

NEVADA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

APPLICANT: Truckee Donner Land Trust **HEARING DATE:** February 14, 2019

OWNER: Truckee Donner Land Trust

FILE NO: U16-003, MGT16-010 & EIS16-003

PROJECT: Public hearing to accept comments on the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIS16-003) prepared for the Van Norden Dam Spillway Modification Project.

LOCATION/APN:
10187 Soda Springs Road, Soda Springs CA. APN: 047-440-023

PROJECT PLANNER: Coleen Shade, Senior Planner

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Location Map
2. Project Site Map

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Planning Commission take the following actions:

- I. Open the public hearing to allow comments on the adequacy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).
 - II. After closing the public hearing and public comment period, direct Ascent Environmental to respond in writing to all comments generated through this public hearing and those generated through the required review period. The close of the required public comment period will be on Monday, February 25, 2019, at 5:00 PM.
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STAFF COMMENT:

The purpose of this public hearing agenda item is to provide an opportunity for both the public and the Planning Commission to comment on the DEIR prepared by Ascent Environmental, the firm retained by the County to undertake the preparation of the environmental document on behalf of the County for the project.

The purpose of the DEIR is to review all the potential environmental impacts associated with the project. To help identify those potential impacts, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) with a 30-Day circulation period (January 31, 2018 thru March 1, 2018) was circulated to the public, various state and local agencies, and a public scoping workshop was held in Soda Springs (February 21, 2018) prior to preparation of the DEIR. The responses to the NOP are included in the appendices of the DEIR.

A public review period of 45-days is being provided to allow agencies and the general public to submit written comments regarding the adequacy of the DEIR. This DEIR comment period opened on **Friday, January 11, 2019** and will close on **Monday, February 25, 2019**, at 5:00 PM.

The County has prepared a DEIR to address specific environmental effects of implementing the Van Norden Dam Spillway Modification project. The DEIR identified the following potentially significant environmental impact areas for the projects: Biological Resources; Archaeological, Historical and Tribal Cultural Resources; Geology, Soils and Seismicity; and Hydrology and Water Quality. With implementation of proposed mitigation measures, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level with one exception. The Hydrology and Water Quality Impact 3.7-3, alterations in drainage result in increased downstream flooding, remains significant and unavoidable.

If the Planning Commission is satisfied with the content of the DEIR and determines that adequate public review will be provided, the Commission should direct the consultant to respond to the applicable verbal comments offered at this hearing, as well as those written comments submitted to the Planning Department during the review period. After preparation of the responses to all the comments, an additional public hearing will be held before the Planning Commission to:

1. Determine whether the document has been adequately prepared;
2. Determine that adequate responses have been made to both oral and written comments, and if both of the foregoing are found to be adequate;
3. Certify the DEIR; and,
4. Deliberate and take action on the individual project.

Certification of the DEIR is required before the Planning can take final action on the project. Copies of the DEIR are available at the following locations:

- On-line by visiting the Planning Department webpage dedicated to this project: <https://www.mynevadacounty.com/512/Planning-Department>;
 - At the Nevada County Planning Department: 950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170, Nevada City, CA 95959; and
 - At the Nevada County Truckee Library: 10031 Levon Avenue, Truckee CA
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RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Planning Commission take the following actions:

- I. Open the public hearing to allow comments on the adequacy of the DEIR.
- II. After closing the public hearing and public comment period, direct Ascent Environmental to respond in writing to all the applicable comments generated through this public hearing and those generated through the required review period. The close of the required public comment period will be on Monday, February 25, 2019, at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian Foss
Director of Planning

Location Map



Source: Adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2017



