

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

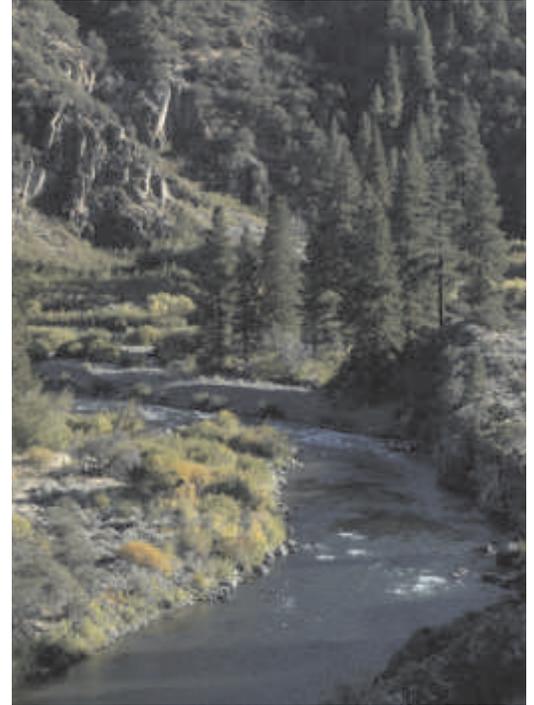
TROA OVERVIEW

Truckee River Operating Agreement

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

Section 205(a) of the Truckee-Carson-Pyramid Lake Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-618) directs the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate an operating agreement, now known as the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA), to allow more efficient operation of Truckee River reservoirs: Lake Tahoe and Prosser Creek, Stampede, Boca, and Martis Creek Reservoirs (Federal), and Donner and Independence Lakes (non-Federal).

In February 1998, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the State of California, Department of Water Resources (DWR), jointly issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/EIR) evaluating a Draft TROA. After the DEIS/EIR was released, negotiations continued and a number of elements of that agreement were modified in the developing Draft TROA issued in October 2003. The Revised DEIS/EIR examines a No Action Alternative, the Local Water Supply Alternative (LWSA), and TROA (the proposed action).



OBJECTIVES

TROA would modify the reservoir operations to enhance coordination and flexibility while ensuring that existing water rights are served and flood control and safety of dams requirements are met. **TROA would:**

- Enhance conditions for the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout and endangered cui-ui;
- Increase municipal & industrial drought protection for Truckee Meadows (Reno-Sparks metropolitan area);
- Improve Truckee River water quality downstream from Sparks, NV; and
- Enhance streamflows and recreational opportunities in the Truckee River basin.

When TROA takes effect, P.L. 101-618 provides that a permanent allocation between California and Nevada of water in the Lake Tahoe, Truckee River, and Carson River basins would also take effect.



PUBLIC COMMENTS, OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS, & PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Revised DEIS/EIR was released for public review and comment on Aug 25, 2004. The initial comment period was to end on October 29, 2004, but extended to Dec 30, 2004. Open House meetings were held Sep 21-23 and Oct 1 in Fernley, Reno, Fallon, and Nixon, NV, and Kings Beach and Truckee, CA. Five Public Hearings were held Oct 18-21 in Fernley, Reno, Fallon, Nixon, and Truckee to allow the public to present verbal or written comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The comment period closed Dec 30, 2004. The co-lead agencies are reviewing the comments and developing responses for inclusion in the Final EIS/EIR, which may include any new information or modifications to alternatives. All comments will be part of the official public record. At least 30 days after the Final EIS/EIR is released, the Secretary of the Interior may sign a Record of Decision and then TROA. After the State of California approves TROA, it will prepare a Notice of Determination.

TRUCKEE RIVER OPERATING AGREEMENT

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

The U.S. Department of the Interior and the State of California are co-leads in the preparation of the Revised DEIS/EIR.

Revised DEIS/EIR Preparers:

The Bureaus of Reclamation and Indian Affairs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), and the Department of Water Resources (State of California) are responsible for preparing the Revised DEIS/EIR.

Potential Signatory Parties:

U.S. Department of the Interior*; U.S. Department of Justice; State of California*; State of Nevada*; Sierra Pacific Power Company*; Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe*; Truckee Meadows Water Authority*; Washoe County Water Conservation District; City of Reno; City of Sparks; City of Fernley; Washoe County, NV; Sierra Valley Water Company; Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District; Donner Lake Water Company; and North Tahoe Public Utility District.

**Mandatory signatory parties*

Cooperating/Responsible Agencies:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Forest Service; U.S. Geological Survey; CA Dept of Fish and Game; NV Dept of Wildlife; NV Division of Water Resources; Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Washoe County, NV; Truckee Meadows Water Authority; CA State Water Resources Control Board; Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board; and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Interested Parties:

NV Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources; CA Resources Agency; Del Oro (Donner Lake) Water Company; Glenshire Mutual Water Company; South Tahoe Public Utility District; and the Truckee River Basin Water Group representing the Tahoe-Truckee Sanitation Agency; Town of Truckee; Nevada, Placer, and Sierra Counties; North Tahoe Public Utility District; Tahoe City Public Utility District; Truckee Donner Public Utility District; Truckee Donner Recreation & Park District; Northstar Community Services District; Sierra Valley Water Company; Alpine Springs County Water District; Squaw Valley Mutual Water Company; Squaw Valley Public Service District; Poulsen Water Company; Placer County Water Agency; and Tahoe Resource Conservation District.

For More Information

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