



Office of the City Manager  
City of South Lake Tahoe

Joseph Irvin, City Manager  
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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

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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

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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**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