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The Environmental Compliance Process and Public Involvement

Environmental review of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade project at Donner Summit Public Utilities District (DSPUD) will be a joint effort between the U.S. Forest Service and DSPUD. DSPUD will serve as the lead agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. The Forest Service will serve as the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

Currently, DSPUD intends to develop a joint Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment (ISMND/EA) to fulfill CEQA and NEPA compliance requirements *simultaneously*. To date, no potentially significant impacts have been identified that could not be mitigated to a level of less than significant. For this reason, it is anticipated that the ISMND/EA is the appropriate level of environmental documentation for the project. If it is not, then the next level of compliance requires that a Notice of Preparation (NOP) and a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for CEQA compliance be developed and filed for public review. This will lengthen the time period to complete the environmental review and to receive approval to move forward with the project.

As part of the environmental compliance process (timeline below), which includes the development of an ISMD/EA, DSPUD and the Forest Service will hold a **Joint Public Scoping Meeting** with all rate payers, concerned citizens, and environmental groups on September 20, 2010 to integrate their concerns into the development of the proposed CEQA/NEPA compliance document – the **Draft ISMND/EA**. The public will be notified when the **Draft ISMND/EA** document is available for review and comment (including review by state and federal agencies). There will be a 30-day public review period after the document has been made public. However, DSPUD and the Forest Service would appreciate receiving any comments on the environmental compliance process prior to the development of the joint CEQA/NEPA document (scheduled to begin October 18, 2010).

Comments based on the environmental compliance process outlined during the **Joint Public Scoping Meeting** (September 20, 2010) may be submitted, in writing, in the following manner:

By mail to: DSPUD, PO Box 610, Soda Springs, CA 95728
By fax to: 530-426-3460
By email: comments@dspud.com

When submitting comments, please provide your name, address, and date of submission and state whether you are a rate payer or just a concerned citizen. The goal for the Sept. 20 meeting is inform the public about the CEQA/NEPA process, allow the public to ask questions, and to allow individuals and groups to raise any additional concerns that they feel should be studied and included in the development of the **Draft ISMND/EA** document for the project.

All documents relative to this process will be posted at the DSPUD website: www.DSPUD.com under “Environmental Compliance Documents” on the documents page.

Proposed Environmental Compliance Schedule

Start Date	Start Date	Completion Date
Field Surveys	Late June 2010	October 2010
CEQA and NEPA Public Meetings	September 2010	October 2010
Administrative Draft MND/EA	October 18, 2010	January 31, 2011
Public Draft MND/EA	January 31, 2011	March 7, 2011
CEQA/NEPA Public Review	March 7, 2011	April 22, 2011
Final Draft MND/EA	April 22, 2011	June 3, 2011
Findings Statement, Notice of Determination (NOD)	June 6, 2011	June 24, 2011
Complete Environmental Project Timeline	Late June 2010	June 30, 2011