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STAFF REPORT

Date: April 17, 2024

To: TRPA Governing Board

From: TRPA Staff

Subject: South Tahoe Public Utility District, Solar Power Project, 1275 Meadow Crest Dr, South Lake Tahoe, California, TRPA File Number ERSP2023-1088, Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 025-041-012, 025-051-27, 025-061-030, 025-061-031, 025-061-032, 025-061-033, 025-061-035, 025-071-022

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Summary and Staff Recommendation

The South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) Solar Power Project is a new 1,339 kW DC ground-mount accessory photovoltaic power system proposed for use by the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) staff recommends that the Governing Board make the required findings and approve the proposed project.

Required Motions

In order to approve the proposed project, the Board must make the following motions, based on the staff summary and evidence in the record:

- 1) A motion to approve the required findings, including a finding of no significant effect; and
- 2) A motion to approve the proposed STPUD Solar Power Project, subject to the conditions in the draft permit (see Attachment B).

For the motions to pass, an affirmative vote of at least five members from the State of California and at least nine members of the Board is required.

Governing Board Review

The TRPA Code, Section 2.2.2.D.1, requires Governing Board review and approval of new public service facilities involving more than 3,500 square feet of land coverage. The TRPA Code, Section 2.2.2.A.1, also requires Governing Board review and approval of substantial tree removal plans.

Project Description

On October 20, 2022, the South Tahoe Public Utility District Board of Directors held a public hearing and unanimously voted to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement with Staten Solar for a solar project at the WWTP. The 1339 kW ground mounted solar facility will offset about 32 percent of the current energy demand at the treatment plant. The solar array is accessory to the primary public service wastewater treatment use since the array is designed to generate power for the WWTP. Staten Solar will fund, build, own, and maintain the solar array, and the STPUD will purchase the power produced at a lower price than Liberty currently charges.

The proposed solar facility is located about 450 feet east of the existing WWTP within previously undeveloped portions of STPUD property. The solar power facility consists of a 3.31 acre secured fenced

area containing the solar arrays. At the southwest end of the solar field, small concrete pads will be constructed to support a transformer, concentration panel and switchgear required to transmit power generated by the solar field to the existing electrical service connection.

An approximately 1,770 foot long trench will be used to bury the wiring needed to connect the solar field to the WWTP. Additional minor tree removal to facilitate the trenching may be required depending on the final approved trench location. Access will be provided by a 457 foot long by 20 foot wide driveway from the STPUD WWTP internal perimeter road.

The solar arrays will be constructed using large ground screws and racks that connect the solar panels to the foundation screws. Following tree and stump removal no additional site grading will be required.

The 19 rows of solar arrays are proposed in an east-west orientation and include eleven rows of arrays approximately 236 feet long, seven arrays approximately 270 feet long, and one array approximately 205 feet long. The arrays include photovoltaic panels with a 15 foot 7 ½-inch wide surface plane oriented to the south at 25 degrees from horizontal. The array structures are four feet off the ground on the low side and approximately 10 feet 7 ½-inches off the ground on the high side. Four inches of wood mulch will stabilize soil within the fenced area. No new lighting is proposed.

To maintain solar access for the panels, additional tree removal is proposed to extend 100 feet from the fence line to the west, east and south of the solar field. This additional tree removal area totals 3.51 acres. The extent of clearing within the 100 foot additional area is limited by TRPA Code of Ordinances Section 61.1.4.C and the conditions of approval for this project. Small trees and restored native vegetation will be maintained up to 18-degree vertical angle from the base of the solar collectors. A timber harvest plan has been approved, consistent with California's (CalFire) Forest Practice Act.

The existing treatment plant is verified with 668,439 square feet of Class 6 coverage and 20,993 of Class 1b coverage. The proposed solar power project will add 42,913 square feet of Class 6 coverage and 9,088 square feet of Class 4 coverage; resulting in 734,449 square feet of total coverage in the project area. Following completion of the project, 320,490 square feet of coverage will be available for future use or transfer.

Site Description: The project site is located in the City of South Lake Tahoe between the wastewater treatment plant to the west, Heavenly Creek to the south, Al Tahoe Boulevard to the east, and Lake Tahoe Community College and Community Ballfields to the north.

The site is within STPUD's existing multi-parcel project area for land coverage. The project area includes 8 contiguous parcels with a total area of 4,968,454 square feet (114.06 acres) that are deed restricted and considered one project area. The WWTP occupies about 20 acres on the west side of the project area. The proposed solar power project would expand the developed area eastward onto mostly Class 6 and some Class 4 land.

The solar power project is located near the center of the project area and is surrounded by small hills and conifer forest on all sides. The woodland is a mid-successional forest stand consisting primarily of Jeffrey Pine. Air photos from 1969 show the site of the proposed solar array cleared of vegetation. According to STPUD, the site was used as a dispersal area for treated effluent at that time. Since then, the forest was mechanically thinned for fuels management in 2020. The project will require the removal of up to 131 trees over 14 inches in diameter, including 23 trees over 30 inches dbh.

The project will not be visible from a TRPA scenic roadway or shoreline unit. Al Tahoe Blvd and the adjoining Scenic Bicycle Segment are separated from the solar project site by about 600 feet and Pioneer Trail is about 1/3 of a mile away. The Heavenly Creek SEZ is also separated by about 600 feet. The South Tahoe Greenway trail and Community Ballfields are separated by about 1,000 feet. The project area has a BMP Certificate (#15880).

Sustainability Action Plan / Climate Action Plan:

The WWTP is a significant energy user, with just under 6,000,000 kWh of annual electricity use. The solar project will generate a minimum of approximately 1,925,050 kWh in year one of service, equating to 32 percent of total use.

Providing clean energy for public service facilities such as the WWTP is a goal of local and regional agencies including the TRPA, City of South Lake Tahoe and the STPUD. The proposed project is consistent with the TRPA Sustainability Action Plan; and will advance TRPA's goals for greenhouse gas reduction and increasing renewable energy generation in the region. Electricity consumption is identified as the region's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

TRPA is also working on ordinance updates to support renewable energy production and use. This project is consistent with the draft ordinance proposal.

The City of South Lake Tahoe has ambitious sustainability goals and has passed resolutions to transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2030, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 59.2% from the 2018 inventory level by 2030. The South Lake Tahoe City Manager, Joseph D Irvin, sent a letter of support for the proposed project (Attachment F).

In 2018, the City was approached by the Solar Energy and Economic Development (SEED) Fund team to participate in the newest round of the program's regional, collaborative solar procurement project. Headed by Optony USA and Strategic Energy Innovations, the SEED Fund gives public agencies in the same region the opportunity to work together on procuring solar for their facilities. The City recognized this unique opportunity, and on May 7, 2019, City Council voted unanimously to sign on as the Lead Agency for the SEED Fund Sierra Nevada project. The solar project stemmed from working with the SEED Fund to develop a list of potential solar projects in the Lake Tahoe region during the summer of 2020. It is the first of these projects to go to construction and will be the largest solar array in the Tahoe Basin.

The solar array is projected to offset 568 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e annually based on Liberty Energy's power blend. This is based on the output from ClearPath, a program and data set that is used by the City of South Lake Tahoe and STPUD to calculate their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as part of their Climate Action Plans.

For comparison, the US Environmental Protection Agency estimates annual carbon sequestration from an average American forest at 0.86 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/acre, or about 6 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e for the solar project site. Using these estimates, tree removal offsets about 1 percent of the project's GHG emission reduction.

The proposed project is consistent with the City of South Lake Tahoe Climate Action Plan; and will advance strategies for Renewable Energy and Zero Net Energy:

*Strategy 10: Renewable Energy (RE) – Increase Renewable Energy and Storage throughout the Community.*

*RE-1 Transition City to 100% renewable electricity by 2030.*

*Strategy 11: Zero Net Energy Standards (ZNE) – Reduce Energy Consumption, Improve Efficiency, and Install Renewable Energy in New Construction*

*ZNE-2 Pursue zero net energy and deep retrofit projects.*

- *Work with the City’s largest energy users, such as South Tahoe Public Utility District and ski resorts, to transition toward using renewable energy sources.*

Community Plan and Plan Area Statement:

The existing WWTP is located in the Bijou/Al Tahoe Community Plan. The solar power expansion area is located in Bijou Meadows Plan Area Statement (PAS 101). Bijou Meadows is a recreational plan area. The WWTP is classified as a public utility center and is allowed as a special use in both local plans.

Special Policy 4 in the Bijou Meadows PAS applies to the project: *Developed facilities adjacent to the stream environment zone should be screened from views originating from within the stream environment zone.*

The proposed solar power site is well screened from the Heavenly Creek SEZ with about 600 feet of forested separation and an intervening hill. There should be no significant visual impact from the SEZ.

Scenic Quality:

The project is not visible from Pioneer Trail or any other scenic roadway or scenic shoreline unit.

The bike trail along Al Tahoe Blvd is a TRPA designated Scenic Bikeway Segment. The proposed solar power site is well screened from the Scenic Bikeway Segment along Al Tahoe Blvd with about 600 feet of forested separation and an intervening hill to the east of the project site. Foreground views from the Scenic Bikeway Segment would not be affected. Background views of the solar facility will be mostly screened by the hillside and forest. The solar facility may be visible through the trees when viewed from the northeast, but natural forest screening is substantial and panel orientation will prevent direct glare. No lights are planned for the solar power area and revegetation of the cleared area with lower height vegetation will enhance screening over time.

The Community Ballfields Project and South Tahoe Greenway Trail are not designated scenic resources, but are frequently used. Natural forest screening from the ballfields and greenway trail is similar to screening from the Scenic Bikeway Segment along Al Tahoe Blvd. As viewed from the numerous pullouts along Highway 50 on Echo summit there is a topographic rise between the airport and Pioneer Trail that will block views of the solar panels.

Given the site selection, topography, and natural forest surroundings, the project will not cause a decrease in scenic ratings from any Scenic Resource area and should not require additional landscape screening.

Tree Removal Plan:

Tree removal is proposed on 6.83 acres for the solar array fenced area, including a 100-foot buffer on the south, east and west sides. The access road totals an additional 11,016 square feet. The site is characterized by an early to mid-successional forest stand consisting primarily of Jeffrey Pine forest. The site was mechanically thinned for fuels management in 2020.

131 trees greater than 14 inches in diameter are proposed to be removed, including 23 trees over 30 inches in diameter.

The TRPA Code of Ordinances, subsection 61.1.4.C establishes standards governing “Tree Removal for Solar Access”.

*Removal of healthy trees to maximize efficiency of solar energy systems may be permitted according to the standards and limitations below.*

1. *TRPA may approve the removal of healthy trees provided TRPA finds that the trees unreasonably impede the operation of a solar energy system and that the solar energy system is properly located so as to minimize the need for tree removal.*
2. *The number of healthy trees that may be removed for the system's operation shall be the minimum necessary.*
3. *The only trees that shall be considered for removal for an active or passive solar energy system are those that lie generally south of the proposed solar collector and are in the sun's path between an 18° vertical angle measured from the base of the solar collector and a 70° vertical angle from the same base measurement. Trees on adjacent properties may be removed provided a contractual agreement to allow for such removal is signed by the affected parties. Tree removal may be conditioned upon replacement elsewhere on the property.*

Site selection options for a solar power facility at the WWTP are limited by existing development and TRPA environmental standards. The existing developed area is insufficient for the addition of a solar power facility of this size. An alternative project that would place solar panels on existing rooftops and new carport structures was evaluated, but structural limitations of the buildings, underground conflicts for power conduit, and cost of new carports made this alternative project infeasible.

Areas to the east and northeast of WWTP are most suitable for expansion of development to serve public utility needs. An area extending about 800 feet east of the WWTP was significantly cleared in the last 50 years and continues to have less tree cover than the rest of the project area. The project proposes to site the solar array about 450-750 feet east of the WWTP to be located within the partly cleared area, while allowing space for future plant expansion onto the intervening land. The solar site has good sun exposure, but retains natural forest screening from surrounding areas. It is located in a bowl with small hills providing screening from public areas to the north, east and south.

Areas to the south and further east transition to Class 4 then to Class 1b land. Development in those areas would require greater tree removal and would be less consistent with biologic and scenic protections in the TRPA Code and Plan Area Statement. Areas further north also have thicker tree cover and greater public visibility.

The proposal to clear all trees within an additional 100 feet to the west, south and east will be limited by conditions for the final plans to address the tree removal standards/findings. Trees will only be removed consistent with the conditions of approval to ensure all trees removed would unreasonably impede operations, that tree removal is the minimum necessary, and that the trees to be cut meet the dimensional and solar angle criteria in subsection 3. As conditioned, the 100-foot clearing area is expected to be maintained with smaller trees up to 36.5 feet in height retained towards the edges of the cleared area and native shrubs and grasses closer to the solar arrays.

With conditions, tree removal can be found to be the minimum necessary and consistent with the dimensional requirements.

Land Coverage: The project area includes eight contiguous parcels with a total area of 4,968,454 square feet (114.06 acres). The site has 1,054,939 square feet of allowable coverage and 682,468 square feet of existing verified coverage.

The existing treatment plant is verified with 668,439 square feet of Class 6 coverage and 20,993 of Class 1b coverage, both of which are more than the allowable coverage for those districts. Therefore, the project will require the transfer of coverage into the project area.

The affected property has 50,603 square feet of excess coverage (Class 1b and 6), with 38,149 square feet of remaining unmitigated. Excess coverage mitigation is required with the project.

Water Quality and Snow Removal/Storage: The facility has a BMP certificate, last issued in 2013. The site is high capability and well separated from surface waters and SEZs. Water Quality Best Management Practices (BMPs), consistent with TRPA standards, will be constructed to provide on-site stormwater conveyance, treatment and infiltration. The access road will be paved with standard infiltration basins and/or trenches. The solar panels will use a distributed infiltration system with wood mulch distributed over well-draining native soil.

The project will adhere to a snow removal plan for the solar array area that protects native soil by only removing snow to a minimum depth of 1 foot and armoring native soil with 4 inches of wood mulch in the snow removal area.

To avoid soil compaction and disturbance, post-construction vehicle travel within the solar array fencing will be limited to emergencies, necessary repairs when the ground is dry, and winter travel when there is a 12 inch minimum snow depth.

Defensible Space and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone:

The proposed project is in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, as determined by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The materials proposed are non-combustible and the project is compliant with the local fire code.

Regional Plan Compliance:

The proposed project is consistent with the Regional Plan; and will advance goals and policies of the Conservation/Energy Subelement:

GOAL E-1 PROMOTE ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES TO LESSEN DEPENDENCE ON SCARCE AND HIGH-COST ENERGY SUPPLIES.

POLICY E-1.2. DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED WHEN SUCH DEVELOPMENT IS BOTH TECHNOLOGICALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FEASIBLE. A variety of techniques for providing alternative energy sources are both technologically and economically feasible. Environmentally acceptable techniques are encouraged.

Other Agency Reviews:

The timber harvest plan has been approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (THP No. 4-23-00105-ELD and Timberland Conversion permit No. 675). The project will require Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) from Lahontan. The project will also require final building permits from the City of South Lake Tahoe.

Contact Information:

This memorandum was jointly prepared by TRPA outsource review consultant Arlo Stockham, AICP (Stockham Consulting) and TRPA Special Projects Manager, Paul Nielsen. For questions regarding this agenda item, please contact Paul Nielsen, Special Project Manager at (530) 318-6025 or [pnielsen@trpa.gov](mailto:pnielsen@trpa.gov). To submit a written public comment, email [publiccomment@trpa.gov](mailto:publiccomment@trpa.gov) with the appropriate agenda item in the subject line. Written comments received by 4 p.m. the day before a scheduled public meeting will be distributed and posted to the TRPA website before the meeting begins. TRPA does not guarantee written comments received after 4 p.m. the day before a meeting will be distributed and posted in time for the meeting.

Attachments:

- A. Required Findings/Rationale
- B. Draft Permit
- C. Site Plans & Elevations
- D. [Initial Environmental Checklist](#) (link)
- E. V(g) Findings
- F. Letters of Support

Attachment A  
Required Findings/Rationale



Attachment A  
Required Findings/Rationale

Required Findings: The following is a list of the required findings as set forth in Chapters 3, 4, 30 and 61 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances. Following each finding, Agency staff has indicated if there is sufficient evidence contained in the record to make the applicable findings or has briefly summarized the evidence on which the finding can be made.

1. Chapter 3 – Required Findings:

Based on the information submitted in the IEC, and other information know to TRPA, TRPA shall make one of the following findings and take the identified action:

- (a) The proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment and a finding of no Significant effect shall be prepared in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, Section 6.6;
- (b) The proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment but, due to the mitigation measures that have been added to the project, the project could have no significant effect on the environment and a finding of no significant effect shall be prepared in accordance with Rules of Procedure Section 6.7; or
- (c) The proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment and an environmental impact statement shall be pared in accordance with Chapter 3 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances and the Rules of Procedure, Article 6.

Based on the information provided in this staff report, the project application, the Initial Environmental Checklist (IEC), and Article V(g) Findings Checklist, there is sufficient evidence demonstrating that the proposed project, with the proposed conditions in the draft permits, will not have a significant effect on the environment and a finding of no significant effect shall be prepared.

2. Chapter 4 – Required Findings:

- (a) The project is consistent with and will not adversely affect implementation of the Regional Plan, including all applicable Goals and Policies, Plan Area Statements and maps, the Code and other TRPA plans and programs.

Based on the information provided in this staff report, the project application, the Initial Environmental Checklist (IEC), and Article V(g) Findings Checklist, there is sufficient evidence demonstrating that the proposed project is consistent with and will not adversely affect implementation of the Regional Plan, including all applicable Goals and Policies, the TRPA Code and other TRPA plans and programs.

- (b) The project will not cause the environmental threshold carrying capacities to be exceeded.

TRPA staff has completed the “Article V(g) Findings” in accordance with Chapter 4, Subsection 4.3 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances. All responses contained on said checklist indicate compliance with the environmental threshold carrying capacities. The applicant also completed an IEC. No significant environmental impacts were identified, and staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

- (c) Wherever federal, state or local air and water quality standards applicable for the Region, whichever are strictest, must be attained and maintained pursuant to Article V(g) of the TPRA Compact, the project meets or exceeds such standards.

TRPA is requiring that all potential environmental effects of the project be mitigated through the project design, including the installation of both temporary and permanent Best Management Practices and ongoing maintenance, and payment of water quality and excess coverage mitigation fees. The project is also required to comply with all City of South Lake Tahoe and Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements. As a result, upon completion of construction, the project should have no impact upon air or water quality standards.

3. Chapter 30 – Land Coverage Transfer

30.4.2 Transferred Land Coverage Requirement for Linear Public Facilities and Public Health and Safety Facilities

The maximum land coverage for linear public facilities is limited to the minimum amount needed to achieve their public purpose, except as provided for non-motorized public trails in subsection 30.4.6.D.3. Such transfer may be permitted, provided TRPA makes the following findings:

- (a) The project complies with required findings for additional public service facilities if required pursuant to Section 50.8.

The project is not an additional public service facility.

- (b) There is no feasible alternative that would reduce land coverage.

The solar project has been designed to reduce the minimize the physical amount of land coverage needed while maximizing the solar output. To produce the desired amount of clean energy (i.e., 1,339 kW DC Ground Mount Photovoltaic System), a solar system consisting of 2250 modules and 3.3 acres is required. STPUD has adequate base allowable land coverage available within the project area to accommodate the solar facility, but it is located within land capability district 4 to the east and south of the proposed project site. Moving the location of the proposed solar facility to the class 4 lands would eliminate the need to transfer land coverage for the public health and safety facility. However, siting the solar facility completely within land capability class 4 lands is not desirable compared to the current site that straddles the class 4/6 boundary for the following reasons:

- it would place the solar facility within more sensitive lands on slopes of up to 15 percent rather than the current site at 6 percent,
- it would be farther away from the existing WWTP facilities thereby impacting a larger area of previously undisturbed lands,

- it would require a longer access roadway and place solar panels on steeper slopes.
- it would place the solar panels closer to sensitive land uses (e.g., Al Tahoe bike trail and residential homes) and sensitive resources (e.g., Heavenly Valley creek) thereby reducing the amount of forested buffer between the solar facilities and offsite uses.
- the number of panels may need to be increased to equal the same amount of power.
- the design of the footings/foundation may need to be re-evaluated based on the slope of the hillside to orient the panels properly.

Because it is not a reasonable or feasible alternative to site the solar facility in the land capability class 4 lands and because the base allowable land coverage for land capability district 4 may not be used within the less-sensitive land capability 6 district lands within the project area, STPUD proposes to transfer land coverage into the project area. Under the proposed transfer, STPUD would send the land coverage required for Class 6 (42,913 square feet) to a state or local agency partner from STPUD's pool of base allowable Class 4 land coverage. At the same time, STPUD would receive from that partner 42,913 square feet of allowable Class 4, 5, or 6 land coverage for use in the Class 6 portion of the project area.

This land coverage transfer is preferable to the use of TRPA Code Section 30.4.1.C.3.c(ii) (e.g., Option 2) to calculate base allowable land coverage for the project area. Use of Option 2 would calculate base allowable land coverage using 20 percent (the amount allowable within land capability district 4) for all high capability lands (including class 6 which allows 30 percent cover) within the project area. This method would allow the solar facilities to be constructed in the current location and within base allowable land coverage limits as calculated under Option 2. However, use of Option 2 would result in the forfeiture of approximately 210,000 square feet of base allowable land coverage otherwise available in land capability district 4 under Code Option 1.

The District is mandated by the Federal Clean Water Act and the Porter-Cologne Act of 1969 to maintain and operate water and wastewater systems, including a wastewater treatment and export system at the Project Area, in perpetuity for the benefit of the south shore community. Given the unknown requirements for facility improvements or expansions that may be necessary in the future to fulfill STPUD's regulatory obligations both within and/or outside of the WWTP project area, it would not be feasible for STPUD to utilize Option 2 to determine base allowable land coverage. Using Option 2 may provide sufficient base allowable land coverage for the solar array project area, but it would lead to greater expense for STPUD and environmental risk for the community if and when that base allowable land coverage is needed in the future for mandated Public Health and Safety facilities.

In summary, given the unknown specifications for regulatory compliance for wastewater and associated facility improvements that will be needed in the future, STPUD is unable to predict with any certainty that the base allowable class 4 land coverage within the District's WWTP project area will not be needed for District facilities at some time in the future.

- (c) The project, because of its unusual configuration or service requirement, requires special consideration; and

The solar power system is proposed at the STPUD WWTP project area so that it may efficiently offset existing use of grid power with clean energy for operation of the WWTP. Annually, the

WWTP's power consumption is approximately 6M kWh. The solar array is contractually obligated to produce 1,925,050 kWh in Year 1 of the agreement with the solar power partner (e.g., approximately 32 percent of the WWTP annual consumption). STPUD cannot consider an alternate offsite location for the solar array, because of restrictions from the power utility; the Project Area is the only location that can be considered for this project. STPUD considered a rooftop project alternative at the WWTP, but cost and physical constraints made it infeasible. The most suitable site is located on class 6 land. Special consideration is warranted for the associated coverage transfer because this is a public facility with important water quality obligations under federal law and recalculating allowable coverage under the Option 2 method would adversely impact STPUD's ability to construct water and wastewater improvements in the future.

Providing clean energy for public services facilities such as the WWTP is a goal of local and regional agencies including the City of South Lake Tahoe and District, evidenced by both agencies participation in the Solar Energy and Economic Development Fund (SEED Fund), the City Council's 100 percent clean energy resolution, and TRPA's upcoming code amendments to address climate goals. In 2018, the City was approached by the SEED Fund team to participate in the newest round of the program's regional, collaborative solar procurement project. Headed by Optony USA and Strategic Energy Innovations, the SEED Fund gives public agencies in the same region the opportunity to work together on procuring solar for their facilities. The City recognized this unique opportunity, and on May 7, 2019, City Council voted unanimously to sign on as the Lead Agency for the SEED Fund Sierra Nevada project. STPUD's solar project stemmed from working with the SEED Fund to develop a list of potential solar projects in the Lake Tahoe region during the summer of 2020. It is the first of these projects to go to construction and will be the largest solar array in the Tahoe Basin

- (d) The facility primarily serves the needs of persons other than those who are or will be residents of the lands in question, or the owners of the land in question.

STPUD's WWTP serves the entire south shore community on the California side, from Emerald Bay to Stateline and south to Christmas Valley.

#### 4. Chapter 30 – Land Coverage Relocation

- (a) The relocation is to an equal or superior portion of the parcel or project area

6,964 square feet of banked Class 6 land coverage is proposed to be used on Class 6 land. The slope, vegetation, and soil type in the area of relocation is the same. The site is classified as Land Capability Class 6 and is therefore suitable for development.

- (b) The area from which the land coverage was removed for relocation is restored in accordance with subsection 30.5.3.

The area from where the land coverage was removed and banked has already been revegetated.

- (c) The relocation shall not be to Land Capability Districts 1a, 1b, 1c, 2, or 3, from any higher numbered land capability district.

The relocation is entirely within a Land Capability Class 6 area.

5. Chapter 61: Vegetation and Forest Health

- (a) Tree Removal: Before tree-related projects and activities are approved by TRPA, TRPA shall find, based on a report from a qualified forester, that the project or activity is consistent with this chapter and the Code. TRPA may delegate permit issuance to a federal, state, or other qualified agency through a memorandum of understanding.

The State-approved timber harvest plan was prepared by a registered forester and approved by the California Department of Forestry. With conditions, the project is consistent with the TRPA Code of Ordinances including Chapter 61 standards for tree removal, vegetation protection, and revegetation. See additional information in the Tree Removal section of the staff report.

- (b) Tree Removal for Solar Access: Removal of healthy trees to maximize efficiency of solar energy systems may be permitted according to the standards below.
- a. TRPA may approve the removal of healthy trees provided TRPA finds that the trees unreasonably impede the operation of a solar energy system and that the solar energy system is properly located so as to minimize the need for tree removal.
- b. The number of healthy trees that may be removed for the system's operation shall be the minimum necessary.
- c. The only trees that shall be considered for removal for an active or passive solar energy system are those that lie generally south of the proposed solar collector and are in the sun's path between an 18° vertical angle measured from the base of the solar collector and a 70° vertical angle from the same base measurement. Trees on adjacent properties may be removed provided a contractual agreement to allow for such removal is signed by the affected parties. Tree removal may be conditioned upon replacement elsewhere on the property.

As described in the Tree Removal section of the staff report, the site selected is the most suitable for a larger-scale solar power project and minimizes the need for tree removal.

Trees within the solar array fenced area are incompatible with power generation and will be entirely removed.

For tree removal in the additional 100-foot area to the west, south and east, the applicant provided comparative PV system analyses with and without the additional tree removal. Without tree removal in the 100-foot area, near shading would increase from 1.89 percent to 8.41 percent and performance of the solar array would be reduced by 5.4 percent. This would significantly impede operation of the solar energy system.

Tree removal in the additional 100-foot area will be limited by conditions of approval to ensure all trees removed would unreasonably impede operations, that tree removal is the minimum necessary, and that the trees to be cut meet the dimensional and solar angle criteria in subsection 3.

Attachment B  
Draft Permit

Attachment B  
DRAFT PERMIT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: South Tahoe Public Utility District, Solar Power Project

APN: 025-041-012, 025-051-027, 025-061-030, 025-061-031, 025-061-032, 025-061-033, 025-061-035, 025-071-022

PERMITTEE(S): South Tahoe Public Utility District

FILE #: ERSP2023-1088

COUNTY/ADDRESS: City of South Lake Tahoe / 1275 Meadow Crest Drive

Having made the findings required by Agency ordinances and rules, the TRPA Governing Board approved the project on April 24, 2024, subject to the standard conditions of approval attached hereto (Attachment Q), and the special conditions found in this permit.

This permit shall expire on April 24, 2027, 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 CITY BUILDING PERMIT. TRPA’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A CITY BUILDING PERMIT. THE CITY PERMIT AND THE TRPA PERMIT ARE INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER AND MAY HAVE DIFFERENT EXPIRATION DATES AND RULES REGARDING EXTENSIONS; AND
  - (4) A TRPA PRE-GRADING INSPECTION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER AND/OR THE CONTRACTOR.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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

**TRPA FILE ERSP2023-1088**

**APNs 025-041-012, 025-051-027, 025-061-030, 025-061-031, 025-061-032, 025-061-033, 025-061-035,  
025-071-022**

Water Quality Mitigation Fee (1):      Amount \$83,713    Paid \_\_\_\_    Receipt No. \_\_\_\_  
Excess Coverage Mitigation Fee (2):    Amount \$ \_\_\_\_    Paid \_\_\_\_    Receipt No. \_\_\_\_  
Security Posted (3):                    Amount \$10,000.00 Type \_\_\_\_ Paid \_\_\_\_    Receipt No. \_\_\_\_  
Security Administrative Fee (4):        Amount \$ \_\_\_\_    Paid \_\_\_\_    Receipt No. \_\_\_\_

Notes:

- (1) See Special Condition 3.G below.
- (2) See Special Condition 3.H below.
- (3) See Special Condition 3.I below.
- (4) See TRPA Filing Fee Schedule.

Required plans determined to be in conformance with approval: Date: \_\_\_\_\_

TRPA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The permittee has complied with all pre-construction conditions of approval as of this date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
TRPA Executive Director/Designee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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***SPECIAL CONDITIONS***

1. This permit authorizes the construction of a 1339 kW ground mounted solar power system to offset electricity demand at South Lake Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). The project includes 19 rows of solar arrays with an east-west orientation and lengths ranging from 205 feet to 270 feet. The arrays, designed to be four feet off the ground on the low side and approximately 10.5 feet above ground on the high side, will be enclosed within fencing with a total area of approximately 144,370 square feet (3.31 acres). At the southwest end of the solar field, small concrete pads will be constructed to support a transformer, concentration panel and switchgear. Additional trees will be cleared within a 100 foot area to the west, south, and east of the solar arrays (3.51 acres). The extent of clearing within the 100 foot additional area is limited by TRPA Code of Ordinances Section 61.1.4.C and the conditions of approval for this project. The solar arrays will be accessed with a 20-foot paved and gated roadway extending approximately 457 feet eastward from the WWTP. An approximately 1,770 foot long trench will be used for subsurface electrical connections between the solar arrays and the WWTP. Approximately 700 linear feet of the trench is located outside of the existing WWTP and area cleared of trees for the solar field.



The project will add 42,913 square feet of Class 6 coverage including 6,964 square feet of banked coverage and 35,949 square feet of new Class 6 coverage to be transferred into the project area or recalculated in accordance with Condition 3.E. 9,088 square feet of new Class 4 coverage will also be added. The project will result in 734,449 square feet of total coverage in the project area, with 320,490 square feet of coverage available for future use or transfer. Upon completion of the project and passing a TRPA final inspection, the parcel's BMP Certificate will be reissued.

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. The site plans shall be revised to include:
    - 1) Update parcel information to identify all APNs within the project area.
    - 2) Update coverage statistics to address transferred coverage and allowed use of transferred coverage on Class 6 land; or the alternative project area recalculation consistent with Condition 3.E below.
    - 3) Update coverage calculations to identify excess coverage in Class 6 and Class 1b. Include total, mitigated, and remaining.
    - 4) Paving of the proposed gravel access road.
    - 5) A note and on-site sign indicating: "Motor vehicles are not permitted within the solar array fenced area except for emergency response, necessary repairs when the ground is dry, and winter travel when there is a 12-inch minimum compacted snow depth, such that ground disturbance and compaction will not occur."
    - 6) Identify color of the perimeter fence. The fence shall be a dark brown or black to blend with the surrounding area.
    - 7) Identify final trench routing location for the utility conduit and any proposed tree removal. For the trench routing, trees over 14 inches in diameter shall not be removed within Class 1b(SEZ) areas and trees over 30 inches shall not be removed on high capability land.
  - B. The BMP plan shall be revised to include:
    - 1) Calculations demonstrating that the proposed infiltration areas are sized accordingly for the slope and soil type of the property and will capture and infiltrate a 20 year/1 hour storm event.
    - 2) Use standard infiltration basins and/or trenches to infiltrate access road runoff. Provide a detail drawing.
    - 3) Vegetation protective fencing around the entire construction site. The fencing shall be no more than 12 feet from the access drive or northern perimeter fence. Fencing may

extend to the edge of the 100 feet additional tree removal area on the north, east, and south. Trees located within the construction area that are to be retained shall be individually protected by fencing or other means as necessary.

- 4) Temporary erosion control structures located downslope of the proposed construction areas. Please Note: Straw bales are no longer acceptable for temporary erosion control or mulch material in the Lake Tahoe Basin. The use of straw has contributed to the spread of noxious weeds throughout the basin. The use of alternatives to straw bales, such as pine needle bales, filter fabric, coir logs and pine needle or wood mulches for erosion control purposes is required.
  - 5) A note indicating: "4 inch deep layer of wood mulch will be maintained within the solar array fenced area.
  - 6) A note indicating: "Dust control measures shall be in place during construction. Broadcast mulch shall not be permitted as a dust control measure within 35 feet of structures."
  - 7) A note indicating: "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."
  - 8) Indicate staging area for construction equipment and materials to be located within the construction site boundary fencing.
- C. The final plans shall include a detailed tree removal and revegetation plan based on a survey of tree heights demonstrating that all trees to be removed within 100 feet of the solar array fenced boundary address the standards in TRPA Code of Ordinances subsection 61.1.4.C "Tree Removal for Solar Access". Trees that do not project above an 18 degree vertical angle from a solar panel and other trees that do not unreasonably impede operations shall be maintained. Include a note indicating: "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."
- D. The project will adhere to a snow removal plan for the solar array area that protects native soil from disturbance and compaction. The final plans shall include an updated snow removal plan limiting snow removal to times when there is a minimum compacted snow depth of 1 foot. Snow removal may not create soil disturbance or compaction and shall not occur when the ground is wet or exposed. Snow removal instruction signage shall be posted on-site and 1-foot heights shall be marked on the fencing and solar array support posts.
- E. The permittee shall transfer 35,949 square feet of Class 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 coverage to the project area Class 6 lands. Note that all coverage transfers must be in compliance with Chapter 30 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances, and the TRPA Rules of Procedure. In the event the permittee is unable to transfer coverage, allowed coverage shall be recalculated consistent with TRPA Code of Ordinances subsection 30.4.1.C.3.c.ii "Option 2".

- F. A BMP INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN shall be submitted detailing necessary maintenance activity and schedules for all BMPs installed on the property. All BMPs shall be maintained subject to the INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN approved as part of this permit. All maintenance activities shall be recorded in a corresponding maintenance log. This log shall be maintained for the life of the property and made available for inspection by TRPA staff. If this log is not complete, TRPA will assume that maintenance has not been performed and reserves the right to revoke the BMP Certificate of Completion.
- G. A water quality mitigation fee of \$83,713 shall be paid to TRPA. This fee is based on the creation of 45,007 square feet of land coverage at a rate of \$1.86/square foot. The previously verified coverage amount is 689,432 square feet and the base allowable coverage is 1,054,939 square feet.
- H. The affected property has 38,149 square feet of remaining excess land coverage (Class 1b and 6). This amount reflects the most recent excess coverage mitigation fee payment of \$646 on August 18, 2022, required per TRPA File ERSP2021-0197 which mitigated 69 square feet of excess land coverage. The permittee shall mitigate a portion or all of the excess land coverage on this property by removing coverage within Hydrologic Transfer Area 4 – South Stateline or by submitting an excess coverage mitigation fee.

To calculate the amount of excess coverage to be removed, use the following formula:

Estimated project construction cost multiplied by the fee percentage of .0325% (as identified in Table 30.6.1-2 of Subsection 30.6.1.C.3, Chapter 30 of the TRPA Code of Ordinances) divided by the mitigation factor of 8. If you choose this option, please revise your final site plans and land coverage calculations to account for the permanent coverage removal.

An excess land coverage mitigation fee may be paid in lieu of permanently retiring land coverage. The excess coverage mitigation fee shall be calculated as follows:

Coverage reduction square footage (as determined by formula above) multiplied by the coverage mitigation cost fee of \$8.50 for projects within Hydrologic Transfer Area 4, South Stateline. Please provide a construction cost estimate by your licensed contractor, architect or engineer. In no case shall the mitigation fee be less than \$200.00.

- I. The security required under Standard Condition I.B of Attachment Q shall be \$10,000.00. Please see Attachment J, Security Procedures, for appropriate methods of posting the security and the required security administration fee. Security shall not be released until the project is complete and additional BMPs in the Boneyard are installed.
  - J. The permittee shall submit a project construction schedule.
  - K. The permittee shall submit an electronic version of the final plan set for electronic stamping
4. If a prehistoric archeological site (such as midden soils, stone tools, chipped stone, baked clay, or concentrations of shell or bone) or a historic-period archaeological site (such as structural features, concentrated deposits of bottles, or other historic refuse) is uncovered during grading

or other construction activities, all ground-disturbing activity within 100 feet of the discovery shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. The City will be notified of the potential find and a qualified archaeologist shall be retained to investigate its significance. If the find is a prehistoric archeological site, the appropriate Native American group shall be notified. Any previously undiscovered resources found during construction will be recorded on appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms and evaluated for significance under all applicable regulatory criteria. If the archaeologist determines that the find does not meet the CRHR standards of significance for cultural resources, construction may proceed. If the find is determined to be significant by the qualified archaeologist (i.e., because the find is determined to constitute either an historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, or tribal cultural resource), the archaeologist shall work with the City to follow accepted professional standards such as further testing for evaluation or data recovery, as necessary. If artifacts are recovered from significant historic archaeological resources, they shall be housed at a qualified curation facility. The results of the identification, evaluation, and/or data recovery program for any unanticipated discoveries shall be presented in a professional-quality report that details all methods and findings, evaluates the nature and significance of the resources, and analyzes and interprets the results.

5. All surplus construction waste materials shall be removed from the project and deposited only at approved points of disposal.
6. The construction of a concrete washout facility is prohibited unless approved in writing by a TRPA Environmental Specialist.
7. Any normal construction activities creating noise in excess to 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.
8. 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.
9. This site shall be winterized in accordance with the provisions of Attachment Q by October 15<sup>th</sup> of each construction season.
10. Grading is prohibited any time of the year during periods of precipitation and for the resulting period when the site is covered with snow, or is in a saturated, muddy, or unstable condition.
11. All Best Management Practices shall be maintained in perpetuity to ensure effectiveness which may require BMPs to be periodically reinstalled or replaced.
12. Any change to the project requires approval (except for TRPA exempt activities) of a TRPA plan revision permit prior to the changes being made to any element of the project (i.e. structural modifications, grading, BMPs, etc.). Failure to obtain prior approval for modifications may result in monetary penalties.
13. Temporary and permanent BMPs may be field-fit as appropriate by the TRPA inspector. Parking barriers may be required at discretion of the inspector.

14. Excavation equipment is limited to approved construction areas to minimize site disturbance. No grading, excavation, storage or other construction related activities shall occur outside the area of disturbance.
15. The permittee shall prepare and provide photographs to the TRPA Compliance Inspector that have been taken during construction that demonstrate any subsurface BMPs or trenching and backfilling proposed on the project have been constructed correctly (depth, fill material, etc.).
16. 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.
17. To the maximum extent allowable by law, the Permittee agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless TRPA, its Governing Board (including individual members), its Planning Commission (including individual members), 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, administrative appeal, 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

Attachment C  
[Site Plans & Elevations](#) (link)

Attachment D  
[Initial Environmental Checklist](#) (link)

Attachment E  
V(g) Findings



**PROJECT REVIEW CONFORMANCE CHECKLIST & V (g) FINDINGS**

(Commercial/Tourist Accommodation/Public Service/Recreation/Resource Mngt.)

Project Name: STPUD Solar Power Project

Project Type: Public Service

APN / Project Number: 025-061-032 et al (8 parcels) / ERSP2023-1088

Project Review Planner: Arlo Stockham / Paul Nielsen Date of Review: 3/19/2024 - 4/24/2024

NOTE: if the answer to question b. on any of the following questions is no, please provide a written justification on a separate sheet for making the findings required in subsections 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 of the code. If the answer to question b. is yes or if no answer is required, this checklist shall serve as justifications for making said findings. Any positive impacts of the project on the thresholds that have not been addressed in these questions should also be noted.

**CATEGORY: AIR QUALITY**

THRESHOLD: CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

INDICATOR: (CO) 8-hr. avg. Stateline CA station

- 1. a. Does the project generate new vehicle trips? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 65.2.4.B.1? Y  N
- 2. a. Does the project create new points of vehicular access? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 34.3.2? Y  N
- 3. a. Does the project include combustion appliances? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 65.1.4? Y  N
- 4. a. Does the project include a new stationary source of CO? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 65.1.6? Y  N

THRESHOLD: OZONE

INDICATOR: Ozone, 1-hr. avg. Lk. Tahoe Blvd station

- 1. a. Does the project increase regional VMT? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 65.2.4? Y  N
- 2. a. Does the project include new gas/oil space/water heaters? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 65.1.4? Y  N
- 3. a. Does the project include a new stationary source of NO<sup>2</sup>? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 65.1.6? Y  N

THRESHOLD: PARTICULATE MATTER

INDICATOR: Part. Matter, 24-hr. avg. Lk. Tahoe Blvd station

- 1. a. Does the project increase airborne dust emissions? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 60.4.3? Y  N
- 2. a. Does the project include a new stationary source of particulate matter? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 65.1.6? Y  N

3. a. Refer to question 1, Ozone, above.

THRESHOLD: VISIBILITY

INDICATOR: miles of visibility, veg and subregional path

1. a. Refer to questions 1-3, Particulate Matter, above.

THRESHOLD: TRAFFIC VOLUME  
US 50 CORRIDOR, WINTER, 4pm-12am

INDICATOR: traffic volume, US 50 at Park Ave.  
Jan.-Mar. avg., 4pm-12am

1. a. Refer to question 1, CO, above.

THRESHOLD: NO<sup>2</sup> EMISSIONS

INDICATOR: VMT

1. a. Refer to questions 1-2, VMT, below.

THRESHOLD: WOOD SMOKE

INDICATOR: number of wood heaters

1. a. Does the project include any new wood heaters? Y  N   
b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 65.1.4.B? Y  N

THRESHOLD: VMT

INDICATOR: changes in number of trips and avg. trip length

1. a. Does the project increase average trip length? Y  N   
b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 65.2.4.B? Y  N   
2. a. refer to question 1, CO, above.

**CATEGORY: WATER QUALITY**

THRESHOLD: TURBIDITY

INDICATOR: turbidity of indicator stations

1. a. Does the project increase impervious coverage or create permanent soil disturbance? Y  N   
b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 60.2.3? Y  N   
2. a. Does the project create temporary soil disturbance? Y  N   
b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 60.4.3? Y  N   
3. a. Does the project require the use of fertilizer? Y  N   
b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 60.1.8? Y  N   
4. a. Does the project include domestic wastewater discharge to the surface or groundwater? Y  N   
b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 60.1.3.B? Y  N   
5. a. Does the project disturb or encroach on an existing SEZ? Y  N   
b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 30.5? Y  N

THRESHOLD: CLARITY, WINTER (IN LAKE)

INDICATOR: secch depth, Dec.-Mar. avg. TRG index station

1. a. Refer to questions 1-5, turbidity, above.

THRESHOLD: PHYTOPLANKTON PRIMARY PRODUCTIVITY (IN LAKE)

INDICATOR: phyto, primary productivity, ann. Avg., TRG index station

1. a. Refer to questions 1-5, turbidity, above.

THRESHOLD: DIN LOAD, SURFACE RUNOFF

INDICATOR: DIN x discharge, tributary network annual total 1

1. a. Refer to questions 1, 2, 3 and 5, turbidity, above.

THRESHOLD: DIN LOAD, GROUNDWATER

INDICATOR: DIN x discharge, grndwtr. Network, annual total

1. a. Refer to questions 2 & 3, turbidity, above.

THRESHOLD: DIN LOAD, ATMOSPHERIC

INDICATOR: NO3 + HNO, annual avg. Lake Tahoe Blvd station

1. a. Refer to question 4, turbidity, above.

THRESHOLD: NUTRIENT LOADS, GENERAL

INDICATOR: sol. P x discharge sol. Fe x

1. a. Refer to questions 1-5, turbidity, above.

THRESHOLD: TOTAL N, P, Fe, (trib.) CA ONLY

INDICATOR: single reading, tributary network

1. a. Refer to questions 1, 2, 3, and 5, turbidity, above.

THRESHOLD: DIN; SOL, P, Fe, SS (trib.) NV ONLY

INDICATOR: single reading tributary network

1. a. Refer to questions 1, 2, 3 and 5, turbidity, above.

THRESHOLD: DIN, SOL, P, Fe, SS, GREASE/OIL DISCHARGED TO SURFACE WATER FROM RUNOFF

INDICATOR: single reading runoff sites

1. a. Does the project route impervious surface runoff directly into Lake Tahoe or a major tributary? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the discharge structure consistent with BMP handbook? Y  N
2. a. Does the project create large impervious areas (e.g. parking lots) which may serve as a source of airborne pollutants, grease or oil? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsections 60.4.3, 60.4.6, 60.4.9? Y  N

THRESHOLD: TOTAL N, TOTAL P, TOTAL Fe TURBIDITY, GREASE/OIL DISCHARGE TO GRDWTR FROM RUNOFF

INDICATOR: single reading runoff site

1. a. Does the project include infiltration devices to infiltrate impervious surface runoff directly underground? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 60.4.6? Y  N

**CATEGORY: SOIL CONSERVATION**

**THRESHOLD: IMPERVIOUS COVERAGE**

INDICATOR: area or coverage

- 1. a. Does the project include new or relocated coverage? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 30.4, 30.5, 30.6? Y  N

**THRESHOLD: NATURALLY-FUNCTIONING SEZ**

INDICATOR: area of SEZ

- 1. a. Does the project disturb or encroach on a naturally-functioning SEZ? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 30.5? Y  N

**CATEGORY: VEGETATION**

**THRESHOLD: PLANT & STRUCTURAL DIVERSITY**

INDICATOR: plant & structural diversity

- 1. a. Does the project create a change in diversity? Y  N
- b. If yes, does the project include vegetation management techniques to increase diversity (reveg., thinning)? Y  N

**THRESHOLD: MEADOW & RIPARIAN VEGETATION**

INDICATOR: area of meadow & riparian veg.

- 1. a. Refer to question 5, turbidity, above.

**THRESHOLD: DECIDUOUS RIPARIAN VEGETATION**

INDICATOR: area of riparian vegetation

- 1. a. Refer to question 5, turbidity, above.

**THRESHOLD: SHRUB ASSOCIATION**

INDICATOR: area of shrub association

- 1. a. Does the project create an increase in the areal extent of the shrub association? Y  N
- b. If yes, has the additional area been calculated, and a determination been made that the total area is less than or equal to 25%? Y  N

**THRESHOLD: YELLOW PINE ASSOCIATION (not mature)**

INDICATOR: area of yellow pine assoc.

- 1. a. Does the project create a change in the areal extent of the immature yellow pine association? Y  N
- b. If yes, has the additional area been calculated, and a determination made that the total area in the Region is between 15 and 25%? Y  N

**THRESHOLD: RED FIR ASSOCIATION**

INDICATOR: area of red fir assoc.

- 1. a. Does the project create a change in the areal extent of the immature red fir association? Y  N
- b. If yes, has the additional are been calculated, and a determination made that the total area in the Region is between 15 and 25%? Y  N

**THRESHOLD: FOREST OPENINGS**

INDICATOR: size and location of forest openings

- 1. a. Does the project create new forest openings? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the new opening less than 8 acres? Y  N

2. a. Does the project create new forest openings adjacent to other openings? Y  N
- b. If yes, are the resultant adjacent openings not of the same relative age class or successional stage? Y  N

THRESHOLD: UNCOMMON PLANT COMMUNITITES

INDICATOR: habitat sites

1. a. Will the project impact the habitats for the deepwater sphagnum bog, Osgood Swamp, or the Freel Peak Cushing Plant Community? Y  N
- b. If yes, have modifications been included in the project to protect these plant communities? Y  N

THRESHOLD: SENSITIVE VEGETATION

INDICATOR: number of habitat sites

1. a. Will the project impact the habitats of the Carex paucifructus, the Lewis pyomaea longipetala, the Draba asterophora v., or the Rorippa subumbellata? Y  N
- b. If yes, have modifications been included in the project to protect these plant communities? Y  N

CATEGORY: WILDLIFE

THRESHOLD: SPECIAL INTEREST SPECIES

INDICATOR: number of habitat sites

1. a. Will the project result in the loss, modification or increased disturbance of habitat site for goshawk, osprey, bald eagle, (winter and nesting), golden eagle, peregrine falcon, waterfowl, or deer, as mapped on official TRPA maps? Y  N
- b. If yes, have modifications been included in the project to protect these habitat sites? Y  N

CATEGORY: FISHERIES

THRESHOLD: EXCELLENT STREAM HABITAT

INDICATOR: sites of excellent stream habitat

1. a. Does the project include stream channelization, stream dredging, removal of rock or gravel from a stream, culverts, bridges, or water diversions affecting a stream identified as fish habitat? Y  N
- b. If yes, have modifications been included in the project to offset impacts on stream habitat and contribute to the upgrading of stream habitat? Y  N
2. a. Will the project result in siltation, urban runoff, snow disposal, or litter that may affect water quality in a stream identified as fish habitat? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsections 60.4.3 and 60.4.6? Y  N

THRESHOLD: GOOD STREAM HABITAT

INDICATOR: miles of good stream habitat

1. a. Refer to questions 1 and 2, above.

THRESHOLD: MARGIANL STREAM HABITAT

INDICATOR: miles of marginal stream habitat

1. a. Refer to questions 1 and 2, above.

THRESHOLD: INSTREAM FLOWS

INDICATOR: increase flows

- 1. a. Does the project include new water diversions? Y  N
- b. If yes, is there evidence in the record to indicate that flows will remain within adopted TRPA standards or, in the absence of adopted standards, that flows will not be diminished? Y  N
- 2. a. Does the project include new coverage or disturbance that could contribute to uncontrolled runoff reaching a stream identified as fish habitat? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsections 60.4.3 and 60.4.6? Y  N
- 3. a. Refer to question 5, turbidity, above.

THRESHOLD: LAKE HABITAT

INDICATOR: area of excellent habitat

- 1. a. Does the project include development in the shorezone, removal of rock or gravel from the lake, or removal of vegetation in the shorezone? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Chapters 80-86? Y  N
- 2. a. Does the project increase the potential for siltation, runoff, or erosion entering Lake Tahoe? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsections 60.4.3 and 60.4.6? Y  N

CATEGORY: NOISE

THRESHOLD: SINGLE EVENT, AIRCRAFT, DAYTIME

INDICATOR: dBA, LMAX, TRPA ref. points, 8am-8pm, single reading

- 1. a. Does the project involve the commercial or private operation of aircraft? Y  N
- b. If yes, does the project comply with the Interim Service Agreement affecting aircraft operations at the South Lake Tahoe Airport, or will the project meet the TRPA noise thresholds, or is the project exempt under Code section 68.9? Y  N

THRESHOLD: SINGLE EVENT, AIRCRAFT, NIGHTTIME

INDICATOR: dBA, LMAX, TRPA ref. points, 8am-8pm, single reading

- 1. a. Refer to question 1, single event, aircraft, above.

THRESHOLD: SINGLE-EVENT, BOATS

INDICATOR: dBA, LMAX, at 50 ft., single reading

- 1. a. Does the project involve a marina or boat launching facility? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 68.3? Y  N

THRESHOLD: SINGLE-EVENT, MOTOR VEHICLE LESS THAN 6,000 LBS. CVM

INDICATOR: dBA, LMAX, at 50 ft., single reading

- 1. a. Does the project include the operation of fleet vehicles or other commercial vehicles? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 68.3? Y  N

THRESHOLD: SINGLE-EVENT, MOTOR VEHICLE GREATER THAN 6,000 LBS. CVM

INDICATOR: dBA, LMAX, at 50 ft., single reading

1. a. Refer to question 1, single event, motor vehicle, above.

THRESHOLD: SINGLE-EVENT, MOTORCYCLE

INDICATOR: dBA, LMAX, at 50 ft., single reading

1. a. Does the project involve the offering of motorcycles for lease or rent or the operation of a motorcycle course? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 68.3? Y  N

THRESHOLD: SINGLE-EVENT, ORVS

INDICATOR: dBA, LMAX, at 50 ft., single reading

1. a. Does the project involve the offering of ORVs for rent or lease or the operation of an ORV course? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 68.3? Y  N

THRESHOLD: SINGLE-EVENT, SNOWMOBILES

INDICATOR: dBA, LMAX, at 50 ft., single reading

1. a. Does the project involve the offering of snowmobiles for rent or lease or the operation of a snowmobile course? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with Subsection 68.3? Y  N

THRESHOLD: COMMUNITY NOISE EQUIVALENT LEVEL (CNEL)

1. a. Does the project involve the creation of a new or relocated land use? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with the applicable plan area statement? Y  N
2. a. Is the project located within a transportation corridor as mapped on TRPA maps? Y  N
- b. If yes, does the project include components to reduce the transmission of noise from the corridor, in accordance with the TRPA Design Review Guidelines? Y  N
3. a. Does the project involve a use or activity for which TRPA has received a CNEL related noise complaint and for which TRPA has required remedial action in accordance with Chapter 68? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with the remedial action plan? Y  N

CATEGORY: SCENIC RESOURCES

THRESHOLD: ROADWAY AND SHORELINE RATINGS

1. a. Is the project located within, or visible from, a roadway or shoreline unit targeted for scenic upgrading? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with the TRPA Scenic Quality Implementation Program (SQUIP)? Y  N
2. a. Is the project located within, or visible from, a roadway or shoreline unit not targeted for scenic upgrading? Y  N
- b. If yes, is there evidence in the record that the project will not cause a significant decrease in scenic quality, and is the project consistent with the TRPA Design Review Guidelines? Y  N

**CATEGORY: RECREATION**

**THRESHOLD: PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE HIGH QUALITY RECREATION EXPERIENCE**

INDICATOR: dispersed rec. capacity

- 1. a. Is the project located in a conservation or recreation plan area? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the project consistent with the applicable plan area statement? Y  N

**THRESHOLD: ESTABLISH FAIR SHARE OF CAPACITY FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION**

**AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

INDICATOR: PAOTs

- 1. a. Does the project require an allocation of PAOTs? Y  N
- b. If yes, is the recreational opportunity involved available to the public? Y  N

**CATEGORY: CODE/RULES OF PROCEDURE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Does the project require Governing Board Review (Chapter 2)? Y  N

5. Does the project require notice to adjacent property owners (Art. XII Rules of Procedure)? Y  N

6. Is the project consistent with the following:

Chapter 2	(Project Review)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 6	(Tracking-Data Sheets/Log Book)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 21	(Permissible Uses)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 22	(Temporary Uses)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 30	(Coverage)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 31	(Density)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 32	(Basic Service)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 33.3	(Grading)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 33.4	(Special Reports)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 33.5	(Construction Schedule)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 33.6	(Vegetation Protection)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 34	(Driveways)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 34	(Parking)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 35	(Natural Hazards-Floodplain)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 36	(Design Standards)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 37	(Height)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 38	(Signs)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 50	(Allocations)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 51	(Transfers)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 52	(Bonus Units-MFD only)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 53	(IPES)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 60	(BMP's)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 60.1	(Water Quality)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 60.2	(Water Quality Mitigation)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 61.1	(Tree Removal)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 61.3.6	(Sensitive Plants/Fire Hazard)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 61.4	(Revegetation)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 62	(Wildlife)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 63	(Fish)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 65.1	(Air Quality)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 65.2	(Traffic/Air Quality Mitigation)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 67	(Historic Resource)	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>



Attachment F  
Letters of Support



Office of the City Manager  
City of South Lake Tahoe

Joseph Irvin, City Manager  
[jirvin@cityofslt.us](mailto:jirvin@cityofslt.us)  
(530) 542-6043

1901 Lisa Maloff Way  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
[www.cityofslt.us](http://www.cityofslt.us)

March 11, 2024

Cindy Gustafson, Chair  
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Governing Board  
PO Box 5310  
Stateline, NV 89449

Subject: Letter of Support for STPUD Solar Project

Dear Chair Gustafson,

The City of South Lake Tahoe would like to express our support for South Lake Public Utility District's 1 MW solar project.

California and the City of South Lake Tahoe have ambitious climate pollution reduction goals. The City passed Resolution 2022-088 Establishing a Science-Based Greenhouse Gas Reduction Target for 2030, which set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 59.2% from the 2018 inventory level by 2030. It will take a citywide commitment to greenhouse gas emissions reductions in order to achieve that ambitious goal. As a significant energy user in the City limits, South Lake Public Utility District is doing their part to address the emissions footprint by implementing this solar project which will offset significant carbon.

The City recognizes the environmental and fiscal leadership shown by STPUD. This project is sited away from any designated scenic corridors and in a place where scenic issues are not a concern. It thoughtfully takes into account ratepayer impacts and saves money. The City sees this project as necessary toward addressing the carbon emissions of our residents and visitors and appreciates the financial stewardship to bring reasonably priced carbon-free energy to power the pumps. This is a great deal for ratepayers as well as a great win for air quality.

Sincerely,

 3/11/2024

Joseph D. Irvin, ICMA-CM  
City Manager, South Lake Tahoe, CA  
[jirvin@cityofslt.us](mailto:jirvin@cityofslt.us)

**From:** Dave Norton <norton@hpfa.cloud>  
**Sent:** 4/10/2024 2:40:39 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>; Paul Nielsen <pnielsen@trpa.gov>; Shelly Thomsen <sthomsen@stpud.us>  
**Subject:** Proposed STPUD solar farm

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I understand that TRPA will be discussing plans for STPUD's proposed solar farm at the upcoming meeting and is looking for community feedback.

I can't think of better projects for the Tahoe Basin than infrastructure projects that lessen our community's climate impact. The proposed solar farm to generate power for STPUD to help partially offset their power usage seems to be an ideal match for the type of climate impact reducing projects TRPA seeks out and supports. Solar generation works quite well in Tahoe, even with our snow. The bright sunshine and generally lower humidity after storms is usually sufficient to clear panels of snow load within a day or two of a storm. Snow tends to slide part way down the panel just due to gravity, and the resulting exposed part of the panel is sufficient enough to heat and melt enough snow right on the surface for the remaining snow to slide off. Because of this, the solar farm will be producing more power than one might expect in an area that gets as much snow as we can get. Our famous blue skies and sunshine for the rest of the year provide ideal power generating conditions. It's a shame that there aren't more solar installations in the basin. As this project demonstrates success, it will hopefully inspire other organizations, businesses, and homeowners to also install solar.

Using the power of the sun, instead of the energy in fossil fuels, will help to preserve our lake and our lands. Panels now are engineered with an expected lifetime of at least 25 years, and often last much longer than that. An investment in solar now will provide several decades of renewable power to help meet the needs of our community. I hope that TRPA will fully embrace the efforts of STPUD to become a greener organization and help us to keep Tahoe blue.

Dave Norton  
South Lake Tahoe

**From:** David Gabriel <contact@david-gabriel.com>

**Sent:** 4/9/2024 3:37:04 PM

**Subject:** Solar STPUD 1MW Project

---

Hello All,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write you to endorse the Solar Project which has the potential to deliver 1MW of power to STPUD. This project has the potential to reduce carbon emissions, protecting the only planet we are capable of living on. If that's not reason enough, it will show clearly the ability and intention of the local leadership to contribute to our South Lake Tahoe Climate Action Plan (CAP).

As an electrical engineer and energy professional with over 10 years of experience in power electronics, I can say with full confidence that this project is the right time, place and people to make a difference in our community. This is a common sense, positive transformation of our energy infrastructure with real impact on our climate and local economic. This is an opportunity you MUST take now, to leave the world a better place. Please do not prevent this project, which represents a hope in our ambitious, yet practical energy goals for South Lake Tahoe. Let's get on the right side of history!

Best Regards,  
David Gabriel

**From:** Luke Scheidler <l\_scheid@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** 4/4/2024 4:39:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>; Paul Nielsen <pnielsen@trpa.gov>; Shelly Thomsen <sthomsen@stpud.us>  
**Subject:** South Lake 100% Supports STPUD Solar

---

Dear TRPA Governing Board Members:

At the April 24th, 2024 TRPA Governing Board meeting the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) 1MW solar array project will be voted on. On behalf of the South Lake Tahoe Community I would like to voice my overwhelming support for this solar project. STPUD is the largest energy user on the South Shore and the solar project will generate 1/3rd of STPUD's wastewater treatment plant energy needs. TRPA understands the significant challenges climate change poses to the Tahoe Community and the STPUD solar project is the most significant carbon reducing project in the Tahoe Basin. TRPA is actively working toward code amendments, planning solutions and tracking mechanisms to track our community progress in addressing climate change. The STPUD solar project will not have any negative scenic impacts and is a huge advancement toward the City of South Lake Tahoe's 100% renewable goals and championed by the local community with unanimous votes of approval from the STPUD Board and City of South Lake Tahoe Planning Commission. The local South Lake Tahoe community has continually voiced its support for STPUD solar through local elections, the STPUD solar approval process and establishment of the 100% renewable commitment.

In addition to the significant environmental benefits, STUPD solar offers plant functionality and operations benefits that both cut cost and improve plant resilience. This resilience will allow water to flow during critical community health and safety events like the Caldor Fire and the blizzards of 2023. The STPUD solar project provides both mitigation and adaptation benefits to addressing the issue of climate change.

The South Lake Tahoe community has worked tirelessly toward the STUPD solar effort. We greatly appreciate a vote of YES as we continue to fight climate change as a Community.

Sincerely,

Luke Scheidler

**From:** Meredith Anderson <manderson@alumni.scu.edu>  
**Sent:** 4/6/2024 1:49:06 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>; Paul Nielsen <pnielsen@trpa.gov>; Shelly Thomsen <sthomsen@stpud.us>  
**Subject:** South Lake 100% Supports STPUD Solar

---

Dear TRPA Governing Board Member:

At the April 24th, 2024 TRPA Governing Board meeting the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) 1MW solar array project will be voted on. On behalf of the South Lake Tahoe Community, I would like to voice my overwhelming support for this solar project. STPUD is the largest energy user on the South Shore and the solar project will generate 1/3 of STPUD's wastewater treatment plant energy needs. TRPA understands the significant challenges climate change poses to the Tahoe community, and the STPUD solar project is the most significant carbon-reducing project in the Tahoe Basin. TRPA is actively working toward code amendments, planning solutions and tracking mechanisms to track our community progress in addressing climate change. The STPUD solar project will not have any negative scenic impacts and is a huge advancement toward the City of South Lake Tahoe's 100% renewable goals and championed by the local community with unanimous votes of approval from the STPUD Board and City of South Lake Tahoe Planning Commission. The local South Lake Tahoe community has continually voiced its support for STPUD solar through local elections, the STPUD solar approval process and establishment of the 100% renewable commitment.

In addition to the significant environmental benefits, the STPUD solar offers plant functionality and operations benefits that both cut cost and improve plant resilience. This resilience will allow water to flow during critical community health and safety events like the Caldor Fire and the blizzards of 2023. The STPUD solar project provides both mitigation and adaptation benefits to addressing the issue of climate change.

The South Lake Tahoe community has worked tirelessly toward the STPUD solar effort. We greatly appreciate a vote of YES as we continue to fight climate change as a community.

Sincerely,  
Meredith Anderson, South Lake Tahoe Resident

--  
**Meredith Anderson**  
[manderson@alumni.scu.edu](mailto:manderson@alumni.scu.edu)  
630-915-1167 | South Lake Tahoe, CA

**From:** Kevin Price <price.kevin.k@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 4/1/2024 6:42:14 PM  
**To:** Paul Nielsen <pnielsen@trpa.gov>  
**Subject:** South Lake and Meyers 100% Supports STPUD Solar

---

Dear Paul Nielsen,

At the April 24th, 2024 TRPA Governing Board meeting the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) 1MW solar array project will be voted on, and you should vote yes. This is the right decision, as we need to offset carbon ASAP. We have seen extreme weather over the past few years that has put our communities at risk. The future will include great challenges, and if we don't start now, who knows what will happen.

In this instance, South Lake Tahoe can take a concrete step towards a safe -- and fun -- future. The local South Lake Tahoe community has continually voiced its support for STPUD solar through local elections, the STPUD solar approval process and establishment of the 100% renewable commitment.

We greatly appreciate a vote of YES as we continue to fight climate change as a Community.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Price

**From:** maddy sides <sidesm123@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 4/1/2024 6:12:33 PM  
**To:** Paul Nielsen <pnielsen@trpa.gov>  
**Subject:** South Lake residents 100% Support STPUD Solar

---

Dear TRPA Governing Board Member,

At the April 24th, 2024 TRPA Governing Board meeting the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) 1MW solar array project will be voted on. On behalf of the South Lake Tahoe Community, and as a 4-year resident in the city of South Lake Tahoe, I would like to voice my overwhelming support for this solar project. As you may know, STPUD is the single largest energy user on the South Shore and the solar project will generate 1/3rd of STPUD's wastewater treatment plant energy needs.

I am a sustainability professional and have worked on emissions reduction efforts for private sector companies as well as the National Park Service. Onsite, resilient, clean energy generation to support essential infrastructure like STPUD is a no-brainer. I support this project because the STPUD solar project will not have any negative scenic impacts and is a huge advancement toward the City of South Lake Tahoe's 100% renewable goals and championed by the local community with unanimous votes of approval from the STPUD Board and City of South Lake Tahoe Planning Commission.

I know that the South Lake Tahoe community has continually voiced its support for STPUD solar through local elections, the STPUD solar approval process and establishment of the 100% renewable commitment.

In addition to the significant environmental benefits, STPUD solar offers plant functionality and operations benefits that both cut cost and improve plant resilience. This resilience will allow water to flow during critical community health and safety events like the Caldor Fire and the blizzards of 2023. The STPUD solar project provides both mitigation and adaptation benefits to addressing the issue of climate change, which is an essential forward-looking strategy for communities like ours.

The South Lake Tahoe community has worked tirelessly toward the STPUD solar effort. We greatly appreciate a vote of YES as we continue to fight climate change as a Community.

Sincerely,

Madeline Sides  
City of South Lake Tahoe Resident



**From:** Jenny Hatch <jenny@sierranevadaalliance.org>  
**Sent:** 4/8/2024 8:09:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>  
**Cc:** Paul Nielsen <pnielsen@trpa.gov>; Shelly Thomsen <sthomsen@stpud.us>;  
**Subject:** South Tahoe Public Utility District 1MW Solar Project - TRPA Governing Board Approval

---

Dear TRPA Governing Board Member:

At the April 24th, 2024 TRPA Governing Board meeting the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) 1MW solar array project will be voted on. On behalf of the Sierra Nevada Alliance (and our extended conservation community of over 40 Member Groups across the Sierra Nevada). We would like to voice our overwhelming support for this solar project. STPUD is the largest energy user on the South Shore and the solar project will generate 1/3rd of STPUD's wastewater treatment plant energy needs. TRPA understands the significant challenges climate change poses to the Tahoe Community and the STPUD solar project is the most significant carbon reducing project in the Tahoe Basin. TRPA is actively working toward code amendments, planning solutions and tracking mechanisms to track our community progress in addressing climate change. The STPUD solar project will not have any negative scenic impacts and is a huge advancement toward the City of South Lake Tahoe's 100% renewable goals (of which the Alliance led and helped pass). The local South Lake Tahoe community has continually voiced its support for STPUD solar through local elections, the STPUD solar approval process and establishment of the 100% renewable commitment.

In addition to the significant environmental benefits, STPUD solar offers plant functionality and operations benefits that both cut cost and improve plant resilience. This resilience will allow water to flow during critical community health and safety events like the Caldor Fire and the blizzards of 2023. The STPUD solar project provides both mitigation and adaptation benefits to addressing the issue of climate change. This project will help set the stage for other utilities to be modeled after this initiative and create collaborative communities working towards a more resilient Sierra Nevada region.

The South Lake Tahoe community has worked tirelessly toward the STPUD solar effort. We greatly appreciate a vote of YES as we continue to fight climate change as a Community.

Sincerely,

Jenny Hatch



**Jenny Hatch**  
Executive Director  
(530) 542-4546 x 704  
sierranevadaalliance.org  
PO Box 7989, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

[Book a Time on My Calendar](#)

**From:** BOB NIEDERMEIER <robmeiers@aol.com>  
**Sent:** 4/8/2024 10:04:45 AM  
**To:** Paul Nielsen <pnielsen@trpa.gov>  
**Subject:** STPUD 1MW Solar Array

---

Dear Paul:

We were excited to learn that the STPUD's 1MW solar array project will be voted on at the April 24th, 2024 TRPA meeting. This project is a major step in our community's efforts to address climate change by reducing carbon emissions. It shows that public entities are serious about the South Shore achieving its 100% renewable goals. This project has our complete support and we hope it will have your support as well. Thank you,

Robert Niedermeier  
Cynthia Archer  
1203 OMalley Dr  
So Lake Tahoe, CA

**From:** Patricia Sussman <pahsussman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 4/4/2024 4:45:19 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>; Paul Nielsen <pnielsen@trpa.gov>; Shelly Thomsen <sthomsen@stpud.us>  
**Subject:** STPUD solar project - best project in the basin

---

Dear TRPA Governing Board Member:

I'm glad for the opportunity to voice my support for this important project. So many planning documents in the basin highlight the importance and need to address climate change, and to build resilience in the face of climate change... and this is a real project that directly responds to meeting the crisis. It's been inspiring to me, and hopefully to many people and agencies, to watch STPUD develop and then design this project that will generate significant local power in our community and improve the operational resilience of some of our most critical infrastructure. It cannot be implemented soon enough. Thank you for your Yes vote!

Sincerely,

Patricia Sussman

3501 Rancho Circle, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

**From:** Lindsey Fransen <lindseyfransen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** 4/5/2024 8:46:29 PM  
**To:** Public Comment <PublicComment@trpa.gov>; Paul Nielsen <pnielsen@trpa.gov>; Shelly Thomsen <sthomsen@stpud.us>  
**Subject:** Support for STPUD solar project

---

Dear TRPA Governing Board Member:

I am writing to express my strong support for the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) 1MW solar array project. I am very excited to see STPUD following through and doing their part to achieve the City's 100% renewable energy goals.

I am especially thrilled to see that there is virtually no downside to this project - the financing arrangements ensure that utility bills won't go up, and (even though I personally \*like\* the sight of solar panels) the project team has thought through issues like snow and views. As a tree-hugger, I am not even bothered that some trees will need to be cut, given the emissions reductions their removal will facilitate, and the fact that many forested areas need to be thinned. I am also pleased to see that this project will provide resilience, powering operations when grid power may be unavailable (such as during fires and blizzards).

It makes me proud to be part of a community that acknowledges the risk that climate change presents to all of us - and especially to this special place with its critical snowpack and vulnerable forests - and takes steps to do something about it. As a parent, this project - along with other forward-looking projects like the expansion of bike trails to help cut down on vehicle traffic - gives me hope that we can collectively take the necessary action to reduce our emissions and be part of the solution.

The South Lake Tahoe community has worked tirelessly toward the STUPD solar effort. We greatly appreciate a vote of YES as we continue to fight climate change as a Community.

Sincerely,  
Lindsey Fransen

## Paul Nielsen

---

**From:** Jackson Realo <jtrealo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 10:13 AM  
**To:** Public Comment; Paul Nielsen; Shelly Thomsen  
**Subject:** South Lake 100% Supports STPUD Solar

Dear TRPA Governing Board Member:

At the April 24th, 2024 TRPA Governing Board meeting the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) 1MW solar array project will be voted on. On behalf of the South Lake Tahoe Community, I would like to voice my overwhelming support for this solar project. STPUD is the largest energy user on the South Shore and the solar project will generate 1/3rd of STPUD's wastewater treatment plant energy needs. TRPA understands the significant challenges climate change poses to the Tahoe Community and the STPUD solar project is the most significant carbon-reducing project in the Tahoe Basin to date. TRPA is actively working toward code amendments, planning solutions and tracking mechanisms to track our community's progress in addressing climate change. The STPUD solar project will not have any negative scenic impacts and is a huge advancement toward the City of South Lake Tahoe's 100% renewable goals and championed by the local community with unanimous votes of approval from the STPUD Board and City of South Lake Tahoe Planning Commission. The local South Lake Tahoe community has continually voiced its support for STPUD solar through local elections, the STPUD solar approval process and the establishment of the 100% renewable commitment.

In addition to the significant environmental benefits, STUPD solar offers plant functionality and operations benefits that both cut costs and improve plant resilience. This resilience will allow water to flow during critical community health and safety events like the Caldor Fire and the blizzards of 2023. The STPUD solar project provides both mitigation and adaptation benefits to addressing the issue of climate change.

The South Lake Tahoe community has worked tirelessly toward the STUPD solar effort. We greatly appreciate a vote of YES as we continue to fight climate change as a Community.

Sincerely,

Jackson Realo  
South Lake Tahoe 100% Renewable Committee Member