D**. Reclamation may adjust or add to the resource categories as the planning process proceeds and as Reclamation continues to review information, to meet with the cooperating agencies and interdisciplinary teams, and to communicate with the public.

This report does not include information from submissions that Reclamation deemed to be non-substantive. Examples of non-substantive comments are those that do not include justification or facts to support the statement being made (e.g., “I like the Truckee Canal”), comments that do not pertain to the project (e.g., “The government should eliminate all dams”), or comments that do not require a response (e.g., “Extend the comment period”).

3.2.1 Climate Change

Reclamation received six discreet comments about climate change. Comments in this category addressed concerns of ongoing and reasonably foreseeable climate change impacts relating to changes in water availability, temperature, drought, and greenhouse gas emissions in the Project Area.

3.2.2 Cultural Resources

Reclamation received two discreet comments, both from the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, about cultural resources. The comments concerned primarily background information on the Truckee Canal being part of the National Register of Historic Places-listed Newlands Project.

3.2.3 Fish and Wildlife

Reclamation received six discreet comments about fish and wildlife, five of which were from tribal governments. Fish and wildlife commenters raised concerns about potential direct and indirect impacts on all fish and wildlife species in the Project Area and requested that all species and habitats be identified. Tribal governments also requested that the EIS analyze the impacts on fish movement upstream and downstream of the Truckee Canal from diversions into and out of the canal. The fifth comment was submitted by a local government concerned with reduced diversions at Derby Dam and its resulting impacts on fish and wildlife from lower water levels in Lahontan Reservoir.

3.2.4 Geology and Soils

Reclamation received one discreet comment about geology and soils. This commenter questioned if increased diversions from the Truckee River into the Truckee Canal would contribute to the formation of a delta at the terminus of the Truckee River at Pyramid Lake.

3.2.5 Lands, Realty, and Agriculture

Reclamation received three discreet comments about lands, realty, and agriculture. A commenter from an organization questioned how much of the irrigated acreage in the Newlands Project is in production agriculture. A local government commenter emphasized the need to examine the local development code concerning requirements of developers. A tribal government representative commented that past studies on the Truckee Canal did not use accurate data regarding acres of active water rights in the Newlands Project.

3.2.6 Public Health and Safety

Reclamation received seven discreet comments about public health and safety. A local government stated that public health and safety with regard to the Truckee Canal should be analyzed in the EIS.

3.2.7 Recreation

Reclamation received one discreet comment about recreation. A local government agency commented that the effects on recreation from changes in water levels in Lahontan Reservoir should be analyzed in the EIS.

3.2.8 Socioeconomic Values

Reclamation received 12 discreet comments about socioeconomic values. Common concerns were the economic impact on surrounding communities and water users of reduced or increased water levels in the Truckee Canal. Other commenters requested that the funding of any repairs be analyzed in the EIS.

3.2.9 Threatened and Endangered Species

Reclamation received 19 discreet comments about threatened and endangered species, all of which concerned the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout or endangered cui-ui. Most commenters raised concerns about how these fish species would be affected by changing water levels in the Truckee River and Truckee Canal. One commenter raised concerns about how temperature and water quality affect endangered and threatened species.

3.2.10 Tribal Interests

Reclamation received six discreet comments about tribal interests. Commenters raised concerns of diversions of water into the Truckee Canal impacting inflow into Pyramid Lake and the effects on the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's culture that could result from such diversions.

3.2.11 Wetlands and Riparian Habitats

Reclamation received four discreet comments about wetlands and riparian habitats. Commenters were concerned about potential direct and indirect effects of this project on wetland and riparian habitats and suggested that Reclamation develop project alternatives and design features that would mimic natural floodplains.

3.2.12 Water Resources

Surface Water

Reclamation received 15 discreet comments about surface water. Commenters were concerned with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future changes in water supply in rivers, canals, and reservoirs in the Project Area and would like to see these types of changes analyzed in the EIS.

Groundwater

Reclamation received 10 discreet comments about groundwater. Commenters were concerned with how aquifer recharge is impacted by pumping groundwater or adding a liner to the Truckee Canal.

Water Rights

Reclamation received five discreet comments about water rights. Commenters were concerned with changes in the supply of water available to water rights holders. One commenter questioned if Reclamation would consider purchasing water rights on the Carson River to increase water for the Newlands Project, rather than taking more water from the Truckee River.

1 **Water Supply**

2 Reclamation received six discreet comments about water supply. Commenters suggested
3 that data on irrigated acreage, types of use, and conveyance efficiency along the Truckee
4 Canal be analyzed in the EIS.

5 **3.2.13 Other Issues to be Addressed in the EIS**

6 **General Comments Related to the Project**

7 Reclamation received 14 discreet general comments related to the project. Commenters
8 were concerned with the EIS time frame and encouraged Reclamation to use existing
9 engineering studies and assessments to expedite the EIS process. Several commenters
10 opined about the importance of water from the canal and want to see it put to beneficial
11 uses. Other commenters suggested that extraordinary operation and maintenance be better
12 defined to state the scope of this project.

13 **Comments Related to Alternatives**

14 Reclamation received ten discreet comments related to alternatives for the project. These
15 comments included suggestions of topics to be incorporated into alternatives
16 development, such as the following:

- 17 • Potential changes in land use patterns that may result from the proposed project
18 and future resultant changes in water deliveries
- 19 • The project's potential to affect downstream impaired waters, all reasonable
20 mitigation measures for offsetting such impacts, and the likelihood such
21 mitigation would be implemented
- 22 • The need for the No Action Alternative to clearly describe the current quality and
23 quantity of habitat in the watershed, including habitat connectivity and water
24 quality metrics

25 **Comments Related to Collaboration between the Agency and the Public**

26 Reclamation received nine discreet comments related to collaboration between the
27 agency and the public. A local government requested that, during the EIS process, the
28 residents and community members most impacted by restricted flows in the Truckee
29 Canal be kept informed of progress on the project. A Nevada governmental entity
30 commented that the federal government needs to revise the list of groups allowed to be
31 stakeholders on a project such as the Truckee Canal XM EIS and requested clarity on
32 who will fund this project. A local organization was concerned with the availability of
33 publicly accessible information regarding the project.

34 **Comments Related to NEPA Analysis**

35 Reclamation received seven discreet comments related to NEPA analysis. One
36 commenter provided background information, with definitions of terms such as direct
37 impacts, indirect impacts, and cumulative impacts. Several commenters suggested that
38 the purpose and need statement be further revised to concisely and clearly identify why
39 the project is being proposed. A federal agency commented on ways that Reclamation
40 can submit the Draft EIS when completed.

1 **3.2.14 Issues that will not be Addressed in the EIS**
2 Reclamation received two comments that will not be addressed in the EIS. These
3 commenters requested specific information that is related to the Truckee Canal breach
4 that occurred in January 2008 and financial reports on the TCID's operation of the Canal
5 over the past 25 years.

6

1

This page intentionally left blank.

1 **4. Data Summary and Data Gaps**

2 **4.1 Data Review and Data Gaps**

3 The public noted several specific studies and requested that Reclamation review that
4 information to determine its applicability to the EIS.

5 The following reports and studies were identified by the public and Reclamation to
6 contain necessary information to be considered during EIS development:

- 7 • Reclamation’s NEPA Handbook (Reclamation 2012)
- 8 • Truckee River Operating Agreement (Reclamation et. al. 2008)
- 9 • Newlands Project Planning Study (Reclamation 2013)

10 As part of the EIS planning, evaluation, and data-collection process, Reclamation has
11 inventoried available information. Reclamation determined that the following data and
12 associated studies may be needed for the EIS:

- 13 • Biological surveys
- 14 • Cultural surveys
- 15 • Economic analysis, using the Statewide Agricultural Production Model, if
16 applicable

17

1

This page intentionally left blank.

5. Future Steps

5.1 Summary of Future Steps and Public Participation Opportunities

The next phase of Reclamation’s planning process is to develop draft alternatives. Alternatives formulation will evaluate the scoping comments and will meet the project objectives described in **Section 1.2.1**, Purpose of and Need for Federal Action. In compliance with NEPA, CEQ regulations, and Reclamation planning regulations and guidance, alternatives should be reasonable and capable of being implemented. Reclamation began meeting with the cooperating agencies in January 2016 to brainstorm alternatives and develop the alternatives screening criteria.

The screening criteria will narrow the alternatives that will be analyzed in the Draft EIS. Although Reclamation welcomes public input at any time during the planning process, the next official public comment period will begin when the Draft EIS is published, which is anticipated in late 2017. The Draft EIS will be widely distributed to cooperating agencies, elected officials, regulatory agencies, and members of the public. It will be available on the project website (<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html>). The availability of the Draft EIS will be announced via a notice of availability in the *Federal Register*, and a public comment period will follow. Public meetings will be held in multiple locations near the Truckee Canal during the public comment period.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, Reclamation will incorporate relevant public comments and cooperating agency input to revise the Draft EIS; Reclamation will then publish a Final EIS. The availability of the Final EIS will be announced in the *Federal Register*, and a public review period will follow (40 CFR, Subpart 1506.10).

At the conclusion of the Final EIS public review period, Reclamation will issue a Record of Decision, which will be published in the *Federal Register*.

All publications, including this report, the Draft EIS, the Final EIS, and the notices of availability, will be published on the Truckee Canal XM EIS website. Pertinent dates regarding solicitation of public comments also will be published on the website.

5.2 Contact Information

The public is invited and encouraged to participate throughout the EIS planning process. Some ways to participate are as follows:

- 1 • Reviewing the progress of the EIS at the project website ([http://www.usbr](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html)
2 [.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html)), which will be updated
3 with information, documents, and announcements during EIS preparation
- 4 • Requesting to be added to or to remain on the official project mailing list in
5 order to receive future newsletters and information.
6 (subscribe online or e-mail TruckeeEIS@empsi.com)

7 Those wishing to be added to or deleted from the distribution list, wishing to change their
8 contact information, or requesting further information may e-mail a request to
9 TruckeeEIS@empsi.com or contact Ms. Roberta Tasse, Bureau of Reclamation,
10 Lahontan Basin Area Office, 705 N. Plaza Street, Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701,
11 phone (775) 884-8369. Please provide your name, mailing address, and e-mail address, as
12 well as the preferred method to receive information.

6. References

- NHD (National Hydrography Dataset). 2014. NHD Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to display streams. Internet website: <ftp://rockyftp.cr.usgs.gov/vdelivery/Datasets/Staged/Hydro/FileGDB101/>.
- USC (US Code of Federal Regulations). 1997. Title 43 – Public Lands: Interior, Part 418 – Adjustments to 1988 Operating Criteria and Procedures (OCAP) for the Newlands Irrigation Project in Nevada; Final Rule. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation [43 CFR 418, Vol. 62, No. 243]. December 18, 1997.
- BLM (US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management). 2014. BLM GIS data for surface administration, used to display Indian Reservation, Fallon Naval Air Station, and National Wildlife Refuge. Received August 2015 from Reclamation GIS analyst, Jo Moore.
- Reclamation (US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation). 2015. GIS data to describe the overview of the Truckee River and Carson River systems and Primary Area of Analysis. Received August 2015 from Reclamation GIS analyst, Jo Moore.
- _____. 2013. Newlands Project Planning Study Special Report. April 2013.
- _____. 2012. Reclamation’s NEPA Handbook. February 2012.
- _____. 1903. Truckee Canal Design Drawings.
- Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and State of California Department of Water Resources. 2008. Truckee River Operating Agreement Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report. January 2008.

1

This page intentionally left blank.

Appendix A

Notice of Intent

1 **Appendix A. Notice of Intent**

2 Public scoping for the Truckee Canal XM EIS began with the publication of the NOI in
3 the *Federal Register* on October 19, 2015. This notice is also available on the Truckee
4 Canal XM EIS public website ([http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html)
5 [eis/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html)).

6

1

This page intentionally left blank.

Appendix B

Scoping Materials

1 **Appendix B. Scoping Materials**

2 Public scoping for the Truckee Canal XM EIS included a press release, project postcard,
3 newspaper advertisements, three public meetings, and a public website ([http://www.usbr](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html)
4 [.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html)). The formal public comment
5 period, as required by NEPA, began on October 19, 2015, with the publication of the
6 NOI in the *Federal Register*, and ended on November 30, 2015.

7 Copies of the following public scoping materials are included in this appendix:

- 8 • Press release
- 9 • Postcard
- 10 • Newspaper advertisement
- 11 • Posters, presentation, exhibits and handouts
- 12 • Comment sheet
- 13

1

This page intentionally left blank.

Appendix B-1: Press Release

This page intentionally left blank.

**Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, Calif.**

MP-15-180

Media Contact: Shane Hunt, 916-978-5100, shunt@usbr.gov

For Release On: Oct. 14, 2015

Open House/Public Scoping Meetings Scheduled for the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement

CARSON CITY, Nev. - The Bureau of Reclamation will hold three open house/public scoping meetings for the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement. The primary project study area is the Truckee Canal, which is located in portions of Storey, Lyon and Churchill Counties.

The purpose of the meetings is to solicit early input from the public regarding the development of alternatives to be evaluated and their potential environmental impacts. The meetings will be held in:

Wadsworth, NV: Tuesday, Oct. 27, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Wadsworth Community Building, 551 Eighth Street

Fallon, NV: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Churchill County Administrative Complex, Room 145, 155 N. Taylor Street

Fernley, NV: Thursday, Oct. 29, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Fernley City Council Chambers, 595 Silverlace Boulevard

The open house will start at 5:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., there will be a brief presentation. The open house will resume after the presentation and continue until 7:30 p.m.

Written comments may be submitted at the meetings, emailed to TruckeeEIS@empci.com or mailed to Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office, 705 N. Plaza St. #320, Carson City, NV 89701, Attn: Truckee Canal XM EIS. Written comments must be received by close of business Monday, Nov. 30, 2015.

For further information or to have your name added to the mailing list, please contact Roberta Tassey at rtassey@usbr.gov or 775-884-8369 (TTY 800-877-8339).

To request special assistance to attend a meeting, please contact Peter Gower at 775-323-1433 at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Information regarding the Truckee Canal XM EIS is available through the Truckee Canal XM EIS link at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/index.html>.

###

This page intentionally left blank.

Appendix B-2: Postcard

This page intentionally left blank.

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Truckee Canal XM EIS

The Bureau of Reclamation is soliciting public scoping comments for the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Comments will assist us in identifying issues to be analyzed in the EIS. To ensure your comments are part of the Public Scoping Report, please submit them by **Monday, November 30, 2015**. You can submit comments in one of four ways: via email (TruckeeEIS@emp.si.com), fax ([775] 884-8376), US Postal Service (Bureau of Reclamation, Attn: Roberta Tasse, 705 N. Plaza Street, Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701), or in person at any of the following public scoping meetings:

Public Scoping Meetings:

Wadsworth Community Building	551 8th St., Wadsworth, NV	Tues. Oct. 27, 5:30-7:30 pm
Churchill County Admin. Complex	155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV	Wed. Oct. 28, 5:30-7:30 pm
Fernley City Council Chambers	595 Silver Lacey Blvd., Fernley, NV	Thur. Oct. 29, 5:30-7:30 pm

Projected Milestones:

Draft EIS	August 2017
Final EIS	November 2018
Record of Decision	February 2019

Add your email to the Mailing List

You can be added to our electronic mailing list by sending an

Bureau of Reclamation
Lahontan Basin Area Office
c/o EMPSi
4741 Caughlin Pkwy., Suite 4
Reno, NV 89519

EMPSi is acting as an agent for the Bureau of Reclamation

This page intentionally left blank.

Appendix B-3: Newspaper Advertisement

This page intentionally left blank.

Open House/Scoping Meetings for Truckee Canal Environmental Impact Statement

The Bureau of Reclamation will hold three open house/public scoping meetings for the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement. The purpose of the meetings is to solicit early input from the public to help identify the issues and concerns that should be analyzed in the EIS. The primary project study area is the Truckee Canal, which is located in portions of Storey, Lyon and Churchill Counties.

Wadsworth, NV: *Tues, Oct. 27, Wadsworth Community Building, 551 Eighth Street*

Fallon, NV: *Wed, Oct. 28, Churchill County Administrative Complex, Room No. 145, 155 N. Taylor Street*

Fernley, NV: *Thurs, Oct. 29, Fernley City Council Chambers, 595 Silverlace Boulevard*

The open house will start at 5:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., there will be a brief presentation. The open house will resume after the presentation and continue until 7:30 p.m.

Written comments may be submitted at the meetings, emailed to TruckeeEIS@empci.com or mailed to Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office, 705 N. Plaza Street, Suite 320, Carson City, NV 89701, Attn: Truckee Canal XM EIS. Written comments must be received by close of business Monday, Nov. 30, 2015.

For further information or to have your name added to the mailing list, please contact Roberta Tassey at rtassey@usbr.gov or 775-884-8369 (TTY 800-877-8339). Additional information is available through the Truckee Canal XM EIS link at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/index.html>.

To request special assistance to attend a meeting, please contact Peter Gower at 775-323-1433 at least seven days prior to the meeting.

This page intentionally left blank.

Appendix B-4: Posters, Presentation, Exhibits and Handouts

This page intentionally left blank.

**Welcome to the
Truckee Canal XM EIS
Public Meeting**

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement

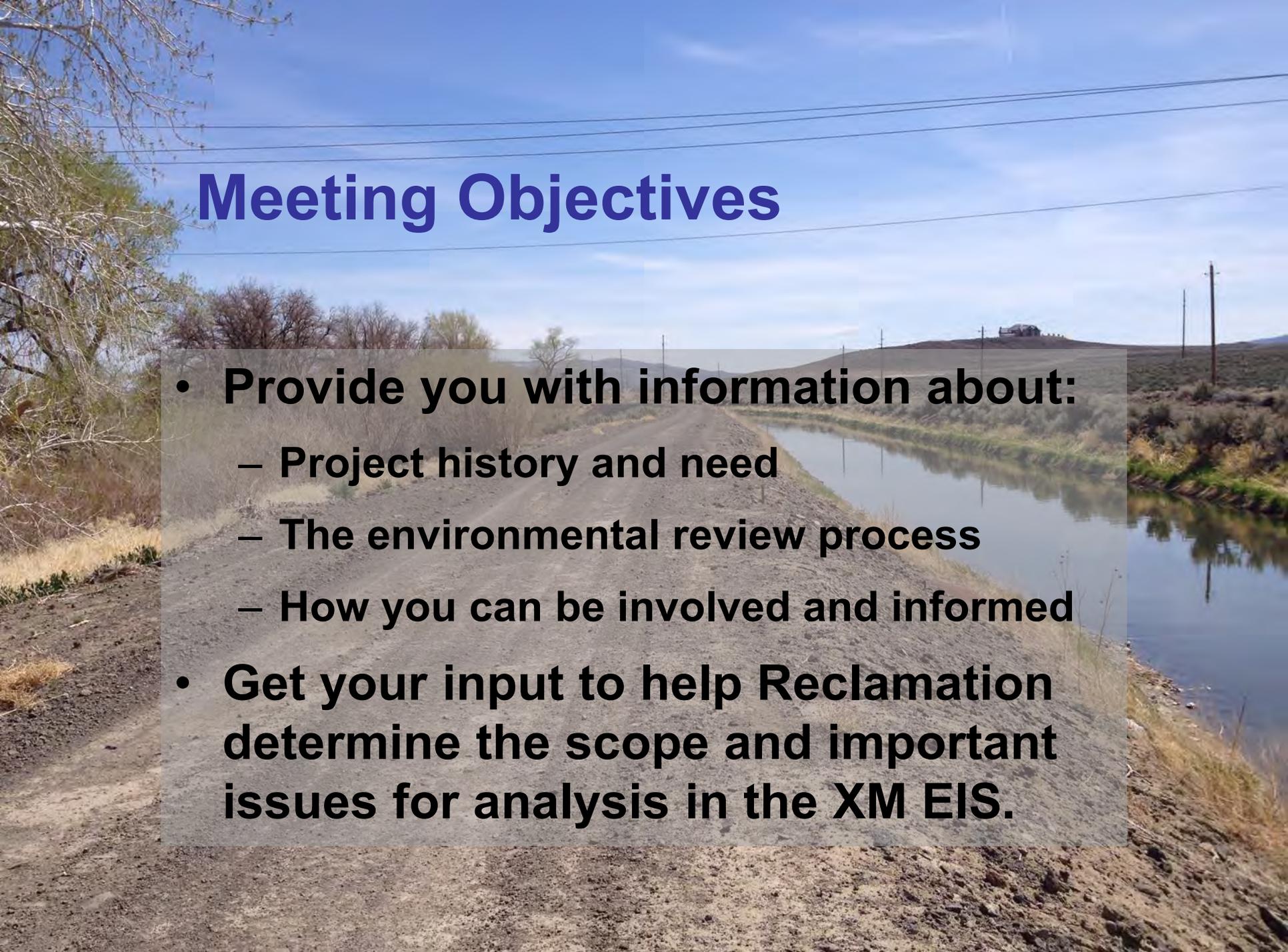
**Public Scoping Meetings
October 27-29, 2015**

A landscape photograph showing a dirt road on the left and a canal on the right. The road is unpaved and leads towards the horizon. The canal is filled with water and reflects the sky. In the background, there are hills and utility poles with power lines. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

Welcome and Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Meeting Objectives**
- **Background**
- **XM EIS Overview**
- **Timeline**
- **Open House Stations**
- **Commenting Process**

Meeting Objectives

A photograph of a dirt road running alongside a canal in a rural, arid landscape. The road is on the left, and the canal is on the right. The background shows dry hills, sparse vegetation, and utility poles under a blue sky with light clouds.

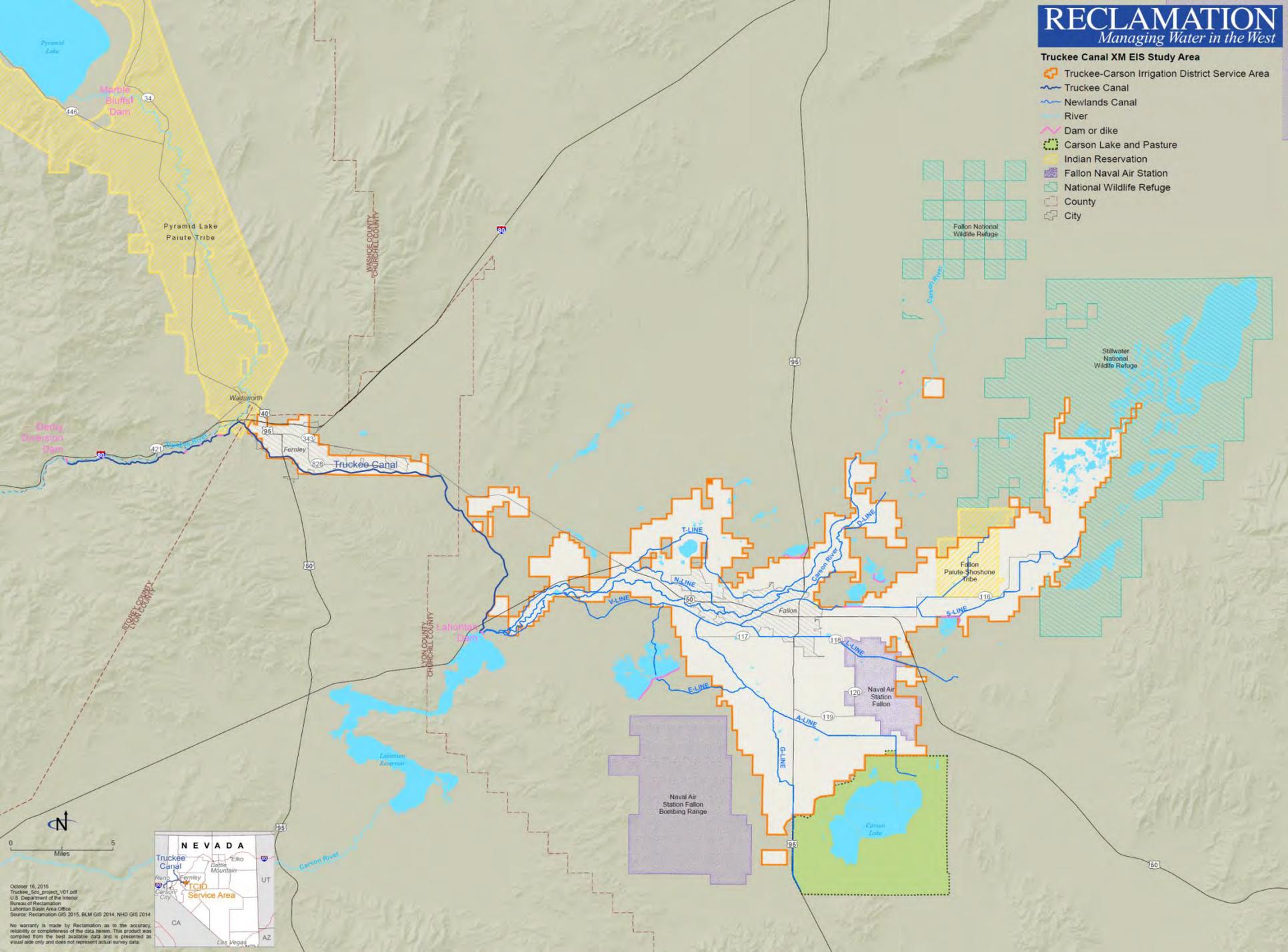
- **Provide you with information about:**
 - Project history and need
 - The environmental review process
 - How you can be involved and informed
- **Get your input to help Reclamation determine the scope and important issues for analysis in the XM EIS.**

Background

A photograph of a dirt road next to a canal in a rural landscape. The road is on the left, and the canal is on the right. In the background, there are hills, trees, and utility poles under a blue sky with some clouds.

- **The Truckee Canal is part of the Newlands Project, which provides water from the Truckee River to water right holders in Storey, Lyon, and Churchill counties.**
- **The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District operates and maintains the Canal.**

- Truckee Canal XM EIS Study Area**
- Truckee-Carson Irrigation District Service Area
 - Truckee Canal
 - Newlands Canal
 - River
 - Dam or dike
 - Carson Lake and Pasture
 - Indian Reservation
 - Fallon Naval Air Station
 - National Wildlife Refuge
 - County
 - City

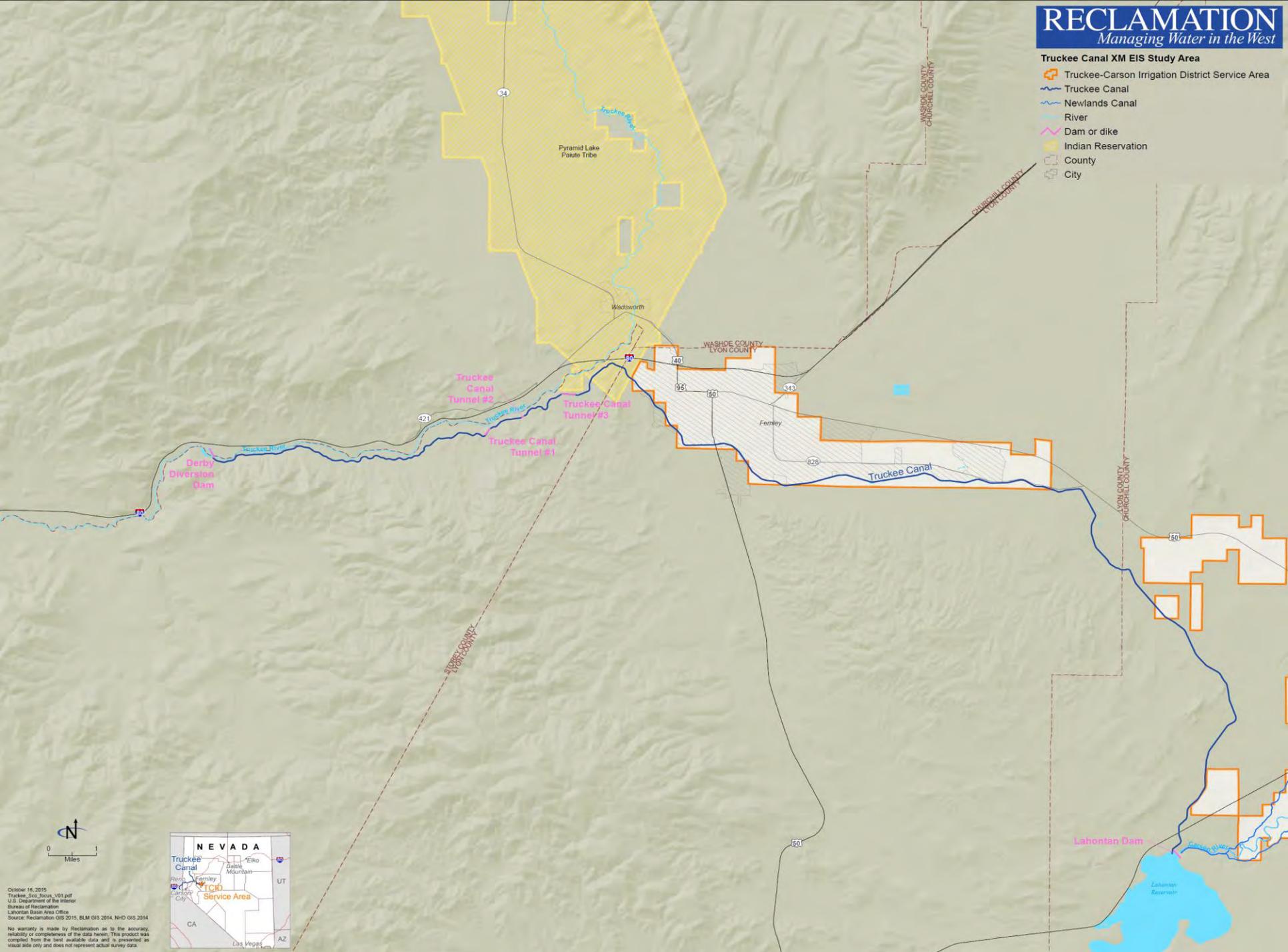


October 16, 2015
 Truckee_Sis_project_V01.pdf
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Lahontan Basin Area Office
 Source: Reclamation GIS 2015, BLM GIS 2014, NHD GIS 2014

No warranty is made by Reclamation as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the data herein. This product was compiled from the best available data and is presented as visual aide only and does not represent actual survey data.

Truckee Canal XM EIS Study Area

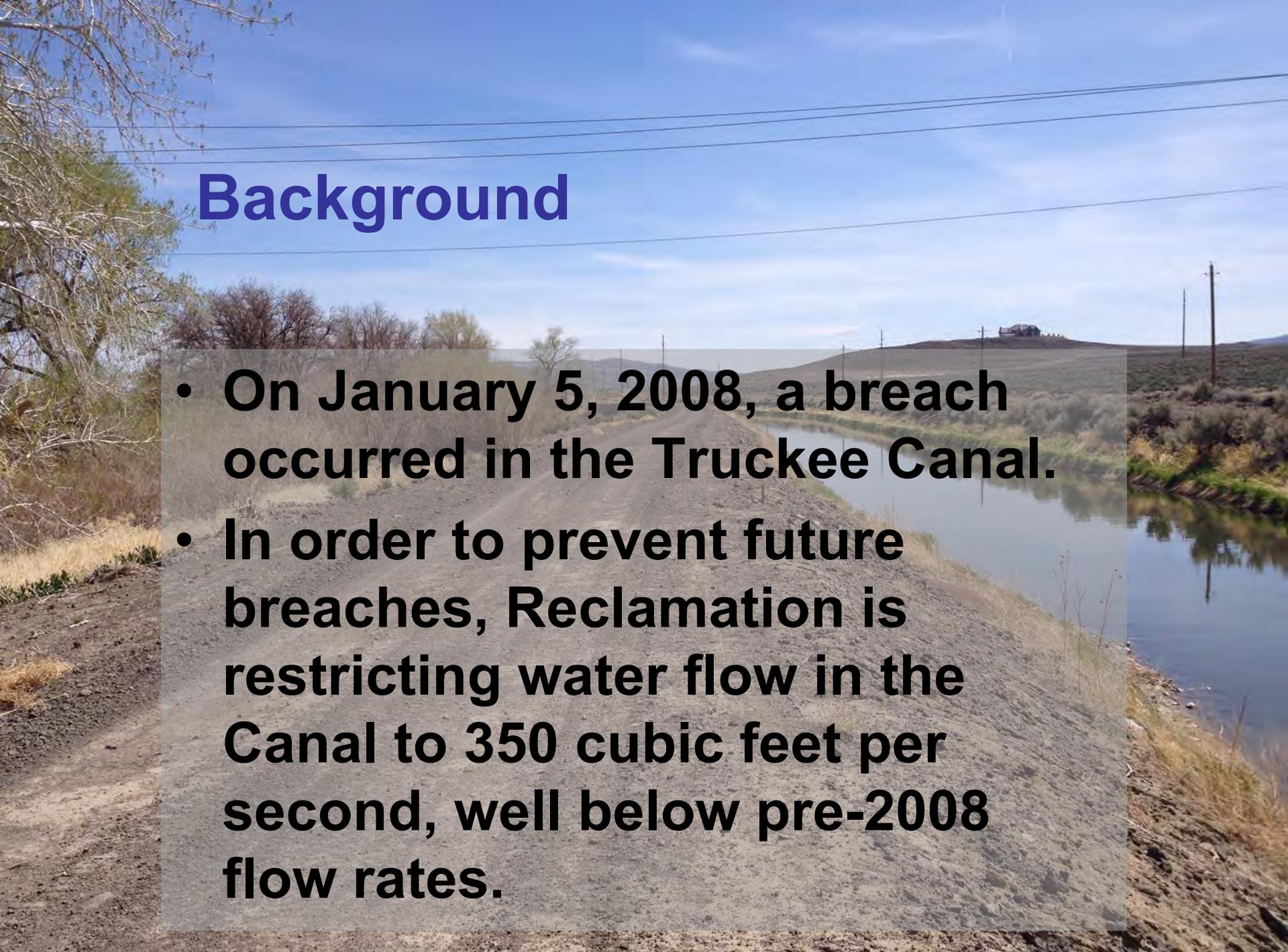
-  Truckee-Carson Irrigation District Service Area
-  Truckee Canal
-  Newlands Canal
-  River
-  Dam or dike
-  Indian Reservation
-  County
-  City



October 16, 2015
 Truckee_Sci_Focus_V01.pdf
 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Reclamation
 Lahontan Basin Area Office
 Source: Reclamation GIS 2015, BLM GIS 2014, NHD GIS 2014

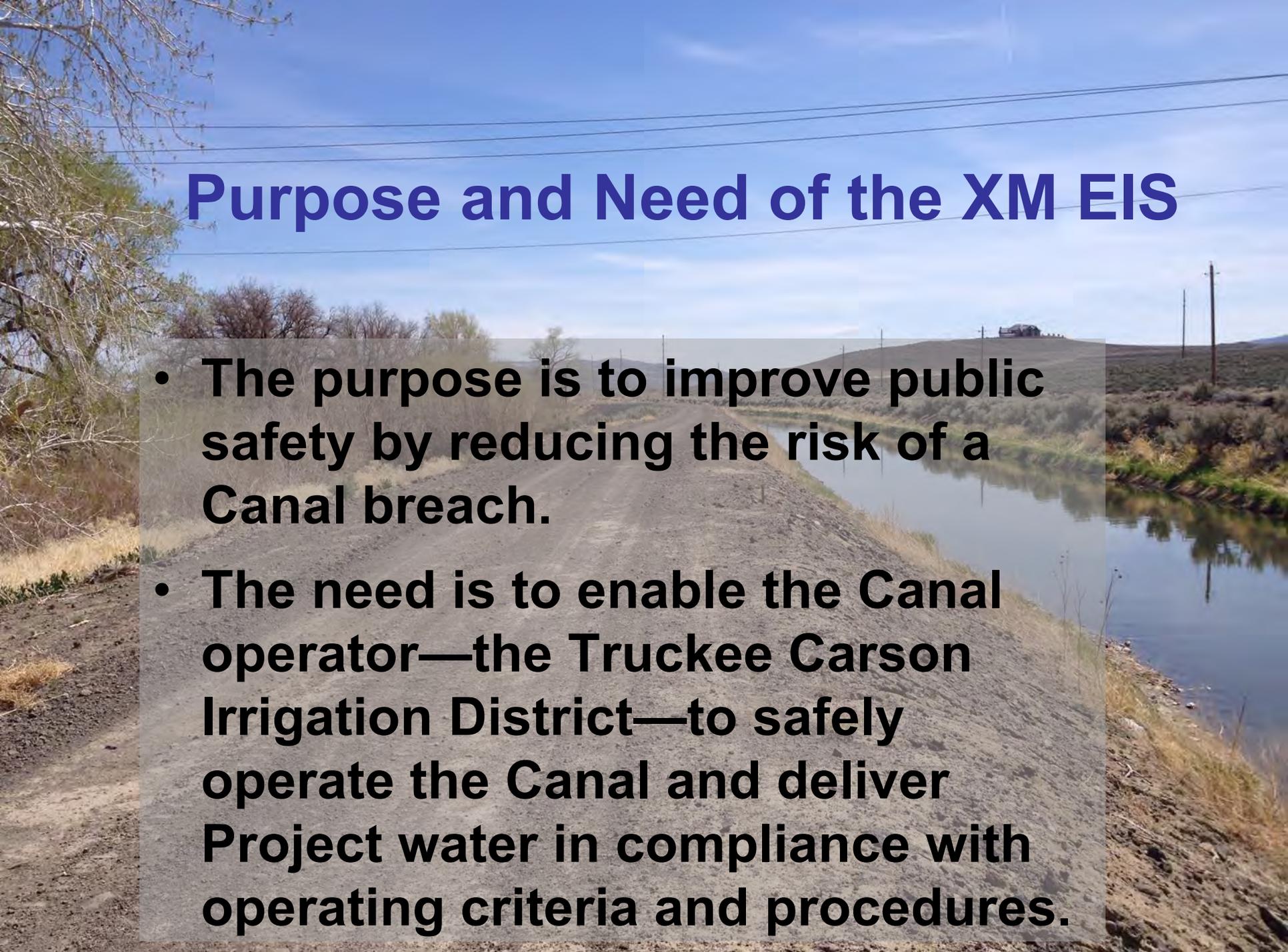
No warranty is made by Reclamation as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of the data herein. This product was compiled from the best available data and is presented as visual aids only and does not represent actual survey data.

Background

A photograph of a canal with a dirt path on the left and a hill in the background under a blue sky. The canal is filled with water, and the surrounding area is dry and hilly. There are some trees and utility poles visible in the distance.

- **On January 5, 2008, a breach occurred in the Truckee Canal.**
- **In order to prevent future breaches, Reclamation is restricting water flow in the Canal to 350 cubic feet per second, well below pre-2008 flow rates.**

Purpose and Need of the XM EIS

A photograph of a canal with a dirt road on the left and a grassy hill in the background under a blue sky. The canal is filled with water, and the dirt road is in the foreground. The background shows a grassy hill with some trees and a small building on top. The sky is blue with some clouds.

- The purpose is to improve public safety by reducing the risk of a Canal breach.
- The need is to enable the Canal operator—the Truckee Carson Irrigation District—to safely operate the Canal and deliver Project water in compliance with operating criteria and procedures.

What is the EIS Process?

Issue Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and start the scoping process

We Are Here

Conduct Scoping and Data Collection
Document results in a published scoping report

Formulate alternatives

Analyze effects of alternatives

Select a preferred alternative

Prepare a Draft EIS

Publish Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIS

Public review and comment period, including public meetings

Prepare a Final EIS

Publish NOA for Final EIS

Prepare the Record of Decision (ROD)

Implement decision

Truckee Canal XM EIS Timeline

<u>Public Scoping</u>	<u>Draft EIS</u>	<u>Final EIS</u>	<u>Record of Decision (ROD)</u>
<p>October 2015 through January 2016</p>	<p>Early 2016 through late 2017</p>	<p>Early 2018 through late 2018</p>	<p>Early 2019</p>
<p><i>What Happens:</i></p> <p>Gather public comments on the scope of the project</p> <p>Publish scoping report summarizing public comments</p>	<p><i>What Happens:</i></p> <p>Use public comments and scoping report to help develop alternatives</p> <p>Publish Draft EIS for public review and comment</p>	<p><i>What Happens:</i></p> <p>Review and incorporate public comments on Draft EIS into Final EIS</p> <p>Publish Final EIS</p>	<p><i>What Happens:</i></p> <p>Write and publish ROD</p> <p>Project can be implemented after ROD is signed</p>

Open House Stations

A photograph of a dirt road running parallel to a canal in a rural, arid landscape. The road is on the left, and the canal is on the right. In the background, there are hills and utility poles under a blue sky with some clouds. The text 'Open House Stations' is overlaid in blue at the top.

- **Sign-in Table**
- **Breaches Videos**
- **NEPA**
- **Overview Presentation**
- **Project Overview**
- **Resources and Uses**
- **Comment Table**

Submitting Comments

A photograph of a dirt road running alongside a canal in a rural, arid landscape. The road is on the left, and the canal is on the right. The background shows dry hills, sparse vegetation, and utility poles under a blue sky with light clouds.

- **What topics are of greatest concern to you?**
- **Are there additional topics that should be considered?**
- **Can you suggest any information resources?**

Submitting Comments

1. Comment via comment card tonight
2. Provide comments later:

Mail to:

**Roberta Tassej
Lahontan Basin Area Office
705 N. Plaza St. Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701**

Email to:

TruckeeEIS@empsi.com

For inclusion in the scoping report, comments must be submitted by November 30, 2015

Stay Informed

- Add your name to the mailing list by indicating “yes” next to your name at the sign in table
- Project website:

<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/programs/truckee-canal-eis/index.html>

A photograph of a dirt road running parallel to a canal in a rural, arid landscape. The road is on the left, and the canal is on the right. The background shows dry vegetation, utility poles, and a small building on a hill under a blue sky with light clouds. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text.

**Thank you for your interest in the
Truckee Canal Extraordinary
Operation and Maintenance
Environmental Impact Statement**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Full Phrase

af	acre-feet
afy	acre-feet per year
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
Canal	Truckee canal
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
cfs	cubic feet per second
CWA	Clean Water Act
EIS	environmental impact statement
District	Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
DOI	Department of Interior
EIS	environmental impact statement
EMPSi	Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (NEPA consultant)
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FPST	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
GIS	geographic information systems
GPS	global positioning system
LBAO	Lahontan Basin Area Office
MOA	memorandum of agreement
MOU	memorandum of understanding
MP Region	Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region
NDOT	Nevada Department of Transportation
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NV	Nevada
PLPT	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
POC	point of contact
RD	regional director
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
ROD	Record of Decision
Secretary	Secretary of the Department of Interior
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office(r)
TCID	Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office(r)
TROA	Truckee River Operating Agreement
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS (a.k.a. "Service")	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
XM	extraordinary operation and maintenance



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lahontan Basin Area Office

Reclamation is preparing an Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to improve public safety by reducing the risk of a Canal breach.

How to Provide Substantive Comments

This is an opportunity for you to be involved in the decision-making process of the federal Bureau of Reclamation and to offer your thoughts on alternative ways for the agency to accomplish what it is proposing. Many public land users, organizations, and individuals want to provide comments to assist in the Truckee Canal XM EIS planning effort. Comments that provide relevant and new information with sufficient detail are most useful and are referred to as substantive comments. Reclamation reviews all comments and identifies the topics that are substantive for consideration in the final published document.

Substantive comments during scoping do one or more of the following:

- Raise issues Reclamation has not considered or reinforce issues Reclamation has already identified
- Identify additional planning criteria
- Present information that can be used when developing alternatives
- Present reasonable alternatives
- Present information that can be used when Reclamation considers impacts of alternatives
- Describe concerns regarding public land resources and uses in the planning area
- Recommend specific changes to the operations or management actions
- Provide technical information, such as technical studies or reports, for consideration in the XM EIS

Thank you for your interest in the Truckee Canal XM EIS.

More information is available at the LBAO Planning Webpage: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/index.html>

Mail comments to:

Roberta Tasse
Lahontan Basin Area Office
705 N. Plaza St. Room 320
Carson City, NV 89701

Email comments to: TruckeeEIS@empci.com



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Real Estate and Land Use Topics

Objective:

The objective of the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to present a fully informed, thorough, and complete analysis of the potential temporary and permanent direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Truckee Canal XM project on property owners, real estate, and land uses.

Topics Identified for Analysis

- What are the potential impacts on lands, both private and public?
- What are the potential economic impacts on property values and tax revenues?
- Are there any public safety concerns associated with proposed operation and maintenance activities?
- How might land use in the project area change?
- Will property be acquired to support the proposed project? If so, how will landowners be compensated?



Truckee Canal near Fernley. Photo credit: Reclamation

Tell Us What You Think!

If you have input on these topics, please share it with us in a scoping comment.

1. Are there additional real estate and land use topics that we should cover in the EIS analysis?
2. Can you recommend sources of information that can be used in the EIS for this topic?

Please submit your comments or information via email to TruckeeEIS@empci.com



Cultural and Historical Resources

Objective:

The objective of the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to present a fully informed, thorough, and complete analysis of the potential temporary and permanent direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Truckee XM project on cultural and historical resources.

Consultations

- Tribal Governments of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with the Nevada SHPO: <http://shpo.nv.gov/review-compliance>



Hazen Gauge on the Truckee Canal. Photo credit: Reclamation

Topics Identified for Analysis

- What types of cultural and historical resources are in the project's area of potential effects (APEs)?
- What types of Indian Trust Assets are within the project's APEs?
- What are the potential impacts on identified cultural and historic resources?
- What are the potential impacts on Indian Trust Assets, sacred sites, and other traditional cultural properties?

Tell Us What You Think!

If you have input on these topics, please share it with us in a scoping comment.

1. Are there additional cultural resource topics that we should consider?
2. Can you recommend any additional sources of information?
3. How would the proposed alternatives affect prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic resources?

Please submit your comments or information via email to TruckeeEIS@empfi.com



Social and Economic Topics

Objectives:

The objectives of the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are to present a fully informed, thorough, and complete analysis of the potential temporary and permanent direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed Truckee Canal XM project on local economic conditions and social setting and to identify any disproportionate impacts on minority and low-income populations. The analysis will place potential impacts in the context of current, historical, and projected socioeconomic conditions in the area of analysis.

You can find general socioeconomic information about the project area (Lyon County) here:

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/32/32019.html>

Topics Identified for Analysis

- What might the impacts be on area quality of life, including traditional social values?
- What are the potential direct and indirect impacts on the local and regional job market, employment and unemployment, and income?
- How might the population in the area be impacted by the project?
- How could fiscal conditions of local governments be impacted?
- What could the impacts be on the availability and costs of public utilities, including municipal water and wastewater services? Would such services as fire protection, emergency care, police, and education be impacted?
- Would land uses, such as agriculture, tourism and recreation, be impacted?
- How might the project affect future growth and development in the project area?



Truckee Canal. Photo credit: Reclamation

Environmental Justice

The presence of and potential for impacts on low-income and minority populations will be examined for communities in the area of analysis. For information regarding Reclamation's commitment to environmental justice, please see http://www.usbr.gov/cro/sub_ej.html

Tell Us What You Think!

If you have input on these topics, please share it with us in a scoping comment.

1. Are there additional social or economic topics that we should consider?
2. Can you recommend sources of economic data or information that can be used?

Please submit your comments or information in an email to TruckeeEIS@empci.com



Truckee Canal XM EIS Milestones and Opportunities for Public Comment

Milestone	Description	Schedule
<i>Publish the Notice of Intent (NOI) for Preparation of the Truckee XM EIS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Begin the initial public involvement phase of the EIS and NEPA process</i> 	<i>October 16, 2015</i>
<i>Publish Press Releases and Media Releases for Newspapers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Begin the initial public involvement phase of the EIS and NEPA process</i> 	<i>October 14-16, 2015</i>
<i>Public Scoping Meetings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Conducted prior to the start of the environmental analysis</i> • <i>Involve the public and other agencies in identifying the environmental issues to be addressed</i> • <i>Provide three open house scoping meetings and 40-day public comment period</i> 	<i>October 27, 2015 Wadsworth, NV; October 28, 2015 Fallon, NV; October 29 2015 Fernley, NV</i>
<i>Public Scoping Comment Period</i>	OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT	<i>October 19, 2015- November 30, 2015</i>
<i>Cooperating Agency Technical Team Meetings on alternatives, cultural resources, biological resources, climate change, water resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides the forum for the crafting of reasonable alternatives for analysis and discussion of technical studies</i> 	<i>Monthly Meetings will be scheduled as needed</i>
<i>Public Workshops</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides the forum to discuss alternatives and analysis progress</i> • <i>Opportunity for public input</i> 	<i>February 2016 or April 2016</i>
<i>Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Public Draft EIS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presents the analysis of the potential environmental impacts for the proposed action and each of the identified alternatives</i> 	<i>August 2017</i>
<i>Public Comment Period</i>	OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT	<i>September 2017- October 2017 (~45 days)</i>
<i>Cooperating Agency Technical Team Meetings on alternatives, cultural resources, biological resources, climate change, water resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides the forum for the evaluation and addressing of comments and for analysis and discussion of additional technical studies</i> 	<i>Monthly Meetings will be scheduled as needed</i>
<i>Public Workshops to discuss Draft EIS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides the forum to discuss comments and significant changes for the Final EIS</i> • <i>Opportunity for public input</i> 	<i>September 2017 or October 2017</i>
<i>NOA for the Final EIS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presents updates to the Draft EIS and includes responses to all public comments received during the public comment period</i> 	<i>November 2018</i>
<i>30-Day Wait Period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provides for a 30-day wait period after the Final EIS is published</i> 	<i>December 2018</i>
<i>Record of Decision</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Follows the 30-day wait period</i> • <i>Includes selection of an alternative by the Secretary of the Interior</i> 	<i>February 2019</i>

Schedule changes will be found at the Truckee Canal XM EIS website: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/index.html>

EIS= Environmental Impact Statement

NEPA=National Environmental Policy Act

XM=Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lahontan Basin Area Office



Open House/Scoping Meetings for Truckee Canal Environmental Impact Statement

The Bureau of Reclamation will hold three open house/public scoping meetings for the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation (XM) and Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of the meetings is to solicit early input from the public to help identify the issues and concerns that should be analyzed in the XM EIS. The primary project study area is the Truckee Canal, which is located in portions of Storey, Lyon and Churchill Counties.

Wadsworth, Nevada

Tuesday, October 27

Wadsworth Community Building, 551 Eighth Street

Fallon, Nevada

Wednesday, October 28

Churchill County Administrative Complex, Room No. 145, 155 N. Taylor Street

Fernley, Nevada

Thursday, October 29

Fernley City Council Chambers, 595 Silver Lace Boulevard

The open house will start at 5:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., there will be a brief presentation. The open house will resume after the presentation and continue until 7:30 p.m.

Written comments may be submitted at the meetings, emailed to TruckeeEIS@empsi.com or mailed to Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office, 705 N. Plaza Street, Suite 320, Carson City, NV 89701, Attn: Truckee Canal XM EIS. ***Written comments must be received by close of business on Monday, November 30, 2015.***

For further information or to have your name added to the mailing list, please contact Roberta Tassej at rtassej@usbr.gov or (775) 884-8369 (TTY (800) 877-8339). Additional information is available through the Truckee Canal XM EIS link at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/index.html>.

To request special assistance to attend a meeting, please contact Peter Gower at (775) 323-1433 at least seven days prior to the meeting.



Ice Buildup



Ice buildup along the Truckee Canal. Photo credit: Truckee-Carson Irrigation District

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lahontan Basin Area Office

Sheet Pile Cutoff Wall



Photo credit: Hughes Construction



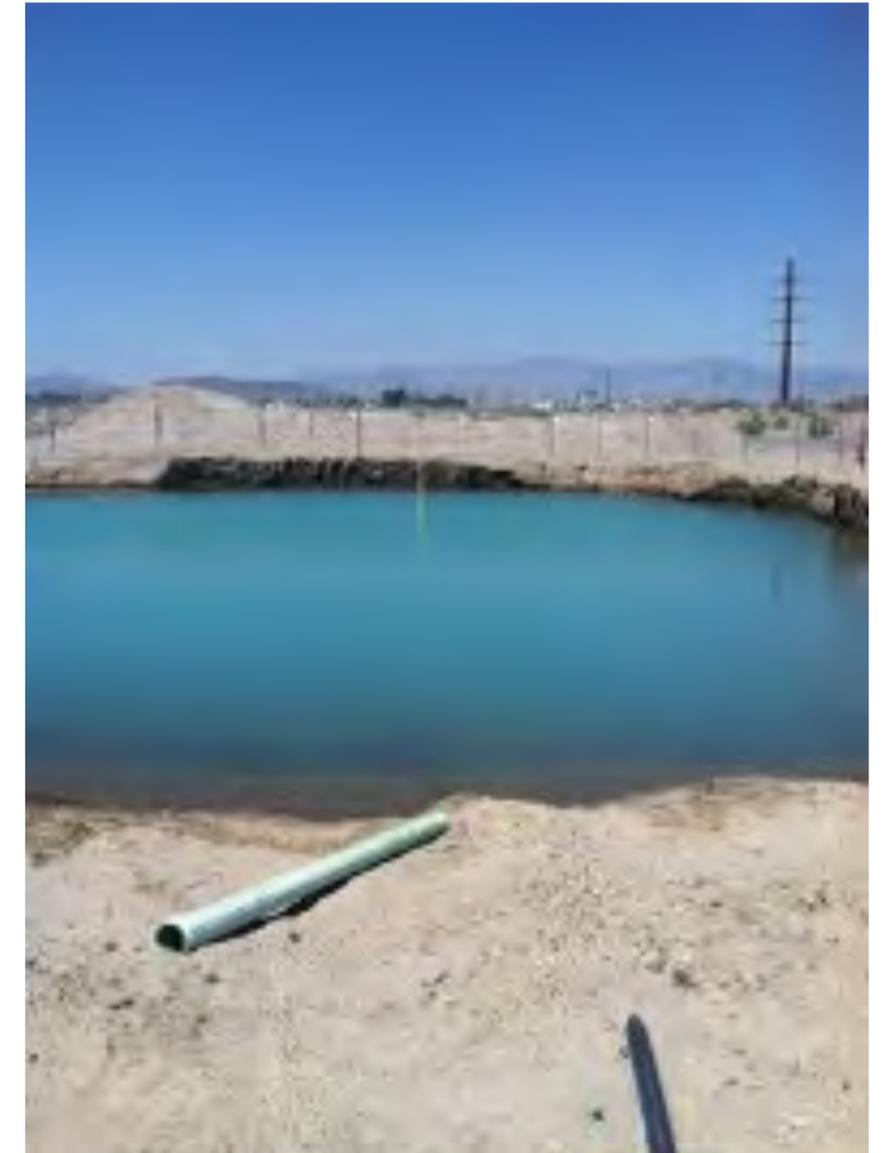
Photo credit: Construction Materials International

Detention and Retention Ponds



A *detention pond* (left) is a low lying area that is designed to temporarily hold a set amount of water while slowly draining to another location.

A *retention pond* (right) is designed to hold a specific amount of water indefinitely.



Detention Pond. Photo credit: Minnesota Erosion Control Association

Retention Pond. Photo credit: City of Fernley

Geomembrane and Concrete Liners



Geomembrane liner. Photo credit: Reclamation



Concrete liner. Photo credit: Reclamation

NEPA Planning Process

Issue Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and start the scoping process

**We Are
Here**

Conduct Scoping and Data Collection
Document results in a published scoping report

Formulate alternatives

Analyze effects of alternatives

Select a preferred alternative

Prepare a Draft EIS

Publish Notice of Availability (NOA) for Draft EIS

Public review and comment period, including public meetings

Prepare a Final EIS

Publish NOA for Final EIS

Prepare Record of Decision (ROD)

Implement decision

1. Truckee River System

The Truckee River System originates at Lake Tahoe, where inflows provide the initial water supply for the system. When water levels at Lake Tahoe are above the natural rim (6,223 feet above sea level), outlet gates in Tahoe City, California regulate outflows to the Truckee River. From the Lake Tahoe Dam, the Truckee River flows 105 miles before terminating in Pyramid Lake, Nevada. Pyramid Lake is one of the few desert terminus lakes in the world.

Upstream Reservoirs

There are four reservoirs operated by the federal government in the Truckee River System. Constructed by Reclamation and operated under the direction of the Federal Water Master, these reservoirs regulate the inflows to the Truckee River, providing both flood control and drought storage. Boca, Stampede, and Prosser Creek Reservoirs are the largest reservoirs in the Truckee River System. Collectively, they have approximately 297,400 acre-feet of storage capacity and regulate inflows from the Little Truckee River and Prosser Creek. The fourth reservoir, Martis Lake, provides additional storage capacity and regulates flows from the Martis Valley near Truckee, California.



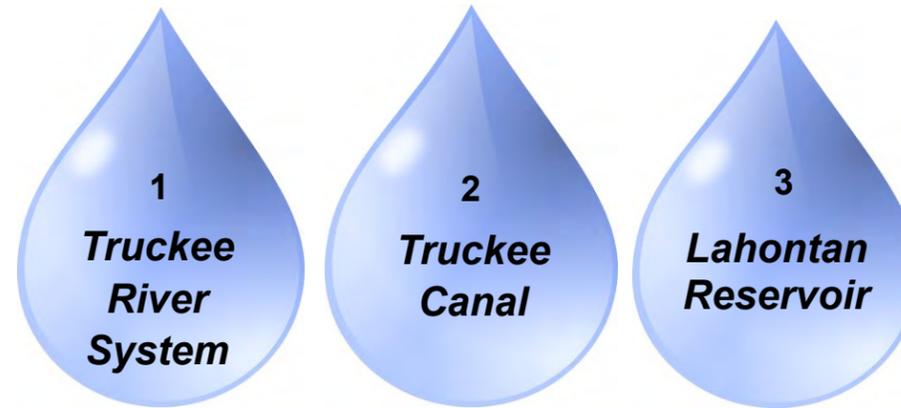
Boca Reservoir. Photo credit: Reclamation

Truckee River Operating Agreement

The Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) implements Section 205(a) of Public Law 101-618. The law directs the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate an agreement with Nevada and California to allow for more operational flexibility and increased efficiency in the Truckee River Basin. Through these efficiency gains, the TROA allows for more upstream drought storage opportunities to meet downstream municipal and industrial water demands, while maintaining sufficient flows to support fish habitat throughout the basin. TROA is expected to be implemented in 2016.

Truckee Canal XM EIS

- Primary Project Area Description -



2. Truckee Canal

Truckee River water is diverted at the Derby Diversion Dam into the Truckee Canal for use in the Newlands Project, as provided in Claim No. 3 of the Orr Ditch Decree and the Operating Criteria and Procedures (OCAP). Completed between 1903 and 1905, the Canal extends about 32 miles through the Truckee Division of the project to Lahontan Reservoir. Water diversion from the Truckee River to the Lahontan Reservoir is limited by the Orr Ditch Decree and OCAP.



Derby Dam. Photo credit: Reclamation



Truckee Canal near Fernley. Photo credit: Reclamation

What is the Newlands Project?

The Newlands Project, formerly known as the Truckee-Carson Project, was one of Reclamation's first projects. Constructed in 1903, the project provides irrigation water from the Truckee and Carson Rivers to the lower Carson Valley near Fallon (Carson Division) and bench lands near Fernley (Truckee Division). The drainage basins contain nearly 3,400 square miles, with a combined average annual runoff of about 850,000 acre-feet of water. Construction began in 1903 on the Derby Diversion Dam and the Truckee Canal. In addition, the project serves wetlands water rights at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, Carson Lake and Pasture, and the Fallon-Paiute Shoshone Indian Reservation. Overall, the project delivers water to approximately 60,000 acres of lands with active water rights, with alfalfa being the region's primary crop.

3. Lahontan Reservoir

The Lahontan Reservoir, located southwest of Fallon, Nevada, is the only major reservoir on the Carson River. It has a maximum storage capacity of 320,000 acre-feet and covers approximately 10,600 surface acres when full. Inflows to the reservoir are from the Carson River and the Truckee Canal. Since 2012, severe drought in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and western Nevada has reduced inflows to the Lahontan Reservoir. Due to drought conditions, the water storage in the reservoir has steadily declined over the past four years. In August 2015, the recorded storage was 5,905 acre-feet.

Water released from the Lahontan Reservoir is ultimately delivered to water right holders throughout the Lahontan Valley via Newlands Project ditches and canals. Remaining instream flows terminate in the Carson Sink.

The Lahontan Dam has two hydropower stations, which generate 1.9 and 4.0MW, respectively. TCID owns and operates the 4.0MW facility.

Lahontan Reservoir also provides public recreation opportunities such as boating, fishing, and sightseeing. The State of Nevada manages the Lahontan State Recreation Area surrounding the lake.



Lahontan Reservoir. Photo credit: Reclamation



Truckee Canal Discharge at Lahontan Reservoir. Photo credit: Reclamation

Who is the TCID?

The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (District) was formed in 1918 as a political subdivision of the state of Nevada to represent water right holders within the boundaries of the Newlands Project. Since 1927, the District has been responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Newlands Project, including the Truckee Canal. The District receives funding from land owners within the Newlands Project who own water rights appurtenant to their lands. The district boundary cover approximately 120,000 acres in Churchill and Lyon counties, of which about 73,000 are water righted.

Truckee Canal XM EIS Fact Sheet

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, the lead federal agency, intends to prepare the Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Truckee Canal (Canal) in Nevada. The XM EIS will evaluate opportunities to reduce the risk to public safety from a breach in the Canal. In January 2008, a portion of the Canal embankment near the city of Fernley, Nevada, breached, thereby limiting the Canal's operations due to safety concerns.

Reclamation proposes to take action to evaluate alternatives that will enable the Canal operator—the Truckee Carson Irrigation District—to safely operate the Canal and deliver project water, in compliance with operating criteria and procedures for the Newlands Project. Additional flow restrictions on Canal operations may be necessary without making repairs to reduce risk.

The XM EIS will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 US Code, Section 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Parts 1500-1508), NEPA Regulations (43 CFR, Part 46), and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

Reclamation is proposing to complete structural improvements of the Canal facilities and implement a long-term tolerable stage level restriction. This may be achieved using a variety of options including the following:

- Improving the earthen embankments
- Installing sheet pile walls
- Lining portions of the Canal
- Installing detention or retention ponds or both
- Installing automated check structures to regulate flow through the Canal
- Installing passive overflow or wasteway structures or both
- Reducing the Canal stage levels with no structural improvements

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

For further information or to be added to the mailing list, please email TruckeeEIS@empci.com or Roberta Tassey at rtassey@usbr.gov.

As the project progresses, you may submit any comments via email to TruckeeEIS@empci.com, fax them to (775) 884-8376, or mail them to Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office, Attn: Roberta Tassey, 705 N. Plaza Street, Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701.

You may obtain additional information through the Truckee Canal XM EIS link on the Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office website: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/index.html>.



History of the Truckee Canal

Year	Event
1903	<p>In 1903, Reclamation began construction on the Derby Dam, about 20 miles downstream of Reno on the Truckee River. Derby Dam (US Reclamation Service Project #1) was completed in 1905. The Truckee Canal was completed in 1906. Water was then diverted from the Truckee River through the Truckee Canal to Lahontan Reservoir.</p>
1967	<p>Operating criteria and procedures (OCAP) is a regulation developed in compliance with federal law that governs diversions to the Newlands Project from the Truckee River. The initial OCAP was put in place in 1967 and has been revised through the years at various times, with the current version being the 1997 Adjusted OCAP.</p>
2008	<p>On January 5, 2008, a breach occurred in the Truckee Canal, which is operated and maintained by the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District.</p> <p>Preliminarily signed on September 6, 2008, the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) concerns reservoir operations in the Truckee River basin. The primary purpose of TROA is to implement Section 205(a) of Public Law 101-618, which directs the Department of the Interior to negotiate an agreement with California and Nevada to increase the operational flexibility and efficiency of certain reservoirs in the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River basins.</p>
2015	<p>On October 16, 2015, Reclamation initiates Truckee Canal XM EIS</p> <p>Public scoping meetings are held October 27-29, in Wadsworth, Fallon and Fernley, Nevada, to solicit public input on the Truckee XM EIS.</p>



Water Resources

Objective:

The objective of the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to present a fully informed, thorough, and complete analysis of the potential temporary and permanent direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed Truckee Canal XM project on surface water, groundwater, water quality, geomorphology (river migration and erosion), and climate change.

Topics Identified for Analysis (see reverse for more information)

- Surface Water Impacts
 - Surface water—How would changes in Truckee River water availability, including Truckee Canal, affect water in the Newlands Project?
 - Water uses—What would the impacts of the Truckee Canal XM project, in the context of the Orr Ditch Decree and Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA), have on existing water rights and uses?
 - Would there be any impacts on the Carson River system?
 - Would the Truckee Canal XM project affect the water level of Pyramid Lake?
- Groundwater Impacts
 - Could the Truckee Canal XM Project have any impacts on groundwater supplies in the project area?
- Water Quality Impacts
 - How might the Truckee Canal XM Project change the quality of water used by local residents, businesses, and wildlife?
- Geomorphology (Sediment and Erosion) Impacts
 - Would the Truckee Canal XM Project cause erosion on the adjacent banks of the Canal or Truckee or Carson Rivers or increase sediment loads in the rivers or Canal?
- Impacts Influenced by Climate Change
 - What might Truckee Canal operational impacts be under different climate change scenarios?



Truckee Canal. 2007. Photo credit: Reclamation



Truckee Canal. 2015. Photo credit: Reclamation

Tell Us What You Think!

If you have input on these topics, please share it with us in a scoping comment.

1. Are there additional surface, groundwater, water quality, sediment and erosion, or climate change-related topics which should be covered?
2. Can you recommend sources of data or other information that can be used?

Please submit your comments or information in an email to TruckeeEIS@empfi.com



Want more information on these topics?

For more information on the Truckee Canal XM EIS, please see

<http://www.usbr.gov/projects/index.jsp>

For more information on floodplain development, please see

<http://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/floodplain-management-requirements>

For more information on water quality monitoring in Nevada please see

<http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/index.htm>

For more information on TROA, please see

<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/troa/index.html>

For more information on how Reclamation is addressing climate change, please see

<http://www.usbr.gov/climate/>

