

**TRPA
APC
PACKETS**

**JULY
1985**

July 1985

APC

7-85

NOTICE OF MEETINGS OF THE
ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION AND OF THE
LAND USE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES
OF THE TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on July 10, 1985, at 9:30 a.m. at the North Tahoe Public Utility District Community Center, 8318 North Lake Boulevard in Kings Beach, California, the Advisory Planning Commission of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency will conduct its regular meeting. The agenda for said meeting is attached to and made a part of this notice.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that on July 10, 1985, at the conclusion of the above-noted regular Advisory Planning Commission meeting, the Land Use Committee will meet to discuss the Code of Ordinances and the Resource Management Committee will meet to discuss the Committee's agenda for the next few months and to review the draft revised Best Management Practices Handbook.

Date: July 1, 1985

By: W.A. Morgan
William A. Morgan
Executive Director
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY
ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

NTPUD Community Center, 8318 North
Lake Boulevard, Kings Beach, California

July 10, 1985
9:30 a.m.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

I CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

II APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

IV APPEAL

Pepper Tree Inn, Appeal of Staff Decision Regarding New Structure,
Placer County

V PLANNING MATTERS

A. Finding of Technical Adequacy, South Tahoe Public Utility District,
EIS, Wastewater Treatment Plant Modification, TRPA File #83114

B. Status of Regional Plan Work Program

C. Status of Discussions Regarding Changes in Use Provisions

D. Discussion of Reasonable Further Progress Report, 1982 Air Quality
Plan

VI REPORTS

A. Staff

B. Legal Counsel

C. Public Interest Comments

D. APC Members

VII RESOLUTIONS

For Former APC Member Connie Sparbel

VIII CORRESPONDENCE

IX PENDING MATTERS

X ADJOURNMENT

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

2155 South Avenue

P.O. Box 8896
South Lake Tahoe, California 95731

(916) 541-0246

July 2, 1985

To: The Advisory Planning Commission

From: The Staff

Subject: Pepper Tree Inn, Appeal of Staff Decision

This item has been continued in order that additional information can be submitted by the appellant.

jf
7/2/85

AGENDA ITEM IV

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

2155 South Avenue

P.O. Box 8896
South Lake Tahoe, California 95731

(916) 541-0246

MEMORANDUM

July 2, 1985

To: The Advisory Planning Commission

From: The Staff

Subject: Finding of Technical Adequacy, South Tahoe Public Utility District,
EIS, Wastewater Treatment Plant Modifications, TRPA File #83114

At the June 12, 1985 APC meeting, the subject item was before the Commission for review of the technical adequacy of the subject documents. At that meeting, Mr. Tim Pemberton, Alpine County resident and Associate Counsel with the Toiyabe Chapter of the Sierra Club, made several comments concerning the technical adequacy of the subject environmental documents. Based upon Mr. Pemberton's comments, the APC continued the subject matter to the July 10, 1985 APC meeting.

The public response period ended June 25 1985. On June 24, 1985, written comments were received from Mr. Tim Pemberton concerning the technical adequacy of the subject environmental documents. The comments were immediately forwarded to the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) for response.

On July 2, 1985, STPUD submitted a written response to Mr. Pemberton's comments. Attached you will find copies of Mr. Pemberton's comments and STPUD's response to those comments. Be advised that, as the appendices to both Mr. Pemberton's comments and the STPUD response are quite extensive, staff has not included them in the APC packet. Copies of the appendices are available at the TRPA office for your review.

Further, due to the extensive nature and volume of the additional comments and responses as well as the late receipt of both, staff has not had adequate time to fully review the subject documents. Staff comments and recommendations will be presented at the APC meeting.

Attachments

- A. Executive Summary
- B. Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board comments
- C. STPUD Response to Lahontan's comments
- D. Tim Pemberton's comments
- E. STPUD Response to Tim Pemberton's comments

RA:jf
7/2/85

AGENDA ITEM V A.

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TAHOE REGIONAL
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT MODIFICATION
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Introduction to the Executive Summary

A Facility Plan for South Tahoe Public Utility District's (STPUD) wastewater Treatment Plant in South Lake Tahoe was adopted by the District in May 1978. The Draft and Final EIR conforming to the requirements of the California State Environmental Quality Act was certified by STPUD in March 1979 and the Draft and Final EIS conforming to the National Environmental Policy Act received certification by the District in May 1981. The EIS incorporated by reference the EIR.

The EIR and EIS evaluated the significant and environmental effects of the project, considered alternatives to the Project, and identified methods to mitigate or avoid undesirable impacts. Focus of the Draft EIR is on direct project related impacts with secondary (growth related) impacts emphasized in the Draft EIS.

The purpose of this Executive Summary is to present a brief summary of the following topics:

Description of the Project.

Project plans, environmental documents, mitigation programs, and supplemental reports proposed for this Project.

Viable Project alternatives.

Summary of the Project impacts and mitigation measures.

This Executive Summary is not intended as a substitute for the environmental document or mitigation programs, but is directed as an overview of the analysis, conclusions, and recommendations contained in these documents.

Project Description

The STPUD serves the California portion of the south shore area of the Lake Tahoe Basin from Emerald Bay in the west to the state line in the east. Existing wastewater facilities can be divided into three separate components: wastewater collection system, wastewater treatment plant, and export pipeline and pumping stations transporting effluent out of the Lake Tahoe Basin. See Figure 1 for location of the

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STPUD service area, treatment plant, Luther Pass pump station, and export pipeline.

The Project is a modification of the existing wastewater treatment plant and will not alter the collection system or export pipeline and pumping stations.

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STPUD has been operating an Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) facility since 1965, a sophisticated process of recovering pure water from sewage water. From 1968 to 1975, discharge standards were consistently met and the Tahoe AWT facility consistently produced the highest effluent ever attained by a wastewater treatment plant. The Lahontan Water Quality Control Board increased the waste discharge requirements for the wastewater treatment plant and reservoir in February 1976. Since 1976, the discharge standards have been violated and, as a result, the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a close and desist order to the District in June 1977.

STPUD adopted a Wastewater Facilities Plan in 1978. This Facilities Plan calls for converting the present "tertiary" plant back to a secondary treatment plant. The essential concept is to cut costs, conserve resources, and improve reliability by modifying existing AWT (Advanced Wastewater Treatment) equipment to provide backup capability for the secondary or activated sludge process.

The chemical clarifiers or third stage, used for removing very fine particulates and phosphorus, will be converted to secondary or activated sludge clarifiers. Since filtering finer molecular-sized contaminants will not be necessary, neither will the carbon absorption filters. The sand filters will remain, but their use will be simplified by filtering water once instead of twice. With the chemical clarifiers gone, most of the recovery system can be eliminated and costs reduced, while the lime furnace will be converted into sludge incineration, thereby providing some standby capacity to the organic sludge disposal system.

A new primary clarifier will be built (while the old 1959 rectangular basin will be used for overflow) to provide standby capacity for the initial stage of reclamation. With the two chem clarifiers modified, three secondary clarifiers will allow one to stand idle for maintenance or for processing peak flows of sewage during summer months or winter storms. New equipment, such as pumps and grinders, will be installed to match the peak flow demands of the plant.

One of the most important additions will be the installation of belt presses, a superior method of sludge dewatering, in order to enhance the combustibility of the sludge. Self-

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burning sludge should reduce the use of natural gas required to augment combustion.

To use these processes more efficiently, three of the old aeration basins will be modified for equalization of flow. Constant flow through the plant, regardless of peak loads, will reduce wear and tear on the equipment, operational supervision, and fluctuations in the quality of treated water.

With water quality problems pressing, the District opted to move ahead with a federally funded "Headstart" construction program. This program included the construction of an emergency power system, upgrading the electrical system, providing an emergency pump station, expansion of the maintenance and vehicle facilities, and new effluent pumps and flow control, none of which increase the original plant capacity of 7.5 million gallons per day accepted in the TRPA Compact, or affect the existing tertiary capabilities of the plant. This project was approved by the TRPA. As a result of the Headstart Project, events such as the 1981 and 1982 discharges into Lake Tahoe, can now be prevented.

Project Plans, Environmental Documents, Mitigation Program, and Supplemental Reports

1. Facility Plan

The 1978 Facility Plan for the STPUD Wastewater Treatment System discusses the following topics:

1. The need for study and the purpose of the Facility Plan Report.
2. Existing and projected service area characteristics.
3. Existing and projected water and wastewater characteristics.
4. Analysis of existing wastewater facilities.
5. Waste discharge and treatment requirements.
6. Project alternative analysis.
7. Recommended alternatives.
8. Summary of the Environmental Impact Report.
9. Financial plan.

2. Environmental Documents

The following environmental documents which address the STPUD Facility Plan Improvements have been certified by the appropriate responsible agencies:

Draft and Final EIR (CEQA)
South Tahoe Public Utility District
Wastewater Facilities Planning Program
SCH# 78051530
March 1979

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Draft and Final EIS (NEPA)
Wastewater Treatment Facilities
South Shore Lake Tahoe Basin
May 1981

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Draft and Final Supplemental EIR (CEQA)
South Tahoe Public Utility District
Wastewater Facilities Planning Program
SCH# 83020702
May 1983

3. Mitigation Program

The Environmental Impact Statement did not identify significant impacts for the construction project in South Lake Tahoe but did identify significant indirect effects (secondary impacts) of the proposed project and identified 134 measures which could, if implemented, mitigate the identified impacts of both the Douglas County Improvement District Project and STPUD Project. In addition to the mitigation measures, the DEIS identified 92 agencies responsible for the implementation of these measures.

The South Tahoe Public Utility District, in cooperation with the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County, formed the South Tahoe Mitigation Task Force to encourage a working relationship between the identified responsible agencies in order to develop an implementable and environmentally sound mitigation program. The Task Force, with full support of the EPA, implemented a mitigation program which addressed the secondary impacts of the STPUD project, a program consisting of 97 mitigation measures to be implemented by 28 agencies.

The progress of the mitigation program was monitored over a two year period as fully described in four status reports, the last being:

Status Report 4
South Tahoe Mitigation Program
February, 1983

Summary of the Project Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

The EIS did not identify significant impacts with the wastewater treatment plant modification proposed in the Lake Tahoe Basin, but did identify significant indirect effects (secondary impacts) of the project and identified 134 measures which could, if implemented, mitigate the identified impacts.

The South Tahoe Mitigation Task Force has recommended a program consisting of 97 mitigation measures to be implemented by 28 agencies. Progress on the mitigation program has been monitored over a two year period as fully described in your status reports, the last being "Status Report 4- South Tahoe Mitigation Program, February, 1983." The responsible agencies have acknowledged satisfactory progress in the mitigation of a 7.5 mgd wastewater treatment plant.

The project approved by the State Water Resources Control Board, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and South Tahoe Public Utilities District does not call for an expansion beyond existing wastewater treatment capabilities, a maximum daily flow of 7.5 mgd. This existing treatment capacity can accommodate 73,777 sewer units including 1,267 sewer units for changes of use, not new development, (a single family dwelling unit utilizes a minimum of 3 sewer units) plus 360,000 gpd capacity reserved to serve the U.S. Forest Service, State Parks, and Fallen Leaf Lake areas.

The District has present sewer capacity commitments for all but 369 sewer units (about 115 single family units). Expansion for all but the 369 sewer units will require additional environmental evaluation from the permitting agencies and is not a part of the present grant funded project.

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Findings of Significant Impacts that cannot be Mitigated by the South Tahoe Public Utility District Project

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No significant impacts with the wastewater treatment plant modifications have been identified in the Draft and Final EIR, Draft and Final EIS or Draft and Final Supplemental EIR.

Mitigation measures identified in the EIS can offset the significant indirect impacts associated with growth within the Lake Tahoe Basin. During the preparation of the Draft and Final EIS, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency adopted the Bi-State Compact (12/80), Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacity (8/82), and the Regional Plan/Ordinances

4. Supplemental Reports

The South Tahoe Public Utility District has prepared the following supplemental reports on the project:

Summary of Facility Plan
For South Tahoe Public Utility District
Wastewater Treatment System
May, 1978

Plant Conversion and Agricultural Reuse Project
March, 1983

Viable Project Alternatives

Thirteen wastewater management plans were originally identified by STPUD in their Facilities Plan. From among these alternatives, the District selected the more viable plans after screening processes that involved determining technical feasibility, making preliminary cost estimates, and undertaking an environmental assessment. The viable project alternatives were then subjected to a cost effectiveness analysis which considered the economic, environmental, and social costs of the alternative plans under a prescribed period. Other factors considered were depletion of scarce resources, flexibility and reliability, potential for implementation, compatibility with local planning goals and objectives, flood protection, land use, and potential for reclamation.

Descriptions of five viable project alternatives considered in the Draft EIS are:

Alternative 1: Nitrification and discharge to Indian Creek Reservoir

Alternative 2: Nitrogen removal prior to discharge to Indian Creek Reservoir

Alternative 3a: Treatment followed by land application using flood irrigation

Alternative 3b: Secondary treatment followed by land application using flood irrigation

Alternative 4: Land application plus an In-Basin Reuse Demonstration Project

Based upon the analysis presented in the Facilities Plan, STPUD recommended alternative 3b. The recommended alternative was selected based upon a consideration of technical feasibility and economic and environmental considerations.

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(4/84) which will also mitigate growth related impacts associated with this Project.

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**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD—
LAHONTAN REGION**

172 LAKE TAHOE BOULEVARD
P. O. BOX 9428
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CALIFORNIA 95731-2428



(916)544-3481

log
page A.
NR
May 6, 1985

William Morgan, Executive Director
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
P.O. Box 8896
South Lake Tahoe, CA 95731

REVIEW OF SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT, STPUD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT MODIFICATION,
TRPA FILE 83114

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review this report. It consists mainly of environmental and technical documents which we have previously reviewed. We would agree that these reports substantially meet the requirements for contents of environmental documents in the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact. We have the following specific comments on the text of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) staff report.

1. The report could benefit from additional proofreading. There are many typographical errors, and several paragraphs in which portions of sentences seem to have been omitted (e.g., page 20, discussion under Goal #1; page 21, discussion under "Housing").
2. The discussion on page 2 of the text (and on the second page of the Executive Summary) refers to the Regional Board's "increasing" waste discharge requirements for the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) and seems to imply that this was the cause of subsequent enforcement actions. The Regional Board's Cease and Desist (not "close and desist") order resulted from a variety of serious problems, including fish kills at Indian Creek Reservoir and wastewater treatment facility reliability problems, as well as from technical violations of numerical limitations.
3. Section 3.1 (page 11) should be clarified to reflect the later discussion of compliance with California Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (CTRPA) ordinances.
4. The discussion of Goal #6 (page 21) should include the need for coordination with Alpine County and the State of Nevada.
5. The discussion of "Monitoring and Evaluation" (page 32) should include more details on how STPUD's present operating procedures follow the policies of the goals.
6. The discussion of required findings (Section 3.1.5, page 33) should identify the ordinance being cited.
7. If the project is consistent with Findings 1 through 13 in Section 3.1.5, discussion of Finding 14 (page 35) seems unnecessary.

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William Morgan

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Please contact Judith Unsicker at this office if you wish to discuss these comments.

Very truly yours,


ROY C. HAMPSON
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

cc: Regional Board
STPUD/Cofer



SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

PRESIDENT
MICKEY MADDEN

Sewer . 1950 . Water A PUBLIC AGENCY

P.O. Box AU South Lake Tahoe, California 95705 Phone (916) 544-6474
1275 Meadow Crest Drive

June 5, 1985

DIRECTORS
WALTER NEAL OLSON
JAMES R. JONES
JOHN WYNN
ROBERT MASON

HAND DELIVERED

Mr. Rick Angelocci
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
P.O. Box 8896
South Lake Tahoe, Ca. 95731

Subject: Wastewater Plant Conversion Project
Response to Lahontan Comments on
Supplemental Report

Dear Rick:

South Tahoe Public Utility District's response to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's comments dated May 6, 1985, on the Plant Conversion project Supplemental Report are as follows:

Comment 1

Comment Noted.

Page 20, land use, Goal No. 1, discussion should read.

"... the plan redevelopment and recreation use recommendation."

Page 21, housing, Goal No. 1, discussion should read.

"... the plan redevelopment and recreation use recommendation."

Comment 2

Comment noted.

Comment 3

Page 11, Paragraph 1, Section 3.1, should read as follows:

"...
Regional Plan/Ordinance April 1984
CTRPA Ordinance No. 1 (California Only) Sept. 1975

Comment 4

Comment noted. Please refer to Section 2.3, Mitigation Program, which discusses District's coordination with all responsible agencies.

Comment 5

Page 32, Monitoring and Evaluation, please add the following:

"Refer to Section 2.3, mitigation program, which outlines the District's monetary and target dates of monitoring the mitigation program."

Comment 6

Page 33, Section 3.1.5, please add the following:

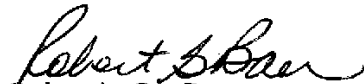
"Refer to Section 3.1 for discussion of the ordinance cited herein."

Comment 7

Comment noted.

If you need additional information concerning the District's responses, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



Robert G. Baer
Assistant Manager/Engineer

cc: Mike James, LRWQCB
Andy Hauge, Quad Consultants
James Cofer

Timothy W. Pemberton
P.O. Box 1482
South Lake Tahoe, California 95705
(916) 694-2490

Representing: SIERRA CLUB, INC., TOIYABE CHAPTER, WASHOE TRIBE OF NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA, CITIZENS FOR THE SEWAGE QUALITY INITIATIVE, PAT BANKS, WAYNE MARTIN, JACK DOYAL, JEROME SPROUT, JANINE SAGUES, ANN MCGUINESS, and the WOODFORDS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

RE: COMMENT TO THE TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY (TRPA), ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION (APC), ON THE TECHNICAL ADEQUACY OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION ON THE SOUTH TAHOE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT (STPUD) WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY CONVERSION PROJECT

June 21, 1985

TO: TRPA, ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION and its Staff,

INTRODUCTION

It is respectfully submitted by the aforementioned parties that the existing environmental documentation which includes, inter alia, the STPUD Wastewater Treatment Plant Modification Supplemental Report (TRPA File 83114), as well as the Draft and Final Supplemental EIR, prepared by Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc., is not technically adequate to satisfy the requirements of Public Law 96-551-Dec.19, 1980, Article VII (Environmental Impact Statements) (a), (b), (c), (d).

The specific grounds for a finding of technical inadequacy are set forth below in detail but include, in outline form: Failure of the existing reports or studies to adequately consider the effects of treatment level conversion upon Lake Tahoe and its

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hydrology caused by "secondary" effluent discharges from the STPUD sewage export conveyance system and treatment plant within the Lake Tahoe Basin; the lack of a "208 Plan" in the areas outside of the Tahoe Basin in which STPUD effluent discharges are to be made, including the downstream effects in the State of Nevada; Effects upon the federal and state Tahoe lands acquisition legislation; Impacts caused by STPUD un-lined effluent ponds located within the Tahoe Basin; Failure to consider all true alternatives, such as the rehabilitation of the existing sewage storage reservoir and conversion of Stevens Lake to a fishery, thus eliminating any need for construction of a new sewage reservoir within Alpine County, California; The effect of a "change in circumstances" since the preparation of prior environmental documentation in that there was a series of earthquakes in the area where the proposed STPUD sewage storage facility is to be located and there has been no consideration of the impacts caused by structural failure or flooding caused by a tremor; The admitted lack of adequate data on groundwater in the area of the proposed sewage storage facility and sewage disposal sites within Alpine County, California and the effects of sewage irrigation upon that groundwater and; The effects upon Washoe Tribe cultural and archeological sites within Alpine County.