

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/26/2014 12:00:00 AM

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Comments:

Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 22, 2014

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COMMENTS ON BORDERTOWN TO CALIFORNIA 120kV TRANSMISSION LINE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The US Forest Service - Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (USFS)}, Carson Ranger District recently completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)} for the Bordertown to California 120kV Transmission Line Project (Project). The Project area is located in Washoe County, Nevada and Sierra County, California, west and northwest of the City of Reno, Nevada.

The Poeville Alternative has been identified as the agency preferred alternative. This alternative is consistent with the Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Plan "to manage all utility, road, and transmission corridors, and when utility right of way applications are received, the first priority will be to utilize existing corridors." The Poeville Alternative would utilize existing utility corridors more than any of the other action alternatives. This alternative would maximize the use of federally designated portions of Section 368 Energy Corridor (P.L. 109-58) and regionally designated utility corridors. The DEIS also indicates that the utility corridor right of way associated with the Poeville Alternative within the State of California will be approximately 1.1 miles in length.

This letter provides the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board's support for the USFS's DEIS for the Project. To assist the USFS with early Project planning, Lahontan Water Board staff would like to provide the following reminders:

I. Construction Permitting

1) If Project construction activities involve more than 10,000 sq. ft., but less than one acre of land disturbance, General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Construction Projects, Including Utility, Public Works, and Minor Streambed/Lakebed Alteration Projects in the Lahontan Region, Excluding the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit, Board Order No. R6T-2003-0004 is required. These Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) may be downloaded from the following webpage:*

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board decisions/adopted_orders/2003/docs/r6t-2003-0004_small_const_wdr.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board%20decisions/adopted_orders/2003/docs/r6t-2003-0004_small_const_wdr.pdf).

2. Please include maps that clearly show areas of floodplains, wetlands, and the ordinary high water mark of any waterbodies where work will occur, if any. For example, if describing improving a watercourse crossing at a re-designated motorized route, clearly show the existing structure in relation to the creek, floodplain, or any associated wetlands. Floodplains and other such features should be delineated by a qualified hydrologist, and the map should be of a scale so that they can be identified in the context of the project area (e.g., 1 inch equals 40 feet). Include a legend or key on all maps so that features can be readily identified.

Thank you for providing Lahontan Water Board staff the opportunity to provide comments on this Project. Please contact me at 530-542-5477 or jim.carolan@waterboards.ca.gov with any questions.

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JC/maff: Comment Letter_Bordertown_Poeville Alternative_121814jmc
File Under: New File: NPS Pending: US Forest Service - Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, Bordertown to California 120kV
Transmission Line Project, Draft Environmental Impact Statement