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## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY/NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD OF A DRAFT EIS/EIS/EIR FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND HEARINGS**

November 8, 2013

**TO:** California State Clearinghouse  
Nevada State Clearinghouse  
California Responsible and Trustee Agencies  
Other Interested Public Agencies  
Interested Parties and Organizations  
Affected Property Owners (within 300 feet of the  
project boundaries)

**FROM:** Tahoe Regional Planning Agency  
U.S. Forest Service (Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and Tahoe National Forest)  
California Public Utilities Commission

**RE:** California Pacific Electric Company (CalPeco) 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project (California State Clearinghouse #2012032066, TRPA project file #530-201-00/ERSP 2009-3591, TRPA EIS file #ENVR2010-0001, TRPA Plan Area Amendment #PLAN2013-0004, and CPUC Application #CPUC A. 10-08-024)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:** The US Forest Service (USFS), Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) and Tahoe National Forest; the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA); and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) have directed the preparation of a joint environmental document for the California Pacific Electric Company (CalPeco) 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project. The document is an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the LTBMU and Tahoe National Forest prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); an EIS for TRPA pursuant to the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact, Code of Ordinances, and Rules of Procedure; and an environmental impact report (EIR) for CPUC pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The proposed 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project would consist primarily of an upgrade of CalPeco's existing 625 and 650 electrical power lines and associated substations from 60 kilovolt (kV) to 120 kV to allow the entire North Lake Tahoe Transmission System to operate at 120 kV. The project would consist of three primary elements: 1) removal of the existing 625 Line and construction of a new, rerouted 625 Line; 2) rebuild of the existing 650 Line with potential for realignments based on the action alternatives considered; 3) upgrade, modification, and/or decommissioning of six substations. These improvements would increase the ability to maintain the current maximum system loads during an outage on any one of four key power lines within the North Lake Tahoe Transmission System as well as decrease reliance on the existing Kings Beach Diesel Generation Station. In addition, rebuilding and realigning the power lines would reduce the likelihood of outages and would improve access to the lines for maintenance, emergency outage response, and repair activities.

As part of the upgrade of the 625 and 650 Lines, the existing wooden poles would be replaced by steel poles that weather to resemble wood. The height of the new steel poles would range from 55 to 92 feet above the ground surface, approximately 7 to 12 feet taller than the existing wooden poles. On average, pole spacing would be 300 feet apart. The diameter of the existing wooden poles ranges from 13 inches to 16 inches, and the

diameter of the new poles would typically range from 15 inches to 19 inches at the base. Guy wires may be connected to the poles in areas that need additional stability. The proposed upgrade to the Kings Beach Substation will require a TRPA Plan Area Statement (PAS) amendment, which is being considered by TRPA.

**Project Location:** The proposed 625 and 650 Electrical Line Upgrade Project is located in northeastern Placer County and southeastern Nevada County, California. The existing 625 Line and the proposed new 625 Line alignments generally run in a northeast-southwest direction between the communities of Kings Beach and Tahoe City. The 650 Line runs from the Town of Truckee to Kings Beach in a predominantly northwest-southeast direction, paralleling California State Route (SR) 267 for much of the alignment (see inset exhibit below). The project is predominantly located on lands managed by the LTBMU. Portions of the project are also located in the Town of Truckee, in the communities of Kings Beach and Tahoe City, on lands within the Martis Creek Lake Recreation Area and Burton Creek State Park, and on private lands.

**Public Review and Comment:** The Draft EIS/EIS/EIR is available for public review and comment until January 7, 2014. The document is available at the following locations: the offices of the U.S. Forest Service, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe, CA); the offices of TRPA (128 Market Street, Stateline, NV); and the offices of the California Public Utilities Commission (505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA). In addition, the joint Draft EIS/EIS/EIR is available for public review at the Tahoe City Library (740 North Lake Blvd, Tahoe City, CA), the Kings Beach Library (301 Secline Drive, Kings Beach, CA), and the Truckee Library (10031 Levon Avenue, Truckee, CA).

The Draft EIS/EIS/EIR can also be found at the following website, [www.trpa.org/get-involved/major-projects/](http://www.trpa.org/get-involved/major-projects/)

**Public Hearings:** Public Hearings are scheduled to solicit comments on the Draft EIS/EIS/EIR as follows:

TRPA Advisory Planning Commission Meeting on December 4, 2013, 9:30 am at the TRPA Stateline, NV offices (address provided at top of this notice).

TRPA Governing Board Meeting on December 18, 2013, 9:30 am at the TRPA Stateline, NV offices (address provided at top of this notice).

Any comments submitted at these meetings, or in writing to any of the responsible agencies, will be distributed to each lead agency (USFS, TRPA, and CPUC) and will be considered in the EIS/EIS/EIR process. Comments need not be repeated to each lead agency.

TRPA has been identified as the primary point of contact to address questions and collect comments. If you have any questions or would like to submit written comments, please contact Wendy Jepson, TRPA Senior Planner

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Written comments on the CalPeco 625 and 650 Line Upgrade Project Draft EIS/EIS/EIR are due no later than January 7, 2014.

