

## Open House/Scoping Meetings for Truckee Canal Environmental Impact Statement

The Bureau of Reclamation will hold three open house/public scoping meetings for the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation (XM) and Maintenance Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of the meetings is to solicit early input from the public to help identify the issues and concerns that should be analyzed in the XM EIS. The primary project study area is the Truckee Canal, which is located in portions of Storey, Lyon and Churchill Counties.

### **Wadsworth, Nevada**

Tuesday, October 27

Wadsworth Community Building, 551 Eighth Street

### **Fallon, Nevada**

Wednesday, October 28

Churchill County Administrative Complex, Room No. 145, 155 N. Taylor Street

### **Fernley, Nevada**

Thursday, October 29

Fernley City Council Chambers, 595 Silver Lace Boulevard

The open house will start at 5:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., there will be a brief presentation. The open house will resume after the presentation and continue until 7:30 p.m.

Written comments may be submitted at the meetings, emailed to [TruckeeEIS@empci.com](mailto:TruckeeEIS@empci.com) or mailed to Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office, 705 N. Plaza Street, Suite 320, Carson City, NV 89701, Attn: Truckee Canal XM EIS. *Written comments must be received by close of business on Monday, November 30, 2015.*

For further information or to have your name added to the mailing list, please contact Roberta Tassej at [rtassej@usbr.gov](mailto:rtassej@usbr.gov) or (775) 884-8369 (TTY (800) 877-8339). Additional information is available through the Truckee Canal XM EIS link at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/index.html>.

To request special assistance to attend a meeting, please contact Peter Gower at (775) 323-1433 at least seven days prior to the meeting.



# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Lahontan Basin Area Office

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### Full Phrase

af	acre-feet
afy	acre-feet per year
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
Canal	Truckee canal
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
cfs	cubic feet per second
CWA	Clean Water Act
EIS	environmental impact statement
District	Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
DOI	Department of Interior
EIS	environmental impact statement
EMPSi	Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc. (NEPA consultant)
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FPST	Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe
GIS	geographic information systems
GPS	global positioning system
LBAO	Lahontan Basin Area Office
MOA	memorandum of agreement
MOU	memorandum of understanding
MP Region	Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region
NDOT	Nevada Department of Transportation
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NV	Nevada
PLPT	Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
POC	point of contact
RD	regional director
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
ROD	Record of Decision
Secretary	Secretary of the Department of Interior
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office(r)
TCID	Truckee-Carson Irrigation District
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office(r)
TROA	Truckee River Operating Agreement
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS (a.k.a. "Service")	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
XM	extraordinary operation and maintenance



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

## Cultural and Historical Resources

### **Objective:**

The objective of the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to present a fully informed, thorough, and complete analysis of the potential temporary and permanent direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Truckee XM project on cultural and historical resources.

### **Consultations**

- Tribal Governments of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with the Nevada SHPO: <http://shpo.nv.gov/review-compliance>



Hazen Gauge on the Truckee Canal. Photo credit: Reclamation

### **Topics Identified for Analysis**

- What types of cultural and historical resources are in the project's area of potential effects (APEs)?
- What types of Indian Trust Assets are within the project's APEs?
- What are the potential impacts on identified cultural and historic resources?
- What are the potential impacts on Indian Trust Assets, sacred sites, and other traditional cultural properties?

### **Tell Us What You Think!**

**If you have input on these topics, please share it with us in a scoping comment.**

1. Are there additional cultural resource topics that we should consider?
2. Can you recommend any additional sources of information?
3. How would the proposed alternatives affect prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic resources?

Please submit your comments or information via email to [TruckeeEIS@empci.com](mailto:TruckeeEIS@empci.com)



## Real Estate and Land Use Topics

### **Objective:**

The objective of the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to present a fully informed, thorough, and complete analysis of the potential temporary and permanent direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Truckee Canal XM project on property owners, real estate, and land uses.

### **Topics Identified for Analysis**

- What are the potential impacts on lands, both private and public?
- What are the potential economic impacts on property values and tax revenues?
- Are there any public safety concerns associated with proposed operation and maintenance activities?
- How might land use in the project area change?
- Will property be acquired to support the proposed project? If so, how will landowners be compensated?



Truckee Canal near Fernley. Photo credit: Reclamation

### **Tell Us What You Think!**

**If you have input on these topics, please share it with us in a scoping comment.**

1. Are there additional real estate and land use topics that we should cover in the EIS analysis?
2. Can you recommend sources of information that can be used in the EIS for this topic?

Please submit your comments or information via email to [TruckeeEIS@empci.com](mailto:TruckeeEIS@empci.com)



## Social and Economic Topics

### Objectives:

The objectives of the Truckee Canal Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are to present a fully informed, thorough, and complete analysis of the potential temporary and permanent direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed Truckee Canal XM project on local economic conditions and social setting and to identify any disproportionate impacts on minority and low-income populations. The analysis will place potential impacts in the context of current, historical, and projected socioeconomic conditions in the area of analysis.

You can find general socioeconomic information about the project area (Lyon County) here:  
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/32/32019.html>

### Topics Identified for Analysis

- What might the impacts be on area quality of life, including traditional social values?
- What are the potential direct and indirect impacts on the local and regional job market, employment and unemployment, and income?
- How might the population in the area be impacted by the project?
- How could fiscal conditions of local governments be impacted?
- What could the impacts be on the availability and costs of public utilities, including municipal water and wastewater services? Would such services as fire protection, emergency care, police, and education be impacted?
- Would land uses, such as agriculture, tourism and recreation, be impacted?
- How might the project affect future growth and development in the project area?



Truckee Canal. Photo credit: Reclamation

### Environmental Justice

The presence of and potential for impacts on low-income and minority populations will be examined for communities in the area of analysis. For information regarding Reclamation's commitment to environmental justice, please see [http://www.usbr.gov/cro/sub\\_ej.html](http://www.usbr.gov/cro/sub_ej.html)

#### **Tell Us What You Think!**

**If you have input on these topics, please share it with us in a scoping comment.**

1. Are there additional social or economic topics that we should consider?
2. Can you recommend sources of economic data or information that can be used?

Please submit your comments or information in an email to [TruckeeEIS@empci.com](mailto:TruckeeEIS@empci.com)



## History of the Truckee Canal

Year	Event
1903	<p>In 1903, Reclamation began construction on the Derby Dam, about 20 miles downstream of Reno on the Truckee River. Derby Dam (US Reclamation Service Project #1) was completed in 1905. The Truckee Canal was completed in 1906. Water was then diverted from the Truckee River through the Truckee Canal to Lahontan Reservoir.</p>
1967	<p>Operating criteria and procedures (OCAP) is a regulation developed in compliance with federal law that governs diversions to the Newlands Project from the Truckee River. The initial OCAP was put in place in 1967 and has been revised through the years at various times, with the current version being the 1997 Adjusted OCAP.</p>
2008	<p>On January 5, 2008, a breach occurred in the Truckee Canal, which is operated and maintained by the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District. As a result, uncontrolled water flowed into irrigated lands and a portion of the city of Fernley.</p> <p>Preliminarily signed on September 6, 2008, the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) concerns reservoir operations in the Truckee River basin. The primary purpose of TROA is to implement Section 205(a) of Public Law 101-618, which directs the Department of the Interior to negotiate an agreement with California and Nevada to increase the operational flexibility and efficiency of certain reservoirs in the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River basins.</p>
2015	<p>On October 16, 2015, Reclamation initiates Truckee Canal XM EIS</p> <p>Public scoping meetings are held October 27-29, in Wadsworth, Fallon and Fernley, Nevada, to solicit public input on the Truckee XM EIS.</p>



## Truckee Canal XM EIS Fact Sheet

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, the lead federal agency, intends to prepare the Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (XM) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Truckee Canal (Canal) in Nevada. The XM EIS will evaluate opportunities to reduce the risk to public safety from a breach in the Canal. In January 2008, a portion of the Canal embankment near the city of Fernley, Nevada, breached, thereby limiting the Canal's operations due to safety concerns.

Reclamation proposes to take action to evaluate alternatives that will enable the Canal operator—the Truckee Carson Irrigation District—to safely operate the Canal and deliver project water, in compliance with operating criteria and procedures for the Newlands Project. Additional flow restrictions on Canal operations may be necessary without making repairs to reduce risk.

The XM EIS will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 US Code, Section 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Parts 1500-1508), NEPA Regulations (43 CFR, Part 46), and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations.

Reclamation is proposing to complete structural improvements of the Canal facilities and implement a long-term tolerable stage level restriction. This may be achieved using a variety of options including the following:

- Improving the earthen embankments
- Installing sheet pile walls
- Lining portions of the Canal
- Installing detention or retention ponds or both
- Installing automated check structures to regulate flow through the Canal
- Installing passive overflow or wasteway structures or both
- Reducing the Canal stage levels with no structural improvements

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

For further information or to be added to the mailing list, please email [TruckeeEIS@empci.com](mailto:TruckeeEIS@empci.com) or Roberta Tassej at [rtassej@usbr.gov](mailto:rtassej@usbr.gov).

As the project progresses, you may submit any comments via email to [TruckeeEIS@empci.com](mailto:TruckeeEIS@empci.com), fax them to (775) 884-8376, or mail them to Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office, Attn: Roberta Tassej, 705 N. Plaza Street, Room 320, Carson City, NV 89701.

You may obtain additional information through the Truckee Canal XM EIS link on the Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office website: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/index.html>.



**Truckee Canal XM EIS  
Milestones and Opportunities for Public Comment**

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
<i>Publish the Notice of Intent (NOI) for Preparation of the Truckee XM EIS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Begin the initial public involvement phase of the EIS and NEPA process</i></li> </ul>	<i>October 16, 2015</i>
<i>Publish Press Releases and Media Releases for Newspapers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Begin the initial public involvement phase of the EIS and NEPA process</i></li> </ul>	<i>October 14-16, 2015</i>
<i>Public Scoping Meetings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Conducted prior to the start of the environmental analysis</i></li> <li>• <i>Involve the public and other agencies in identifying the environmental issues to be addressed</i></li> <li>• <i>Provide three open house scoping meetings and 40-day public comment period</i></li> </ul>	<i>October 27, 2015 Wadsworth, NV; October 28, 2015 Fallon, NV; October 29 2015 Fernley, NV</i>
<b>Public Scoping Comment Period</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT</b>	<b>October 19, 2015- November 30, 2015</b>
<i>Cooperating Agency Technical Team Meetings on alternatives, cultural resources, biological resources, climate change, water resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provides the forum for the crafting of reasonable alternatives for analysis and discussion of technical studies</i></li> </ul>	<i>Monthly Meetings will be scheduled as needed</i>
<b>Public Workshops</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provides the forum to discuss alternatives and analysis progress</i></li> <li>• <i>Opportunity for public input</i></li> </ul>	<b>February 2016 or April 2016</b>
<i>Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Public Draft EIS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Presents the analysis of the potential environmental impacts for the proposed action and each of the identified alternatives</i></li> </ul>	<i>August 2017</i>
<b>Public Comment Period</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT</b>	<b>September 2017- October 2017 (~45 days)</b>
<i>Cooperating Agency Technical Team Meetings on alternatives, cultural resources, biological resources, climate change, water resources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provides the forum for the evaluation and addressing of comments and for analysis and discussion of additional technical studies</i></li> </ul>	<i>Monthly Meetings will be scheduled as needed</i>
<b>Public Workshops to discuss Draft EIS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provides the forum to discuss comments and significant changes for the Final EIS</i></li> <li>• <i>Opportunity for public input</i></li> </ul>	<b>September 2017 or October 2017</b>
<i>NOA for the Final EIS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Presents updates to the Draft EIS and includes responses to all public comments received during the public comment period</i></li> </ul>	<i>November 2018</i>
<i>30-Day Wait Period</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Provides for a 30-day wait period after the Final EIS is published</i></li> </ul>	<i>December 2018</i>
<i>Record of Decision</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Follows the 30-day wait period</i></li> <li>• <i>Includes selection of an alternative by the Secretary of the Interior</i></li> </ul>	<i>February 2019</i>

Schedule changes will be found at the Truckee Canal XM EIS website: <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao/index.html>

EIS= Environmental Impact Statement

NEPA=National Environmental Policy Act

XM=Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance



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