

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

**Environmental Assessment**

## **Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System – South Tahoe Public Utilities District**

**17-01-MP**



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation**

**March 2017**

## **Mission Statements**

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.

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.



# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

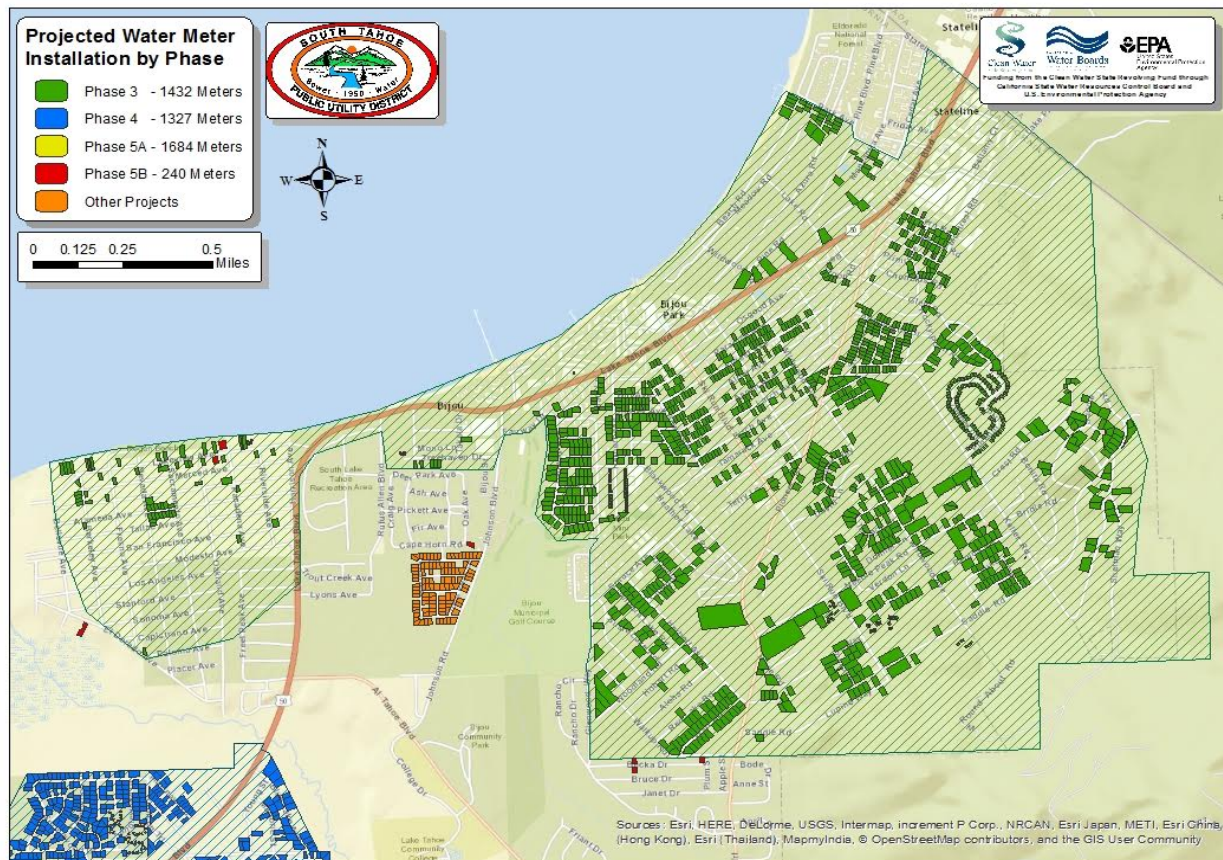
AFY	acre-feet per year
AMI	advanced metering infrastructure
APE	area of potential effects
STPUD	South Tahoe Public Utilities District
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
CALFED grant	CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
EA	Environmental Assessment
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
CO	Carbon Monoxide
NO <sub>2</sub>	Nitrogen dioxide
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulphur dioxide
NO <sub>x</sub>	Oxides of nitrogen
TRPA	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
ARB	Air Resources Control Board
EDAQMD	El Dorado Air Quality Management District
LTAB	Lake Tahoe Air Basin
SAQMD	Sacramento Air Quality Management District
Tpy	Tons per year

# Section 1 Introduction

In conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of Interior (DOI) regulations (43 CFR Part 46), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to disclose potential environmental effects associated with granting a CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant (CALFED grant) to the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) for its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System (Proposed Action). The Proposed action would take place in the STPUD service area located in South Lake Tahoe (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

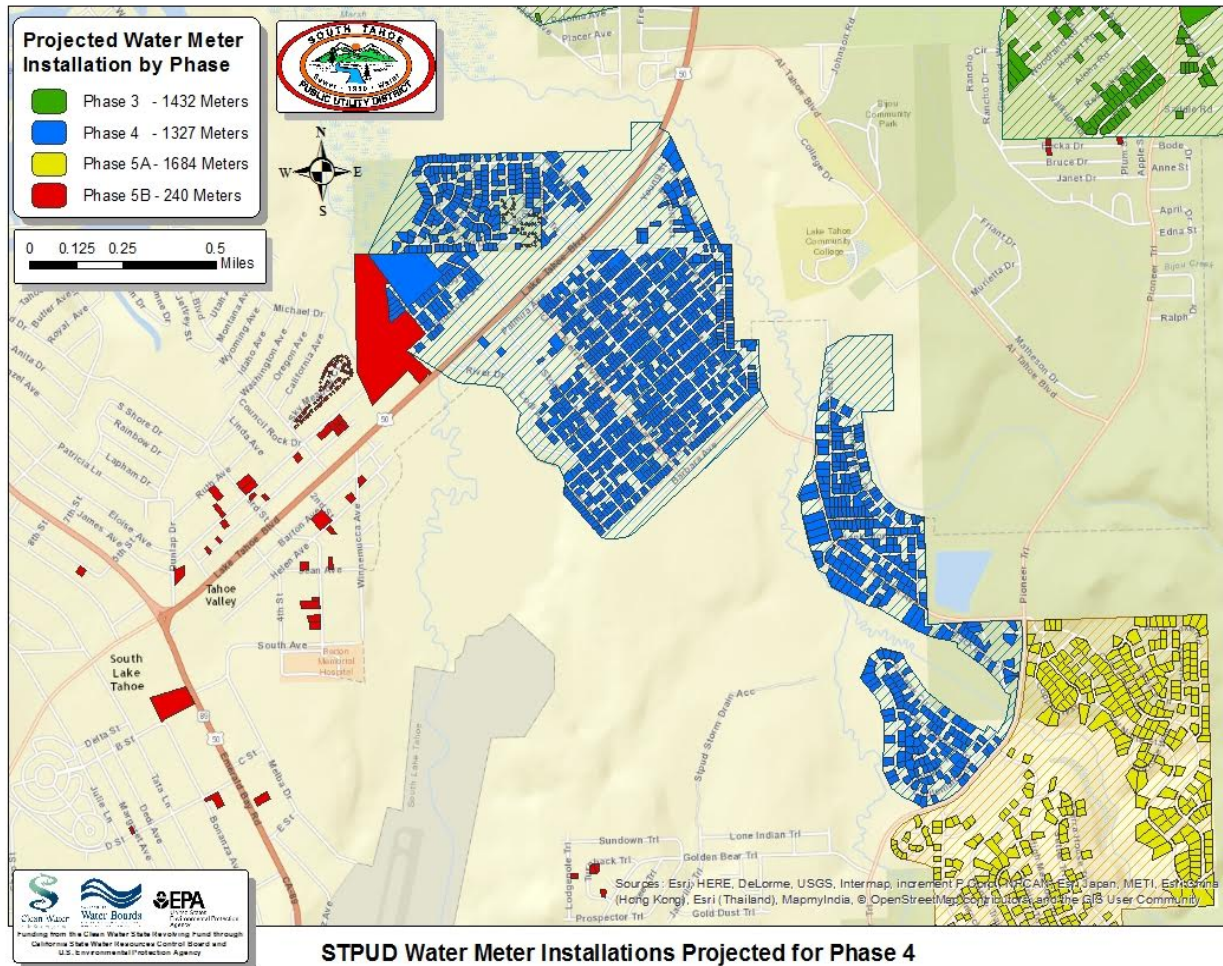
The Proposed Action involves installation of AMI for Phase 3 and part of Phase 4 in the STPUD service area. Phase 3 (Figure 1) involves the installation of 1,432 water meters and Phase 4 (Figure 2) involves the installation of 1,327 water meters. Metering in the STPUD service area will allow STPUD to meter volumetric consumption, and better determine district water allocation.

**Figure 1: STPUD Phase 3 AMI Installation**



**STPUD Water Meter Installations Projected for Phase 3**

**Figure 2: STPUD Phase 4 AMI Installation**



## 1.1 Need for the Proposed Action

California State Assembly Bill (AB) 2752, requires all urban water suppliers (serving 3,000 or more connections) to install water meters on all residential/commercial connections by the year 2025. As part of AB 2752, water suppliers will be required to engage in volumetric pricing for metered customers after January 1, 2011. The state is also requiring urban water purveyors to reduce water demand by a mandated 20% by the year 2020.

STPUD provides drinking water to 14,000 connections and in order to comply with AB 2752 and reduce water demand by the year 2020, STPUD needs additional funding of \$297,606 in grant funds to finish Phase 3 and part of Phase 4 of its AMI installation. By regulating future water supply in the STPUD service area, and promoting conservation, STPUD will be able to meet a 20% demand reduction by 2020.

## **Section 2 Proposed Action and Alternatives**

### **2.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not award the STPUD with CALFED grant money equal to \$297,606. Although it is possible the STPUD may find alternate sources of funding for the project, for the purposes of this EA, the consequences of Reclamation not providing funding for the Proposed Action would result in no construction of the project which may result in STPUD not being able to meet state mandated water reductions.

### **2.2 Proposed Action**

STPUD is a special district that supplies approximately 14,000 drinking water connections with fresh potable water and 17,000 sewer service connections to the City of South Lake Tahoe and portions of El Dorado County. All drinking water supply sources are from 12 wells and produce an average annual water supply of 9,528 acre-feet per year (AFY).

STPUD operates within the delicate environment of Lake Tahoe and is subject to a high level of regulations by multiple state and federal agencies, including the only bi-state regulatory agency, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). However, the Proposed Action area or STPUD service area is located only in California and is subject to California State Drinking Water and Sewer Treatment requirements.

The Proposed Action involves installation of AMI for Phase 3 and part of Phase 4 in the STPUD service area. Phase 3 (Figure 1) involves the installation of 1,432 water meters and Phase 4 (Figure 2) involves the installation of 1,327 water meters. Metering in the STPUD service area will allow STPUD to meter volumetric consumption, and better determine district water allocation.

## **Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

Potential impacts to the following resources were considered and found to have no environmental consequences. Brief explanations are provided below:

- Indian Trust Assets (ITAs): are legal interests in property or rights held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individual Indians. Indian reservations, Rancherias, and Public Domain Allotments are common

ITAs in California. The nearest ITA is Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California approximately 12.47 miles southeast of the Proposed Action. The proposed action does not have a potential to affect ITAs (see Appendix A for additional details and a map showing all other tribal locations).

- Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996) requires that federal agencies accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners, and avoids adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. The proposed action would not be located on Federal lands and therefore would not affect access to or use of Indian sacred sites.
- Environmental Justice: Executive Order 12898 requires each Federal agency to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects of its program, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. Since there are no minority or low-income populations on or adjacent to the Proposed Action, there would be no disproportionate adverse human health or socio-economic and environmental effects.

### **3.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not award the STPUD with CALFED grant money equal to \$297,606. Although it is possible that the STPUD may find alternate sources of funding for the project, for the purposes of this EA, the consequences of Reclamation not providing funding for the Proposed Action would result in no construction which may result in STPUD not being able to meet state mandated water reductions. The No Action Alternative would have no effect on water resources, air quality, special status species, and cultural resources.

## 3.2 Proposed Action

### 3.2.1 Water Resources

The Proposed Action is located in the Upper Truckee River Watershed. The Upper Truckee River and the tributaries, which make up the Upper Truckee River Watershed comprise the largest contribution to the waters of Lake Tahoe. The Upper Truckee River Watershed is located in Alpine and El Dorado Counties. Tributaries include Angora, Echo, Grass Lake, and Big Meadow Creeks, and the Upper and Lower Echo, Round and Dardanelles Lakes. The headwaters are in Desolation Wilderness and in road-less areas managed for wilderness uses by the U.S. Forest Service.

The State of California adopts water quality standards to protect beneficial uses of state waters as required by Section 303(d) of the CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1969 (PCWQCA). Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act established the total maximum daily load (TMDL) process to guide the application of state water quality standards. In order to identify candidate water bodies for TMDL analysis, a list of water-quality limited streams was generated. These streams are impaired by the presence of pollutants such as sediment and are more sensitive to disturbance due to this impairment. The Upper Truckee River is 303(d) Listed as impaired for iron and phosphorus, both of which, could be transported to the Upper Truckee River via disturbance of soil (SWRCB, 2012).

Construction of the Proposed Action involves very minimal ground disturbance as the majority of construction will occur in STPUD right-of-way which already consists of impervious surface. If any excavation occurs from installation of meters, STPUD will use proper sedimentation control best management practices (BMPs) to ensure that no sediment or construction related pollutants will reach the Upper Truckee River.

### 3.2.2 Air Quality

Air quality within the Lake Tahoe Basin is regulated by several agencies including the USEPA, the California Air Resources Board (ARB), the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and the El Dorado Air Quality Management District (EDAQMD). The Proposed Action is located in the Lake Tahoe Air Basin (LTAB). The LTAB includes portions of El Dorado County and Placer County in California, and Washoe County, Douglas County, and Carson City Rural District in Nevada.

The LTAB is downwind of larger urban areas such as San Francisco and Sacramento area. The LTAB must conform to thresholds set by rule 502, general conformity thresholds. As a result, the LTAB is listed as Unclassified on the following pollutants: ozone; carbon monoxide (CO); nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>); sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>); fine particulate matter (PM 10 and PM<sub>2.5</sub>); and lead. These pollutants are commonly referred to as “criteria air pollutants.”



The Proposed Action supports existing and proposed air quality and greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions efforts. Installation of smart water meters will not only provide for water conservation, but also result in a reduction in emissions over time as the STPUD will eliminate the need for route driven meter readings. Over the 20-year lifecycle of the construction phase (Proposed Action plus Phase 5), there would be a net reduction of GHG emissions of 2,324 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. The EDAQMD has established quantitative operation emissions thresholds of 82 pounds per day for both Reactive Organic Gases (ROG) and Oxides of Nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>).

Construction phase emissions for the Proposed Action were calculated using the Road Construction Emissions Model Version 8.10 (Model) released in June 2016 by the Sacramento Air Quality Management District (SAQMD). Due to the small size of the Proposed Action and specific equipment used, the Model was best suited for the Proposed Action instead of either CalEEMod or the Offroad Simulation Model. The Model uses Sacramento Valley Air Basin Fleet Average Emissions Factors, representative of the equipment used for the Proposed Action.

The construction phase of the Proposed Action plus Phase 5 will result in daily ROG emissions of 0.80 pounds per day (0.15 tons per year (tpy)) and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions of 6.57 pounds per day (1.20 tpy), significantly under the EDAQMD CEQA significance threshold of 82 pounds per day for both respectively (Sierra Ecotone Solutions, 2016). *De minimus* levels of Sulphur Oxides (0.01 pounds per day or 0.01 tpy), inhalable particulates (PM<sub>10</sub> – 2.2 pounds per day (0.40 tpy) in comparison to 122 tons per day produced throughout El Dorado County), and Carbon Monoxide (5.66 pounds per day (1.03 tpy) compared to 890 tons per day produced throughout Eldorado County) (Sierra Ecotone Solutions, 2016).

In addition, because the analysis included Phase 5, the Proposed Action would result in even less ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> than the values presented above. Therefore, construction of the Proposed Action would have a negligible effect on air quality in the LTAB, and operation of the Proposed Action would be beneficial to air quality and GHG emissions in the LTAB. Emissions from the Proposed Actions are much lower than the general conformity *de minimis* thresholds (EDCAQMD, 1994). Therefore no general conformity analysis is required.

### **3.2.3 Special Status Biological Resources**

The Tahoe Basin provides habitat for over 250 species of resident and migratory vertebrate wildlife species. Each of these species of mammals (64), birds (168), and reptiles and amphibians (23) occurs in the region because a variety of habitats are available to meet their needs. The quality and size of these habitats generally determine the abundance of any one species or animal population.

An Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared by Sierra Ecotone Solutions, LLC for the Proposed Action (Sierra Ecotone Solutions 2016). The Initial Study analyzed biological resources to determine if the Proposed Action would have any effect on wildlife in the action area. The Initial

Study determined that there would be no effect on wildlife in the action area. Database searches included the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) database. In addition to the above searches, Reclamation validated the USFWS search on January 17, 2017. Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, Lahontan cutthroat trout, and North American wolverine (Table 1) are the three federally listed species with ranges in or near the action area.

**Table 1: Special Status Biological Resources**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	Effects	Potential Habitat Utilized by species in Proposed Action Area
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>				
<i>Rana sierra</i>	Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog	E	NE	<b>Absent.</b> The Project occurs within the general range of this species. No suitable habitat in the Proposed Action area.
<b>FISHES</b>				
<i>Oncorhynchus clarkia henshawi</i>	Lahontan cutthroat trout	E	NE	<b>Absent.</b> The Project occurs within the general range of this species. No suitable aquatic or riparian habitat in the Proposed Action area. No suitable habitat would be disturbed.
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>	North American wolverine	E	NE	<b>Absent.</b> The Project occurs within the general range of this species. No suitable habitat in the Proposed Action area.

According to the CNDDDB map included in the IS/MND, a total of 287 parcels as part of the Proposed Action are located near potential suitable habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. However, all meters are to be installed on existing water service lines to residential properties within a portion of maintained right-of-way and a small portion of private property. No impacts to stream banks, riparian vegetation or bodies of water will occur as a result of implementation of the Proposed Action. Access to meter locations will be via existing roads. No habitat for the Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog and Lahontan cutthroat trout will be disturbed.

The USFWS list also includes bird species that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and have potentially suitable habitat in the area surrounding the action area. The action will not result in the removal of any foraging or nesting habitat for any of the migratory bird species included in Appendix C, and would have no effect on migratory birds.

### 3.2.4 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources is a broad term that includes prehistoric, historic, architectural, and traditional cultural properties. Title 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq., formerly and commonly known as the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is the

primary legislation for Federal historic preservation. Section 106 of the NHPA (54 U.S.C. 306108) requires Federal agencies to take into consideration the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. Historic properties are those cultural resources that are listed in or are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The Section 106 regulations at 36 CFR 800 outline the process the Federal agency takes to identify historic properties within the area of potential effects (APE), and to assess the effects the proposed undertaking will have on those historic properties. The Section 106 process involves consultations with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Indian tribes, and other identified consulting and interested parties. The APE for the current undertaking consists of approximately 1,179 acres (Figure 1 and Figure 2) and includes the proposed AMI System installation locations and staging areas on surface streets and areas adjacent to the parcels that will be included in the Proposed Action. In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE, Dr. Susan Lindstrom (Lindstrom, 2016) conducted a records search of the California Historical Records System (CHRIS) and a pedestrian survey of the APE in June 2016. No historic properties were identified in the APE through these efforts.

Reclamation sent a letter to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California on December 28, 2016, to invite their participation in the Section 106 process and request their assistance in the identification of sites of religious and cultural significance or historic properties that may be affected by the proposed undertaking, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). To date, Reclamation has not received a response from this tribe.

Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect [36 CFR § 800.5(a)] for the Proposed Action and determined that it would result in no historic properties affected. Utilizing these identification efforts, Reclamation entered into consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in January 2017, seeking their concurrence on a finding of “no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1).” Reclamation received concurrence from SHPO on February 28, 2017 and the Section 106 process is complete. A copy of the response letter detailing SHPO’s findings is included in Appendix B.

The Proposed Action has the potential to affect historic properties. However, a records search and cultural resources survey did not identify any historic properties within the APE. Reclamation determined that no historic properties would be affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1); therefore, there would be no impacts to cultural resources as a result of implementing the Proposed Action.

### **3.2.5 Cumulative effects**

According to CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, a cumulative impact is defined as the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past,

present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

#### **1.1.1.1 Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

The Proposed Action (Phase 3 and 4) are independent from the completed Phase 1 and 2 in that the Proposed Action could have been completed during any construction phase along with Phase 5. The completed Phase 1 and 2 resulted in no adverse impacts to GHG emissions.

Phase 5 is not part of the Proposed Action, but was analyzed as part of the IS/MND. Although the Proposed Action along with the reasonably foreseeable Phase 5 would result in a small construction related GHG emission, improved operations would offset Phase 5's contribution to climate change. Over the 20 year multi-phased project lifecycle (Proposed Action plus Phase 5), a net reduction in GHG of 2,324 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> will occur from both water conservation (reducing energy required for production), and from the reduction in emissions associated with drive-by meter reading routes (Sierra Ecotone Solutions. 2016). Therefore, there are no cumulative effects associated with GHG emissions.

## **Section 4 Consultation and Coordination**

### **4.1 Agencies and Persons Consulted**

Reclamation consulted and coordinated with STPUD and used information included in the IS/MND.

### **4.2 Endangered Species Act (16 USC § 1531 et seq.)**

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of these species.

Reclamation determined that the project would have no effect on federally-listed as endangered or threatened species. Therefore, no consultation is needed.

### **4.3 Title 54 U.S.C § 306108, Commonly Known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act**

Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108 (formerly 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, properties determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register, and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. Compliance with Section 106 follows a series of steps, identified in its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800, that include identifying consulting and interested parties, identifying historic properties within the area of potential effect, and assessing effects on any identified historic properties, through consultations with the SHPO, Indian tribes and other consulting parties.

Reclamation determined that this is the type of action that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

## Section 5 References

- California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMOD). 2013. Windows Version 2013 2.1. October 28, 2013.
- El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (EDCAQMD). 1994. General Conformity Rule. Available: [http://edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement/Air\\_Quality\\_Plans.aspx](http://edcgov.us/Government/AirQualityManagement/Air_Quality_Plans.aspx). Accessed: 3/16/2017
- Hanak, E. Lund, J. Dinar, A. Gray, B., Howitt, R., Mount, J. Moyle, P. Thompson, B. (2011) *Managing California's Water: From Conflict to Reconciliation*. p. 258. Public Policy Institute of California. Retrieved July 18, 2016, from: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=944>.
- United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). 2014. Environmental Assessment: Madera Irrigation District Water Conservation, Telemetry Upgrade and Improvement Project. [http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/documentShow.cfm?Doc\\_ID=16881](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/documentShow.cfm?Doc_ID=16881). Accessed: November 3, 2015.
- Linström, Susan, Ph.D. 2016. South Tahoe Public Utilities District Water Meter Installation Project, Cultural Resources Inventory.
- California Environmental Protection Agency. 2016. Air Resources Control Board. Assembly Bill 32 Overview. Available: <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ab32/ab32.htm>. Accessed: 11/22/2016.
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2012. 2012 Integrated Report, CWA Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. Available: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2012.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2012.shtml). Accessed: 3/1/2017.
- Sierra Ecotone Solutions. 2016. South Tahoe Public Utility District Water Meter Installation Project. Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. Phases III through V.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2014. Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. <http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting/>.

# Appendix A: ITA Concurrence

## Indian Trust Assets Request Form (MP Region)

Submit your request to your office's ITA designee or to MP-400, attention Kevin Clancy.

Date: 12/21/2016

<b>Requested by</b> (office/program)	Nathaniel Martin
<b>Fund</b>	16XR0680A1
<b>WBS</b>	RX33080001150210E
<b>Fund Cost Center</b>	RR02015200
<b>Region #</b> (if other than MP)	
<b>Project Name</b>	Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System – South Tahoe Public Utilities District
<b>CEC or EA Number</b>	NA
<b>Project Description</b> (attach additional sheets if needed and include photos if appropriate)	<p>The South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD) is a special district that supplies approximately 14,000 drinking water connections with fresh potable water and 17,000 sewer service connections to the City of South Lake Tahoe and portions of El Dorado County. All drinking water supply sources are from 12 wells and produce and average annual water supply of 9,528 acre-feet per year (AFY).</p> <p>In order to comply with AB 2752 and reduce water demand by the year 2020, STPUD needs additional funding of \$297,606 in grant funds to finish Phase 3 and Phase 4 of its AMI installation. By regulating future water supply in the service area, and promoting conservation and meeting a 20% demand reduction, there will be water savings in the Truckee River downstream that will benefit tribes downstream near Pyramid Lake.</p>

<p><b>*Project Location (Township, Range, Section, e.g., T12 R5E S10, or Lat/Long cords, DD-MM-SS or decimal degrees). Include map(s)</b></p>	<p>There would be approximately 7,000 coordinates for this water meter installation. So for the sake of saving time, see the two additional attachments.</p>
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12/21/2016                      Nathaniel Martin                      Nathaniel Martin  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature                      Printed name of preparer                      Date

**ITA Determination:**

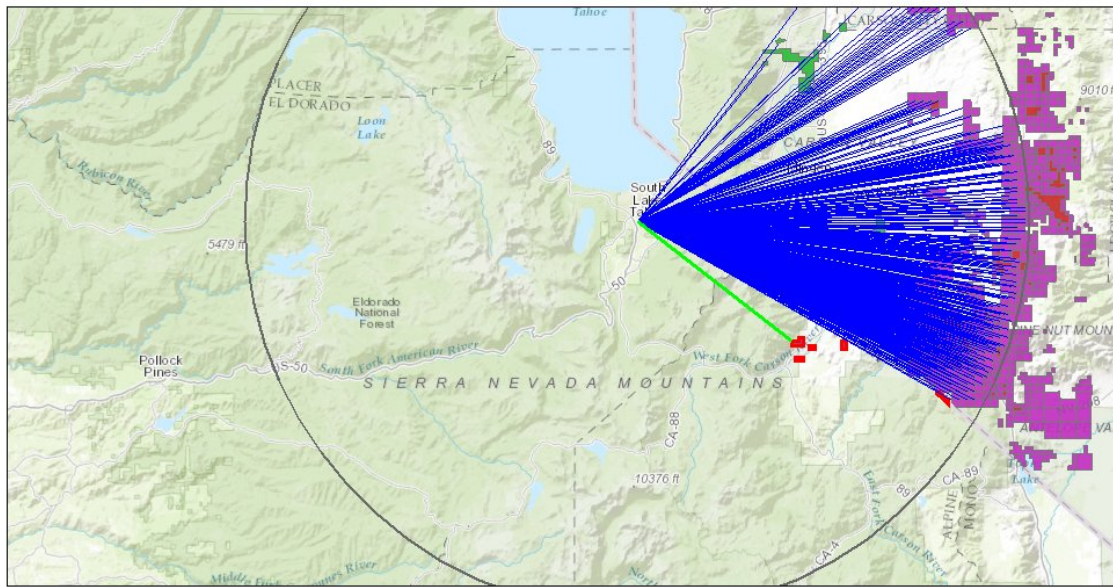
The closest ITA to the proposed **Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System – South Lake Tahoe Public Utilities District** activity is the **Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California** about **12.47** miles to the **southeast**. (See attached image).

Based on the nature of the planned work it **does not** appear to be in an area that will impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights nor is the proposed activity on actual Indian lands. It is reasonable to assume that the proposed action **will not** have any impacts on ITAs.

*K.Clancy*                      Kevin Clancy                      12/22/2016  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature                      Printed name of approver                      Date



# STPUD ITA



- |                                 |   |   |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Native American Lands FL</b> | Colony  | Rancheria   |
| American Indian Reservation     | Community   | Reservation                                       |
| Community                       | Federally Recognized Tribal Entity                | State Designated American Indian Statistical Area |
| Not Provided                    | Federally Recognized Tribal Entity (no land base) | Tribal Designated Statistical Area                |
| Off-reservation Trust Land      | Not Provided                                      | Tribal Jurisdiction Statistical Area              |
| <b>Native American Lands</b>    | Alaska Native Regional Corporation                | Off-Reservation Trust Land                        |
| <all other values>              | Alaska Native Village Statistical Area            | Off-reservation Trust Land                        |
| American Indian Reservation     | PDA   |   |

**RECLAMATION**  
Managing Water in the West

# Appendix B: NHPA, Section 106 Concurrence

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100  
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



February 27, 2017

In reply refer to:  
BUR\_2017\_0130\_002

Ms. Anastasia T. Leigh, Regional Environmental Officer

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-  
Pacific Regional Office 2800 Cottage  
Way, Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for the South Lake Tahoe Public  
Utility District (SLTPUD) Phases 3-5 Water Meter  
Installation Project, El Dorado County, California (Project  
16-LBAO-168)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) received on January 30, 2017 your letter initiating consultation on the above referenced undertaking under Section 106 of the NHPA, and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. Reclamation is proposing to award Drought Resiliency Grant funds to the SLTPUD to assist with installation of 5,300 residential water meters on existing unmetered water service connections throughout the SLTPUD service area. Excavation for installation will occur at compacted road shoulders adjacent to each property where the water lines were originally installed for water service.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) also is providing partial grant funding and previously consulted with the OHP with a finding of no historic properties affected and received concurrence (included OHP letter: EPA\_2016\_1003\_001 dated October 27, 2016).

Reclamation is seeking comments on the adequacy of defining the Area of Potential Effects (APE), on its historic property identification efforts and on its finding of no historic properties affected. Documents included with the submittal are:

- *Figure 1: Project Vicinity Map; Figure 2: Project Phase 3 APE; Figure 3: Project Phase 4 APE*
- *South Tahoe Public Utility District Water Meter Installation Project Cultural Resource Inventory (By: S. Lindstrom 2016) [For: South Lake Tahoe Public Utilities District, South Lake Tahoe, CA]).*

Installing each of the 5300 meters will require a 48-inch-deep excavated pit in the road shoulder at the right of way edge and, once installed, the meters will be flush with the ground. Reclamation determined that the area of potential effects (APE) is the same as that of the SWRCB which consists of about 1,179 acres and includes the proposed meter locations and staging areas on existing streets and next to the parcels being metered (Figures 2 & 3). As noted, the vertical APE is the 48-inch depth of each required meter pit.

Efforts to identify historic properties in the APE were conducted by Dr. Susan Lindstrom on behalf of SLTPUD; results are documented in the enclosed cultural resources inventory report (Lindstrom 2016). The efforts included background research; a records search at the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento; Native American consultation; and a mixed reconnaissance field survey of the APE. A total of 96 parcels were determined to be near cultural resources and subsequent investigation confirmed that most of these cultural resources were not within the APE (Lindstrom 2016: pp. 14-19, Table 1, p. 23).

Fifty water meters are located at parcels within the boundary of the Tahoe Meadows National Register of Historic Places District (listed 1990, revised 2010). However, the District is eligible under Criterion C for the architectural values of its historic buildings and the meters will be at the road shoulders and flush when installed and therefore there will be no undue visual effects from their installation (Lindstrom 2016: pp. 14-19). No other historic properties were identified in the APE and there is minimal potential for effects to subsurface deposits at the proposed meter installation points due to extensive prior ground disturbance during initial waterline installation and housing development (Lindstrom 2016: pp. 4, 15).

Reclamation invited the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California to consult and requested assistance in the identification of sites of religious and cultural significance or historic properties that may be affected, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(4). To date, no response has been received. Should any Native American concerns be subsequently raised, Reclamation will work to address them and make notifications as required.

Based on the included information and the scope of the proposed project, Reclamation has reached a no historic properties affected finding and requests comments. After OHP staff review of the documentation, the following comments are offered:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), there are no objections to the APE as defined;
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b), Reclamation has documented a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties within the area of potential effects.
- Reclamation has determined that the proposed undertaking will result in no historic properties affected. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), **I do not object.**

Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, Reclamation may have additional future responsibilities for this

undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended). Should you require further information, please contact Jeanette Schulz at [Jeanette.Schulz@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Jeanette.Schulz@parks.ca.gov) or (916) 445-7031.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Julianne Polanco

State Historic Preservation Officer

## Appendix C: USFWS IPac List

U  
F  
R  
1.  
R  
PHONE: (775)861-6300 FAX: (775)861-6301  
URL: [www.fws.gov/nevada/](http://www.fws.gov/nevada/)



**Department of the Interior**  
WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Wildlife Office  
1000 EAST BOULEVARD, SUITE 234  
502



Consultation Code: 08ENV00-2017-SLI-0148      January 17, 2017 Event Code: 08ENV00-2017-E-00245

Project Name: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System - South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD)

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

### To Whom It May Concern:

The attached species list indicates threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), for projects that are authorized, funded, or carried out by a Federal agency. Candidate species have no protection under the ESA but are included for consideration because they could be listed prior to the completion of your project. Consideration of these species during project planning may assist species conservation efforts and may prevent the need for future listing actions. For additional information regarding species that may be found in the proposed project area, visit <http://www.fws.gov/nevada/es/ipac.html>.

The purpose of the ESA is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the ESA and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or

designated or proposed critical habitat. Guidelines for preparing a Biological Assessment can be found at: [http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/ba\\_guide.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/section7/ba_guide.html).

If a Federal action agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species, and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this species list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally listed, proposed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the ESA, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally, as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation, for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the attached list.

The Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office (NFWO) no longer provides species of concern lists. Most of these species for which we have concern are also on the Animal and Plant At-Risk Tracking List for Nevada (At-Risk list) maintained by the State of Nevada's Natural Heritage Program (Heritage). Instead of maintaining our own list, we adopted Heritage's At-Risk list and are partnering with them to provide distribution data and information on the conservation needs for at-risk species to agencies or project proponents. The mission of Heritage is to continually evaluate the conservation priorities of native plants, animals, and their habitats, particularly those most vulnerable to extinction or in serious decline. In addition, in order to avoid future conflicts, we ask that you consider these at-risk species early in your project planning and explore management alternatives that provide for their long-term conservation.

For a list of at-risk species by county, visit Heritage's website (<http://heritage.nv.gov>). For a specific list of at-risk species that may occur in the project area, you can obtain a data request form from the website ([http://heritage.nv.gov/get\\_data](http://heritage.nv.gov/get_data)) or by contacting the Administrator of Heritage at 901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5002, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5245, (775) 684-2900. Please indicate on the form that your request is being obtained as part of your coordination with the Service under the ESA. During your project analysis, if you obtain new information or data for any Nevada sensitive species, we request that you provide the information to Heritage at the above address.

Furthermore, certain species of fish and wildlife are classified as protected by the State of Nevada (<http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NAC/NAC-503.html>). You must first obtain the appropriate license, permit, or written authorization from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to take, or possess any parts of protected fish and wildlife species. Please visit

<http://www.ndow.org> or contact NDOW in northern Nevada (775) 688-1500, in southern Nevada (702) 486-5127, or in eastern Nevada (775) 777-2300.

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan ([http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle\\_guidance.html](http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html)). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the Service's wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

The Service's Pacific Southwest Region developed the *Interim Guidelines for the Development of a Project Specific Avian and Bat Protection Plan for Wind Energy Facilities* (Interim Guidelines). This document provides energy facility developers with a tool for assessing the risk of potential impacts to wildlife resources and delineates how best to design and operate a bird- and bat-friendly wind facility. These Interim Guidelines are available upon request from the NFWO. The intent of a Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy is to conserve wildlife resources while supporting project developers through: (1) establishing project development in an adaptive management framework; (2) identifying proper siting and project design strategies; (3) designing and implementing pre-construction surveys; (4) implementing appropriate conservation measures for each development phase; (5) designing and implementing appropriate post-construction monitoring strategies; (6) using post-construction studies to better understand the dynamics of mortality reduction (*e.g.*, changes in blade cut-in speed, assessments of blade “feathering” success, and studies on the effects of visual and acoustic deterrents) including efforts tied into Before-After/Control-Impact analysis; and (7) conducting a thorough risk assessment and validation leading to adjustments in management and mitigation actions.

The template and recommendations set forth in the Interim Guidelines were based upon the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee's Avian Protection Plan template (<http://www.aplic.org/>) developed for electric utilities and modified accordingly to address the unique concerns of wind energy facilities. These recommendations are also consistent with the Service's wind energy guidelines. We recommend contacting us as early as possible in the planning process to discuss the need and process for developing a site-specific Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy.

The Service has also developed guidance regarding wind power development in relation to prairie grouse leks (sage-grouse are included in this). This document can be found at: [http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Oklahoma/documents/te\\_species/wind%20power/prairie%20gr](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/Oklahoma/documents/te_species/wind%20power/prairie%20gr)

Migratory Birds are a Service Trust Resource. Based on the Service's conservation responsibilities and management authority for migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended (MBTA; 16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*), we recommend that any land clearing or other surface disturbance associated with proposed actions within the project area be timed to avoid potential destruction of bird nests or young, or birds that breed in the area. Such destruction may be in violation of the MBTA. Under the MBTA, nests with eggs or young of migratory birds may not be harmed, nor may migratory birds be killed. Therefore, we recommend land clearing be conducted outside the avian breeding season. If this is not feasible, we recommend a qualified biologist survey the area prior to land clearing. If nests are located, or if other evidence of nesting (*i.e.*, mated pairs, territorial defense, carrying nesting material,

transporting food) is observed, a protective buffer (the size depending on the habitat requirements of the species) should be delineated and the entire area avoided to prevent destruction or disturbance to nests until they are no longer active.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects involving communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

If wetlands, springs, or streams are known to occur in the project area or are present in the vicinity of the project area, we ask that you be aware of potential impacts project activities may have on these habitats. Discharge of fill material into wetlands or waters of the United States is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) pursuant to section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended. We recommend you contact the ACOE's Regulatory Section regarding the possible need for a permit. For projects located in northern Nevada (Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, and Washoe Counties) contact the Reno Regulatory Office at 300 Booth Street, Room 3060, Reno, Nevada 89509, (775) 784-5304; in southern Nevada (Clark, Lincoln, Nye, and White Pine Counties) contact the St. George Regulatory Office at 321 North Mall Drive, Suite L-101, St. George, Utah 84790-7314, (435) 986-3979; or in California along the eastern Sierra contact the Sacramento Regulatory Office at 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-200, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 557-5250.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

The table below outlines lead FWS field offices by county and land ownership/project type. Please refer to this table when you are ready to coordinate (including requests for section 7 consultation) with the field office corresponding to your project, and send any documentation regarding your project to that corresponding office. Therefore, the lead FWS field office may not be the office listed above in the letterhead.

**Lead FWS offices by County and Ownership/Program**

<b>County</b>	<b>Ownership/Program</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Office Lead*</b>
<b>Alameda</b>	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to Bays	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
<b>Alameda</b>	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO



<b>Alpine</b>	Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest	All	RFWO
<b>Alpine</b>	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit	All	RFWO
<b>Alpine</b>	Stanislaus National Forest	All	SFWO
<b>Alpine</b>	El Dorado National Forest	All	SFWO
<b>Colusa</b>	Mendocino National Forest	All	AFWO
<b>Colusa</b>	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
<b>Contra Costa</b>	Legal Delta (Excluding ECCHCP)	All	BDFWO
<b>Contra Costa</b>	Antioch Dunes NWR	All	BDFWO
<b>Contra Costa</b>	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to Bays	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
<b>Contra Costa</b>	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
<b>Del Norte</b>	All	All	AFWO
<b>El Dorado</b>	El Dorado National Forest	All	SFWO
<b>El Dorado</b>	LakeTahoe Basin Management Unit		RFWO
<b>Glenn</b>	Mendocino National Forest	All	AFWO

<b>Glenn</b>	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
<b>Humboldt</b>	All except Shasta Trinity National Forest	All	AFWO
<b>Humboldt</b>	Shasta Trinity National Forest	All	YFWO
<b>Lake</b>	Mendocino National Forest	All	AFWO
<b>Lake</b>	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
<b>Lassen</b>	Modoc National Forest	All	KFWO
<b>Lassen</b>	Lassen National Forest	All	SFWO
<b>Lassen</b>	Toiyabe National Forest	All	RFWO
<b>Lassen</b>	BLM Surprise and Eagle Lake Resource Areas	All	RFWO
<b>Lassen</b>	BLM Alturas Resource Area	All	KFWO
<b>Lassen</b>	Lassen Volcanic National Park	All (includes Eagle Lake trout on all ownerships)	SFWO
<b>Lassen</b>	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
<b>Marin</b>	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to Bays	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO

<b>Marin</b>	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
<b>Mendocino</b>	Russian River watershed	All	SFWO
<b>Mendocino</b>	All except Russian River watershed	All	AFWO
<b>Modoc</b>	Modoc National Forest	All	KFWO
<b>Modoc</b>	BLM Alturas Resource Area	All	KFWO
<b>Modoc</b>	Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex	All	KFWO
<b>Modoc</b>	BLM Surprise and Eagle Lake Resource Areas	All	RFWO
<b>Modoc</b>	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (See map)
<b>Mono</b>	Inyo National Forest	All	RFWO
<b>Mono</b>	Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest	All	RFWO
<b>Napa</b>	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
<b>Napa</b>	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Pablo Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
<b>Nevada</b>	Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest	All	RFWO
			By jurisdiction (See

<b>Nevada</b>	All other ownerships	All	map)
<b>Placer</b>	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit	All	RFWO
<b>Placer</b>	All other ownerships	All	SFWO
<b>Sacramento</b>	Legal Delta	Delta Smelt	BDFWO
<b>Sacramento</b>	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
<b>San Francisco</b>	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Francisco Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
<b>San Francisco</b>	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
<b>San Mateo</b>	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Francisco Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
<b>San Mateo</b>	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
<b>San Joaquin</b>	Legal Delta excluding San Joaquin HCP	All	BDFWO
<b>San Joaquin</b>	Other	All	SFWO
<b>Santa Clara</b>	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Francisco Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
<b>Santa Clara</b>	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO

<b>Shasta</b>	Shasta Trinity National Forest except Hat Creek Ranger District (administered by Lassen National Forest)	All	YFWO
<b>Shasta</b>	Hat Creek Ranger District	All	SFWO
<b>Shasta</b>	Bureau of Reclamation (Central Valley Project)	All	BDFWO
<b>Shasta</b>	Whiskeytown National Recreation Area	All	YFWO
<b>Shasta</b>	BLM Alturas Resource Area	All	KFWO
<b>Shasta</b>	Caltrans	By jurisdiction	SFWO/AFWO
<b>Shasta</b>	Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park	Shasta crayfish	SFWO
<b>Shasta</b>	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
<b>Shasta</b>	Natural Resource Damage Assessment, all lands	All	SFWO/BDFWO
<b>Sierra</b>	Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest	All	RFWO
<b>Sierra</b>	All other ownerships	All	SFWO
<b>Siskiyou</b>	Klamath National Forest (except Ukonom District)	All	YFWO
<b>Siskiyou</b>	Six Rivers National Forest and Ukonom District	All	AFWO

<b>Siskiyou</b>	Shasta Trinity National Forest	All	YFWO
<b>Siskiyou</b>	Lassen National Forest	All	SFWO
<b>Siskiyou</b>	Modoc National Forest	All	KFWO
<b>Siskiyou</b>	Lava Beds National Volcanic Monument	All	KFWO
<b>Siskiyou</b>	BLM Alturas Resource Area	All	KFWO
<b>Siskiyou</b>	Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex	All	KFWO
<b>Siskiyou</b>	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
<b>Solano</b>	Suisun Marsh	All	BDFWO
<b>Solano</b>	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Pablo Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
<b>Solano</b>	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO
<b>Solano</b>	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
<b>Sonoma</b>	Tidal wetlands/marsh adjacent to San Pablo Bay	Salt marsh species, delta smelt	BDFWO
<b>Sonoma</b>	All ownerships but tidal/estuarine	All	SFWO

<b>Tehama</b>	Mendocino National Forest	All	AFWO
<b>Tehama</b>	Shasta Trinity National Forest except Hat Creek Ranger District (administered by Lassen National Forest)	All	YFWO
<b>Tehama</b>	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
<b>Trinity</b>	BLM	All	AFWO
<b>Trinity</b>	Six Rivers National Forest	All	AFWO
<b>Trinity</b>	Shasta Trinity National Forest	All	YFWO
<b>Trinity</b>	Mendocino National Forest	All	AFWO
<b>Trinity</b>	BIA (Tribal Trust Lands)	All	AFWO
<b>Trinity</b>	County Government	All	AFWO
<b>Trinity</b>	All other ownerships	All	By jurisdiction (See map)
<b>Yolo</b>	Yolo Bypass	All	BDFWO
<b>Yolo</b>	Other	All	By jurisdiction (see map)
<b>All</b>	FERC-ESA	All	By jurisdiction (see map)

All	FERC-ESA	Shasta crayfish	SFWO
All	FERC-Relicensing (non-ESA)	All	BDFWO
<b>*Office Leads:</b>			
<b>AFWO=Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office</b>			
<b>BDFWO=Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office</b>			
<b>KFWO=Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Office</b>			
<b>RFWO=Reno Fish and Wildlife Office</b>			
<b>YFWO=Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office</b>			

Attachment





United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System - South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD)

## Section 2 Official Species List

**Provided by:**

Reno Fish and Wildlife Office  
1340 FINANCIAL BOULEVARD, SUITE 234  
RENO, NV 89502  
(775) 861-6300  
<http://www.fws.gov/nevada/>

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**Consultation Code:** 08ENVD00-2017-SLI-0148

**Event Code:** 08ENVD00-2017-E-00245

**Project Type:** WATER SUPPLY / DELIVERY

**Project Name:** Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System - South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD)

**Project Description:** STPUD is a special district that supplies approximately 14,000 drinking water connections with fresh potable water and 17,000 sewer service connections to the City of South Lake Tahoe and portions of El Dorado County. All drinking water supply sources are from 12 wells and produce an average annual water supply of 9,528 acre-feet per year (AFY).

STPUD operates within the delicate environmental of Lake Tahoe and is subject to a high level of regulations by multiple state and federal agencies, including the only bi-state regulatory agency, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). However, the Proposed Action area or STPUD service area is located only in California and is subject to California State Drinking Water and Sewer Treatment requirements.

The Proposed Action involves installation of AMI for Phase 3 and part of Phase 4 in the STPUD service area. Phase 3 involves the installation of 1,432 water meters and Phase 4 involves the installation of 1,327 water meters. Metering in the STPUD service area will allow STPUD to meter volumetric consumption, and better determine district water allocation.

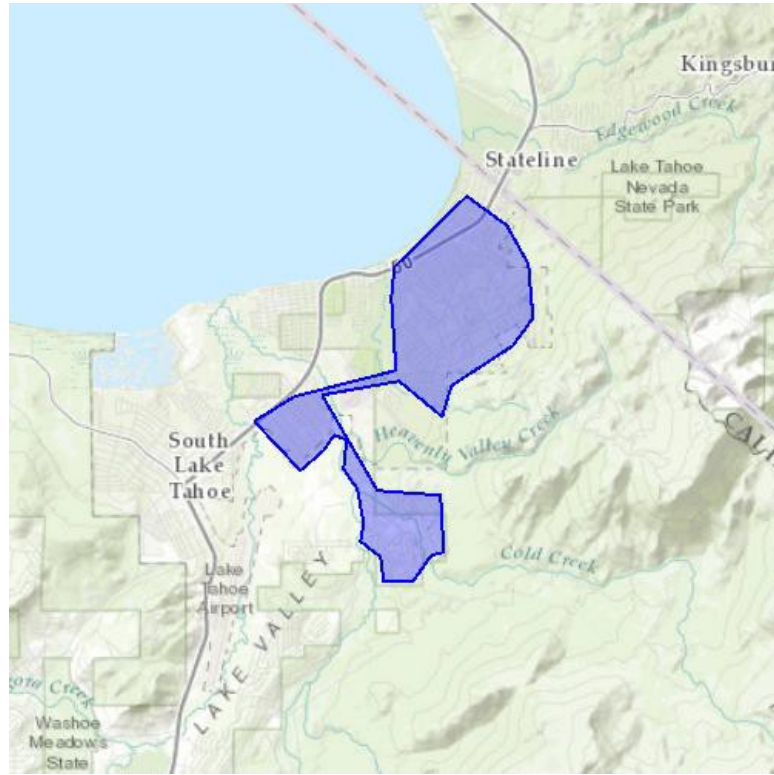
**Please Note:** The FWS office may have modified the Project Name and/or Project Description, so it may be different from what was submitted in your previous request. If the Consultation Code matches, the FWS considers this to be the same project. Contact the office in the 'Provided by' section of your previous Official Species list if you have any questions or concerns.



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System - South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD)

**Project Location Map:**



**Project Coordinates:** MULTIPOLYGON (((-119.94049072265626 38.953001345359894, -119.93637084960939 38.947127343262494, -119.93534088134767 38.93884951409651, -119.93946075439455 38.93457670800124, -119.95147705078125 38.92843409820933, -119.9531936645508 38.923626467304864, -119.96177673339845 38.92910179895564, -119.97688293457033 38.926965134444345, -119.96606826782228 38.91240739487225, -119.95370864868165 38.9116059646841, -119.95302200317384 38.90292322429229, -119.95559692382814 38.902388867119434, -119.95920181274415 38.8985146573459, -119.96486663818361 38.8985146573459, -119.96555328369142 38.90212168702489, -119.96932983398439 38.90452627168111, -119.96881484985353 38.90733151751689, -119.9700164794922 38.91254096569048, -119.97276306152344 38.91561302513129, -119.97207641601562 38.92028764304619, -119.97465133666994 38.92095542046727, -119.97671127319337 38.91855139233948, -119.98134613037111 38.915479460094645, -119.99027252197267 38.922958715022546, -119.98237609863283 38.9268315907755, -119.96254920959474 38.93090455957685, -119.96332168579103 38.94192043445517, -119.96280670166017 38.946660072194845, -119.94838714599611 38.957540013564184, -



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System - South Tahoe Public Utilities  
District (STPUD)

119.94049072265626 38.953001345359894)))

**Project Counties:** El Dorado, CA



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System - South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD)

### Section 3 Endangered Species Act Species List

There are a total of 3 threatened or endangered species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section further below for critical habitat that lies within your project. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Amphibians	Status	Has Critical Habitat	Condition(s)
Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog ( <i>Rana sierrae</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Endangered	Final designated	
<b>Fishes</b>			
Lahontan cutthroat trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Threatened		
<b>Mammals</b>			
North American wolverine ( <i>Gulo gulo luscus</i> ) Population: Wherever found	Proposed Threatened		



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System - South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD)

## **Section 4 Critical habitats that lie within your project area**

There are no critical habitats within your project area.



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System - South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD)

## **Section 5** Appendix A: FWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries

There are no refuges or fish hatcheries within your project area.



United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System - South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD)

## Section 6 Appendix B: FWS Migratory Birds

The protection of birds is regulated by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16

U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). The MBTA has no otherwise lawful activities. For more information regarding these Acts see: <http://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/migratory-bird-treaty-act.php> <http://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/laws-legislations/bald-and-golden-eagle-protection-act.php>

All project proponents are responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations protecting birds when planning and developing a project. To meet these conservation obligations, proponents should identify potential or existing project-related impacts to migratory birds and their habitat and develop and implement conservation measures that avoid, minimize, or compensate for these impacts. The Service's Birds of Conservation Concern (2008) report identifies species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become listed under the Endangered Species Act as amended (16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.).

For information about Birds of Conservation Concern, go to:

<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>

For information about conservation measures that help avoid or minimize impacts to birds, please visit: <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php>

To search and view summaries of year-round bird occurrence data within your project area, go to the Avian Knowledge Network Histogram Tools at:

<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/akn-histogram-tools.php>

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United States Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System - South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD)

**Migratory birds that may be affected by your project:**

There are 27 birds on your migratory bird list. The list may include birds occurring outside this FWS office jurisdiction.

Species Name	Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC)	Seasonal Occurrence in Project Area
Bald eagle ( <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Black Rosy-Finch ( <i>Leucosticte atrata</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Black Swift ( <i>Cypseloides niger</i> )	Yes	Breeding
Brewer's Sparrow ( <i>Spizella breweri</i> )	Yes	Breeding
California spotted Owl ( <i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Calliope Hummingbird ( <i>Stellula calliope</i> )	Yes	Breeding
Flammulated owl ( <i>Otus flammeolus</i> )	Yes	Breeding
Fox Sparrow ( <i>Passerella iliaca</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Greater sage-grouse ( <i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Green-tailed Towhee ( <i>Pipilo chlorurus</i> )	Yes	Breeding
Lewis's Woodpecker ( <i>Melanerpes lewis</i> )	Yes	Wintering
Loggerhead Shrike ( <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Long-Billed curlew ( <i>Numenius americanus</i> )	Yes	Breeding
Olive-Sided flycatcher ( <i>Contopus cooperi</i> )	Yes	Breeding
Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus</i> )	Yes	Year-round





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Pinyon Jay ( <i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Rufous-crowned Sparrow ( <i>Aimophila ruficeps</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Sage Thrasher ( <i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i> )	Yes	Breeding
Short-eared Owl ( <i>Asio flammeus</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Snowy Plover ( <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> )	Yes	Breeding
Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> )	Yes	Breeding
tricolored blackbird ( <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> )	Yes	Breeding
Virginia's Warbler ( <i>Vermivora virginiae</i> )	Yes	Breeding
Western grebe ( <i>aechmophorus occidentalis</i> )	Yes	Year-round
White-headed Woodpecker ( <i>Picoides albolarvatus</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Williamson's Sapsucker ( <i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i> )	Yes	Year-round
Willow Flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax traillii</i> )	Yes	Breeding



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## Section 7 Appendix C: NWI Wetlands

Wetlands data for your project area was not available at the time of this species list request.