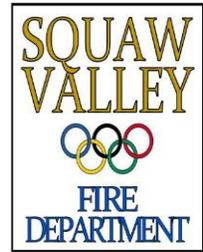




## SQUAW VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



### Truckee River Siphon Replacement Project

**DATE:** November 28, 2017  
**TO:** District Board Members  
**FROM:** Dave Hunt, District Engineer  
**SUBJECT:** **Truckee River Siphon Replacement Project – California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption**

**BACKGROUND:** The Squaw Valley Interceptor (SVI) was constructed in 1978 as part of the larger Truckee River Interceptor (TRI) project. A part of the SVI is the District's Truckee River siphon. The siphon includes approximately 340 linear feet of 10-inch mortar lined and coated ductile iron pipe (DIP). The siphon pipeline begins on the west side of Highway 89 and extends across the highway and under the Truckee River, terminating at TRI manhole 43 on the east side of Highway 89 and the Truckee River. The Truckee River siphon conveys the entire sewage flow out of the Valley.

Recent inspections have indicated that this pipe is reaching the end of its useful life and the District is in the process of designing and permitting improvements necessary to replace the siphon in the summer of 2018.

**DISCUSSION:** The District is required to comply with CEQA and will act as the Lead Agency for the Truckee River Siphon Replacement Project (Project). The Lead Agency, as defined by CEQA, is the public agency that has the primary responsibility for carrying out or approving a project (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15367). To be a CEQA Lead Agency, the public agency must have discretionary authority over the proposed project. The Lead Agency also has the primary responsibility for determining what level of CEQA review is required for a project and for preparing and approving the appropriate document (e.g., negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, Environmental Impact Report, or Notice of Exemption).

Under the CEQA guidelines, a project qualifies for a class 2 Categorical Exemption when it, "consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced including the replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity." (CEQA Guidelines Section 15302(c)).

The Project qualifies for a the Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (Section 15302(c)) exemption since it includes the replacement of an existing siphon and will serve the same purpose: to convey sewage across the Truckee River. The sole purpose of the Project is to replace a critical piece of infrastructure that has reached the end of its useful life. The Project will replace a single siphon line with a parallel pipe siphon system to provide the necessary redundancy and reliability the District requires for safe operation and maintenance. The design life of the new siphon system is 100 years, based on materials selection and construction methods. To further reduce future potential environmental impacts, the proposed system will be sized such that the parallel pipelines can convey existing dry weather and wet weather flows, as well as dry weather and wet weather flows for land uses planned for in the 1983 Squaw Valley General Plan and Land Use Ordinance.

- ALTERNATIVES:**
1. Authorize the General Manager to execute and file a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Truckee River Siphon Replacement Project.
  2. Do not authorize the General Manager to execute and file a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Truckee River Siphon Replacement Project.

**FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS:** Staff and consultant time to prepare the CEQA Notice of Exemption. The District is under contract with Stantec Consulting to provide environmental permitting support for the project. Stantec's scope item to assist in the preparation of the CEQA Notice of Exemption is \$2,193.00.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Staff recommends approval of Resolution 2017-20 authorizing the General Manager to execute and file a CEQA Notice of Exemption for the Truckee River Siphon Replacement Project.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Resolution 2017-20 A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Squaw Valley Public Service District Authorizing the General Manager to Execute and File the Notice of Exemption for the Truckee River Siphon Replacement Project
- Notice of Exemption

**DATE PREPARED:** October 19, 2017

**RESOLUTION 2017-20**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
SQUAW VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT  
AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE  
AND FILE THE NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR THE  
TRUCKEE RIVER SIPHON REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Squaw Valley Public Service District (District) is a public agency organized pursuant to California Water Code §30000, et seq; and

**WHEREAS**, California Public Resources Code §21000, et seq, (CEQA) requires that an Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration be issued by the District in the case of a public project unless said project is categorically exempt within the meaning of Title 14, §15354, California Administrative Code; and

**WHEREAS**, recent inspections of the District's existing Truckee River sewer siphon pipeline have indicated that the pipeline is reaching the end of its useful life; and

**WHEREAS**, the District desires to replace the existing Truckee River siphon pipeline to allow for necessary redundancy and reliability for operation and maintenance activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has determined that such project is categorically exempt pursuant to § 15302(c) of Title 14, California Administrative Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Squaw Valley Public Service District hereby directs the General Manager to execute and file the attached Notice of Exemption on the grounds that said project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The contents of said Notice of Exemption shall be filed with the Placer County Clerk's Office.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 28<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017 at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Squaw Valley Public Service District by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

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Dale Cox, Board President

ATTEST:

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Kathryn Obayashi-Bartsch, Secretary to the Board

# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**From:** (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Address)

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Location - Specific:

Project Location - City: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Location - County: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

Lead Agency

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: \_\_\_\_\_

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTACHMENT A

### **Squaw Valley Public Service District Truckee River Siphon Replacement Project CEQA Categorical Exemption**

#### **Project Background**

Until 1976, the Squaw Valley Public Service District (District) had in operation three sewage treatment plants in Olympic Valley (Valley), California. In 1976, when the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency (TTSA) was formed, a trunk pipeline, known as the Truckee River Interceptor (TRI), was constructed along the Truckee River to convey sewage from Tahoe City along with Squaw Valley and Alpine Springs, to the regional wastewater treatment facility in located in Truckee. One leg of the TRI included the Squaw Valley Interceptor, a pipeline ranging in size from 10 inches (“) to 18” in diameter, which extended across the Olympic Valley from the TRI on the east side of the Truckee River to the west end of the Valley. The District assumed operation and maintenance responsibilities for the Squaw Valley Interceptor immediately upon completion in 1976, and the District assumed legal ownership of the Squaw Valley Interceptor in 1986.

Part of the Squaw Valley Interceptor includes the Truckee River Siphon (Siphon). The Siphon begins approximately 0.5 mile north of the entrance to Squaw Valley (Squaw Valley Road) on the west side of Highway 89 and extends across under the highway and under the Truckee River, terminating at TRI Manhole 43 on the east side of Highway 89 and the Truckee River. The Siphon includes approximately 340 linear feet (‘) of 10” mortar-lined and coated ductile iron pipe (DIP). The Truckee River Siphon conveys the entire sewage flow out of Olympic Valley.

#### **Project Purpose**

Recent inspections have indicated that the Siphon is reaching the end of its useful life. A panoramic Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) inspection was performed on the Siphon on October 4, 2016. The inspection included a National Association of Sewer Service Companies (NASSCO) analysis, which highlighted multiple areas of lining failure in the pipeline segment west of the Truckee River. Due to the Siphon’s coating deterioration as well as its age, the likelihood of failure is greatly increased.

The Siphon is arguably the most critical single asset in the District’s sewer collection system. The Siphon is currently a single pipeline and the final segment of the interceptor that conveys all sewage out of Olympic Valley. Unlike other sewer pipelines in the Valley, maintenance and repair of the Siphon poses major challenges to the District’s operations staff, specifically for sewer bypass operations and access for repair in the event of pipeline failure. If the Siphon were to fail, critical consequences include the following:

- Possibility of sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) into the Truckee River;
- Impacts to human health and the environment;
- Damage to public and private property; and
- Civil monetary penalties levied by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

As a matter of public health and safety, it is imperative that the Siphon be replaced and an alternate solution be realized to provide the necessary reliability and redundancy to support the current and future residents in Olympic Valley.

Based on the current condition of the Siphon, and the potential consequences of its failure, the District is proposing the replacement of the Siphon in the summer of 2018.

The proposed Truckee River Siphon Replacement Project (Project) entails the replacement of the existing Siphon with two parallel pipelines, which will provide the necessary redundancy for operation and maintenance (O&M) activities. Currently, the District's Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP) identifies the Siphon as a high priority for more frequent cleaning and television inspection. Increased levels of O&M will ultimately reduce the risk of failure of the system and the potential for a SSO. The design life of the new siphon system is 100 years, based on materials selection and construction methods. To further reduce future potential environmental impacts, the proposed system will be sized such that the parallel pipelines can convey existing dry weather and wet weather flows, as well as dry weather and wet weather flows for land uses planned for in the 1983 Squaw Valley General Plan and Land Use Ordinance.

#### **CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction of Existing Facilities**

Under the CEQA guidelines, a project qualifies for a class 2 Categorical exemption when it, "consists of the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced including the replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity." (CEQA Guidelines Section 15302(c)).

The Project qualifies for a the Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (Section 15302(c)) exemption since it includes the replacement of an existing siphon and will serve the same purpose: to convey sewage across the Truckee River. The sole purpose of the Project is to replace a critical piece of infrastructure that has reached the end of its useful life. The Project will replace a single siphon line with a parallel pipe siphon system to provide the necessary redundancy and reliability the District requires for safe operation and maintenance. The new siphon pipelines will be installed approximately 10' north of the existing siphon pipeline. The existing Siphon will be abandoned in place to avoid any potential environmental impacts that would result in its removal (i.e., open trenching the Truckee River).