

August 4, 2020

### VIA EMAIL ONLY

Advice Letter No. 152-E (U 933-E)

California Public Utilities Commission Energy Division, Tariff Unit 505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

### Subject: Meyers 3400 Distribution Line PU Code § 320 Deviation

#### **Purpose**

Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC (U 933 E) ("Liberty CalPeco") hereby submits this Tier 3 Advice Letter No. 100-E requesting a PUC Code § 320 deviation for its Meyers 3400 Distribution Line project.

#### **Project Background**

On October 29, 2018 Liberty CalPeco submitted Advice Letter ("AL") 100-E requesting approval to deviate from PUC Code § 320 for its Meyers 3400 Distribution Line. In consultation with Energy Division, Liberty CalPeco withdrew AL-100-E until it could obtain all the necessary permits to complete the project from the partnering agencies, including the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency ("TRPA") and the California Division of Fish and Wildlife ("CADFW"). The CPUC also requested that Liberty CalPeco complete the studies to support a California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Categorical Exemption, which includes the Cultural Resource Evaluation, Biological Resource Assessment, and a Scenic Resource Evaluation utilizing the Caltran's Scenic Highway protocols for Visual Impact Assessments. Once all of these items were completed, the CPUC advised Liberty CalPeco to submit an Advice Letter with the permits and studies as appendices to the advice letter. This advice letter submission includes all of the necessary permitting and documentation to support approval of Liberty CalPeco's request.

#### **Project Description**

During General Order ("GO") 165 inspections of the Meyers 3400 distribution line conducted in 2017, Liberty CalPeco identified several poles (poles 1017 through 13382; see Exhibit A) that required replacement. These poles are located in steep terrain that is difficult and unsafe to patrol and replacing the poles would require a helicopter, road closures, cranes, and extensive access issues from the property owner to set the new poles and perform on-going maintenance. Operationally, Liberty CalPeco plans to move this section of poles to a better and more accessible location and convert the bare conductor to covered conductor to meet the parameters of Liberty CalPeco's Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The site, located on State Route ("SR") 89 at Mile Post ED 14.817, is characterized by steep slopes, boulder fields, and is sandwiched by State

Highways with no guardrails. Due to the steep terrain and boulder fields, underground boring is not viable at this location.

During the years that this project has been in consideration, new Wildfire Mitigation regulations were required. Liberty CalPeco has developed a Wildfire Mitigation Plan that indicates that covered conductor is utilized on new projects where feasible and that existing lines are upgraded utilizing a system hardening approach.

The proposed design seeks to eliminate maintenance safety hazards, reduce scenic highway overhead crossings, and incorporate system hardening design standards from Liberty CalPeco's Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

### **Proposed Alternative**

The proposed alternative involves removing the existing line along with three existing overhead crossings to a lowland area with one new aerial crossing of SR 89 near Cascade Creek. (See Exhibit B). The proposed alternative would eliminate three existing crossings of SR 89, with approximately 2,545 feet of visible overhead wire and associated poles. Approximately eight of the existing poles are visible from State Highway 89. The project would create one new aerial crossing of SR 89 (a state scenic highway), with approximately 120 feet of visible overhead wire. The existing line would be removed by chainsaw by a ground crew, cutting the base of 13 power poles and then lifting the poles out by helicopter. The project would reduce visibility of utility poles and lines along SR 89 by removing thirteen existing poles and associated infrastructure and replacing them with five new poles and electric lines, a portion of which would be visible from SR 89. Only two of the new poles would be visible from SR 89. The entire proposed design also meets the goals and objectives of the Liberty CalPeco Wildfire Mitigation Plan and incorporates system hardening design principles.

Liberty CalPeco met with the affected property owners in May of 2019 and again in April of 2020 to discuss the design alternatives. The property owners are supportive of the proposed alternative due to the minimal impact to their parcels. The owners are very concerned about any alternatives that would result in multiple tree removals, yet understand that the current conditions are unsafe. Easements will be granted for the proposed alternative.

The proposed replacement is scheduled to begin in mid-2021 and be completed before October 2021.

The equipment to be utilized on this project includes two 45-foot class, creosote-treated Douglas fir poles, approximately 150 feet of 2-#2ACSR primary wire, and associated anchors and guy wires. This installation is a permanent facility.

### **Alternative Designs**

During the two years since the GO 165 inspections, Liberty CalPeco explored alternatives to relocate the lines.

#### Design Alternative 1

Design Alternative 1 (Exhibit C) involved creating a lateral line off of the 3400 circuit mainline along the Cascade Ridge to feed the homes at Cascade Lake. The proposed route was designed to create the shortest lateral with the minimal impact to trees on the Cascade Ridge and was also not within the scenic highway buffer. Liberty CalPeco met with the landowners and walked the proposed line. The landowners refused to sign off on Design Alternative 1 because they did not want another land break in their property and did not want any additional utility rights-of-way on their property. Because the land owners refused access, Liberty CalPeco did not continue to pursue Design Alternative 1.

#### No Project Alternative

Upon discovering the complexities and roadblocks involved with relocating the existing line, Liberty CalPeco explored the No Project Alternative. This alternative involved maintaining and replacing poles in the existing alignment. Although this alternative would eliminate the need for any regulatory approvals, it still presented unsafe conditions to line workers and inspectors. Additionally, Liberty CalPeco's Wildfire Mitigation Plan calls for replacing bare conductor with covered conductor on the Meyers 3400 line. The chosen conductor that Liberty CalPeco is incorporating to covered conductor projects is the Hendrix ACS system. The Hendrix ACS system includes a highly visible spacer cable system that would increase the visual impacts along the CA designated Scenic Corridor. The three overhead crossings would be more visible under the No Project Alternative, plus line worker safety would be in jeopardy during any maintenance activities on the line. Due to these very important factors, the No Project Alternative was eliminated.

#### <u>CEQA</u>

A CEQA Exemption report was compiled for the Proposed Alternative. All other design alternatives were not reviewed under CEQA. The following discussion refers to the Proposed Alternative only.

Liberty CalPeco retained Ascent Environmental ("Ascent") to review the Proposed Alternative under CEQA regulations. Ascent reviewed the project and determined that the project is exempt from CEQA under Article 19 Section 15301. Please refer to Exhibit D for the full CEQA analysis. In order to support the CEQA analysis, Ascent reviewed the project for Biological, Cultural and Scenic impacts and determined that there were no project-related impacts that would preclude Categorical Exemption findings.

#### Scenic Resource Evaluation

After much consultation with the CPUC and Caltrans, Liberty CalPeco was directed to prepare a Visual Impact Assessment ("VIA," Exhibit E) to fully analyze the impact of the proposed alternative on the designated scenic highway. Once the VIA was completed, Liberty CalPeco was directed to provide the VIA to Caltrans. Caltrans would provide their comments to the CPUC to be incorporated in the final decision.

The VIA follows the guidance outlined in the publication *Visual Impact Assessment for Highway Projects* published by the Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") in March 1981. The VIA concluded the following:

"The proposed project would not affect any scenic vistas, negatively alter visual characteror adversely affect scenic resources within the scenic highway. The proposed project would not be a source of new light and glare. The project would reduce the number of aerial crossings and utility poles that are visible from State Route 89. The reduction in the number of poles and length of utility wire visible within the corridor would increase the visual quality, and the resource change would be positive. The project is consistent with local regulations and guidelines addressing scenic quality and is supported by TRPA, the local regulatory agency. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a significant impact on visual resources within the scenic highway corridor."

#### Cultural Resource Evaluation

Liberty CalPeco retained Natural Investigations Company, Inc. ("Natural Investigations") to provide a cultural resource investigation (Exhibit F) for the proposed alternative. Natural Investigations performed a records search as well as pedestrian surveys. The conclusion of the Cultural Resource report recommends that a representative of the Washoe Tribe be present to monitor project-related disturbance.

#### **Biological Resources**

Ascent conducted reconnaissance surveys, and habitat assessments for special-status species, invasive fish, and potential wetlands and waters of the US in October of 2019. Ascent prepared a Biological Memo (Exhibit G) which indicates that project-related disturbance was unexpected. One occurrence of the common mullein, an invasive plant, was found and was recommended for treatment prior to project implementation.

#### Agency Permitting

The following permits have been obtained for the Proposed Alternative:

- TRPA Linear Public Facilities Permit (Exhibit H)
- California Fish and Wildlife Service Streambed Alteration Agreement (Exhibit I)

A CalTrans encroachment permit is required, but cannot be obtained until the CPUC provides a PUC Code § 320 deviation via this advice letter.

No other agency approvals are anticipated for the Proposed Alternative.

#### **Project Costs**

The table below provides the forecast costs for this project.

Description	2020 Cost	2021 Cost	Total
Internal Labor (combine all LU employee hours multiply by hr. rate)	\$26,000	\$24,000	\$50,000
Project Management	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000
Survey and Easements	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$8,000
Procurement		\$3,000	\$3,000
Planning	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$7,500
Ops Inspector		\$7,500	\$7,500
Environmental	\$8,000	\$3,000	\$11,000
Veg Management	\$5,000	\$2,000	\$7,000
Materials (cost of items pulled from inventory)		\$80,000	\$80,000
Vouchers (all invoices, payments leaving LU to contractors, permits)	\$99,749	\$510,000	\$609,749
Construction Contractor		\$430,000	\$430,000
Hendrix Material		\$60,000	\$60,000
Ascension Power Engineering (already committed costs)	\$51,165	\$20,000	\$71,165
Ascent Environmental (already committed costs)	\$40,343		\$40,343
Permit Fees (already committed costs)	\$7,241		\$7,241
Cressaty Consulting (already committed costs)	\$1,000		\$1,000
Payroll Overhead (multiple all internal labor by 45%)	\$11,700	\$10,800	\$22,500
Overheads (add material and voucher together, multiply by 30%)	\$29,925	\$177,000	\$206,925
Contingency (add all and multiply by 10%)	\$16,737	\$80,180	\$96,917
Total	\$184,111	\$881,980	\$1,066,091

### **Tier Designation**

Pursuant to General Order 96-B, Section 5, this advice letter is being submitted with a Tier 3 designation.

### **Effective Date**

Liberty CalPeco requests that the Commission issue a resolution no later than September 4, 2020 that grants a PUC Code § 320 deviation for this project.

#### **Protests**

Anyone wishing to protest this Advice Letter may do so by letter sent via U.S. mail, by facsimile or by email, any of which must be received no later than August 24, 2020, which is 20 days after the date of this Advice Letter. There are no restrictions on who may submit a protest, but the protest shall set forth the grounds upon which it is based and shall be submitted expeditiously. Protests should be mailed to:

California Public Utilities Commission Energy Division, Tariff Unit 505 Van Ness Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94102-3298 Facsimile: (415) 703-2200 Email: <u>edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov</u>

The protest should be sent via email and U.S. Mail (and by facsimile, if possible) to Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC at the address shown below on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission:

Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC Attn: Advice Letter Protests 933 Eloise Avenue South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 Fax: 530-544-4811 Email: Dan.Marsh@libertyutilities.com

#### **Notice**

In accordance with General Order 96-B, Section 4.3, a copy of this Advice Letter is being sent electronically to parties shown on the attached service lists. Due to file size of the exhibits, they are available by request.

If additional information is required, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

LIBERTY UTILITIES (CALPECO ELECTRIC) LLC

/s/ Daniel W. Marsh

Daniel W. Marsh Manager, Rates and Regulatory Affairs

cc: Liberty CalPeco General Order 96-B Service List

Attachments

Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC Advice Letter Filing Service List General Order 96-B, Section 4.3

#### **VIA EMAIL**

gbinge@ktminc.com; emello@sppc.com; epoole@adplaw.com; cem@newsdata.com; rmccann@umich.edu; sheila@wma.org; abb@eslawfirm.com; cbk@eslawfirm.com; bhodgeusa@yahoo.com; chilen@nvenergy.com; phanschen@mofo.com; liddell@energyattorney.com; cem@newsdata.com; dietrichlaw2@earthlink.net; ericj@eslawfirm.com; clerk-recorder@sierracounty.ws; plumascoco@gmail.com; marshall@psln.com; stephenhollabaugh@tdpud.org; gross@portersimon.com; mccluretahoe@yahoo.com; catherine.mazzeo@swgas.com; Theresa.Faegre@libertyutilities.com; SDG&ETariffs@semprautilities.com; greg.campbell@libertyutilities.com; bcragg@goodinmacbride.com;

AdviceTariffManager@sce.com; edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov; jrw@cpuc.ca.gov; rmp@cpuc.ca.gov; jaime.gannon@cpuc.ca.gov; mas@cpuc.ca.gov; txb@cpuc.ca.gov; efr@cpuc.ca.gov; tlg@cpuc.ca.gov; dao@cpuc.ca.gov; ljt@cpuc.ca.gov; mmg@cpuc.ca.gov; kil@cpuc.ca.gov; denise.tyrrell@cpuc.ca.gov; fadi.daye@cpuc.ca.gov; winnie.ho@cpuc.ca.gov; usrb@cpuc.ca.gov; Rob.Oglesby@energy.ca.gov; stevegreenwald@dwt.com; vidhyaprabhakaran@dwt.com; judypau@dwt.com; dwtcpucdockets@dwt.com; patrickferguson@dwt.com; travis.ritchie@sierraclub.org; dan.marsh@libertyutilities.com; sharon.yang@libertyutilities.com; ginge@kinectenergy.com

Exhibit A

GO 165 Inspections





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	Sor	uth Tahoe Office		
Liberty	Utilities GO16	65 Maintenance Ir	nspection Form	
NOTE: UNDERLINED FIELDS	MUST BE ENTERED	)		
District Office: South Tahoe	Office Inspect	ed By: Smily Stahl	Insp. Date: 721/51 /20	17
Substation: Meyers	Circuit	#: 3400	Other Circuit #:	
City. State: South Lake Taho	e, CA	n Desc: NEAR OAGLE	POINT / EMERALD BAY	
Equipment Type (Choo	se OH or UG - Che	ck One Unit of Plant - Fill I	n Equipment ID Where Indicated):	
ОН		UG UG		
Unit of Plant Overhead	Mail Same 1	Unit of Plant Und	erground Equipment ID	_
Pole		Interrupter	<b></b>	
Structure Tower		Junction Enclosure Padmount Capacitor L		-
		Padmount Switch		
Equipment ID 2909:	2	Padmount Transforme	r 🔲	
(Pole Nun	nber)	Primary Metering		
		Subsurface Switch		_
		Subsurface Transform Vault / Box	er 🗋	-
Associated Equipment	Associated	Equipment ID	Non - GO 165 Infractions	
Capacitor Bank	ASSURACED		Lightning Arrestors	
Cutout (Fuse)			Penta Head Bolts	
Disconnects			Pole Leaning / Unsafe to Climb	
Recloser			Pole Needs Replacing	
			Pole Number Missing	
Sectionalizer			Pole Stub (Old) Needs Removal Transformer Not Tested	
Transformer				
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Non - GO 165 Infraction	L	Within 24 N	Ionths	
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Crossarm Broken / Split / Loose		e Sign Problem	Tagging / Labels Tree Condition	
Equipment Anchors		leed Replacing	Work Space / Climbing Space	
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REPAIRED	Repair Comments	(Required for All Repairs)		
Date:				
By:				

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Liberty Utiliti	es GO165 Maintenance Inspection Form
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District Office: South Tahoe Office	Inspected By: Smily Stahl Insp. Date: 1/21/5 / /2017
Substation: Meyers	Circuit #: 3400 Other Circuit #:
City. State: South Lake Tahoe, CA	Location Desc: FABLE POINT
	or UG - Check One Unit of Plant - Fill In Equipment ID Where Indicated):
ОН	UG
Unit of Plant Overhead Pole	Unit of Plant Underground Equipment ID
Structure	Interrupter
Tower	Padmount Capacitor Unit
Equipment ID 290901	Padmount Switch
(Pole Number)	Padmount Transformer
(, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Subsurface Switch
	Subsurface Transformer
	Vault / Box
Associated Equipment Capacitor Bank	Associated Equipment ID Non - GO 165 Infractions Lightning Arrestors
Cutout (Fuse)	
Disconnects	Pole Leaning / Unsafe to Climb
Recloser	Penta Head Bolts     Image: Constraint of the sector of the
Regulator     Sectionalizer	Pole Number Missing  Pole Stub (Old) Needs Removal
Switch	Transformer Not Tested
Transformer	
Status (Required)	Priority For Repairs on Failed Inspections:
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Non - GO 165 Infraction	Within 6 Months Within 24 Months
	Condition Codes For Failed Inspections
Bolt Covers	Foreign Objects on Poles Oil Leaks
Clearances	Ground Wire / Molding Other Go 95 / 128 Infraction Guys / Guards Broken / Loose Pole Top Split
Crossarm Broken / Split / Loose 🛛 🛄	High Voltage Sign Problem
Crossarm Needs Replacing	Idle Hardware     Insulators Need Replacing     Tree Condition     Insulators Need Replacing
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		South Tahoe Office		
L	iberty Utilities	s GO165 Maintenance	Inspection Form	
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		Vault / Box		
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Structure	Junction Enclosure
Tower	Padmount Capacitor Unit
Equipment ID /3973	Padmount Transformer
(Pole Number)	Primary Metering
	Subsurface Switch
	Subsurface Transformer
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Recloser	Pole Needs Replacing
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Transformer	
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	Desc: ETGLE POINT-
Equipment Type (Choose OH or UG - Check	k One Unit of Plant - Fill In Equipment ID Where Indicated):
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Unit of Plant Overhead	Unit of Plant Underground Equipment ID
Pole Structure	Interrupter
Tower	Padmount Capacitor Unit
	Padmount Switch
Equipment ID /3375	Padmount Transformer
(Pole Number)	Primary Metering
	Subsurface Transformer
	Vault / Box
Associated Equipment Associated E	Equipment ID Non - GO 165 Infractions
Capacitor Bank	Lightning Arrestors
Cutout (Fuse)	Penta Head Bolts
Disconnects	Pole Leaning / Unsafe to Climb
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Switch	Transformer Not Tested
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District Office: So	uth Tahoe Office	Inspected By	smily Stahl	Insp. Da	ate: 121/51 /2	2017
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			Padmount Switch			
Equipment ID	13377		Padmount Transformer			
	(Pole Number)		Primary Metering Subsurface Switch			_
			Subsurface Transformer			-
			Vault / Box			
Associated Equ	ipment /	Associated Equi	pment ID	Non	- GO 165 Infractions	
Capacitor Bank				-	ning Arrestors	
Cutout (Fuse) Disconnects					a Head Bolts Leaning / Unsafe to Climb	
Recloser					Needs Replacing	
Regulator					Number Missing	
Sectionalizer					Stub (Old) Needs Removal	
Switch				Trans	sformer Not Tested	
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		Condition Codes	For Failed Inspections			-
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Clearances Crossarm Brace Falling Of	f 🗖	Ground Wire / Mole Guys / Guards Brol			er Go 95 / 128 Infraction e Top Split	ĺ
Crossarm Broken / Split / L Crossarm Needs Replacing		High Voltage Sign I Idle Hardware		Tag	ging / Labels Condition	ļ
Equipment Anchors		Insulators Need Re	eplacing		k Space / Climbing Space	Ĺ
		and the second sec	ailed Inspections / Condition	Codes)		
	NEEDS HI	$16H \leq 16N$				
REPAIRED	Repa	ir Comments (Requ	ired for All Repairs)			
Date:						
By:						
						_

•	South Tahoe Office
Liberty Utilitie	es GO165 Maintenance Inspection Form
NOTE: UNDERLINED FIELDS MUST BI	E ENTERED
District Office: South Tahoe Office	Inspected By: Smily Stahl Insp. Date: 12/15/ /2017
Substation: Meyers	Circuit #: 3400 Other Circuit #:
City. State: South Lake Tahoe, CA	Location Desc: ETAGLE POINT
Equipment Type (Choose OH or	r UG - Check One Unit of Plant - Fill In Equipment ID Where Indicated):
ОН	UG
Unit of Plant Overhead	Unit of Plant Underground Equipment ID
Pole	Interrupter
Tower	Junction Enclosure
	Padmount Switch
Equipment ID /3376	Padmount Transformer
(Pole Number)	Primary Metering
	Subsurface Transformer
	Vault / Box
Capacitor Bank	Associated Equipment ID Non - GO 165 Infractions Lightning Arrestors
Cutout (Fuse)	Penta Head Bolts
Disconnects	Pole Leaning / Unsafe to Climb
Recloser	Pole Needs Replacing Pole Number Missing
Sectionalizer	Pole Stub (Old) Needs Removal
Switch	Transformer Not Tested
Transformer Status (Required)	Priority For Repairs on Failed Inspections:
Passed	Within 2 Days
Failed	Within 6 Months
Non - GO 165 Infraction	Within 24 Months
	Condition Codes For Failed Inspections
Bolt Covers	Foreign Objects on Poles Oil Leaks Ground Wire / Molding Other Go 95 / 128 Infraction
Crossarm Brace Falling Off Tossarm Brace Falling Off	Guys / Guards Broken / Loose Pole Top Split High Voltage Sign Problem Tagging / Labels
Crossarm Needs Replacing	Idle Hardware Tree Condition Insulators Need Replacing Work Space / Climbing Space
	s (Required For All Failed Inspections / Condition Codes)
	IS SPLIT NEW ARM & HENDRIL NEAR POLE
	NEED HIGH VOLTAGE SIGN
	air Comments (Required for All Repairs)
Date:	
By:	

3. s	South Tahoe Office
Liberty Utilitie	s GO165 Maintenance Inspection Form
NOTE: UNDERLINED FIELDS MUST BE	EENTERED
District Office: South Tahoe Office	Inspected By: Smily Stahl Insp. Date: / / /2017
Substation: Meyers	Circuit #: 3400 Other Circuit #:
City, State: South Lake Tahoe, CA	Location Desc:
Equipment Type (Choose OH or OH	r UG - Check One Unit of Plant - Fill In Equipment ID Where Indicated):
Unit of Plant Overhead	Unit of Plant Underground Equipment ID
Pole	
Structure	Junction Enclosure
Tower	Padmount Capacitor Unit
	Padmount Switch
Equipment ID 133/8 (Pole Number)	Primary Metering
(Pole Number)	Subsurface Switch
	Subsurface Transformer
	Vault / Box
Associated Equipment	Associated Equipment ID Non - GO 165 Infractions
Capacitor Bank	Lightning Arrestors
Cutout (Fuse)	Penta Head Bolts
Disconnects	Pole Leaning / Unsafe to Climb
Recloser     Regulator	Penta Head Bolts    Pole Leaning / Unsafe to Climb    Pole Needs Replacing    Pole Number Missing    Pole Stub (Old) Needs Removal
Sectionalizer	Pole Stub (Old) Needs Removal
Switch	Transformer Not Tested
Transformer	
Status (Required)	Priority For Repairs on Failed Inspections:
Passed	Within 2 Days
Failed	Within 6 Months
Non - GO 165 Infraction	Within 24 Months
	Condition Codes For Failed Inspections
Bolt Covers	Foreign Objects on Poles 🔲 Oil Leaks
Clearances	Ground Wire / Molding Other Go 95 / 128 Infraction Guys / Guards Broken / Loose Pole Top Split
Crossarm Broken / Split / Loose	High Voltage Sign Problem 🛛 🕅 Tagging / Labels
Crossarm Needs Replacing	Idle Hardware Tree Condition Insulators Need Replacing Work Space / Climbing Space
	s (Required For All Failed Inspections / Condition Codes)
and the second se	HSIGN POLE NEEDS PERVACED.
	pair Comments (Required for All Repairs)
Date:	
By:	

÷	South Tahoe Office
Liberty Utilitie	s GO165 Maintenance Inspection Form
NOTE: UNDERLINED FIELDS MUST BE	ENTERED
District Office: South Tahoe Office	Inspected By: Smily Stahl Insp. Date: 1/21/51 /2017
Substation: Meyers	Circuit #: 3400 Other Circuit #:
City, State: South Lake Tahoe, CA	Location Desc:
Equipment Type (Choose OH or	r UG - Check One Unit of Plant - Fill In Equipment ID Where Indicated):
A OH	UG
Unit of Plant Overhead	Unit of Plant Underground Equipment ID
Pole Z	Interrupter
Tower	Padmount Capacitor Unit
	Padmount Switch
Equipment ID (3380 (Pole Number)	Padmount Transformer
(Fole Number)	Subsurface Switch
	Subsurface Transformer
	Vault / Box
	Associated Equipment ID Non - GO 165 Infractions
Capacitor Bank Cutout (Fuse)	Lightning Arrestors
Disconnects	Pole Leaning / Unsafe to Climb
Recloser	Pole Leaning / Unsafe to Climb       Pole Needs Replacing       Pole Number Missing
Regulator	
Sectionalizer	Pole Stub (Old) Needs Removal
Transformer	
Status (Required)	Priority For Repairs on Failed Inspections:
Passed	Within 2 Days
Failed	Within 6 Months
Non - GO 165 Infraction	Within 24 Months
	Condition Codes For Failed Inspections
Bolt Covers Clearances	Foreign Objects on Poles Oil Leaks Ground Wire / Molding Other Go 95 / 128 Infraction
Crossarm Brace Falling Off	Guys / Guards Broken / Loose 🔲 Pole Top Split 🛄
Crossarm Broken / Split / Loose 22 Crossarm Needs Replacing	Idle Hardware Tree Condition
Equipment Anchors	Insulators Need Replacing Work Space / Climbing Space
Comment	s (Required For All Failed Inspections / Condition Codes) POLE NEED 5 REPARED
	peer neces & nepericers
	pair Comments (Required for All Repairs)
Date:	
By:	

Exhibit B

**Proposed Alternative Pole Replacements** 









FAV	ORITE		
TEM	ACS - RIS38H	MATERIAL LIST	
	< <u>₩</u>	DESCRIPTION	NUMB
1*	1	HEAVY DUTY THIMBLE CLEVIS, HENDRIX	HDTC
2*	1	PRESHAPED MESSENGER GRIP, HENDRIXTIRRUP, HENDRIX	-
3*	2	THIMBLE CLEVIS, HENDRIX	TC
4*	2	PRESHAPED CONDUCTOR GRIP, COATED, HENDRIX	-
5	1	NUT, EYE: OVAL, 3/4" DIA, GALV, SPEC MN-1	8800-131
6	2	INSULATOR DEADEND SUSPENSION	IDS04H
7	1	APITONG PRIMARY DEADEND CROSSARM	XAW25
8	1	GROUND ROD, CLAMP, COVERED #4CU WIRE, STAPLES, AND PG	GD_01
9	1	EQUIPMENT BRACKET DELTA SINGLE PHASE APPLICATION	EB_08ł
10	2	LIGHTNING ARRESTOR, DISTRIBUTION EQUIPMENT	LAR01
11	2	CUTOUT, POLYMER, 100A	CON01
12	1	1/2" GUY WITHOUT ANCHOR AND ROD	GY_14I
13	1	20" DIAGONAL CROSS PLATE ANCHOR W/ 1"X8' ROD	GY_201
14	2	SIGN, ELEC SAFETY: "HIGH VOLTAGE", 3-1/2" X 14", YELLOW	8800-951
15	1	PRIMARY CABLE RISER, TWO PHASE, NON-TRAFFIC APPLICATION	PCR05
L	3.0	JOURNEYMAN LABOR	9100
-			

## NOTES:

- A. Item numbers marked with \* to be provided by Hendrix.
- Messenger cable and spacer cable to be provided by Hendrix. Β.
- Climbing and working space shall be provided on all structures. Refer to GO-95 rules 54.7 A1/A2/B, 84.7 and 93. C.
- High Voltage signs required per GO-95, rule 51.6A. D.
- 25kV Hendrix components used on 15kV system to meet GO 95 E.
- clearance requirements.

<u>ELEVATION</u>









<u>SIDE VIEW</u>

	FAVORITE		N 4 A					
ITEM ACS - NG01H		ACS - ANG01H	DES					
	1*	1	ANGLE BRACKET, HENDRIX					
	2*	2	INSULATOR PIN, HENDRIX					
	3*	2	INSULATOR, PIN TYPE, HENDRIX					
	4*	1	PERMANENT STRINGING ANGLE CL					
	5*	2	SHACKLE CLEVIS, HENDRIX					
	6	2	BOLT, MACHINE: SQ HD, 5/8" DIA X 1					
	7	2	WASHER: SQUARE CURVED, 5/8", 2-					
	8	1	NUT, EYE: OVAL, 3/4" DIA, GALV, SP					
	9	1	3/8" GUY WITHOUT ANCHOR AND R					
	10	1	20" DIAGONAL CROSS PLATE ANCH					
	11	1	GROUND ROD, CLAMP, COVERED #					
	12	1	CONN, ELEC, POST: #10 SOLID CU-#					
	13 1		CLAMP, PARALLEL GROOVE: #6-2/0					
	14	2	SIGN, ELEC SAFETY: "HIGH VOLTAG					
	L	3.0	JOURNEYMAN LABOR					
NOTES:								
	Α.	Strue	cture for use in angle applications fo					
	В.	Item	numbers marked with * to be provid					
D. Climl			senger cable and spacer cable to be					
			bing and working space shall be pro A1/A2/B, 84.7 and 93.					
	E.	High	Voltage signs required per GO-95,					
	F.	cente	ator shown in lower position to main erline per GO-95, section III,Table 1 tion provided the required clearance					
	G.	25k\	/ Hendrix components used on 15k∖					



for line angles of 7°-60°.

ided by Hendrix.

be provided by Hendrix.

rovided on all structures. Refer to GO-95 rules

5, rule 51.6A.

aintain conductor clearance of 15" from pole a 1. Insulator may be installed at upper inside ce can be achieved.

kV system to meet GO 95 clearance requirements.

Design D O Ζ - Υ ω 4 τ σ 9



FA	VORITE						
ITEM	ANG01H TRA41H	MATERIAL LIST					
<u>-</u>	AN	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER				
1*	1	ANGLE BRACKET, HENDRIX	BA3-35				
2*	2	INSULATOR PIN, HENDRIX	SSP-2				
3*	2	INSULATOR, PIN TYPE, HENDRIX	HPI-25VTP				
4*	1	PERMANENT STRINGING ANGLE CLAMP, HENDRIX	PSAC-01				
5*	2	SHACKLE CLEVIS, HENDRIX	SC				
6	2	2 BOLT, MACHINE: SQ HD, 5/8" DIA X 14", GALV					
7	2	WASHER: SQUARE CURVED, 5/8", 2-1/2" SQ, HDG	8800-131780				
8	1	NUT, EYE: OVAL, 3/4" DIA, GALV, SPEC MN-1	8800-131465				
9	1	3/8" GUY WITHOUT ANCHOR AND ROD	GY_02H				
10	1	20" DIAGONAL CROSS PLATE ANCHOR W/ 1"X8' ROD	GY_20H				
11	1	GROUND ROD, CLAMP, COVERED #4CU WIRE, STAPLES, AND PG	GD_06H				
12	1	CONN, ELEC, POST: #10 SOLID CU-#1 STR CU, 1/2"	8800-253060				
13	1	CLAMP, PARALLEL GROOVE: #6-2/0ACSR LINE, #6-2/0ACSR TAP, 2 BOLT	8800-191110				
14	2	SIGN, ELEC SAFETY: "HIGH VOLTAGE", 3-1/2" X 14", YELLOW	8800-951020				
15	1	THREE PHASE EQUIPMENT BRACKET WITH GROUND	EB06H				
16	2	LIGHTNING ARRESTOR, DISTRIBUTION EQUIPMENT	LAR01H				
17	2	CUTOUT, POLYMER, 100A	CON01H				
18	2	HOT TAP STIRRUP CLAMP ASSEMBLY	SCA01H				
19	1	SINGLE PHASE TRANSFORMER, 3 WIRE SYSTEM	TSC27H				
L	3.0	JOURNEYMAN LABOR 9100					

# NOTES:

- Structure for use in angle applications for line angles of 7°-60°. Α.
- Item numbers marked with \* to be provided by Hendrix. Β.
- С. Messenger cable and spacer cable to be provided by Hendrix.
- Climbing and working space shall be provided on all structures. Refer to GO-95 rules 54.7 A1/A2/B, 84.7 and 93. D.
- High Voltage signs required per GO-95, rule 51.6A. Ε.
- Insulator shown in lower position to maintain conductor clearance of 15" from pole centerline per GO-95, section III, Table 1. Insulator may be installed at upper inside position provided the required clearance can be achieved. F.
- G. 25kV Hendrix components used on 15kV system to meet GO 95 clearance requirements.

LIST

	Fax: (530) 544-4811	California, 96150 Phone: (530)543-5235	South Lake Tahoe	933 Eloise Ave.	Liberty Utilities			
Service Number: n/a								
	Liberty Utilities			Planner: John Perra (775) 870-0949				
6	5	4	ω	2 E	1 E	No. F		
0	IJ	4	3 TRPA Permit Additions	2 ELECTRIC	1 BASE	No. Revision		
6	σ	4	3 TRPA Permit Additions 2/25/20	2 ELECTRIC 9/23/19	1 BASE 6/18/18	No. Revision Date		
6	σ	4		9/23/1	6/18/1	Date		
6	σ	4	2/25/20	9/23/19	6/18/18	Date Drawn Designer		
6 Paye 3 of 6		4	2/25/20	9/23/19	6/18/18	Date		



<b>Liberty Utilities</b> 933 Eloise Ave. South Lake Tahoe California, 96150 Phone: (530)543-5235 Fax: (530) 544-4811	California, 96150 Fax: (530) 544-4811
WMP - Cascade Pole Repl - Alternate Design Liberty Utilities Job Number: 8800-0118-0117 Service Number: n/a	Job Number: 8800-0118-0117 Service Number: n/a
Planner: John Perra (775) 870-0949 Customer: Liberty Utilities	Liberty Utilities
No.Revision1BASE2ELECTRIC3TRPA Permit Additions455161	
Date         Drawn           6/18/18         JJP           9/23/19         JJP           2/25/20         JJP           1         1	
Designe	
9/25/19	9/25/19 Pe
Page 4 of 6	ige 4 of 6









Scale: 1 inch = 10 feet (calculated heights - actual constructed dimensions may vary)







Install spacers at no more than 30 foot intervals along each span. Calculated intervals are shown on the profile detail above. Anticipate installing 26 mid-span spacers. Refer to page 2.12 of the Hendrix Aerial Cable Systems catalog for additional details.

Fax: (530) 544-4811	<b>Liberty Utilities</b> 933 Eloise Ave. South Lake Tahoe California, 96150 Phone: (530)543-5235 Fax: (530) 544-4811					
Service Number: n/a		Liberty Utilities	WIVIN - Cascade Pole Repi - Alternate Design			
	Customer:		John Perra (775) 870-0949	Planner:		
<u></u> б у	) 4	J.20 №		No.		
		ELECTRIC TRPA Permit Additions	BASE	No. Revision		
╞┼╴		9/23/19 2/25/20	6/18/18	Date		
	$\vdash$	JJP	JJP	Drawn		
	. <b>_</b>			Drawn Designer		
9/20/19	55/10			Review		

all Con

## **EROSION CONTROL PLAN:**

- 1. All excess excavated materials shall be hauled away from the project site.
- 2. Storm water shall be controlled by the contractor to the satisfaction of Liberty Utilities and the TRPA. The contractor shall implement construction site best management practices (BMPs) in accordance with the notes included in this plan set or as directed by Liberty Utilities or the TRPA in the field.
- 3. Grading, excavation, filling, and clearing of vegetation or other disturbance of soil shall not occur between October 15 and May 1. 4. All construction sites shall be winterized by October 15 to reduce the water quality impacts associated with winter weather per TRPA code, and to the
- satisfaction of the TRPA inspector.
- 5. The project site and all temporary BMPs shall be inspected by gualified personnel before and after each storm event and a minimum of once every seven calendar days.
- 6. The contractor shall maintain all temporary BMPs at all times. 7. Dust control:
- a. Contractor is responsible for preventing controllable fugitive dust from the project's disturbed areas from becoming airborne on a 7-day/week 24-hour/day basis, from commencement of the project to final completion.
- b. Water shall be applied to the roadway and exposed dirt areas by water truck or water hose to control fugitive dust so long as no discharge of waste material to surface drainage occurs.
- c. Stockpiles and loose soil mounds shall be protected from wind or water erosion by being appropriately protected or covered when construction is not actively in progress or when required by the TRPA.
- d. Regular vacuum or sweeping of roads where construction is occuring shall be performed at least daily and more often if necessary to remove dirt or waste resulting from construction.
- e. Hand sweeping and disposal of all waste resulting from saw cutting of pavement via hauling outside of the Tahoe basin may be allowed so long as no discharge of waste material to surface drainage occurs. If it appears hand sweeping does not remove all waste resulting from saw cutting, vacuuming will be required.
- f. All trucks importing or exporting dirt, rock, or other materials shall prevent spillage or loss of bulk material from holes or other openings in the cargo compartment floor, sides, and/or tailgate. All haul trucks must be covered with a tarp or other suitable closure, or bulk materials must contain enough moisture and/or dust suppressant to prevent fugitive dust emissions during transport, or load all trucks such that the freeboard is not less than six (6) inches. All materials not to be incorporated into the work shall be hauled outside the Tahoe basin.
- g. All project related vehicles shall park on existing paved surfaces or existing compacted road shoulders. Contractor shall minimize construction related vehicle and equipment emissions during construction by shutting off equipment and vehicles not in use. Idling of diesel engines shall be kept to a minimum so far as practical.
- h. The contractor shall implement additional dust control measures, such as extra water trucks, revegetation, environmentally safe dust palliatives (as approved by the TRPA), and/or cessation of operations should the aforementioned measures fail to control fugitive dust emissions from the project. i. All areas disturbed by construction shall be mulched with a 2 to 3 inch layer of pine needles or wood chips. This mulch shall be maintained from completion of the initial grading through the completion of the project.
- 8. Vegetation Protection:
- a. All trees and natural vegetation shall not be disturbed, injured, or removed except as specifically called out for in this plan set and TRPA code. b. Trees shall not be used for the purpose of sign posts, telephone wires, or temporary power, bracing for forms, or other similar types of uses per TRPA code.
- c. Vegetation protection fencing shall be constructed with metal posts, industry standard orange mesh fencing, and at least 4 feet tall, unless an alternative method is approved by the TRPA.
- 9. Erosion Control:
- a. Minimize disturbed area and protect natural features and soil.
- b. Phase construction actively when feasible.
- c. Control storm water flowing onto and through the project site. d. Disturbed areas should be stabilized as soon as practicable after construction activities at that location have been completed.
- e. If rolled erosion control products are used for soil stabilization, installation and staking shall be done according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- f. No vehicle or heavy equipment shall be allowed in a stream environment zone or wet area except as authorized by the TRPA. g. Only equipment of a size and type that will do the least amount of damage, under prevailing site conditions, and considering the nature of the work to be performed, will be used.
- 10. Sediment Control:
- a. Storm drain inlets should be protected at all times utilizing silt fence, fiber rolls, and/or gravel filled bags.
- b. Excavated material shall be stored upgrade from the excavated area whenever possible. No material shall be stored in any stream environment zone or wet area.
- c. Contractor shall provide crushed rock or rumble boards in areas of construction site access and exists. Soil and construction material shall not be tracked off the construction site. Grading operations shall cease n the event that a danger of violating this condition exists.
- 11. Pollution Control: a. No washing of vehicles or heavy equipment, including cement mixers, shall be permitted anywhere on the subject property unless authorized by the TRPA in writing.
- b. Disposal of any excavated or waste material (liquid or solid) shall be to a site outside the Tahoe basin or a location approved by the TRPA in writing. c. Staging areas should be clearly delineated and approved by the TRPA prior to beginning construction activities.
- d. The contractor shall develop and have on site at all times a spill prevention and response plan.
- 12. All construction shall be winterized by October 15 to reduce the water quality impacts associated with winter weather as follows:
- A. For the sites that will be inactive between October 15 and May 1 of the following year:
  - 1) Temporary erosion controls shall be installed.
  - 2) Temporary vegetation protection fencing shall be installed
  - Disturbed areas shall be restabilized.
  - 4) Onsite construction slash and debris shall be cleaned and removed. 5) Where feasible, mechanical stabilization and drainage improvements shall be installed.
- 6) Spoil piles shall be removed from the site B. For the sites that will be active between October 15 and May 1, in addition to the above requirements:
- 1) Permanent mechanical erosion control devices shall be installed, including paving of any driveways and parking areas.
- 2) Parking of vehicles and storage of building materials shall be restricted to paved areas.
- 13. Construction staging area(s) shall be on existing coverage and shall be protected with temporary Best Management Practices.



Pad stk. #24-0721



TYP. SECONDARY OR PRIMARY TRENCH Standard TE0003U

Volume (cu yd)<sup>|</sup> Utility Trenching Length (ft) Depth (ft) Width (ft) Volume (cu ft) 547 5.470 Liberty Only Trench 203 5,470 203 Project Totals Impervious Total Volume Coverage Total Volume Depth Volume Volume (sq ft/item) **Utility Boxes and Pads** Vault/Pad Type (cu ft) (cu yd) Quantity (cu ft) (cu vd) Junction enclosure 14.17 n/a Liberty Utilities n/a n/a 2 n/a na/ Project Totals 0.0

## **REVEGETATION PLAN:**

All areas disturbed by construction shall be revegetated in accordance with the TRPA Handbook of Best Management Practices and Living with Fire, Lake Tahoe Basin, Second Edition.

Areas to receive revegetation treatment shall include all areas disturbed during construction of the project and are outside the road pavement and constructed shoulder. The revegetation work shall consist of all site preparation associated with the revegetation treatments, and shall include site preparation, seeding, and application of a pine needle/duff mulch, and temporary irrigation. Revegetation shall progress in the order outlined below. No work shall be performed without prior approval by the Liberty Utilities.

• Grading and Excavation: Some areas will require reshaping of terrain prior to revegetation as noted on the construction drawings or in the field by Liberty Utilities

• Soil Tilling: All disturbed soil will be loosened or decompacted. Soil will be tilled to a depth of six (6) inches.

• Soil Amendment: Compost will be applied to a depth of four inches. Compost used will be Full Circle 25% integrated Tahoe blend, or equivalent. • Surface Preparation: Prior to seed application, tilled areas will be lightly smoothed by rake in such a way that some surface roughness is attained. The result will be a soil surface that mimics natural conditions, with relief between three and six inches (3"-6") over a twenty-four (24") distance. • Seed Application to Depth of 1/4": Seeding shall be conducted in the fall prior to snow accumulation and ground freeze unless otherwise approved by the TRPA. Soils shall be moist to two inches unless otherwise approved by the TRPA. Seed mix will be applied by hand or hand applicator at the rates listed in the table below, and will be spread in a uniform manner.

• Raking: Following seed application, the soil surface will be very lightly raked so the seeds are tilled in to a depth of one quarter to one half inch (1/4"-1/2") • Pine Needle/Duff Mulch: All areas disturbed by construction and outside the road pavement and constructed shoulder will be treated with mulch consisting of pine needles and related duff material. Much may be applied by hand or blower and must be applied in such a way as to achieve an even layer. If applied by hand, mulch depth will be equal to approximately two inches (2"), and if applied by blower, mulch depth will equal approximately one inch (1"). Mulch will cover ninety-eight percent (98%) of all bare areas.

• Irrigation: A quantity of water will be applied to penetrate to a depth of six inches (6"), but not to fully saturate the soil. Frequency of irrigation will depend on air and soil temperatures, but is expected to occur every three to four (3-4) days for the first four (4) weeks, and every seven (7) days for the reminder of the growing season.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	PLS POUNDS PER ACRE
Squirreltail (high elevation collection)	Elymus Elymoides SSP. Elymoides	30
Blue Wildrye (Stanislaus 5000 or high elevation collection)	Elymus Glaucus	28
Mokelumne or El Dorado Brome (or other high elevation collection)	Bromus Carinatus	27
Lupine (species depends on availability - must use species native or adapted to Lake Tahoe basin)	Lupinus Spp.	2
Blue Flax	Linum Perenne	3.5
California Poppy	Eschscholzia Californica	0.5
		Total: 80 PLS LBS/AC

# Tree Protection Required for Roadway Grading and Trench Excavations 1. The perimeter of the drip line has been identified per tree. To estimate the radial distance of the drip line from the base of the tree, use DBH X = approximatelocation of drip line Example: if the tree is 20" DBH, the drip line is approximately 60" (5 feet) from the base of the tree. 2. Install construction fencing around the perimeter of the drip line. Fencing must be a minimum of four feet high with staking a maximum of four feet apart. Monitor fencing daily. Protective fencing may also be incorporated into construction fencing utilized to delineate project boundaries, where appropriate. ROOT ZONE 3. Trench excavation should be avoided within the drip line of the tree. If excavation must encroach within the dripline, the trench must be hand-dug so that root damage will not occur. 4. Identify the approximate location of the Root Zone. Minimize compaction within the Root Zone by limiting equipment travel over the site or spreading mulch

Land Capabilty Total Coverage District 018-090-055-000 LC3 28.34 28.34

## **Tree Protection Measures**

Lowering of the grade shall not occur within the drip line. Protection of a trees root system is critical during construction activities. Stripping or compaction of the soil can cause significant root damage. Generally, trees' roots extend well beyond the drip line, sometimes as far as 2-3 times the diameter of the crown, making it almost impossible to perform grading and trenching activities to a site without damaging some portion of a tree's root system. While working within the tree's root zone, care must be taken to ensure that: • Tree roots are not ripped with equipment.



• Root pruning, if necessary, must be done with a clean, sharp tool such as a sharp saw, axe or shovel. Final tree root cuts should be clean with no jagged ends.

• The maximum amount of root pruning to occur shall not exceed 25% of the overall root zone and shall occur only on one side of a tree.

• Per TRPA Code of Ordinances 33.6.6, tree roots four inches in diameter and larger encountered during excavation of utility trenches should not be severed, if avoidable. Mechanical excavation shall not occur within the protected fenced area within a tree's drip line. Fill material shall not be placed and compaction shall not occur

within a tree's drip line. Tree roots that are severed by equipment within the tree's root zone shall be pruned with a sharp tool, flush with the sides of the trench. Stripping of soil or organic materials, mechanical excavations, or storage of mechanical equipment shall not take place within a tree's drip line. Consultation with an ISA Certified Arborist is recommended if excavation within the tree's drip line is unavoidable or root pruning is necessary.





Exhibit C

**Design Alternative 1** 



MATCHLINE "B"

135367

6-0



SYMBOLS NOT TO SCALE AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT ACTUAL LOCATION OF FACILITIES.









	Phone: (530)543-5235 Fax: (530) 544-4811	South Lake Lahoe California, 96150	933 Eloise Ave.	Liberty Utilities		
Service Number: n/a	Job Number: 8800-0118-0117		liberty I Itilities	VVIVIE - Cascade Fole Repi - Alt ACO (40 /0 Design)	MAND Connert Dolo Done Alt ACC (ACO) Docime	
	Liberty Utilities	Customer:		John Perra (775) 870-0949	Planner:	
5	Ο Ο Ι	3 40% Design for permitting & right-ot-way			No. Revision	
	+	2/27/20 JJP	┢	1-	Date Drawn	
					n Designer	
Pag	2/27/20				Review	
Page 4 of 5					Engineer	



		Fax: (530) 544-4811	California, 96150 Phone: (530)543-5235	South Lake Tahoe	933 Eloise Ave.	Liberty Utilities		
<section-header><text></text></section-header>		JOD NUMBER: 8800-0118-0117				WMP - Cascade Pole Repl - Alt ACS (40% Design)		
		Liberty Utilities					Planner:	
	0	5	4	3 40% De	2 ELECTRIC		No. Revision	
				40% Design for permitting & right-of-way				
				2/27/20	2/21/20	0	Date	
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		2121120	100				Designer Re	
<u>6475'</u> 290594 45' CL3	C 10 C 062						Review Engineer	

Exhibit D

**CEQA** Analysis

Appendix E

<b>To:</b> Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044, Room 113	From: (Public Agency): 933 Eloise Ave	Liberty Utilities
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	South Lake Tahoe, C	A 96150
County Clerk County of: <u>El Dorado</u>		(Address)
360 Fair Lane		()
Placerville, CA 95667		
Project Title: Cascade Overhead Power	Line Relocation	
Project Applicant: Liberty Utilities		
Project Location - Specific:		
Near SR 89 and Cascade Road ar	nd on ridge between Ca	scade Lake and Emerald Bay
Project Location - City:	Project Location -	County: El Dorado
Description of Nature, Purpose and Benefici	aries of Project:	
Liberty Utilities proposes to move a section of overhead power line I State Route (SR) due to the deterioration of existing power poles an 120 feet of visible overhead wire, and eliminate three existing cross wire. The beneficiaries of the project are Liberty Utilities with increase	nd difficult access. This project would create on ings of SR 89 in an area with views of Lake Ta	e new aerial crossing of SR 89, with approximately hoe, with approximately 2,545 feet of visible overhead
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Pro	California Public Utilities Co	mmission
Exempt Status: (check one):	»).	
<ul> <li>Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(1), 13200</li> </ul>	,	
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b))	4); 15269(b)(c));	
☐ Categorical Exemption. State type a	and section number: 15301 E	xisting Facilities Class 1
Statutory Exemptions. State code n		
Reasons why project is exempt:		
Project is categorically exempt from the provisior operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasir facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographica The power line is an existing facility used to prov powerline facilities to meet current standards of p	ng, licensing, or minor alteration o Il features, involving negligible or ide electric power. The project wo	f existing public or private structures, no expansion of existing or former use.
Lead Agency Contact Person: TBD at CPUC	Area Code/Teleph	one/Extension:
If filed by applicant: 1. Attach certified document of exemption 2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed		ng the project? □ Yes ■ No
Signature:	Date:	Title:
□ Signed by Lead Agency ■ Sign	ned by Applicant	
Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Res Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Pub		eived for filing at OPR:

#### NOTICE OF EXEMPTION CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15304

#### Liberty Utilities Overhead Powerline Relocation Project, Lake Tahoe

#### **Description of Activities**

During required inspections of the Meyers 3400 power distribution line located in the south shore of Lake Tahoe, CA, Liberty CalPeco identified many power poles that require replacement due to deterioration. Many of these poles are located in steep terrain between Cascade Lake and Emerald Bay which renders them difficult to monitor and maintain. To improve ease of maintenance, Liberty CalPeco proposes to move this section of overhead powerline to a more accessible location on State Route (SR) 89, a designated scenic highway, at Mile Post ED 14.817. Public Utilities Code § 320 requires undergrounding of powerlines within 1,000 feet of each edge of right-of way of designated scenic highways.

This powerline replacement project would eliminate three aerial powerline crossings of SR 89 in an area with views of Lake Tahoe, removing approximately 2,545 feet of visible overhead wire, and would create one new aerial crossing, with approximately 120 feet of overhead wire near Cascade Road (Figure 1). This reduction in visible overhead powerline would improve the overall scenic quality of the area. If this relocation project is not implemented, the CPUC would require the installation of covered conductors with spacers (powerlines that are coated with special grades of materials that provide insulation, waterproofing, and ultra violet protection with large diamond shaped spacers) on the existing line in order to reduce fire danger. Because covered conductor is thicker than uncovered conductor, the covered line and spacers would be more visible and would further deteriorate aesthetics in an area with views of Lake Tahoe.

There is no viable location in the project area that would allow for underground boring of State Route 89, therefore Liberty CalPeco is requesting a deviation from California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Code § 320 which requires undergrounding of powerlines in the vicinity of scenic highways. The project area is characterized by dense trees, Cascade Creek, and SR 89 for which there is no alternative route. Undergrounding would require excess disturbance and vegetation removal in a stream environment zone, which is strictly regulated in the Tahoe Basin by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Additionally, the land owners in the project area have approved one alignment (the proposed alignment) and are unwilling to entertain other alignments that encroach further onto their property. Therefore, the proposed overhead alignment is the only feasible alignment.

No special status species or cultural resources were identified in the project area during field surveys.

Specific project work will include:

- 1) *Removal of existing overhead powerline:* The line to be removed would include 14 poles, 2,545 feet of overhead wire, and all associated anchors and guy wires. Poles would be cut at ground level and removed by helicopter. There would be no associated ground disturbance.
- 2) Relocation of powerline: The line to be installed would include seven 45-foot tall Douglas fir power poles, approximately 1,020 feet of overhead wire (120 feet of which would be visible from SR 89), and associated anchors and guy wires. An additional 530 feet of existing overhead wire would be undergrounded on a private parcel per the owner's request. Work would be completed by trucks and backhoes. Access would occur along existing maintenance roads.
- 3) *Revegetation:* Any disturbed area would be stabilized and/or revegetated unless it is an existing access road.
#### **Reasons Why the Project is Exempt**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a categorical exemption provides for an exemption from CEQA for a class of projects determined not to have a significant effect on the environment. Categorical Exemptions are addressed in Article 19 of the CEQA Guidelines, where a list of 32 classes of projects has been identified. Projects falling within one of these classes of projects are generally exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

#### **CEQA Guidelines Section 15301: Existing Facilities**

The Cascade Overhead Powerline Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The power line is an existing facility used to provide electric power. The project would rehabilitate deteriorated damaged powerline facilities to meet current standards of public health and safety.

The Cascade Overhead Powerline Relocation Project consists of the minor alteration of an existing power line facility used to provide electric power as well as the restoration of deteriorated powerline facilities to meet current standards of public health and safety and fire prevention regulations set forth by the CPUC. There would be no expansion of existing or former use and the relocation work will not result in significant adverse impacts.

#### No Exceptions to a Categorical Exemption

Categorical exemptions represent activities that generally do not result in significant environmental impacts. However, there are six exceptions to categorical exemptions, defined in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2. Generally, a categorical exemption does not apply if a project would occur in certain specified sensitive environments thereby resulting in a significant impact, would damage scenic resources within an official state scenic highway, or would be located on a designated hazardous waste site. In addition, a categorical exemption would not apply if the project causes substantial adverse changes in the significance of a historical resource or would be considered significant within the cumulative context. Table 1 identifies the exceptions from CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 and includes a brief discussion of why each exception does not apply to the Cascade Overhead Powerline Relocation Project.

Table 1			
Categorical Exemption Exceptions (CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2)			
Exception	Applicability		
(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.	This project is exempt under Class 1 and is therefore not qualified by location. The project work does not involve activities in a stream or waterbody nor will project work occur on areas know to contain hazardous substances. The project proposes a powerline spanning Cascade Creek but would not involve work in the creek. The project activities would not occur in locations that contain known significant cultural or biological resources.		
(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative	The overhead powerline relocation would not adversely affect environmental resources and		
impact of successive projects of the same type	will therefore not contribute to any cumulative		

in the same place, over time is significant.	environmental impact in relation to other similar projects in the region. The project would result in beneficial effects to the scenic quality of the project area by removing 2,545 feet of overhead power line from an area with views of Lake Tahoe.
(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.	The overhead powerline relocation project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Specific environmental topics are addressed below:
	<b>Aesthetics.</b> The project would result in improved aesthetics in an area with views of Lake Tahoe and the surrounding mountains. If the project is not implemented, existing views from SR 89 would be further diminished because of the requirement to add covered conductors and spacers to the 2,545 feet of overhead powerline to reduce fire danger (see simulation below).
	Air Quality/GHGs. The project activities would result in nominal fugitive dust and mobile source emissions. Mobile source emissions will be limited to those associated with vehicle trips to/from the project area and from mechanized equipment. Mechanized equipment will be used to place and remove power poles. Due to the inaccessible terrain, helicopters would be required to remove power poles along the steep ridge between Cascade Lake and Emerald Bay. Due to the remote location there are no nearby sensitive receptors. The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the region's applicable air quality plan and will not violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation.
	<b>Biological Resources.</b> One drainage, Cascade Creek, flows through the project area. Cascade

Creek is the only outlet of Cascade Lake and flows into Lake Tahoe. The proposed power line would span the creek, but no work is proposed in the creek. There is a lack of overstory in the proposed power line alignment in the vicinity of Cascade Creek. Biological field surveys and database searches were performed for the project area in 2019. Based on the hydrologic conditions, fish passage impediments, and lack of known occurrences, Cascade Creek in the project area is not known to support any federally or state listed species such as Lahontan cutthroat trout or Sierra Nevada yellow legged frog. There is no potential for breeding willow flycatcher in the project area due to lack of suitable habitat. The edges of three osprey disturbance zones are located in the vicinity of the project area. The project area does not provide suitable nest sites or foraging habitat for osprey. No adverse effects to special-status species would occur from project implementation.

No special-status plant species were identified in the project area. One state-listed rare. threatened or endangered species was encountered in a database search of the project area, Tulare rockcress (Boechera tularensis). This species typically grows on rocky slopes in subalpine habitats. Though the field survey took place outside of the blooming period of Tulare rockcress, no plants were identified. Because ground disturbance would occur on the flatter area away from rocky slopes, the project would not affect Tulare rockcress habitat. The project would remove a total of 9 dead trees and 19 living trees, three of which visible from SR 89. All trees proposed for removal are located in upland areas. One incense cedar that is located close to the riparian area of Cascade Creek would not be removed but would be topped for safety reasons. In accordance with standard Tahoe Regional Planning Agency permit conditions, all trees proposed for removal or topping would be surveyed to confirm absence of nesting birds prior to removal.

**Cultural Resources.** A records search and field survey were performed for cultural resources in the project area. The records search indicated that two previously recorded cultural resources were recorded in the vicinity of the project area (1. A wrecked remain of a Ford Model-A

automobile which was not located during field surveys and is assumed to have been cleaned up and 2. A Washoe site which was not located during field surveys and only included an approximate location). The results returned by the Native American Heritage Commission were <i>negative</i> for tribal cultural resources in the vicinity of the project. No new cultural sites were identified during the field survey.
<b>Geology/Soils.</b> The project would cause minimal land disturbance during the installation of new poles. All disturbed areas would be stabilized and revegetated.
Hazards/Hazardous Materials. No known hazardous material sites are located within the project area. Equipment will be maintained prior to use on site to minimize risks associated with hazardous materials used in machinery (oil, gas, etc.).
<b>Hydrology/Water Quality.</b> See Geology/Soils. Any work near Cascade Creek would require the implementation of Best Management Practices as required by the TRPA.
<b>Noise.</b> Equipment used to implement the project would generate temporary noise (i.e. machinery, helicopters). However, given that activities would be limited to daytime business hours (the least sensitive hours of the day), and the limited extent to which these activities could expose sensitive receptors to increased noise levels due to the remote nature of the project area, the project will not cause significant noise effects.
<b>Transportation.</b> There will be limited additional trips on local roadways during project construction and no additional trips after implementation. No vehicular transportation over sensitive habitat will occur. There could be a minor traffic delay as Liberty pulls and/or removes the powerline over SR 89 but would be temporary in nature and not cause significant transportation safety or other issues.
<b>Other CEQA Issues.</b> The project will have no effect on agriculture/forestry, energy, land use, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, utilities and service systems, or wildfire.

(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.	State Route (SR) 89 is located within the proposed project area and is a designated scenic highway. The project would remove 2,545 linear feet of overhead powerline visible from SR 89 in an area with views of Lake Tahoe. If this line was not able to be removed, Liberty Utilities would be required to use covered conductors and spacers, which are more visible, to reduce the threat of fire which would further degrade the view from the scenic highway. The line would be replaced by 120 linear feet of visible powerline which crosses SR 89 in an area without views of Lake Tahoe. The proposed project would not result in the removal of, or damage to, any rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or other resources within the viewshed of a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. Only three trees in a densely wooded area visible from SR 89 would be trimmed or removed to install the powerline. Because the area is thickly forested, removal of the three trees would not alter scenic quality and the change would be indiscernible to passing motorists and other viewers. Of the three trees, one is dead, one is in a state of decline, and the other would only be trimmed. No impact to scenic resources would occur.
(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.	The site is not located on toxic sites listed pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code. The project is located in an area that has only minimal development and only involves minimal grading at power pole installation sites. Therefore, the project would not risk exposing unknown hazardous materials.
(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.	Only minimal grading is proposed for the project in order to set 7 power poles, therefore the project would not cause substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.



Source: Liberty Utilities

Figure 1: Cascade Pole Replacement Alternate Design

Exhibit E

Visual Impact Assessment

# **VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) Overhead Powerline Relocation Project at Cascade Creek

December 4, 2019

# **California Department of Transportation**

03, El Dorado County, California Route 89 [PM ED 14.817]

Statement of Compliance: Produced in compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, as appropriate, to meet the level of analysis and documentation that has been determined necessary for this project.

# VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

# Liberty Utilities Overhead Powerline Relocation Project at Cascade Creek

### PURPOSE OF STUDY AND ASSESSMENT METHOD

The purpose of this visual impact assessment (VIA) is to document potential visual impacts caused by the proposed project and propose measures to lessen any detrimental impacts that are identified. Visual impacts are demonstrated by identifying visual resources in the project area, measuring the amount of change that would occur as a result of the project, and predicting how the affected public would respond to or perceive those changes. This visual impact assessment follows the guidance outlined in the publication *Visual Impact Assessment for Highway Projects* published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in March 1981.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

#### **Project Location**

The proposed project is located along State Route (SR) 89 in El Dorado County, California. This portion of SR 89 runs along Lake Tahoe, near Emerald Bay and Cascade Lake.

### **Project Background and Purpose and Need**

During General Order 165 inspections of the Meyers 3400 distribution line, Liberty CalPeco identified power poles that required replacement due to deterioration. These poles are located in steep terrain that is difficult to monitor. Operationally, Liberty CalPeco proposes to move this section of poles to a more accessible location. The site for the new location is located on SR 89 at Mile Post (MP) ED 14.817. There is no viable location in this area that would allow for underground boring of State Highway 89; therefore, Liberty CalPeco requested a deviation from California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Code § 320, which requires undergrounding of utilities within 1,000 feet of a scenic highway. If this project is not permitted, the CPUC would require covered conductors on the existing line which would further deteriorate aesthetics in the scenic project area.

Liberty submitted Advice Letter General No. 100-E (U933-E) to the CPUC in October 2018 requesting a deviation from PUC Code § 320 for this project. The CPUC responded that Liberty would be required to:

- Conduct a visual assessment of scenic highway 89 focusing on both the existing and proposed overhead crossings from multiple key vantage points and provide the results to Caltrans and CPUC;
- Conduct a habitat assessment and description of impacts to support a Streambed Alteration Agreement from California Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- Prepare a categorical exemption under CEQA.

### **Project Description**

The project would eliminate three existing crossings of SR 89, with approximately 2,545 feet of visible overhead wire and associated poles. Approximately eight of the existing poles are visible from SR 89. The project would create one new aerial crossing of State Route (SR) 89 (a state scenic highway), with

approximately 120 feet of visible overhead wire. The existing line would be removed by chainsaw by a ground crew, cutting the base of 13 power poles and then lifting the poles out by helicopter. The project would reduce visibility of utility poles and lines along SR 89 by removing thirteen existing poles and associated infrastructure and replacing them with five new poles and electric lines, a portion of which would be visible from SR 89. Only two of the new poles would be visible from SR 89.

The equipment to be utilized on this project includes the installation of 45-foot class, creosote-treated Douglas fir poles, approximately 1,020 feet of 2-#2ACSR primary wire, and the associated anchors and guy wires. Approximately 535 feet of line would be placed underground where the project crosses APN 018-090-055-000. This work would be performed with mechanical equipment and helicopter assistance. This installation would be a permanent facility.

### **PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING**

#### **Environmental Setting/Scenic Resources Evaluation**

The project location and setting provide for the context for determining the type of changes to the existing visual environment.

The project is located on State Highway 89 at Mile Post (MP) ED 14.817 between approximately MP ED 14.801 to PM ED 15.108 in El Dorado County, California. The project is located in the Lake Tahoe Basin, on the southwest side of Lake Tahoe between Cascade Lake and Lake Tahoe's Emerald Bay. The predominantly natural landscape is characterized by mountainous terrain with evergreen forest dominated by Jeffrey pine interspersed with granitic rock formations.

State Route 89 adjacent to Lake Tahoe is a two-lane mountain roadway. In the Lake Tahoe area, SR 89 runs from Meyers, California north along the west shore of Lake Tahoe to Tahoe City and north Lake Tahoe. It is the only access route to many of Lake Tahoe's popular recreation areas and to many of the SR 89 corridor's residential neighborhoods. Eighty-eight percent of the SR 89 corridor has a land use designation of conservation or open space. The public lands are primarily owned or managed by the United State Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and California State Parks. Gently sloping lands are located in the southern and northern areas of the corridor. The terrain begins to slope steeply around Cascade Lake and through Emerald Bay. Emerald Bay, one of California's 36 National Natural Landmark site, is one of lake Tahoe's most popular and photographed locations (TRPA 2019).

The terrain in the immediate area of Cascade Creek Bridge slopes gently to the south toward Lake Tahoe. Continuing northbound on SR 89 toward the west end of the project site, the terrain slopes more steeply to the north. No views of Lake Tahoe or Cascade Lake are present within the area affected by new utility pole and line construction. Some views of Lake Tahoe are visible from SR 89 in the vicinity of existing poles and utilities lines that are proposed for removal. The land use within the project corridor is primarily mixed conifer forest immediately adjacent to SR 89, with low density residential development located on the north side of SR 89 accessed from Cascade Road. Views from SR 89 of structures are screened by the surrounding forest. The existing utility line crosses SR 89 just west of the Cascade Creek Bridge. The existing utility pole blends into existing forest. The project corridor is defined as the area of land that is visible from, adjacent to, and outside the highway right-of-way, and is determined by topography, vegetation, and viewing distance.

Primary viewers of the project site are motorists traveling on SR 89 between the Lake Tahoe South Shore and Emerald Bay and areas to the north. The proposed new project elements are not visible from public uses such as the Rubicon Trail and Upper Eagle Point Campground, which are located to the north, beyond a steep switchback on SR 89. Portions of the existing line and poles to be removed are visible from the switchback at MP ED 15.311 and from user-made trails in the vicinity. Because of the terrain and existing vegetation, most of the views from SR 89 along the project alignment are short-range views of the immediate forested area adjacent to SR 89.

#### **Regulatory Setting**

The applicable federal, state, and local regulations are summarized below. The project would be categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Per State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2, the project would not affect historical resources, is not located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code (hazardous waste sites), and would not damage scenic resources within a highway designated as an official state scenic highway (see below).

#### **Federal Regulations**

#### FHWA National Scenic Byways Program

The FHWA National Scenic Byways Program was established in Title 23, Section 162 of the United States Code under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and expanded in 1998 under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) and again under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation, Equity. Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) in 2005. FHWA's May 18, 1995 interim policy provides the criteria for the National Scenic Byways Program. This policy sets forth the procedures for the designation by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation of certain roads as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads based on their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities.

#### **State Regulations**

#### **State Scenic Highway**

California's Scenic Highway Program was created by the California State Legislature in 1963 and is managed by Caltrans. The goal of this program is to preserve and protect scenic highway corridors from changes that would affect the aesthetic value of the land adjacent to highways. A highway may be designated "scenic" depending on how much of the natural landscape travelers can see, the scenic quality of the landscape, and the extent to which development intrudes on travelers' enjoyment of the view (TRPA 2018: p. 9-11).

To the north of the project location, SR 89 in Placer County is classified as an "eligible" route under the Scenic Highway Program. The project is located within El Dorado County, and this portion of SR 89 is officially designated as a State Scenic Highway. All roadways that are eligible or officially designated under the program are also within TRPA-designate scenic roadway travel units (see below).

#### **Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Regulations**

#### **TRPA Regional Plan**

TRPA regulates growth and development in the Lake Tahoe region through the Regional Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin (Regional Plan). This Regional Plan update will guide land management, resource management, and environmental regulations in the Tahoe Basin over the next 20 years. The Regional Plan consists of several documents including the Goals and Policies, Code of Ordinances, and Scenic Quality Improvement Plan (SQIP).

#### **Regional Plan Goals and Policies**

The Goals and Policies document of the Regional Plan establishes an overall framework for development and environmental conservation in the Lake Tahoe region. The goals and policies present the overall approach to meeting TRPA's environmental threshold carrying capacities, also known as thresholds (discussed below), and establish guiding policy for each resource element. The Conservation Element (Chapter IV) of the Goals and Policies document considers 10 subelements, including a Scenic subelement.

#### **Code of Ordinances**

According to the TRPA Code of Ordinances, if a project is visible from Lake Tahoe, a state or federal highway in the Tahoe Basin, Pioneer Trail, or a public recreation area or bikeway, the potential scenic impacts of the project must be analyzed. Roadways in the Tahoe Basin have been divided by TRPA into 53 travel segments (called "travel units"), each representing a continuous two-directional viewshed of similar visual character. The applicable provisions regarding scenic standards in the TRPA Code are summarized below.

#### Scenic Standards

Chapter 36, "Design Standards," and Chapter 66, "Scenic Quality," of the TRPA Code contain standards pertaining to scenic quality. These chapters establish a process for analyzing projects for scenic quality and define those circumstances that require preparation of scenic assessments and/or other documents. Sections 66.1.3, 66.1.4, and 66.1.5 describe scenic quality standards for roadway and shoreline units, and for public recreation areas and bicycle trails.

#### **TRPA Threshold Carrying Capacities**

TRPA thresholds are standards or environmental quality targets to be achieved in the Tahoe Basin. TRPA cannot approve projects that would cause a significant adverse effect on a threshold area without appropriate mitigation. The thresholds discussed below were adopted by TRPA in 2002. TRPA conducts a comprehensive evaluation of all thresholds every 5 years. The results of the latest evaluation are included in the 2015 Threshold Evaluation Report. The report includes descriptions of the degree and rate of process toward attainment of the adopted environmental threshold carrying capacities, summarizes progress on Regional Plan implementation, and also provides recommendations on additional actions to facilitate threshold standard attainment or otherwise improve the effectiveness of the plan or applicable standards. The thresholds for scenic resources applicable to the project area are discussed below.

#### Scenic Resources-1 Travel Route Ratings

The TRPA travel route rating threshold tracks long-term cumulative changes to views seen from federal and state highways in urban, transitional, and natural landscapes in the region and to the views seen from Lake Tahoe looking toward the shore. Roadways have been divided into 53 "roadway travel units," each representing a continuous two-directional viewshed of similar visual character. Lake Tahoe's shore-line is divided into 33 separate "shoreline travel units."

The roadway travel and shoreline travel units within the proposed project area are in attainment (TRPA 2018: Figures 9-4 and 9-6). The standard for these units is "maintain or improve the numerical rating assigned each unit, including the scenic quality rating of the individual resources within each unit, as recorded in the Scenic Resources Inventory..." Every four years, a team of professionals examines and evaluates the quality of scenic units and resources along major roadways, the shoreline, and at certain public creation sites and bike trails in the Lake Tahoe Region. The interim target included in the 2015 threshold evaluation was to increase the number of units in attainment by the next evaluation in 2019. It is not

anticipated that the project would decrease the composite scenic score of the roadway travel unit or shoreline travel unit.

#### Scenic Resources-2 Scenic Quality Ratings

The purpose of TRPA's scenic quality threshold is to maintain or enhance views of individual existing scenic resources. The scenic resources in the region include the views of the natural landscape and distinctive natural features that were identified, mapped, described, and evaluated as part of the 1982 Scenic Resource Evaluation. Numerical scenic quality ratings are derived for each mapped scenic resource, using four visual indicators—unity, vividness, variety, and intactness—as subcomponents of the composite rating.

#### **Local Regulations**

#### El Dorado County General Plan

The El Dorado County General Plan includes the following goals, objectives, and policies related to visual resources and community design.

#### **Goal 2.3: Natural Landscape Features**

Maintain the characteristic natural landscape features unique to each area of the County.

#### **Objective 2.3.1: Topography and Native Vegetation**

Provide for the retention of distinct topographical features and conservation of the native vegetation of the County.

Objective 2.3.2: Hillsides and Ridge Lines

Maintain the visual integrity of hillsides and ridge lines.

#### Policy 2.3.2.1

Disturbance of slopes thirty (30) percent or greater shall be discouraged to minimize the visual impacts of grading and vegetation removal.

#### Goal 2.6: Corridor Viewsheds

Protection and improvements of scenic values along designated scenic road corridors.

#### Policy 2.6.1.2

Until such time as the Scenic Corridor Ordinance is adopted the County shall review all projects within designated State Scenic Highway corridors for compliance with State criteria.

#### **Permits and Approvals Needed**

Several agencies would be involved in the consideration of proposed project elements. Potential State and local approvals and permits would be considered for the proposed project. Responsible agencies could include:

- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

### VISUAL RESOURCES AND RESOURCE CHANGE

Visual resources of the project setting are defined and identified below by assessing *visual character* and *visual quality* in the project corridor. *Resource change* is assessed by evaluating the visual character and the visual quality of the visual resources that comprise the project corridor before and after the construction of the proposed project.

Figure 1 shows the project site location. Figure 2 shows the location and direction of photographic viewpoints. Figures 3 through 5 show photographs of existing visual conditions at the Cascade Bridge on SR 89 across the Cascade Creek from viewpoints 1, 2, and 3. These figures also provide photographic simulations of the proposed project at the one location (Cascade Bridge) where the new poles and aerial crossing would be visible from SR 89. Figure 6 shows the existing conditions and proposed project over the Cascade Bridge, looking southeast from SR 89. Figure 7 shows Viewpoint 5, looking northwest on SR 89. In this case, the existing view shows the existing aerial line across SR 89, and the photo simulation of the proposed project shows SR 89 following the removal of the power poles and aerial line. Similarly, Figures 8 and 9 show the existing views of power poles and aerial line across SR 89 at the switchback at approximately Mile Post ED 15.0 and the future views, with poles and aerial line removed.

The visual character of the proposed project will be compatible with the existing visual character of the corridor. The visual character of the project is dominated by mixed evergreen and conifer forest interspersed with rock outcrops. The visual form is comprised of vertical elements of the coniferous tree trunks with laterally spreading branches and evergreen foliage. The dark green and brown color of evergreen foliage and tree trunks is contrasted against the light color of granitic rock outcrops that are interspersed within the forest. The trees, low growing understory vegetation and rock outcrops are of uniform rough texture. The visual environment presented by the forest in the corridor is generally continuous with not a high degree of diversity among the visual elements. Very few human-made elements are present, apart from SR 89 itself. The landscape is generally free of visual encroachments as the forest serves to screen houses and the occasional utility pole in views from the roadway. Lake Tahoe is not visible from the location of the proposed new aerial overcrossing of SR 89. The Lake is visible farther up SR 89 to the north, at approximately Mile Post ED 15.097.

The proposed utility poles would be visible from the highway, but their form would be consistent with the vertical form and line and similar in scale with the surrounding coniferous trees; the utility lines would not be dominant, or contrast with the surrounding forest. The existing lines are minimally visible within the forest as shown in Figures 5, 6, and 7. Additionally, the removal of existing poles and lines and relocation of poles and lines will reduce the number of road crossings from three to one, thereby reducing the visibility of the utility infrastructure within the corridor (Figures 4, 5, and 6).

The visual quality of the existing corridor will not be altered by the proposed project. The project would eliminate three existing crossings of SR 89, with approximately 2,545 feet of visible overhead wire and associated poles. Approximately eight of the existing poles are visible from SR 89. The project would construct five new poles and associated electric lines, creating one new aerial crossing of SR 89 with approximately 120 feet of visible overhead wire. The reduction in the number of poles and length of utility wire visible within the corridor would increase intactness and unity within the scenic corridor.

Resource Change (changes to visual resources as measured by changes in visual character and visual quality) will be low. The proposed project would reduce the number of aerial crossings and poles visible from SR 89; therefore, the visual quality would increase, and the resource change would be positive.

#### December 2019



### Figure 1 Site Location



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019Figure 2Proposed Project Photograph and Photo Simulation Locations



200

100

FEET 19010169.01 GRX 001



Existing view of project site at Cascade Creek Bridge for northbound travelers on Highway 89.



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019 Simulated view showing installed poles and line.

#### Figure 3 Viewpoint 1: Northbound View at Cascade Creek Bridge



Existing view of project site at Cascade Creek Bridge for travelers looking southeast on Highway 89.



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019 Simulated view showing installed poles and line.

#### Figure 4 Viewpoint 2: Southeast View at Cascade Creek Bridge



Existing view of project site at Cascade Creek Bridge for southbound travelers on Highway 89.



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019 Simulated view showing installed poles and line.

### Figure 5 Viewpoint 3: Southbound View at Cascade Creek Bridge



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019

Existing view toward project site at Cascade Creek Bridge for southbound travelers from curve on Highway 89 (approximately 100 feet from proposed pole and line location).



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019 Simulated view for southbound travelers showing installed poles and lines.

Figure 6 Viewpoint 4: View for Southbound Travelers Toward Cascade Creek



Existing view looking west near switchback for northbound travelers. Existing view showing existing poles and electrical lines crossing the roadway.



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019 Simulated view showing poles and lines removed.

#### Figure 7 Viewpoint 5: View for Northbound Travelers Near Switchback



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019 Existing view upslope from Highway 89 near switchback. Existing view showing existing poles and electrical lines crossing the roadway.



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019 Simulated view showing poles and lines removed.

#### Figure 8 Viewpoint 6: View Upslope from Highway 89 in Close Proximity to Switchback



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019 Existing view along northbound Highway 89 close to the switchback. Existing view showing existing poles and electrical lines crossing the roadway.



Source: Liberty Utilities 2019, adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019 Simulated view showing poles and lines removed.

#### Figure 9. Viewpoint 7: View for Northbound Travelers in Close Proximity to the Switchback

### **VIEWERS AND VIEWER RESPONSE**

*Neighbors* (people with views *to* the road) and *highway users* (people with views *from* the road) will not be negatively affected by the proposed project. The proposed new utility poles and wires will be visible to highway users; however, due to vegetation and terrain and the duration of views, these features will not be dominant or detract substantially from the scenic resources in the corridor. Additionally, the removal of poles and wires elsewhere in the corridor will improve the scenic resources for highway users because it would remove three overhead crossings of SR 89 and replace them with only one overhead crossing. The nearest highway neighbors, consisting of residents living off Cascade Road, are located at least 350 feet away from the proposed location of the new poles and wires. Views from these residences would be screened by the existing forest. It is anticipated that the average response of all viewer groups will be low.

### **VISUAL IMPACT**

Visual impacts are determined by assessing changes to the visual resources and predicting viewer response to those changes. Construction impacts visible from SR 89 would be minimal, since no substantial soil disturbance would be required for installation of the two utility poles near Cascade Creek. Use of construction equipment and personnel, including ground crews and helicopters would be temporary. These construction activities would be briefly visible to highway users and residents entering and leaving SR 89 from Cascade Road. Upon project completion, the visual character of the proposed project will be compatible with the existing visual character of the corridor, and with the removal of three road crossings by the utility wires, the visual character of the corridor may be improved. The newly installed utility poles and wires will be visible to highway users, however, due to vegetation and terrain, and the duration of views, these features will not be dominant or detract substantially from the scenic resources in the corridor, and as previously noted the reduction of utility wire crossing would serve to improve visual experience of highway users by improving unity and intactness of views within the corridor.

The proposed project would not affect any scenic vistas, alter visual character or adversely affect scenic resources within the scenic highway. The proposed project would not be a source of new light and glare.

TRPA staff reviewed the preliminary project proposal and determined that TRPA's preliminary determination is that there will be an improvement to scenic quality in the Scenic Roadway Travel Route. The elimination of the three roadway crossings, numerous utility poles and associated utility lines adjacent to the roadway would reduce the number of visible human-made features and roadway distractions, thereby improving scenic quality. TRPA is supportive of the proposal to reduce overhead utility lines visible from TRPA-designated Roadway and Shoreline Travel Routes (Nielsen 2019).

Under two alternative no-project scenarios, the visual impact would be greater than the proposed project. Under existing conditions, viewers currently see three aerial overcrossings and associated poles and wires while traveling on SR 89. As stated in the project description, if the proposed project is not permitted, the CPUC would require covered conductors on the existing line, which would further deteriorate aesthetics in the project area.

### AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

No avoidance or minimization measures are required.

### CONCLUSIONS

The proposed project would not affect any scenic vistas, negatively alter visual character or adversely affect scenic resources within the scenic highway. The proposed project would not be a source of new light and glare. The project would reduce the number of aerial crossings and utility poles that are visible from State Route 89. The reduction in the number of poles and length of utility wire visible within the corridor would increase the visual quality, and the resource change would be positive. The project is consistent with local regulations and guidelines addressing scenic quality and is supported by TRPA, the local regulatory agency. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a significant impact on visual resources within the scenic highway corridor.

#### REFERENCES

- U.S. Forest Service. 1995. *Landscape Aesthetics: A Handbook for Scenery Management*. Agriculture Handbook number 701.
- Nielsen, Paul. TRPA Special Project Manager. October 1, 2019—personal communication with Liz Lawton of Liberty Utilities.
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). 2018. *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Lake Tahoe Shoreline Plan*. Chapter 9, Scenic Resources. Prepared by Ascent Environmental. May 2018.
- TRPA. 2019. *SR-89 Corridor Management Plan, Existing Conditions Summary Report*. Prepared for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Tahoe Transportation District, and US Forest Service. Prepared by Design Workshop, Inc., LSC Transportation Consultants, Karen Mullen-Ehly, Nelson\Nygaard, and ORCA Consulting. May 2019.

Exhibit F

**Cultural Resource Investigation** 

October 28, 2019



Kelly Kelso Ascent Environmental, Inc. 128 Market Street, Suite 3E Stateline, CA 89449

RE: Cultural Resources Assessment for the Liberty Utilities-Meyers 3400 Project in South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, California

Natural Investigations Company, Inc. (Natural Investigations) was retained by Ascent Environmental to provide cultural resources services in support of the Liberty Utilities-Meyers 3400 Project (Project) in South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, California (Figure 1). The services provided include a literature search, Sacred Lands File (SLF) search, field survey, and the present technical memo summarizing all cultural resources findings. This study was completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Section 21083.2 of the statute, and Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.

# **RESEARCH METHODS AND FINDINGS**

### **CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM**

A California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search was conducted at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) located on the campus of California State University, Sacramento. The CHRIS search was conducted by Natural Investigations Principal, Cindy Arrington, on September 30, 2019. The records search was completed to determine the extent to which the Project Area has been previously surveyed, as well as the number and type of known cultural resources present within a 0.50-mile radius of the Project Area. The following archaeological, archival, and historical records were consulted as part of the background research:

- National Register of Historic Places: Listed Properties (2012)
- California Register of Historical Resources (2012)
- California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976)
- California Historical Landmarks (2011)
- Historic Property Data File for El Dorado County (2012)
- California Points of Historical Interest (1992 and updates)
- Caltrans State and Local Bridge Inventory (2013)

### **Prior Studies**

The CHRIS records search indicates that a total of 6 prior cultural resource studies have been completed within the 0.50-mile records search radius (Table 1). Of these, only one, NCIC No. 8605, included a portion of the Project Area. The previous investigations were completed between 1989 and 2018.

Table 1. Prior Studies Completed within 0.50-Mile Radius of Project Area				
NCIC Report No.	Author	Year	Report Title	Proximity to Project Area
000482	Woodward, Jim		Archeological Survey of the Emerald Bay Shoreline in Emerald Bay State Park, El Dorado County, California	Outside, within 0.5 miles

Table 1. Prior Studies Completed within 0.50-Mile Radius of Project Area				
NCIC Report No.	Author	Year	Report Title	Proximity to Project Area
008605	Offermann, Janis K.	1989	DOT Negative Archaeological Survey Report-Addendum, Cascade Creek Bridge Replacement	Within
008620	Lindström, Susan	1989	A Cultural Resource Evaluation of the Cascade Lake Sanitary Sewer Extension Project, El Dorado County	Outside, within 0.5 miles
011697	Francisco, Sonnier and Johni Etheridge	2015	Emerald Bay/Ensite #24672 (249778) S Side HWY 89 at Sugar Pine Rd, South Lake Tahoe, California	Outside, within 0.5 miles
011802	Klopp, Lacey and Mark D. Selverston	2015	Cultural Resources Survey Report Emerald Bay State Park El Dorado County, California	Outside, within 0.5 miles
012649	Bradfield, Danielle	2018	An Archaeological Survey Report for the Ebright Combined CFIP, El Dorado County, California	Outside, within 0.5 miles

### **Previously Recorded Resources**

The CHRIS records search also indicates that two previously recorded cultural resources are located within the Project Area, and an additional three resources have been recorded outside the Project Area but within the 0.5-mile search radius (Table 2). The first of the two resources within the Project Area (P-9-3395) consists of the isolated remains of a Ford Model-A automobile that appears to have crashed and been abandoned at the location (Dexter 2005a). The documented remains from the wreck included rusted body remnants, springs from the seat cushion, wooden frame with metal bolts, wheel wells, doors and lock.

The second resource (P-9-3838) is the "Red Clay Site," an extraction locale used by the prehistoric Washoe as a source of red clay which they used to decorate themselves, their tools, and for other purposes. It is one of the few special function sites of the kind known in the Lake Tahoe region (Graham n.d.). The site was originally recorded on a poor quality United States Geological Survey (USGS) Emerald Bay 15-minute topographic quadrangle, so the boundaries on record are only approximate.

The remaining three resources located within 0.5 miles of the Project area include one prehistoric site and two historic-aged linear features. P-09-3399 (CA-ELD-2209) is a small prehistoric lithic scatter made up of banded obsidian flakes and potential midden soil (Dexter 2005b). P-9-3404 and P-9-3405 are both badly eroded dirt roadway segments (Dexter 2005c; 2005d).

	Table 2. Res	ource Previously Recorded v	vithin 0.50-Mile Radius of Project Area	
Primary No. (P-9-)	Trinomial CA-ELD-	Recorder and Year	Description	Proximity to Project Area
3395	N/A	Dexter, Sean 2005	Isolated Model-A Ford	Within
3399	2209	Dexter, Sean 2005	Prehistoric lithic scatter	Outside, within 0.5 miles
3404	N/A	Dexter, Sean 2005	Dirt roadway segment	Outside, within 0.5 miles
3405	N/A	Dexter, Sean 2005	Dirt roadway segment	Outside, within 0.5 miles
3838	N/A	Graham, Elliot L. n.d.	Prehistoric special-use site, "The Clay Site	Within

### **OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES**

Natural Investigations reviewed historic maps and aerial photographs to develop an historical context for the Project Area. A number of General Land Office (GLO) plat maps for Township 13 north, Range 17 east were consulted, including plats for 1866, 1874, 1875, 1880, and 1885. No development is evident on any of the maps from this period. The land including the Project Area was incorporated into a 160-acre parcel by 1866 and was then subdivided and assigned to an 80-acre parcel between 1874 and 1875. The 1955 USGS Emerald Bay 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle shows that Highway 89 had been constructed by that time and two unpaved roads extend southward from it, flanking the east and west sides of Cascade Lake. Northwestward from Highway 89 another unpaved roadway extends to the base of Eagle Point where two structures had been built on the waterfront. A campground is present north of the Project Area. (USGS 1955). It is not until the 1990s that further development in the vicinity of the Project is shown. Two dozen or so new structures and piers had been constructed southeast of the Project Area by 1994, along with a number of structures on the north end of Cascade Lake (USGS 1994). Historical aerial photographs indicate that much of this new development had occurred by 1987 (NETR 2019).

### SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH

Natural Investigations contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a search of their SLF to identify any tribal resources or sacred sites within or near the Project Area. The results returned by the NAHC on October 15, 2019 were <u>negative</u> for tribal cultural resources in the vicinity of the Project. The NAHC provided contact information for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, which is affiliated with the region, and recommended that they be contacted for more information on the potential for tribal resources in the area.

Natural Investigations sent a Project scoping letter and map to Mr. Darrel Cruz of the Washoe Tribal Historic Preservation Office on October 15, 2019. Follow-up phone calls were then made on October 18 and 21, 2019. Mr. Cruz was reached on October 21, 2019, and stated that there is a sparse lithic scatter along the utility alignment to be removed- specifically, within approximately 100 feet of the hairpin turn along Emerald Bay Road just southwest of that alignment. This location corresponds well with the plotted site of P-9-3399. He recommended that I contact Michael Hilton of the Forest Service for additional information on the scatter. Natural investigations contacted Mr. Hilton who did not have any records on the site.

Mr. Cruz did not have further information on the boundaries of the Red Clay Site (P-9-3838). Further details on the Native American outreach efforts are provided in Appendix D.

## FIELDWORK

### METHODS

An intensive pedestrian survey of the discontiguous 4.84-acre Project Area was conducted on October 1, 2019 by Natural Investigations archaeologist, Dylan Stapleton, MA, RPA. Of the 4.84 acres making up the Project Area, 2.4 acres and the existing two track dirt access roads were surveyed intensively using transects spaced no greater than 15 meters apart. Due to the presence of dense vegetation, approximately 2.44 acres were surveyed at a cursory, non-intensive level using zigzag transects (Figure 2).

All visible ground surfaces within the Project Area were carefully examined for cultural material (e.g., flaked stone tools, tool-making debris, stonemilling tools, or fire-affected rock), soil discoloration that might indicate the presence of a cultural midden, soil depressions and features indicative of the former presence of structures or buildings (e.g., postholes, foundations), or historic-era debris (e.g., metal, glass, ceramics). Ground-disturbances (e.g., animal burrows, embankment, dirt roads, cut banks, etc.) were visually inspected. A digital camera was used to take photographs of the Project Area, a Munsell® Soil Color Chart used to record soil color, and a handheld BE-3300-GPS global positioning system (GPS) unit with sub-meter accuracy used to record locational data.

### FINDINGS

### Summary

No previously unrecorded prehistoric or historical archaeological sites or ethnographic resources were identified within the Project Area during the survey. Previously documented sites P-09-3395 and P-09-3838 were not revisited. Their locations as plotted by the NEIC do not appear to be accurate. The resource records for the Clay Site (P-09-3838) note that the original location information was only approximate. It could not be found during survey. The records for the historical Model-A Ford wreck (P-09-3395) place the site to the south of the northern Project Area corridor at the base of the slope adjacent to the northbound side of Highway 89. This area was revisited though the remains of the vehicle were not found. It may be the case that the debris constituting the site has been cleared since 2005. This was noted in the site record update prepared as part of this initial assessment (Appendix C).

## **Description of Surveyed Area**

The 4.84-acre Project Area is located on public land approximately 6.20 miles northwest of Tahoe Valley, California. It is accessed via Highway 89 in Emerald Bay. The parcel is surrounded on all sides by rural, public land with Lake Tahoe to the north and east and Cascade Creek running northeast-southwest through the eastern portion of Project Area. Highway 89 borders the Project Area to the north and south.

Visibility at the time of survey was highly variable, ranging from poor (1-10%) to excellent (75-100%) depending on the extent of vegetative ground cover (Appendix B, Photographs 1-4). A modern water tank and storage shed were noted in the southern portion of the Project Area (Appendix B, Photograph 5). The slope on the northern portion of the Project Area was steep at approximately 44% and was gradual in the southern portion at >1%. Vegetation in the Project Area consisted of a mixed conifer vegetation of pine, fir and cedar with a manzanita and whitethorn chaparral cover overlaying a sandy loam moraine. Soil consisted of a dark brown (4/2 7.5YR) coarse gravelly sandy loam, with occasional angular to subangular pebble inclusions and occasional cobbles and stones and is consistent with the Meeks soil series.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The historic Model-A Ford (P-9-3395) located within the Project Area is an isolated find. It was not found during the pedestrian survey completed as part of this assessment and it may have been destroyed completely during a clean-up event. Isolated finds of the kind are by definition found outside of an interpretable archaeological context which is constituted of groups of contemporary and associated artifacts, ecofacts, features, and/or sites. Without this context, isolates typically lack the potential to yield information important in prehistory or history, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) criterion (Criterion 4) under which archaeological resources are most often found to be significant. As such, P-9-3395 is not eligible for listing on the CRHR and no further consideration is needed.

However, the "Clay Site" (P-9-3838) which is also mapped within the Project Area represents a unique specialuse site visited by the Washoe for the collection of red clay which served various decorative and ritual purposes. While the site has not been formally evaluated for its significance, it may have the potential to yield important information on the prehistory of the area and so may be eligible for listing under CRHR Criterion 4. As noted above, the site boundaries for this resource are not well understood.

Additionally, during Native American outreach efforts, it was learned from Mr. Darrel Cruz of the Washoe Tribe that a sparse lithic scatter is present very near to the Project area, within about 100 feet of the hairpin turn along Emerald Bay Road just southwest of the utility alignment slated for removal. It is likely that this is P-9-3399.

As two indigenous archaeological sites are located within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area, it is recommended that a representative of the Washoe Tribe be present to monitor Project-related ground-disturbance.

### **INADVERTENT DISCOVERIES**

In the event that cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during Project activities, work must be halted within 100 feet (30 meters) of the find and a qualified archaeologist (36 CFR Part 61) notified immediately so that an assessment of its significance can be undertaken. Construction activities may continue in other areas, but not resume in the vicinity of the find until written permission is provided by the overseeing agency. If the discovery proves to be significant, additional work, such as data recovery excavation, may be warranted and would be determined in consultation with relevant regulatory agencies and tribal organizations, as appropriate.

### HUMAN REMAINS

Although unlikely, the discovery of human remains is always a possibility. State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 covers these findings, except on federal and tribal lands. This code section states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the human remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

If you have any questions or if anything else would be useful, please feel free to contact me by phone (415-894-7716) or email (<u>tim@naturalinvestigations.com</u>).

Very best,

Janothy James Spillance

**Tim Spillane, MA, RPA** Principal Investigator/Project Manager/GIS Analyst II Natural Investigations Company, Inc. 3104 O Street, #221, Sacramento, CA 95816 DPR 523 Series Site Forms

Attachments: Appendix A: Figures; Appendix B: Photographs; Appendix C: DPR Site Record Update

### **REFERENCES CITED**

Dexter, Sean

- 2005a Site Record for P-9-3395. On file at the North Central Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System, California State University, Sacramento.
- 2005b Site Record for P-9-3399. On file at the North Central Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System, California State University, Sacramento.
- 2005c Site Record for P-9-3404. On file at the North Central Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System, California State University, Sacramento.
- 2005d Site Record for P-9-3405. On file at the North Central Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System, California State University, Sacramento.

Graham, Elliott L.

n.d. Site Record for P-9-3838. On file at the North Central Information Center, California Historical Resources Information System, California State University, Sacramento.

Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR)

2019 Historic Aerials. Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC. Accessed October 10, 2019 from: http://historicaerials.com.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1955 Emerald Bay. Topographic Quadrangle Map. Reston, VA: USGS. Accessed October 8, 2019 from: https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv\_download.pl?id=4600143147413d894dee11e6796f289f&fmt=jpg.
- 1994 Emerald Bay. Topographic Quadrangle Map. Reston, VA: USGS. Accessed October 10, 2019 from: https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv\_download.pl?id=299d8b95888dc97dcc0fdbddb47994a0&fmt=jpg.

# **APPENDIX A: FIGURES**







Figure 2. Survey Coverage Map
**APPENDIX B: PHOTOGRAPHS** 



Photograph 1. Overview of northern corridor, view to west.



Photograph 3. Overview of southeastern portion of southern corridor, view to east.



Photograph 2. Overview of native soil in northern corridor, plan view.



Photograph 4. Overview of southern corridor, view to southwest.



Photograph 5. Modern water tank and shed, view to east.

**APPENDIX C: DPR SITE RECORD UPDATE** 

	California - The Resources Agency	Primary # P-09-003395	
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION		HRI #	
CON	TINUATION SHEET	Trinomial	
Page1	of 1 *Resource Name or # Is		
		□ Continuation ■ Site Update	
*Origin	ally Recorded By: Sean Dexter	*Date: 2005	
1. Impac		Recreational Use by Humans (campfire ring, etc.) □ Fire □ New vegetation growth □ Modern trash deposits I □ None ■ Other(explain)	
Site not re	located.		
	site location narrative accurate? □ Yes ■No(explain)		
	on was revisited though the resource was not found. It m cording, otherwise it is assumed that the location informa	ay be the case that the associated vehical debris has been cleared since its ition on record is inaccurate.	
3. Is the	site description narrative accurate? □ Yes ■ No (explain)		
Unknown	Site not relocated.		
4. Were Site not re	new photos taken? □ Yes (attach Photograph Record) ■ No (explain) elocated		
	of Site Revisit: 10/01/2019		
6. Revis	ted by: Dylan Stapleton, MA, RPA, Natural Investigations	Company 3104 O Street Sacramento, CA 95816	
7. Reaso	n for Revisit: □ Collect GPS data/Impact Mapping □ Change in proje	ct area conditions □Evaluation of Eligibility ■Other (explain)	
Current lo	cation on record overlapped with the project for which the	e report referenced below was completed.	
8. Repo	t Citation:		
	Fim. Cultural Resources Assessment for the Liberty Utiliti vestigations, Sacramento, CA.	es-Meyers 300 Project in South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, California.	

9. Were UTM coordinates gathered? Location data obtained from aerial photography and USGS quadrangle maps. UTMs: □ Yes ■ No Aerial Photography: □ Yes ■ No USGS Quadrangle Maps: □ Yes ■ No

10. Remarks:

\*Required information

State of California - The Resources Agency	Primary # P-09-003838
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	HRI#
CONTINUATION SHEET	Trinomial
Page1 of 1 *Resource Name or # Red Clay S	
	□ Continuation ■ Site Update
*Originally Recorded By: Elliott L. Grabam	*Date: 1971
1. Impacts Observed Since Site Formation/Use: Constructed trail Wildlife path Grading Recreation Frosion Vandalism/Pothunting/Artifact Collection New Fire break Construction Vegetation removal Non Site not relocated within the surveyed area.	w vegetation growth D Modern trash deposits
2. Is the site location narrative accurate? □ Yes ■No(explain)	
Previous site records for the site note that the original location information w base of Eagle Point failed to clarify the site location.	as only approximate. A survey of the segment of Highway 89 at the
3. Is the site description narrative accurate? □ Yes ■ No (explain)	
Site not relocated.	
4. Were new photos taken? □ Yes (attach Photograph Record) ■ No (explain)	
Site not relocated within the surveyed area.	
5. Date of Site Revisit: 10/01/2019	
6. Revisited by: Dylan Stapleton, MA, RPA, Natural Investigations Company	y 3104 O Street Sacramento, CA 95816
7. Reason for Revisit:	onditions □Evaluation of Eligibility ■Other (explain)
Current location on record overlapped with the project for which the report re	eferenced below was completed.
8. Report Citation:	
Spillane, Tim. Cultural Resources Assessment for the Liberty Utilities-Meyer Natural Investigations, Sacramento, CA.	rs 300 Project in South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, California.
9. Were UTM coordinates gathered? Location data obtained from aerial pho	otography and USGS quadrangle maps.
UTMs: □ Yes ■ No Aerial Photography: □ Yes ■ No USGS C	Quadrangle Maps: □ Yes ■ No

10. Remarks:

\*Required information

## **APPENDIX D: SACRED LANDS FILE SEARCH**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Gavin Newsom, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION Cultural and Environmental Department 1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100 West Sacramento, CA 95691 Phone: (916) 373-3710 Email: <u>nahc@nahc.ca.gov</u> Website: <u>http://www.nahc.ca.gov</u> Twitter: @CA\_NAHC

October 15, 2019

Cindy Arrington Natural Investigations Co., Inc.

VIA Email to:cindy@naturalinvestigations.com

#### RE: Liberty Utilities-Meyers 3400 Pole Replacement, El Dorado County

Dear Ms. Arrington:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were <u>negative</u>. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Nancy.Gonzalez-Lopez@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez Staff Services Analyst

Attachment



#### Native American Heritage Commission Native American Contact List El Dorado County 10/15/2019

### Washoe Tribe of Nevada and

California Darrel Cruz, Cultural Resources Department 919 Highway 395 North Gardnerville, NV, 89410 Phone: (775) 265 - 8600 darrel.cruz@washoetribe.us

Washoe

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Liberty Utilities-Meyers 3400 Pole Replacement, El Dorado County.

October 15, 2019



Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Darrel Cruz, Tribal Historic Preservation Office 919 Highway 395 North Gardnerville, NV 89410

Dear Mr. Cruz:

Natural Investigations Company, Inc. (Natural Investigations) was retained by the City of South Lake Tahoe through Ascent Environmental, Inc. to provide cultural resources services in support of the Liberty Utilities-Meyers 3400 Project (Project) located on Highway 89, Mile Post ED 14.817, in the City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, California. The Project will replace a number of electrical utility poles (Poles 1017 – 13382) which are currently located on very steep terrain, relocating the section to a more accessible area.

The Project Area can be found on the 1992 United States Geological Survey (USGS) Emerald Bay topographic quadrangle map in Sections 22 and 27 of Township 13 north, Range 17 east of the Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (Figure 1).

Natural Investigations conducted a California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) on September 30, 2019. It indicated that two resources are known within or near to the Project Area. The first (P-9-3395) is a historical isolate made up of the remains of a wrecked Model-A Ford. The second (P-9-3838) is the "Red Clay Site," which is documented as a source of red clay used by the Washoe for decorating and other ritual purposes. It is one of the few special function sites of the kind known at Lake Tahoe. The site was originally recorded on a poor quality USGS Emerald Bay 15-minute topographic map, so the boundaries on record are only approximate.

Natural Investigations performed an intensive pedestrian survey of the Project Area on October 1, 2019 and evidence of the Clay Site was not found during the field effort. While the site has not been formally evaluated for its significance, we believe it may have the potential to yield important information on the prehistory of the area and so may be eligible for listing under California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) Criterion 4. Given this potential and the fact that the site boundaries for the resource are not well understood, we plan to recommend that a representative of the Washoe tribe be present to monitor any Project-related ground-disturbance undertaken within 200 feet of the mapped boundaries of the site. We would like to know whether you concur with this recommendation.

While the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has not yet returned the results of the Sacred Lands File (SLF) search requested for the Project, we would also like to ask for any information you may have on the Clay Site or other potential tribal cultural resources in the vicinity. Site records for P-9-3838 are attached to this letter.

We would greatly appreciate any comments that you may have and invite you to raise any other concerns relating to the Project should you have them. All information provided regarding specific sites or tribal cultural resources will remain confidential. Please contact me by phone (415-894-7716) or email (<u>tim@naturalinvestigations.com</u>). Your response within two weeks of receipt of this letter will be appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamothy James Spillance

**Tim Spillane, MA, RPA** Principal Investigator/Project Manager/GIS Analyst II Natural Investigations Company, Inc. 3104 O Street, #221, Sacramento, CA 95816

Attachments: Figure 1; DPR 523 Series Site Form



Map Date 9/27/2019

Emerald Bay 1992 Quadrangle: Township 13N, Range 17E, Section 22, 27

NOTE.  $\bigcirc$ P. 9. 3.806 - 38/2 P. q. 3815 - 3817 P. 9. 3833 - 3839  $\sim$ Plottek onto 7.5 minute quadrandes from data on poor quality 15 minute maps Accuracy 15 as close as possible to description and map logistics. 23 Fubr. 20014 EB)

EMERALD 1344 P.9.3838 ( NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY SITE FORM United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Region 5 Blotter in alian 200 Red Clay Site of 1. Site Name: 05-03-54-11 2. Location: (a) State <u>California</u>, County <u>El Dorado</u>; (b) TWP 13 N, RANGE 17E, MDM of the SEV4 of the SEV4 of SEC .22 (c) Other legal description in lieu of T., R., and SEC ., \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Size of Site: (preferred in acres) Aarra 50 × 50 feet 4. Nature of Property, Description and Use: ; building ; site X ; object . ; district Description and Use of Property, The Washoe collected red Clay here for use in decorating them so hes and their hows and arrows. 5. Why is Property Important? This is one of the Sew known special function sites of the Mashae at Names and Addresses of Persons Filing This Form Filiott L. Grabaw, 6. Laly Valley P.D. Eldorado NIF. 7. Name and Address of Present Owner of the Property Private hand. Name and Address of Frederic Family <u>Bolomas to the Ebright Family</u> Into From ' See bottom Cite #1 "cultural and Historical Sig. of the Takoo Rog." Takoe Rog. Planning Agy. MISTS (1971) Takoe Rog. Planning Agy. MISTS (1971) R5-2700-30 (TEMPORARY)





Natural Investigations Company

### Native American Contact Tracking Sheet Liberty Utilities Clearlake, Lake County, CA

Contact Name	Date Letter Sent	Date of Follow Up	Comments/Concerns/ Recommendations
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Darrel Cruz, Tribal Historic Preservation Office 919 Highway 395 North Gardnerville, NV 89410 (775) 265-8600 darrel.cruz@washoetribe.us	10-15-2019 Hard copy and electronic copy	10-18-2019 10-21-2019	Mr. Cruz was not available. I left a voice message. Mr. Cruz was reached by phone. He let me know that a prehistoric lithic scatter is present along the utilities alignment to be removed. He recommended that I contact Michael Hilton of the Forest Service for additional information on the site.
		10-22-2019	I contacted Mr. Hilton via email providing the location of the lithic scatter and requesting any site records or other information that he may have on the resource. He responded on the same day stating that he checked Forest Service records did not find reference to any sites within 1000 feet of the location provided.
		10-28-2019	I contacted Mr. Cruz to inform him of Mr. Hilton's response.

Exhibit G

**Biological Memo** 

## Memo



455 Capitol Mall, Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95814 916.444.7301

Date:November 21, 2019To:Liz Lawton, Liberty UtilitiesFrom:Kelley Kelso, Ascent EnvironmentalSubject:Liberty Utilities Cascade Creek Overhead Powerline Relocation Project

## Introduction

During General Order 165 inspections of the Meyers 3400 distribution line, Liberty CalPeco identified many power poles that required replacement due to deterioration. These poles are located in steep terrain that is difficult to monitor and maintain. Due to the terrain, some of the poles require helicopter assistance to replace poles. Operationally, Liberty CalPeco would like to move this section of overhead powerline to a more accessible location on State Route (SR) 89 at Mile Post ED 14.817. SR 89 is an officially designated scenic highway. Public Utilities Code § 320 requires undergrounding of powerlines within 1,000 feet of each edge of right-of way of designated scenic highways. In this case, there is no viable location in this area that would allow for underground boring of State Route 89 and therefore Liberty CalPeco is requesting a deviation from California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Code § 320.

This powerline replacement project would create one new aerial crossing of SR 89, with approximately 120 feet of visible overhead wire, and eliminate three existing crossings of SR 89 in an area with views of Lake Tahoe. This reduction in overhead power line would improve the scenic quality of the area. If this project is not permitted, the CPUC would require covered conductors on the existing line which would further deteriorate aesthetics in an area with views of Lake Tahoe.

The equipment that would be utilized on this project includes seven 45-foot class, creosote-treated Douglas fir poles, approximately 120 feet of 2-#2ACSR primary wire, and the associated anchors and guy wires. The line to removed would include 14 poles and approximately 2,545 feet of overhead wire. This installation is a permanent facility.

Liberty Utilities submitted Advice Letter General No. 100-E (U933-E) to the CPUC in October 2018 requesting a deviation from PUC Code § 320 for this project. The CPUC responded that Liberty would be required to:

- Conduct a visual assessment of scenic highway 89 focusing on both the existing and proposed overhead crossings from multiple key vantage points and provide the results to Caltrans and CPUC;
- Conduct a habitat assessment and description of impacts to support a Streambed Alteration Agreement from California Department of Fish and Wildlife;
- ▶ Prepare a categorical exemption under CEQA.

These items would enable the CPUC to make a decision in the advice letter process concerning Liberty's Pub. Util. Code Section 320 deviation request from undergrounding within 1000' of the scenic highway. If significant impacts are identified, Liberty would be required to withdraw the advice letter and submit an application through the Commission for CEQA review of the project. Due to the length of the application process and the deteriorating condition of the

existing poles, Liberty would not be able to submit an application and would instead have to leave the line where it is, support the deteriorating poles, and install covered conductors reducing scenic quality in this area.

The purpose of this memorandum is to summarize existing biological conditions in the project area and identify biological constraints to project permitting and implementation.

### Methods

To assess and document existing biological resources in the study area, Ascent biologists and scientists conducted a reconnaissance survey and habitat assessment for special-status wildlife and aquatic resources, special status plants and invasive fish species, and potential wetlands and other waters of the United States. For this assessment, the survey focused on the areas where the powerline would be removed or relocated.

Prior to the field surveys, existing data were reviewed to preliminarily identify special-status species and other sensitive resources known or with potential to occur in the project area. The data review included: California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) land cover mapping; record searches of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB 2019) and California Native Plant Society Online Inventory or Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2016); a list of federally proposed, candidate, threatened, and endangered species that may occur in the project region obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system (USFWS 2019b); Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Geographic Information System (GIS) data; and high resolution aerial imagery. Aquatic habitats were researched using the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory database (USFWS 2019a). Figure 1 shows CNDDB occurrences, CWHR, and TRPA data in the project area.

On October 6, 2019, October 20, 2019, and November 5, 2019, Ascent biologist Steve Henderson and scientist Kelley Kelso conducted the field surveys to verify information collected during the data review and augment that information with current project-specific survey results. The field survey consisted of a reconnaissance-level survey and habitat assessment for terrestrial wildlife and aquatic resources, reconnaissance survey for special-status plants, invasive plant survey and mapping, and land cover/vegetation characterization. No focused or protocol-level surveys for special-status wildlife or plant species were conducted.

## **Existing Conditions**

### **Physical Site Characteristics**

The proposed Cascade Creek Overhead Powerline Replacement Project is located on the south west shore of Lake Tahoe, approximately 0.25 miles northeast of Cascade Lake in El Dorado County, CA. The project area is located on the Emerald Bay USGS 7.5' quadrangle at T13N R17E S27.

The proposed project area is located at 6,400 to 6,560 feet above sea level and characterized by slopes of 10 to 60% percent. Soils in the project area are generally gravelly loamy coarse sand with parent material of till derived from granodiorite. The depth of surface organic matter and duff is 1-3 inches.

### Common Vegetation/Habitat Types and Sensitive Habitats

The project area consists of mostly a forest landscape; natural vegetation is abundant but fragmented by SR 89 and low-density residential uses (e.g., driveways and homes, dirt roads, water tank). The dominant vegetation type in the project area includes Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), and sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*). An understory of shrubs or deciduous trees is present and includes green-leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), pine mat manzanita (*Arctostaphylos nevadensis*), Sierra chinquapin (*Chrysolepis sempervirens*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier utahensis*), Mahala mat (*Ceanothus prostrates*), tobacco brush (*Ceanothus velutinus*), Scouler's willow (*Salix scouleriana*), and mountain rose (*Rosa woodsii*). The canopy is generally open (5-30% cover). Representative photos of the project area are shown in Attachment A. In general, the habitat mapped by





Source: Data downloaded from CDFW in 2019. TRPA in 2018 and 2019, and USFS in 2014; adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2019

Figure 1: CWHR Land Cover and Documented Special-Status Species Occurrences in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project

### Liberty Utilities November 11, 2019 Page 3



CHWR was confirmed in the field to be mostly Sierran mixed conifer and Jeffrey pine in the project area. A small swath of montane chaparral mapped adjacent to SR 89 appeared to be mostly Caltrans revegetation mix and not montane chaparral (Figure 1).

One drainage flows through the project area, Cascade Creek, which is the only outlet of Cascade Lake and flows into Lake Tahoe. There is a lack of overstory in the proposed power line alignment in the vicinity of Cascade Creek. Though a formal aquatic resources delineation was not performed, this creek would be considered a water of the United States regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and waters of the state regulated by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan RWQCB) under the Porter-Cologne Act. There is no work currently proposed within the creek or in riparian areas which would require compliance with Section 404 or the Porter-Cologne Act. This creek is also regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code.

### Special-Status Animals and Plants

The biologist did not identify any potential substantial wildlife/fish issues. The biologist evaluated the entire project area, focusing on where the proposed alignment was staked by Liberty Utilities. The Cascade Creek crossing of SR 89 was surveyed in the most detail to assess habitat suitability for the federally-listed Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF) (*Rana sierrae*) and Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) (*Oncorhynchus clarkia henshawi*) as well as the state-listed willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). Based on the hydrologic conditions, fish passage impediments (for LCT), and lack of known occurrences, the Cascade Creek crossing is not expected to currently support LCT and SNYLF. There is also no potential for breeding willow flycatcher, due to lack of suitable hydrologic and vegetation conditions. For these and other special special-status animal species, no substantial effects of implementing the project are expected.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) nest sites are distributed along the Lake Tahoe shoreline north and east of the project area. Osprey is designated as a special interest species by TRPA. The TRPA Code of Ordnances requires a non-degradation standard for habitat within a 0.25-mile buffer zone ("disturbance zone") around active and inactive osprey nest sites in nonurban Plan Areas. The edges of three osprey disturbance zones are located in the vicinity of the project area (Figure 1). This area includes a mix of disturbed chaparral and conifer forest, and a segment of SR 89; and the locations where powerline relocation activities would be implemented do not provide suitable nest sites or foraging habitat. Because of the existing disturbance levels and degraded habitat conditions, and because project activities would not remove or degrade suitable habitat for osprey, implementation of the powerline relocation project would not change potential habitat conditions for osprey or disturb future nesting activity at the nest sites associated with these TRPA osprey disturbance zones.

No special-status plant species were identified in the project area. One state listed rare, threatened or endangered species is listed in the CNDDB in the project area, Tulare rockcress (*Boechera tularensis*). This species typically grows on rocky slopes in subalpine habitats. Though the survey took place outside of the blooming period of Tulare rockcress, no plants were identified. For special special-status plant species, no substantial effects are expected.

The project would remove a total of 19 living trees and 9 dead trees. All of the trees proposed for removal are located in upland areas. One incense cedar that is located close to the riparian area would have 10 feet lopped off the top. All trees proposed for removal and lopping would be surveyed for nesting birds prior to removal.

### **Invasive Plant Infestations**

One confirmed occurrence of an invasive plant species, common mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*), was observed in the survey area adjacent to the proposed powerline alignment within the dirt road providing access to the water tank. Therefore, maintenance crews accessing the water tank have the potential to spread this species.



## Conclusions and Summary of Biological Constraints

Biological constraints identified in the project area include Cascade Creek and one invasive plant occurrence (common mullein) in an isolated area of the water tank access road. Because the proposed powerline would span Cascade Creek, project-related disturbance to the creek is not expected. However, any unavoidable disturbance or degradation to the creek would likely require review and authorization/permits from USACE and Lahontan RWQCB. A streambed alteration agreement is likely required from CDFW.

Invasive plant occurrences can pose a risk of spread or further establishment in native habitats as a result of grounddisturbing activities such as construction. In addition to implementing standard best management practices for avoiding the further establishment and spread of invasive plants during project implementation, it is recommended that the common mullein be treated and/or avoided prior to and during construction.



## **Attachment A: Representative Photos**



Photo 1: Cascade Creek Bridge over SR 89 showing lack of overstory





Photo 2: Representative habitat along proposed powerline



Photo 3: Typical habitat along powerline proposed for removal



Exhibit H

### **TRPA Linear Public Facilities Permit**



Mail PO Box 5310 Stateline, NV 89449-5310 Location

128 Market Street Stateline, NV 89449 Contact

Phone: 775-588-4547 Fax: 775-588-4527 www.trpa.org

February 13, 2020

Liz Lawton Liberty Utilities 933 Eloise Ave. South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

## CASCADE CREEK OVERHEAD POWERLINE PROJECT, STATE ROUTE 89 AT CASCADE CREEK, EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER (APN) 018-330-008, 018-060-003, 018-090-055, 018-281-009, TRPA FILE NUMBER ERSP2019-1616

Dear Ms. Lawton:

Enclosed please find the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) permit and attachments for the project referenced above. If you accept and agree to comply with the Permit conditions as stated, please make a copy of the permit, sign the "Permittee's Acceptance" block on the first page the Permit, and return the signed copy to TRPA within twenty-one (21) calendar days of issuance. Should the permittee fail to return the signed permit within twenty-one (21) calendar days of issuance, the permit will be subject to nullification. Please note that signing the permit does not of itself constitute acknowledgement of the permit, but rather acceptance of the conditions of the permit.

TRPA will acknowledge the <u>original</u> permit only after all standard and special conditions of approval have been satisfied. Please schedule an appointment with me to finalize your project. Due to time demands, TRPA cannot accept drop-in or unannounced arrivals to finalize plans

Pursuant to Rule 11.2 of the TRPA Rules of Procedure, this permit may be appealed within twenty-one (21) days of the date of this correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (775) 589-5247 or by email at jroll@trpa.org.

Sincerely, Julie Roll

Senior Planner Current Planning Department

imagine, plan. achieve.



Mail PO Box 5310 Stateline, NV 89449-5310 Location 128 Market Street Stateline, NV 89449 Contact

Phone: 775-588-4547 Fax: 775-588-4527 www.trpa.org

### PERMIT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Linear Public Service/Powerline Upgrades

Assessor Parcel Number: 018-330-008, 018-060-003, 018-090-055, 018-281-009

PERMITTEE(S): Liberty Utilities

FILE# ERSP2019-1616

CITY/LOCATION: El Dorado County/State Route 89 at Cascade Creek

Having made the findings required by Agency ordinances and rules, the TRPA Hearings Officer approved the project on February 13, 2020, subject to the standard conditions of approval attached hereto (Attachment Q) and the special conditions found in this permit.

This permit shall expire on February 13, 2023, without further notice unless the construction has commenced prior to this date and diligently pursued thereafter. Commencement of construction consists of pouring concrete for a foundation and does not include grading, installation of utilities or landscaping. Diligent pursuit is defined as completion of the project within the approved construction schedule. The expiration date shall not be extended unless the project is determined by TRPA to be the subject of legal action which delayed or rendered impossible the diligent pursuit of the permit.

NO TREE REMOVAL, CONSTRUCTION OR GRADING SHALL COMMENCE UNTIL:

- (1) TRPA RECEIVES A COPY OF THIS PERMIT UPON WHICH THE PERMITTEE(S) HAS ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF THE PERMIT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE PERMIT;
- (2) ALL PRE-CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL ARE SATISFIED AS EVIDENCED BY TRPA'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS PERMIT;
- (3) THE PERMITTEE OBTAINS A COUNTY BUILDING PERMIT. TRPA'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A COUNTY BUILDING PERMIT. THE COUNTY PERMIT AND THE TRPA PERMIT ARE INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER AND MAY HAVE DIFFERENT EXPIRATION DATES AND RULES REGARDING EXTENSIONS; <u>AND</u>
- (4) A TRPA PRE-GRADING INSPECTION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER AND/OR THE CONTRACTOR.

13/2020 TRPA Executive Director/Designee Date

PERMITTEE'S ACCEPTANCE: I have read the permit and the conditions of approval and understand and accept them. I also understand that I am responsible for compliance with all the conditions of the permit and am responsible for my agents' and employees' compliance with the permit conditions. I also understand that if the property is sold, I remain liable for the permit conditions until or unless the new owner acknowledges the transfer of the permit and notifies TRPA in writing of such acceptance. I also understand that certain mitigation fees associated with this permit are non-refundable once paid to TRPA. I understand that it is my sole responsibility to obtain any and all required approvals from any other state, local or federal agencies that may have jurisdiction over this project whether or not they are listed in this permit.

Signature of Permittee(s)

Date

PERMIT CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

imagine. plan, achieve.

### APN 018-330-08, ET. AL. FILE NO. ERSP2019-1616

Security Posted (1): Amount <u>\$5,000</u> Type	Paid	Receipt No		
Security Administrative Fee (2): Amount	Paid	Receipt No		
Notes:         (1) See Special Condition 3.C         (2) Consult the TRPA filing fee schedule for the current security administration fee				
Required plans determined to be in conformance with a	pproval: Date			
TRPA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The permittee has complied with all pre-construction conditions of approval as of this date and is eligible for a county building permit:				
TRPA Executive Director/Designee	Date			

### SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- 1. This permit specifically authorizes the replacement and realignment of deteriorating power poles and associated overhead wire near State Route 89 at Cascade Creek. Thirteen existing poles will be cut by hand crews and then airlifted out by helicopter. Approximately 2,500 linear feet of overhead wire will also be removed, including three overhead crossings of State Route 89. The powerline will be relocated slightly to the south adjacent to an existing access road that serves a water tank and residences at Cascade Lake. The new alignment requires seven new power poles, approximately 120 feet of new overhead wire crossing State Route 89, and approximately 208 cubic yards of excavation for undergrounding 550 linear feet of line on the northeast side of the highway. A total of 42 square feet of restoration credits will be transferred to parcel 018-090-055 to mitigate for the creation of 28 square feet of coverage created in Class 3 for the installation of two switch boxes.
- 2. The Standard Conditions of Approval listed in Attachment Q shall apply to this permit.
- 3. Prior to permit acknowledgement, the following conditions of approval must be satisfied.
  - A. Revise the site plans as follows:
    - (1) Include land capability classifications on the site plan
    - (2) Show all trees to be removed
    - (3) Include parcels numbers within the project area (018-060-003, 018-330-008, 018-090-055, and 018-281-009)

- (4) Indicate the location of the construction staging area(s)
- (5) Include a note that no temporary or permanent disturbance to the riparian area around Cascade Creek is permitted.
- (6) Identify the location of temporary erosion control measures and provide a detail for installation.
- B. The permittee shall submit a project construction schedule to TRPA prior to permit acknowledgement or at the TRPA pre-grade inspection. Said schedule shall include completion dates for each item of construction, as well as temporary BMP installation.
- C. The security for this project shall be \$5,000. The security shall be released upon completion of the project and satisfaction of all permit conditions.
- D. Provide evidence that 42 square feet of restoration credits has been transferred to parcel 018-090-055.
- E. Provide evidence that you have met with neighboring property owners along Cascade Road to discuss issues with tree removal and the location of new poles/underground line.
- F. The permittee shall submit three sets of final construction drawings and site plans to TRPA.
- 4. Prior to release of the security, provide photo documentation that the area where the power poles are removed has been stabilized and restored back to a natural state.
- 5. A representative from the Washoe Tribe shall be present during all ground-disturbing activities to monitor for cultural resources.
- 6. If any cultural resources are discovered during construction, construction must immediately cease, and an archeologist consulted for an assessment and possible mitigation. TRPA shall be notified immediately of such discovery.
- 7. Any discovery of a TRPA sensitive species or species of interest shall immediately be reported to the TRPA Compliance Inspector and all construction activity shall cease. Any discovered nests, dens or plant locations shall be protected in accordance with TRPA guidelines.
- 8. In the event that human remains are discovered, the El Dorado Coroner's offices shall be contacted and, if the remains are determined to be Native American, the respective California Office of Historic Preservation shall also be notified in accordance with Section 5020 of the California State Law & Historic Preservation Statutes Native American Heritage Commission.
- 9. Temporary BMPs may be field fit by the Environmental Compliance Inspector where appropriate.
- 10. Maximum excavation depth shall not exceed five feet.
- 11. All areas disturbed during construction shall be restored prior to release of the security.

- 12. Any normal construction activities creating noise in excess of the TRPA noise standards shall be considered exempt from said standards provided all such work is conducted between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M.
- 13. All waste resulting from the saw-cutting of pavement shall be removed using a vacuum (or other TRPA approved method) during the cutting process or immediately thereafter. Discharge of waste material to surface drainage features is prohibited and constitutes a violation of this permit.
- 14. All excess spoil material from excavation work shall be removed from the project area and disposed of at a site approved by TRPA.
- 15. TRPA reserves the right to amend any portion of this permit or construction operation while in progress if it is determined that the project construction is causing significant adverse effects.
- 16. To the maximum extent allowable by law, the Permittee agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless TRPA, its Governing Board, its Planning Commission, its agents, and its employees (collectively, TRPA) from and against any and all suits, losses, damages, injuries, liabilities, and claims by any person (a) for any injury (including death) or damage to person or property or (b) to set aside, attack, void, modify, amend, or annul any actions of TRPA. The foregoing indemnity obligation applies, without limitation, to any and all suits, losses, damages, injuries, liabilities, and claims by any person from any cause whatsoever arising out of or in connection with either directly or indirectly, and in whole or in part (1) the processing, conditioning, issuance, or implementation of this permit; (2) any failure to comply with all applicable laws and regulations; or (3) the design, installation, or operation of any improvements, regardless of whether the actions or omissions are alleged to be caused by TRPA or Permittee.

Included within the Permittee's indemnity obligation set forth herein, the Permittee agrees to pay all fees of TRPA's attorneys and all other costs and expenses of defenses as they are incurred, including reimbursement of TRPA as necessary for any and all costs and/or fees incurred by TRPA for actions arising directly or indirectly from issuance or implementation of this permit. TRPA will have the sole and exclusive control (including the right to be represented by attorneys of TRPA's choosing) over the defense of any claims against TRPA and over their settlement, compromise or other disposition. Permittee shall also pay all costs, including attorneys' fees, incurred by TRPA to enforce this indemnification agreement. If any judgment is rendered against TRPA in any action subject to this indemnification, the Permittee shall, at its expense, satisfy and discharge the same.

**END OF PERMIT** 



OFFICE 128 Market St. Stateline, NV

Phone: (775) 588-4547

Fax: (775) 588-4527

MAIL PO Box 5310 Stateline, NV 89449-5310

trpa@trpa.org

www.trpa.org

HOURS Mon. Wed. Thurs. Fri 9 am-12 pm/1 pm-4 pm Closed Tuesday

New Applications Until 3:00 pm

### ATTACHMENT Q STANDARD CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL FOR GRADING PROJECTS

This handout on the standard conditions that must be met in all projects involving grading is divided into the following three sections:

- I. Pre-Grading Conditions (Pre-activity, where applicable)
- II. Construction/Grading Conditions
- III. General Conditions/Design Standards

Please read all of the conditions carefully to avoid any delays in construction of your project.

**NOTE**: Your plans have been reviewed and approved as required under Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Rules, Regulations and Ordinances only. TRPA has not reviewed and shall not be responsible for any elements contained in your plans, i.e., structural, electrical, mechanical, etc., which are not required for review under said Rules, Regulations and Ordinances.

#### I. PRE-GRADING/PRE-ACTIVITY CONDITIONS:

The following conditions must be completely complied with prior to any site disturbance or commencement of activity.

A. Final Construction Plans:

Final construction plans must be submitted to and reviewed by TRPA to determine conformance with the approval. Said plans shall clearly depict the following:

- 1. Slope stabilization methods to stabilize all existing and proposed cut and fill slopes.
- 2. Areas to be revegetated, including complete specifications for such revegetation.
- 3. Fencing for vegetation protection.
- 4. Temporary and permanent erosion control devices.
- 5. Utility trenches.
- 6. Dust control measures.
- All water quality improvements (BMPs) required in the conditional approval. Drainage facilities shall be designed to be capable of retaining runoff water for a two (2) year, six (6) hour storm.
- 8. The final plans shall contain equipment specifications necessary to establish compliance with Standard Conditions III. A-F.
- B. Securities:

A security shall be posted with the TRPA to insure compliance with all permit conditions. The security shall include an amount equal to 110 percent of the cost of the BMPs and other erosion control and water quality improvements required. For further information on the acceptable types of securities, see Attachment J.

### C. Mitigation Fees:

All required air quality, water quality, and excess coverage and offsite coverage mitigation fees shall be paid to TRPA.

#### D. Temporary BMPs:

The following temporary BMPs are required to be installed onsite prior to any grading activity occurring:

- 1. Installation of temporary erosion controls.
- 2. Installation of vegetation protection measures.
- 3. Installation of construction site boundary fencing.
- E. Required Inspection:

An onsite inspection by TRPA staff is required prior to any construction or grading activity occurring. TRPA staff shall determine if the onsite improvements required by Condition II (1), above, have been properly installed. No grading or construction shall be undertaken by the permittee until receipt of TRPA notification that the pre-grading/pre-activity conditions of approval have been satisfied.

### F. Required Notices:

The following notices to the TRPA are required prior to any grading or construction occurring on the project site:

- 1. Notice for Pre-Grading Inspection: The permittee shall notify the TRPA when all onsite improvements required under Condition II(1), above, have been installed so that the required pre-grading inspection may be scheduled.
- 2. Notice of Commencement of Construction: The permittee shall notify the TRPA at least 48 hours prior to commencement of construction or grading on the project site. Said notice shall include the date when construction will commence.

### II. CONSTRUCTION/GRADING CONDITIONS:

The following conditions shall be complied with during the grading and construction phase of the project.

- A. All construction shall be accomplished in strict compliance with the plans approved by TRPA.
- B. The TRPA permit and the final construction drawings bearing the TRPA stamp of approval shall be present on the construction site from the time construction commences to final TRPA site inspection. The permit and plans shall be available for inspection upon request by any TRPA employee. Failure to present the TRPA permit and approved plans may result in the issuance of a Cease and Desist Order by the TRPA.
- C. Whenever possible, utilities shall occupy common trenches to minimize site disturbance.
- D. There shall be no grading or land disturbance performed with respect to the project between October 15 and May 1, except as follows:
  - 1. The grading or land disturbance is for excavation and backfilling for a volume not in excess of three cubic yards.
  - 2. The activity is completed within a 48-hour period.
  - 3. The excavation site is stabilized to prevent erosion.
  - 4. The pregrade inspection is performed by TRPA staff, and the activity passes the inspection.

5. The grading/project does not represent or involve a series of excavations, which, when viewed as a whole, would exceed the provisions of this Standard Condition of Approval, and Subsection 2.3 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances.

Grading is prohibited any time of the year during periods of precipitation and for the resulting period of time when the site is covered with snow, or is in a saturated, muddy, or unstable condition (pursuant to Subsection 33.3.1.A of the TRPA Code of Ordinances.)

10.

- E. All material obtained from any excavation work that is not contained within foundations, retaining walls, or by other methods approved by TRPA shall be removed form the subject parcel and disposed of at a site approved by TRPA.
- F. Replanting of all exposed surfaces, in accordance with the revegetation and slope stabilization plan, shall be accomplished within the first growing season following disturbance, unless an approved construction/inspection schedule establishes otherwise.
- G. All trees and natural vegetation to remain on the site shall be fenced for protection. Scarring of trees shall be avoided and, if scarred, damaged areas shall be repaired with tree seal.
  - 1. Fencing specified shall be at least 48 inches high and shall be constructed of metal posts and either orange construction fencing or metal mesh fencing also at least 48 inches high (Section 33.6.1). Job sites with violations of the fencing standards will be required to re-fence the job site with a high gauge metal fencing.
  - 2. No material or equipment shall enter or be placed in the areas protected by fencing or outside the construction areas without prior approval from TRPA. Fences shall not be moved without prior approval (Section 33.6).
  - 3. To reduce soil disturbance and damage to vegetation, the area of disturbance during the construction of a structure shall be limited to the area between the footprint of the building and the public road. For the remainder of the site the disturbance areas shall not exceed 12 feet from the footprint of the structure, parking area or cut/fill slope. The approved plans should show the fencing and approved exceptions (Section 36.2).
- H. Soil and construction material shall not be tracked off the construction site. Grading operations shall cease in the event that a danger of violating this condition exists. The site shall be cleaned up and road right-of-way swept clean when necessary.
- I. During grading and construction, environmental protection devices such as erosion control devices, dust control, and vegetation protection barriers shall be maintained.
- J. Loose soil mounds or surfaces shall be protected from wind or water erosion by being appropriately covered when construction is not in active progress or when required by TRPA.
- K. Excavated material shall be stored upgrade from the excavated areas to the extent possible. No material shall be stored in any stream zone or wet areas.
- L. Only equipment of a size and type that, under prevailing site conditions, and considering the nature of the work to be performed, will do the least amount of damage to the environment shall be used.
- M. Limit idling time for diesel powered vehicles exceeding 10,000 GVW and self-propelled equipment exceeding 25 hp to no more than 15 minutes in Nevada and 5 minutes in California, or as otherwise required by state or local permits.
- N. Utilize existing power sources (e.g. power poles) or clean-fuel generators rather than temporary diesel power generators wherever feasible.
- O. No washing of vehicles or construction equipment, including cement mixers, shall be permitted anywhere on the subject property unless authorized by TRPA in writing.

- P. No vehicles or heavy equipment shall be allowed in any stream environment zone or wet areas, except as authorized by TRPA.
- Q. Locate construction staging areas as far as feasible from sensitive air pollution receptors (e.g. schools or hospitals).
- R. All construction sites shall be winterized by October 15 to reduce the water quality impacts associated with winter weather as follows:
  - 1. For the sites that will be inactive between October 15 and May 1:
    - (a) Temporary erosion controls shall be installed;
    - (b) Temporary vegetation protection fencing shall be installed;
    - (c) Disturbed areas shall be stabilized;
    - (d) Onsite construction slash and debris shall be cleaned up and removed;
    - (e) Where feasible, mechanical stabilization and drainage improvements shall be installed; and
    - (f) Spoil piles shall be removed from the site.
  - For sites that will be active between October 15 and May 1, in addition to the above requirements:
    - (a) Permanent mechanical erosion control devices shall be installed, including paving of driveway and parking areas; and
    - (b) Parking of vehicles and storage of building materials shall be restricted to paved areas.

### III. GENERAL CONDITIONS/DESIGN STANDARDS:

- A. Projects approved by TRPA shall be subject to inspections by TRPA at any reasonable time. The permittee shall be responsible for making the project area accessible for inspection purposes. TRPA shall not be liable for any expense incurred by the permittee as a result of TRPA inspections.
- B. Construction shall be completed in accordance with an approved construction schedule. An extension of a completion schedule for a project may be granted provided the request is made in writing prior to the expiration of the completion schedule, a security is posted to ensure completion or abatement of the project, and TRPA makes either of the following findings:
  - 1. The project was diligently pursued, as defined in Subparagraph 2.2.4.C of the Code of Ordinances, during each building season (May 1 October 15) since commencement of construction.
  - 2. That events beyond the control of the permittee, which may include engineering problems, labor disputes, natural disasters, or weather problems, have prevented diligent pursuit of the project.
- C. Water conservation appliances and fixtures shall be installed in all new facilities or, when replaced, in existing facilities: low flow flush toilets; low flow showerheads (3 gpm rated maximum flow); faucet aerators; and water-efficient appliances (e.g., washing machines and dishwaters).
- D. Water heaters shall not emit nitrogen oxides greater than 40 nanograms of nitrogen oxide (NO2) per joule of heat output.
- E. Space heaters shall not emit greater than 40 nanograms of nitrogen oxides (as NO2) per joule of useful heat delivered to the heated space.

- F. Wood heaters to be installed in the Region shall meet the safety regulations established by applicable city, county, and state codes. Coal shall not be used as a fuel source.
  - 1. Emission Standards: Wood heaters installed in the Region shall not cause emissions of more than 7.5 grams of particulates per hour for noncatalytic wood heaters or 4.1 grams per hour for catalytically equipped wood heaters.
  - 2. Limitations: Wood heaters shall be sized appropriately for the space they are designed to serve. Multi-residential projects of five or more units, tourist accommodations, commercial, recreation and public service projects shall be limited to one wood heater per project area.
  - 3. List of Approved Heaters: TRPA shall maintain a list of wood heaters which may be installed in the Region. The list shall include the brand names, model number, description of the model and the name and address of the manufacturer. Wood heaters certified for use in either Colorado or Oregon shall be considered in compliance with 6(a), above.
- G. Construction materials shall be secured to prevent them from rolling, washing, or blowing off the project site. Rehabilitation and clean-up of the site following construction must include removal of all construction waste and debris.
- H. Plant species on the TRPA Recommended Native and Adapted Plant List shall be used for lawns and landscaping.
- I. The following sizes and spacing shall be required for woody plant materials at time of planting:
  - 1. Trees shall be a minimum six feet tall or 1-1/2 inch caliper size or diameter at breast height;
  - Shrubs shall be a minimum three gallon pot size where upright shrubs have a minimum height of 18 inches and a minimum spread of 18 inches; and spreading shrubs have a minimum spread of 18-24 inches.
  - 3. Groundcovers shall be a minimum four inch pot size or one gallon container and shall be maximum 24 inches on center spacing.
- J. Plant species not found on the TRPA Recommended Native and Adapted Plant List may be used for landscaping as accent plantings but shall be limited to borders, entryways, flower-beds, and other similar locations to provide accent to the overall native or adapted landscape design.
- K. The following exterior lighting standards shall apply:
  - 1. Exterior lights shall not blink, flash or change intensity. String lights, building or roofline tube lighting, reflective or luminescent wall surfaces are prohibited.
  - 2. Exterior lighting shall not be attached to trees except for Christmas season.
  - 3. Parking lot, walkway, and building lights shall be directed downward.
  - 4. Fixture mounting height shall be appropriate to the purpose. The height shall not exceed the limitations set forth in Chapter 37 of the Code.
  - 5. Outdoor lighting shall be used for purposes of illumination only, and shall not be designed for, or used as, an advertising display. Illumination for aesthetic or dramatic purposes of any building or surrounding landscape utilizing exterior light fixtures projected above the horizontal is prohibited.
  - 6. The commercial operation of searchlights for advertising or any other purpose is prohibited. Seasonal lighting displays and lighting for special events which conflict with other provisions of this section may be permitted on a temporary basis.

- L. Any normal construction activities creating noise in excess of the TRPA noise standards shall be considered exempt from said standards provided all such work is conducted between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- M. Engine doors shall remain closed during periods of operation except during necessary engine maintenance.
- N. Stationary equipment (e.g. generators or pumps) shall be located as far as feasible from noisesensitive receptors and residential areas. Stationary equipment near sensitive noise receptors or residential areas shall be equipped with temporary sound barriers.
- O. Sonic pile driving shall be utilized instead of impact pile driving, wherever feasible. Pile driving holes shall be predrilled to the extent feasible subject to design engineer's approval.
- P. Fertilizer use on this property shall be managed to include the appropriate type of fertilizer, rate, and frequency of application to avoid release of excess nutrients and minimize use of fertilizer.
- Q. No trees shall be removed or trimmed without prior TRPA written approval unless otherwise specifically exempted under Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances.
- R. The architectural design of this project shall include elements that screen from public view all external mechanical equipment, including refuse enclosures, satellite receiving disks, communication equipment, and utility hardware on roofs, buildings or the ground. Roofs, including mechanical equipment and skylights, shall be constructed of nonglare finishes that minimize reflectivity.
- S. The permittee is responsible for insuring that the project, as built, does not exceed the approved land coverage figures shown on the site plan. The approved land coverage figures shall supersede scaled drawings when discrepancies occur.
- T. The adequacy of all required BMPs as shown on the final construction plans shall be confirmed at the time of the TRPA pre-grading inspection. Any required modifications, as determined by TPRA, shall be incorporated into the project permit at that time.
- U. It is the permittee's obligation to locate all subsurface facilities and/or utilities prior to any grading, dredging or other subsurface activity. The permittee is responsible for contacting the Northern Underground Service Alert (USA, usually known as USA DIGS 1-800-227-2600) prior to commencement of any activity on the site.
- V. This approval is based on the permittee's representation that all plans and information contained in the subject application are true and correct. Should any information or representation submitted in connection with the project application be incorrect or untrue, TRPA may rescind this approval or take other appropriate action.

Exhibit I

California Fish and Wildlife Service Streambed Alteration Agreement

DocuSign Envelope ID: 817142AD-8469-43D2-B875-AB1668C10551



State of California – Natural Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE North Central Region 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4599 (916) 358-2900 www.wildlife.ca.gov GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



5/26/2020

Date

Liz Lawton Liberty Utilities 933 Eloise Ave South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150 liz.lawton@libertyutilities.com

Dear Ms. Lawton:

### Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration Notification No. 1600-2020-0045-R2 Liberty Utilities Cascade Creek Overhead Powerline Project impacting Cascade Creek, tributary to Lake Tahoe

As the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) explained in a previous letter to you dated February 11, 2020, CDFW had until May 11, 2020 to submit a draft Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (Agreement) to you or inform you that an Agreement is not required. CDFW did not meet that date. As a result, by law, you may now complete the project described in your notification without an Agreement.

Please note that pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 1602, subdivision (a)(4)(D), if you proceed with this project, it must be the same as described and conducted in the same manner as specified in the notification and any modifications to that notification received by CDFW in writing prior to May 11, 2020. This includes completing the project within the proposed term and seasonal work period and implementing all avoidance and mitigation measures to protect fish and wildlife resources specified in the notification. If the term proposed in your notification has expired, you will need to re-notify CDFW before you may begin your project. Beginning or completing a project that differs in any way from the one described in the notification may constitute a violation of Fish and Game Code section 1602.

Your notification includes, but is not limited to, the following information: The project term is 2020 – 2022 with a seasonal work period of July 15 through September 15. The project is located at Cascade Creek in El Dorado County, on CA-89 near the switchbacks heading towards Emerald Bay; at latitude 38°56'56.21", longitude - 120°5'5.50"; assessor's parcel number (APN) 415-703-5412. The project includes the extension of an overhead powerline over Cascade Creek as part of a larger project to move a section of overhead powerline from steep terrain to a more accessible location on SR-89 at Mile Post ED 14.817. No power poles or vehicular access, or construction will occur within the streambed or bank. The larger project will remove a total of 39

Liz Lawton 5/26/2020 Page 2 of 2

trees. Temporary BMPs will be installed around the work site to prevent runoff and sediment from migrating to Cascade Creek.

Also note that while you are entitled to complete the project without an Agreement, you are still responsible for complying with other applicable local, state, and federal laws. These include, but are not limited to, Fish and Game Code sections 2080 *et seq*. (species listed as threatened or endangered, or a candidate for listing under the California Endangered Species Act); section 1908 (rare native plants); sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515 (fully protected species); section 3503 (bird nests and eggs); section 3503.5 (birds of prey); section 5650 (water pollution); section 5652 (refuse disposal into water); section 5901 (fish passage); section 5937 (sufficient water for fish); and section 5948 (obstruction of stream).

Finally, if you decide to proceed with your project without an Agreement, you must have a copy of this letter <u>and</u> your notification with all attachments available at all times at the work site.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Gabriele Quillman, Environmental Scientist, at (916) 358-2955 or by email at gabriele.quillman@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

-DocuSigned by: Jeff Drongesen

Jeff Drongesen Environmental Program Manager

ec: Gabriele Quillman, Environmental Scientist gabriele.quillman@wildlife.ca.gov



## California Public Utilities Commission

# ADVICE LETTER UMMARY



	CAP			
MUST BE COMPLETED BY UTILITY (Attach additional pages as needed)				
Company name/CPUC Utility No.: Liberty Utiliti	es (CalPeco Electric) LLC (U 933-E)			
Utility type: ELC GAS WATER PLC HEAT	Contact Person: Dan Marsh Phone #: 562-805-2083 E-mail: Dan.Marsh@libertyutilities.com E-mail Disposition Notice to: Dan.Marsh@libertyutilities.com			
EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE ELC = Electric GAS = Gas WATER = Water PLC = Pipeline HEAT = Heat WATER = Water	(Date Submitted / Received Stamp by CPUC)			
Advice Letter (AL) #: 152-E	Tier Designation: 3			
Subject of AL: Meyers 3400 Distribution Line PU Code § 320 Deviation Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): Power Lines AL Type: Monthly Quarterly Annual One-Time Other: If AL submitted in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #:				
Does AL replace a withdrawn or rejected AL? If so, identify the prior AL: $_{100-E}$ Summarize differences between the AL and the prior withdrawn or rejected AL: All permits have been obtained.				
Confidential treatment requested? Yes Y No If yes, specification of confidential information: Confidential information will be made available to appropriate parties who execute a nondisclosure agreement. Name and contact information to request nondisclosure agreement/ access to confidential information:				
Resolution required? 🖌 Yes 🗌 No				
Requested effective date: 9/4/20	No. of tariff sheets: $_0$			
Estimated system annual revenue effect (%): $_{ m N/A}$				
Estimated system average rate effect (%): $N/A$				
When rates are affected by AL, include attachment in AL showing average rate effects on customer classes (residential, small commercial, large C/I, agricultural, lighting).				
Tariff schedules affected:				
Service affected and changes proposed $^{1:}$ $_{ m N/A}$				
Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets: $_{ m N/A}$				

Protests and all other correspondence regarding this AL are due no later than 20 days after the date of this submittal, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, and shall be sent to:

CPUC, Energy Division Attention: Tariff Unit 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 Email: <u>EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov</u>	Name: Dan Marsh Title: Manager, Rates and Regulatory Affairs Utility Name: Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC Address: 9750 Washburn Road City: Downey State: California Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx: 562-805-2083 Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx: Email: Dan.Marsh@libertyutilities.com	
	Name: Title: Utility Name: Address: City: State: California Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx: Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx: Email:	

### ENERGY Advice Letter Keywords

Affiliate	Direct Access	Preliminary Statement
Agreements	Disconnect Service	Procurement
Agriculture	ECAC / Energy Cost Adjustment	Qualifying Facility
Avoided Cost	EOR / Enhanced Oil Recovery	Rebates
Balancing Account	Energy Charge	Refunds
Baseline	Energy Efficiency	Reliability
Bilingual	Establish Service	Re-MAT/Bio-MAT
Billings	Expand Service Area	Revenue Allocation
Bioenergy	Forms	Rule 21
Brokerage Fees	Franchise Fee / User Tax	Rules
CARE	G.O. 131-D	Section 851
CPUC Reimbursement Fee	GRC / General Rate Case	Self Generation
Capacity	Hazardous Waste	Service Area Map
Cogeneration	Increase Rates	Service Outage
Compliance	Interruptible Service	Solar
Conditions of Service	Interutility Transportation	Standby Service
Connection	LIEE / Low-Income Energy Efficiency	Storage
Conservation	LIRA / Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance	Street Lights
Consolidate Tariffs	Late Payment Charge	Surcharges
Contracts	Line Extensions	Tariffs
Core	Memorandum Account	Taxes
Credit	Metered Energy Efficiency	Text Changes
Curtailable Service	Metering	Transformer
Customer Charge	Mobile Home Parks	Transition Cost
Customer Owned Generation	Name Change	Transmission Lines
Decrease Rates	Non-Core	Transportation Electrification
Demand Charge	Non-firm Service Contracts	Transportation Rates
Demand Side Fund	Nuclear	Undergrounding
Demand Side Management	Oil Pipelines	Voltage Discount
Demand Side Response	PBR / Performance Based Ratemaking	Wind Power
Deposits	Portfolio	Withdrawal of Service
Depreciation	Power Lines	